Speaker



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Cloud Security Consultant

Speaker Bio: Microsoft Azure MVP. Over a decade of experience in Cybersecurity (consultancy, design, implementation). Over 6 years of experience as a trainer. Developed multiple vulnerable by design automation templates that can be used to practice cloud penetration testing techniques. Authored two cloud computing courses for the popular cybersecurity training platform – Cybrary.



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Agenda

- Different approach to cloud security education
- Containerization primer
- Azure containerization options
- Containerization security models
- Kubernetes attack matrix
- Demo

Why a different approach?

- A lot of presentations, talks and videos already focus on best practices and the use of tools
- Understanding attacker behaviour is an important part of cybersecurity education
- Learn what not to do from the failures of others

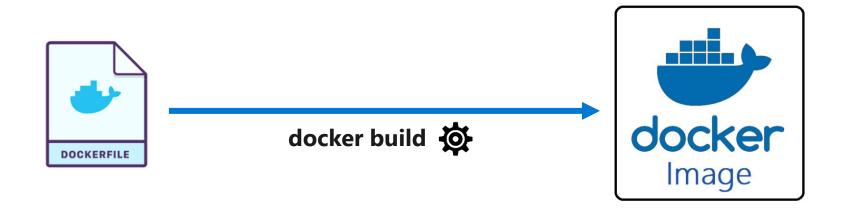


Containerization primer

- Development
 - Build container image
 - Publish containerized image to an image registry
- Runtime
 - Run image as a container

Creating a container image

- To create a custom container image, we use a dockerfile
- A dockerfile is a simple text file with step-by-step instructions used to build a container image
- The docker build command builds Docker images from a dockerfile



Creating a container image specification with a Dockerfile



RUN mkdir -p /usr/src/app

COPY ./app/ /usr/src/app/

WORKDIR /usr/src/app

Run this command

Copy these files from the host

RUN npm install

CMD node /usr/src/app/index.js

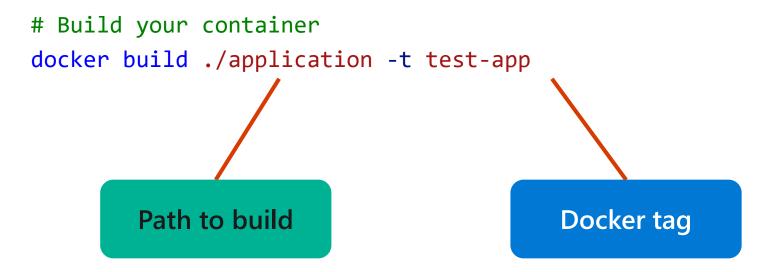
Change the working directory

Start the container with this command



Building the container image





After building, use the following command to view your new container image docker images





