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PRAGUE  
2019 02 - 05  
DECEMBER



# Triggers and Bindings – The Lifeblood of Azure Functions

**Fabian G. Williams**

Director of IPA, Withum Digital, United States of America

# What is this session about...

Azure Functions is in part build on the idea of input and output bindings. This make it very efficient to connect your functions to a variety of external resources. You will often find that your function has a need to post a message to a queue, or write a file to storage, or send an email, bindings can greatly reduce the amount of code that you need to write to achieve this. With the latest version of Azure Functions we have various ways to achieve this and a variety of data stores, SaaS, and entities that support one way and two-way bindings. In this choc-ful demo session we will see how to work with them individually as well as chaining them together to build a holistic solution.

## Benefits of Attending this Session

1. Entry point into Cloud Development Technology
2. If you are managing developers, this offers a new method of development using C# and traditional server-side code for cloud development
3. Work with Event driven triggers and bindings in order to respond to web events and write back to a variety of cloud data stores

# About the Speaker

Fabian Williams, MVP, MCSD, MCDBa, MCSE  
Practice Director for Intelligent Process Automation  
Withum Digital

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-  [fabian@adotob.com](mailto:fabian@adotob.com)



# Session Flow

Azure Function  
What it is? Why  
do you need it!

How does  
Azure Function  
Work

*Very Fast* real  
world **DEMO(1)**  
no code

Triggers  
Explained

Multiple  
**DEMOS(2)**  
focusing on  
Triggers

Bindings  
Explained

Multiple  
**DEMO(3)**  
focusing on  
Bindings

Infrastructure,  
Billing & other  
Considerations

Versioning &  
Runtime & why  
it matters

Long Running  
& State aware  
Functions

*Slooooowly*  
deconstruct  
**DEMO(1)** in  
Visual Studio

Questions and  
Answers

\*\*\*STOP\*\*\*



<https://github.com/fabianwilliams/espc19>

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# What is an Azure Function? How do you define it?

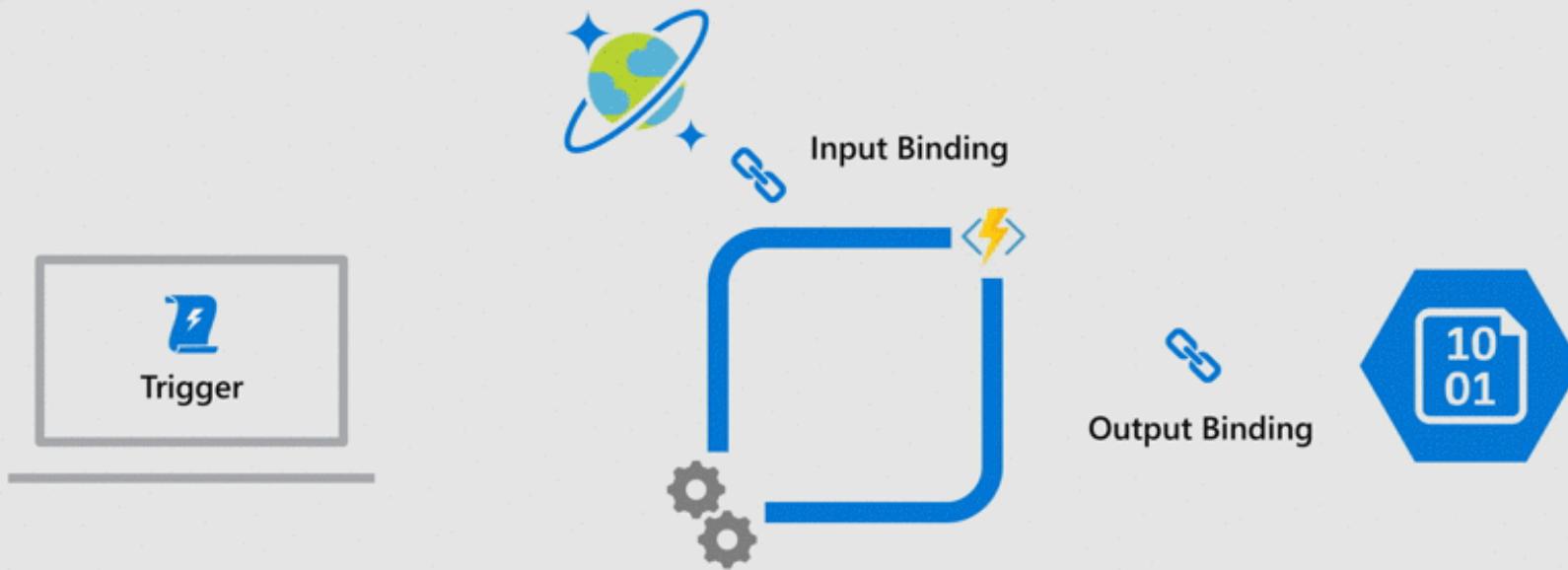


Azure Functions is a *serverless* compute service that enables you to run code on-demand without having to explicitly provision or manage infrastructure. Use Azure Functions to run a script or piece of code in response to a variety of events.

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-functions>

**Serverless** is the abstraction of servers, it is computing in a cloud execution model where you dynamically manage resources and runtime execution rather than on premises capacity

# In a nutshell...



# Language Support in Visual Studio alone



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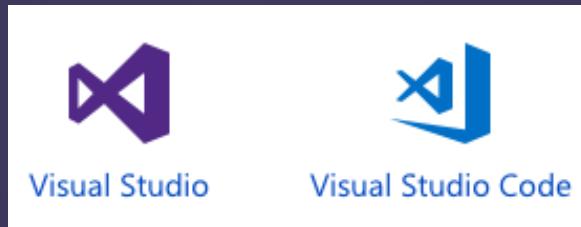
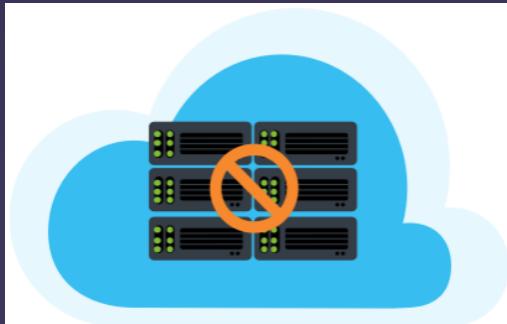
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## How does it work.. High Level & Popular Options



- No provisioning of Servers
- Fully managed compute platform that's scalable and secure
- Microservices approach to development, scalable and modular
- Triggers (event managing) and Bindings (integration)
- Develop within Azure IDE, Visual Studio, or VS Code

 <b>HTTP trigger</b>  A function that will be run whenever it receives an HTTP request, responding based on data in the body or query string  <b>C# F# JavaScript</b>	 <b>Queue trigger</b>  A function that will be run whenever a message is added to a specified Azure Storage queue  <b>C# F# JavaScript</b>	 <b>Event Grid trigger</b>  A function that will be run whenever an event grid receives a new event  <b>C# JavaScript</b>	 <b>GitHub webhook</b>  A function that will be run whenever it receives a GitHub webhook  <b>C# F# JavaScript</b>
 <b>Timer trigger</b>  A function that will be run on a specified schedule  <b>C# F# JavaScript</b>	 <b>Blob trigger</b>  A function that will be run whenever a blob is added to a specified container  <b>C# F# JavaScript</b>	 <b>Face locator</b>  A function that processes images and outputs the bounding rectangle of faces using Cognitive Services  <b>C# F# JavaScript</b>	 <b>Application Insights Power BI</b>  A function that pushes real-time availability data from Application Insights to Power BI  <b>C#</b>

1. **HTTP Trigger** - Trigger the execution of your code by using an HTTP request.
2. **Timer Trigger** - Batch tasks on a predefined schedule, think your old Timer Jobs from SharePoint On Premises days
3. **CosmosDB Trigger** - Act on ‘documents’ as they are added /updated to collections in Cosmos DB NoSQL database
4. **Blob Trigger** - Really a good catch all for text files as well as binary files (BLOB) ingestion and then react to them
5. **Queue Trigger** - IMO the workhorse of chaining events (functions) together
6. **EventGrid Trigger** - Really acts like Blob Trigger but... supports a subscription-based model for receiving events, which includes filtering.
7. **EventHub Trigger** - Respond to events delivered to an Azure Event Hub. Useful in IOT environments and instrumentation
8. **ServiceBus Queue Trigger** - Connect your code to other Azure services or on-premises services by listening to message queues.
9. **ServiceBus Topic Trigger** - Connect your code to other Azure services or on-premises services by subscribing to topics.