Azure Containerization Options

Build Container Images







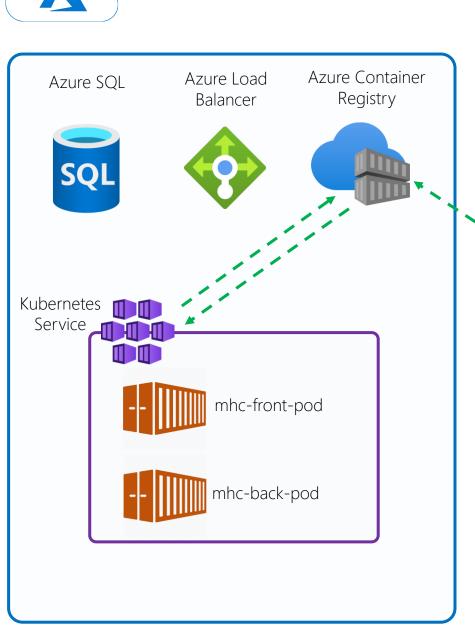
Azure Container Registry Tasks

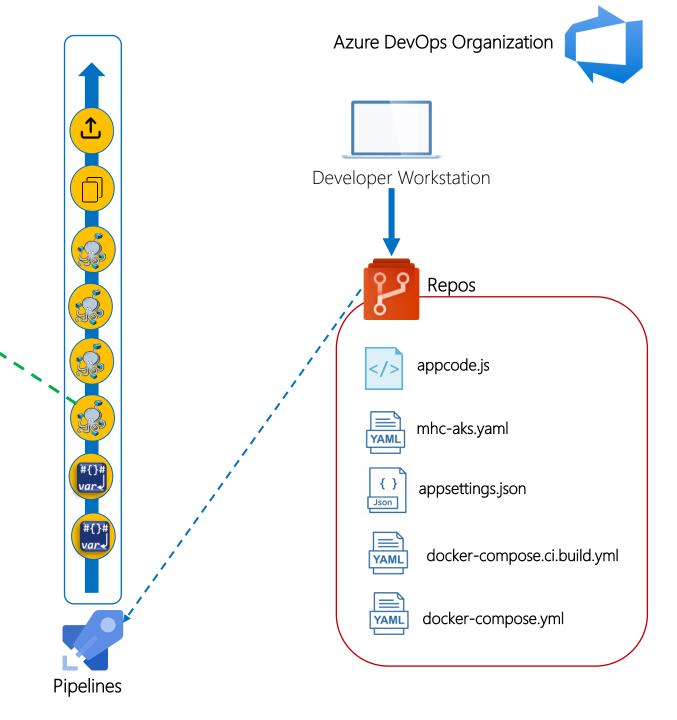
Store and Distribute Images

Runtime Options



Azure Subscription







Azure Containerization Options

Build Container Images

Store and Distribute Images

Runtime Options







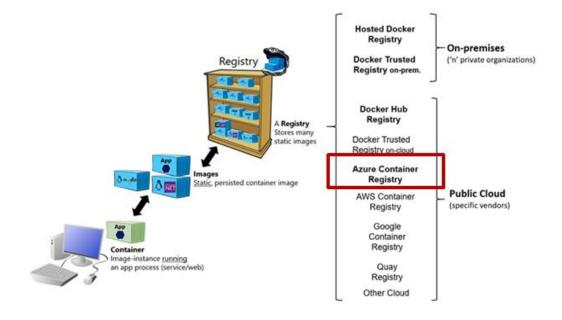
Azure Container Registry Tasks



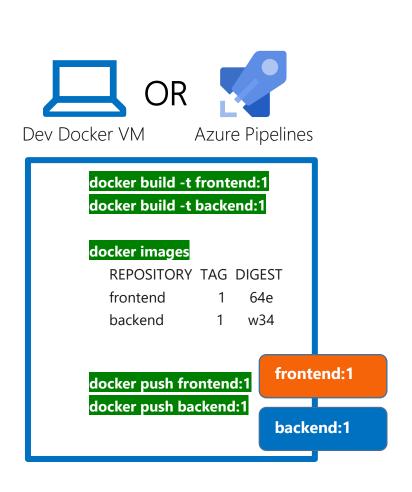


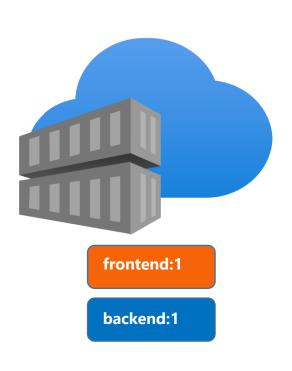
Azure Container Registry

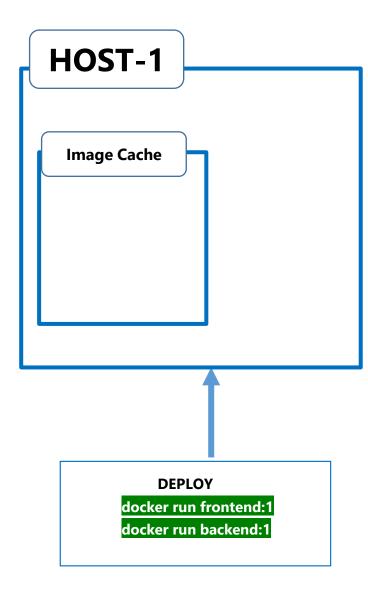
- A managed docker registry service to STORE and DISTRIBUTE container images and other artifacts
- It is based on the open-source Docker Registry 2.0
- ACR helps us to mitigate the risk of malicious container images
- It has tight integration with multiple Azure services that support these Docker containers



How ACR Works







Azure Container Registry - Tiers

Basic

- Supports similar functionalities as Standard (webhook integration, registry authentication with Azure Active Directory)
- Has less scale than standard (10 GiB included storage; 1000 ReadOps per minute; 100 WriteOps per minute; 30Mbps download bandwidth; 10Mbps upload bandwidth)