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# DEMO 1 – “No Code” Runtime Experience

- Business Card Reader
  - 1. Mobile App into Blob Storage
    - A. Blob Trigger and Queue Output Binding
  - 2. Cognitive Services Vision API processes Image
    - A. Queue Trigger to Queue Output Binding
  - 3. Send Emails, Create Salesforce.com, MailChip, Teams items
    - A. Queues doing work with no output binding

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# Triggers, what are triggers?

Triggers are what cause a function to run. A trigger defines how a function is invoked and a function must have exactly one trigger. Triggers have associated data, which is often provided as the payload of the function's invocation message.

The screenshot shows the Azure Cosmos DB Data Explorer interface. On the left, the sidebar includes options like Default consistency, Firewall and virtual networks, Private Endpoint Connections, CORS, Keys, Add Azure Search, Add Azure Function, Advanced security (preview), Preview Features, Locks, and Export template. Under Containers, there is a 'Browse' option. The main area shows the SQL API interface for a database named 'fabiansesrev'. A dropdown menu under 'FabianSessions' is open, showing 'SessionReviews' selected. Below it, 'Items' is highlighted. A modal window titled 'Items' displays a table with columns 'id' and '/id'. The table lists several document IDs. To the right of the table, the raw JSON content of one of the documents is shown, representing a trigger payload. The JSON object contains fields such as id, sessionNumber, sessionName, sessionDate, sessionCity, sessionRegionState, sessionCountry, review, \_rid, \_self, \_etag, \_attachments, and \_ts.

1		{
2		"id": "7c0cb7b02b744ad294b07d74d32841fe",
3		"sessionNumber": "BRK357",
4		"sessionName": "Serverless is King: How to Work Magic in SharePoint using Azure Functions",
5		"sessionDate": "05/23/2019",
6		"sessionCity": "Las Vegas",
7		"sessionRegionState": "Nv",
8		"sessionCountry": "USA",
9		"review": [],
10		"_rid": "ZOU8ALwBjygBAAAAAAA==",
11		"_self": " dbs/ZOU8AA==/colls/ZOU8ALwBjyg=/docs/ZOU8ALwBjygBAAAAAAA=",
12		"_etag": "\\"2303b376-0000-0000-0000-5c214c6c0000\\\"",
13		"_attachments": "attachments/",
14		"_ts": 1545686124
15		}

Load more

```
19  
20  
21  
22  
"id": "e74bb826e87b4eb199c4baefbc14d55b3",  
"name": "Melissa Michaels",  
"zerotofiveRating": 3,
```

# Types of Triggers

Type	1.x	2.x1	Trigger	Input	Output
<a href="#">Blob storage</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Cosmos DB</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Event Grid</a>	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Event Hubs</a>	✓	✓	✓		✓
<a href="#">HTTP &amp; webhoo</a>	✓	✓	✓		✓
<a href="#">IoT Hub</a>	✓	✓	✓		✓
<a href="#">Microsoft Graph</a>					
<a href="#">Excel tables</a>		✓		✓	✓
<a href="#">Microsoft Graph</a>					
<a href="#">OneDrive files</a>		✓		✓	✓
<a href="#">Microsoft Graph</a>					
<a href="#">Outlook email</a>		✓			✓
<a href="#">Microsoft Graph</a>					
<a href="#">events</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Microsoft Graph</a>					
<a href="#">Auth tokens</a>	✓			✓	
<a href="#">Mobile Apps</a>	✓			✓	✓
<a href="#">Notification Hub</a>	✓				✓
<a href="#">Queue storage</a>	✓	✓	✓		✓
<a href="#">SendGrid</a>	✓	✓			✓
<a href="#">Service Bus</a>	✓	✓	✓		✓
<a href="#">SignalR</a>		✓		✓	✓
<a href="#">Table storage</a>	✓	✓		✓	✓
<a href="#">Timer</a>	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Twilio</a>	✓	✓			✓

# How to find other Triggers

<https://www.serverlesslibrary.net/?type=functionapp>

Microsoft Azure

Filter by

Technology

- Functions 2.x
- Functions 1.x
- Logic Apps
- Blob Storage
- Storage Queue
- Cosmos DB
- Cognitive Services
- Azure Active Directory
- App Service
- Key Vault
- SQL Server
- Service Bus Queue
- Event Grid

Language

- JavaScript
- TypeScript
- Java
- C#
- C# Script
- F#
- Python
- PowerShell

Solution Area

- Web API
- Data Processing
- Integration
- Authentication
- Automation

Azure serverless community library

Search

Displaying 70 results

Sort By

[Read Excel From Blob Storage, Process and Add to Azure Queue.](#)  
By: raahmed | 361 downloads | Created on: 1/29/2019 | 2 1  
This application takes a specific type of csv file (detailed in the project README), cleans the data and then places the cleaned data into an Azure Queue.

Tags : Functions 2.x, Blob Storage, Python, Data Processing

[Tug of War](#)  
By: joescars | 228 downloads | Created on: 6/30/2017 | 3 1  
This simple demo game is used to teach basic concepts around building Azure Functions with node.js.

Tags : Functions 2.x, App Service, JavaScript, Web API, Event Processing, Gaming

[Live stream Age and Emotion](#)  
By: JimPaine | 103 downloads | Created on: 12/13/2018 | 4 0  
An HTML5 page which streams your camera to the Face API for age and emotion, all via a V2 function

Tags : Functions 2.x, Cognitive Services, Key Vault, Blob Storage, C#, Static Website, Authentication

[Start / Stop VMs on a schedule](#)  
By: eamonnoreilly | 101 downloads | Created on: 4/30/2019 | 4 0  
Start / Stop virtual machines in the specified resource group, subscription, or by tag on a schedule. You need to assign the VMs to a specific resource group.

Tags : Functions 2.x, PowerShell, Automation

[Java: Triggers and Binding examples](#)  
By: daniel-rocha | 99 downloads | Created on: 1/20/2019 | 1 0  
20+ ready-to-use examples of triggers and bindings with Azure Java Functions

Tags : Functions 2.x, Cosmos DB, Blob Storage, Event Grid, Java, Data Processing, Event Processing, Web API, Integration

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## DEMO 2 – Triggers Demo

1. Http Trigger using Postman(Fiddler)
2. Event Grid Trigger (Image Upload)
3. CosmosDb Trigger (we will create an Function from CosmosDB) we will look at a Queue to a CosmosDB

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# Bindings, what is a binding?

Binding to a function is a way of declaratively connecting another resource to the function; bindings may be connected as input bindings, output bindings, or both. Data from bindings is provided to the function as parameters.

- You can mix and match different bindings to suit your needs
- Bindings are optional and a function might have one or multiple input and/or output bindings
- There are Version 1 and Version 2 Azure Functions Runtime (more on this later) but Bindings are linked to the version of the runtime
- Version 2 however is far superior to Version 1 ~ duh
- As a best practice, secrets and connection strings should be managed using app settings
- When a function is running locally, app setting values come from the local.settings.json file
  - If you publish from Visual Studio to Azure you can set the Publishing Profile to update the App Settings in Azure Functions
  - If you CI/CD from Github or other ALM you may have to use Azure CLI or scripting to update the App Settings

```
{  
  [FunctionName("b_OcrQDataToParsedContact")]  
  0 references | Fabian Williams, 191 days ago | 1 author, 1 change  
  public static async Task ParseBusinessCardContactAsync([QueueTrigger("ocrboxed-bizcard", Connection = "IncomingBussCardConnString")]  
    OcrPayload myQueueItem, ILogger log,  
    [Table("scparsedinfo", Connection = "AzureWebJobsStorage")] IAsyncCollector<FullCardInfoTable> outputTable,  
    [Table("excepentities", Connection = "AzureWebJobsStorage")] IAsyncCollector<RawDocTableInfo> exoutputTable,  
    [Table("fullunkunk", Connection = "AzureWebJobsStorage")] IAsyncCollector<RawDocTableInfo> fukukoutputTable,  
    [Queue("scgreetnewcontact", Connection = "AzureWebJobsStorage")] IAsyncCollector<FullCardInfoTable> sendEmailQueue,  
    [Queue("scnotifyteamschan", Connection = "AzureWebJobsStorage")] IAsyncCollector<FullCardInfoTable> addToTeamsQueue,  
    [Queue("scnewgraphcontact", Connection = "AzureWebJobsStorage")] IAsyncCollector<FullCardInfoTable> addToGraphContactsQueue,  
    [Queue("scnewmailchimpsub", Connection = "AzureWebJobsStorage")] IAsyncCollector<FullCardInfoTable> addToMailChimpQueue,  
    [Queue("scnewsfdcprospect", Connection = "AzureWebJobsStorage")] IAsyncCollector<FullCardInfoTable> addToSFDCQueue)  
}
```