Standard

 Has more scale than basic (100 GiB included storage; 3000 ReadOps per minute; 500 WriteOps per minute; 60Mbps download bandwidth; 20Mbps upload bandwidth)

Premium

- Supports security features like geo-replication, content trust, private endpoint, and encryption using customer managed keys
- Has more scale than standard (500 GiB included storage; 10000 ReadOps per minute; 2000 WriteOps per minute; 100Mbps download bandwidth; 50Mbps upload bandwidth)



Azure Containerization Options

Build Container Images



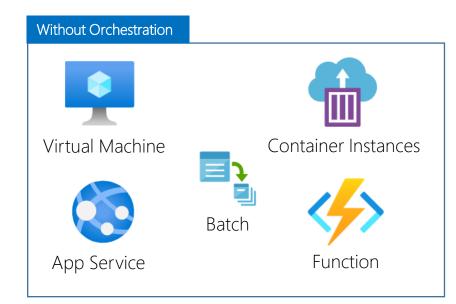


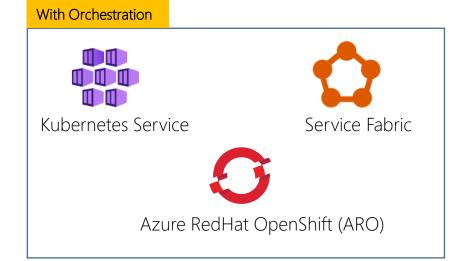


Store and Distribute Images



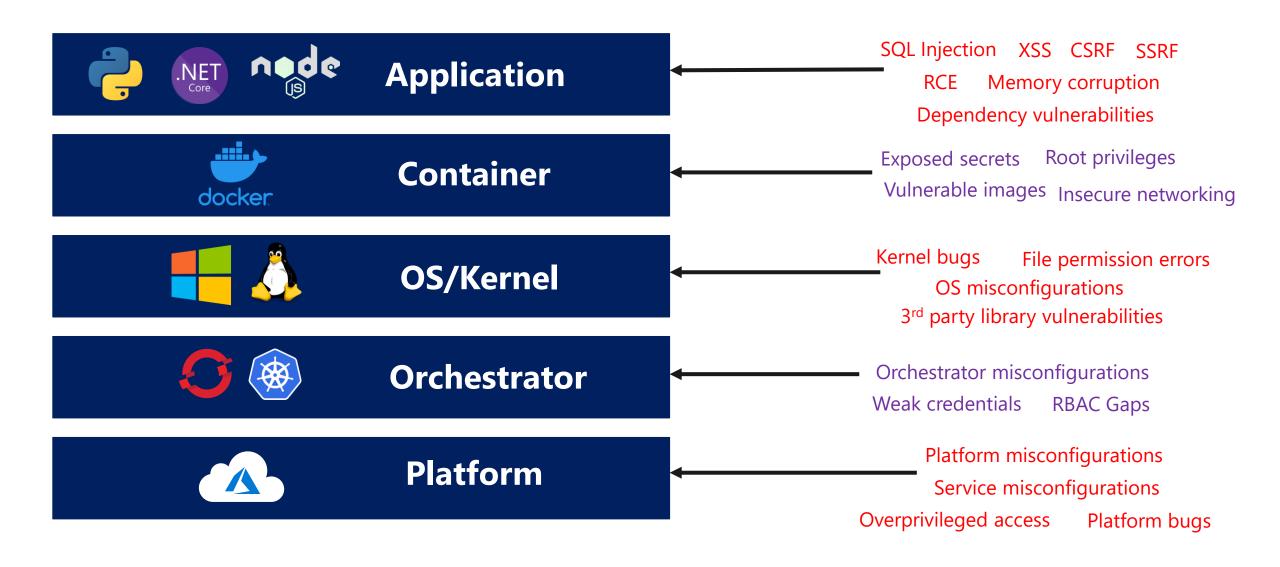
Runtime Options



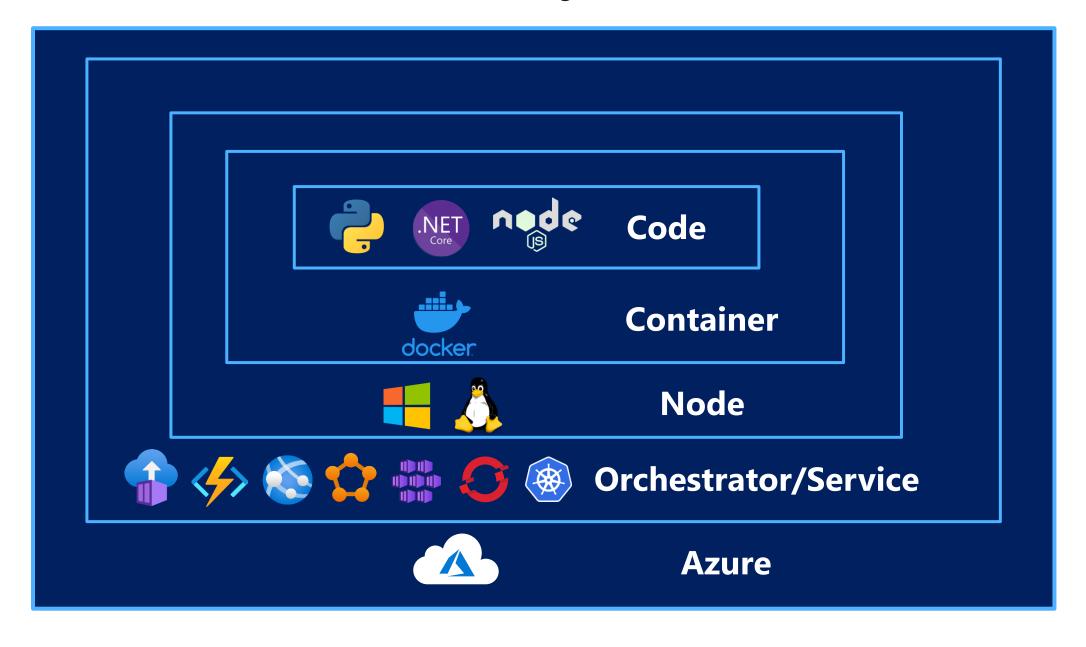


Modern Application Stack

• The modern application stack is distributed and complex

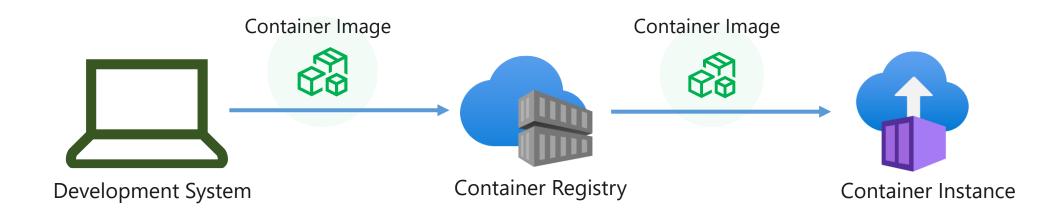


Azure Containerization – Security Models



Azure Container Instances (ACI) Overview

- Azure Container Instances offers the fastest and simplest way to run a container in Azure
 - Doesn't require laaS VM provisioning and ongoing maintenance
 - Faster startup time compared with VMs
- Ideal for isolated containerized workloads that does not require orchestration
 - Simple applications; Task automation; Build jobs
- Supports Linux and Windows containers





Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS)

Fully managed Kubernetes orchestration service

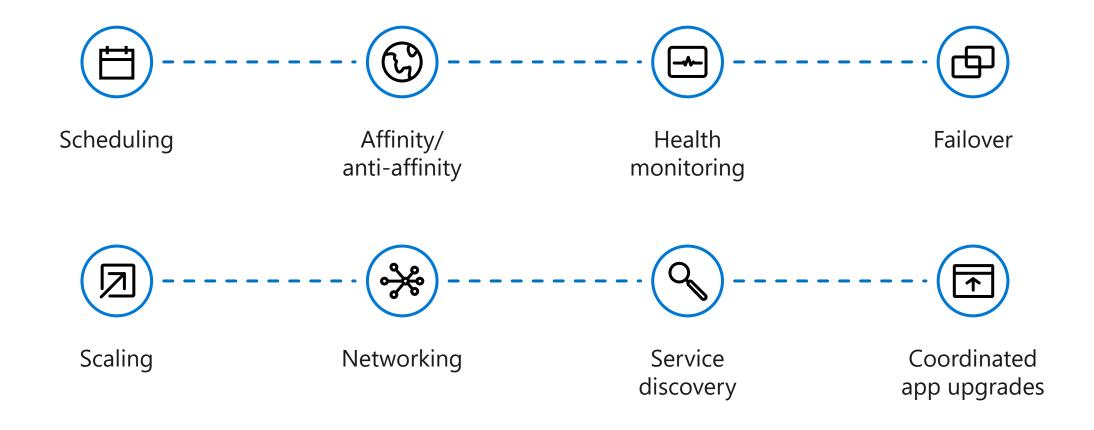
Simplified patching, auto scaling, auto updates

Use the full Kubernetes ecosystem (100% upstream)

Deeply integrated with Azure Dev Tools and services

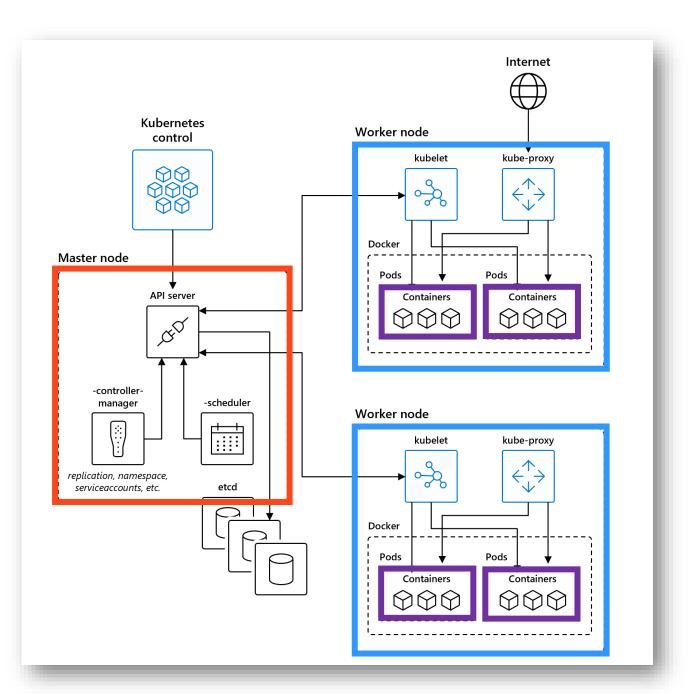
Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS)

The elements of orchestration



AKS - Architecture

- The master which is responsible for the coordination and orchestration of the cluster
- The nodes which are VMs that runs the containerized workloads and supporting services
 - Linux (Optimized Ubuntu)
 - Windows (Optimized Windows Server 2019)
 - Mixed environment is supported
- A Pod represents a single instance of an application



Attack Matrix

Initial Access	Execution	Persistence	Privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Discovery	Lateral Movement	Impact
Using Cloud credentials	Exec into container	Backdoor container	Privileged container	Clear container logs	List K8S secrets	Access the K8S API server	Access cloud resources	Data Destruction
Compromised images in registry	bash/cmd inside container	Writable hostPath mount	Cluster-admin binding	Delete K8S events	Mount service principal	Access Kubelet API	Container service account	Resource Hijacking
Kubeconfig file	New container	Kubernetes CronJob	hostPath mount	Pod / container name similarity	Access container service account	Network mapping	Cluster internal networking	Denial of service
Application vulnerability	Application exploit (RCE)		Access cloud resources	Connect from Proxy server	Applications credentials in configuration files	Access Kubernetes dashboard	Applications credentials in configuration files	
Exposed Dashboard	SSH server running inside container					Instance Metadata API	Writable volume mounts on the host	
							Access Kubernetes dashboard	
							Access tiller endpoint	

Attack Matrix - Initial Access

Initial Access

Using Cloud credentials

Compromised images in registry

Kubeconfig file

Application vulnerability

Exposed Dashboard

- Exposed or stolen cloud credential used to compromise containerization services
- Unsafe or compromised images created by developers OR downloaded from a public image registry and used to launch containers
- The file could be stolen from a compromised admin client to gain unauthorized access to the Kubernetes cluster
- Containerized applications that are public-facing can allow initial attacker access, and if these containers have vulnerabilities
- The Kubernetes Dashboard is a web-based user interface that can be used for managing cluster resources. Public exposure could lead to compromise

ACR Privilege Escalation Scenario - DEMO