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# Type of Plans Available

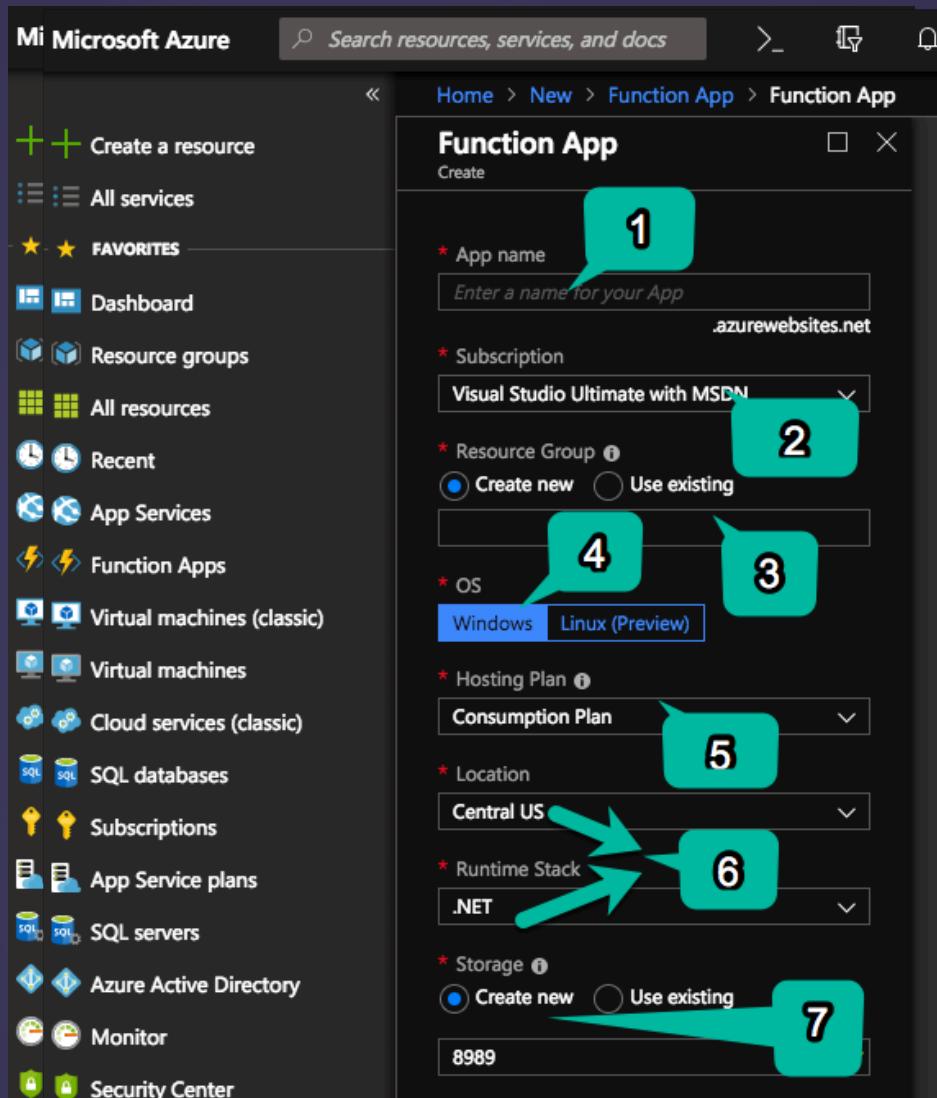
Consumption plan	Premium plan	Azure App Service plan
Scale automatically and only pay for compute resources when your functions are running. On the Consumption plan, instances of the Functions host are dynamically added and removed based on the number of incoming events.	While automatically scaling based on demand, use pre-warmed workers to run applications with no delay after being idle, run on more powerful instances, and connect to VNets.	Run Functions within an App Service plan at regular App Service plan rates. Good fit for long running operations, as well as when more predictive scaling and costs are required.

**Consumption plan** - When your function runs, Azure provides all of the necessary computational resources. You don't have to worry about resource management, and you only pay for the time that your code runs

**App Service plan** - Run your functions just like your web apps. When you are already using App Service for your other applications, you can run your functions on the same plan at no additional cost

On any plan, a function app requires a general **Azure Storage account**, which supports Azure Blob, Queue, Files, and Table storage. This is because Functions relies on Azure Storage for operations such as managing triggers and logging function executions, but some storage accounts do not support queues and tables

# What do you need to do this



1. Provide a unique name which will become your endpoint URI for your function
2. Choose the subscription you want to use
3. Choose or create a Resource Group
4. I haven't done a Linux OS one yet TBH
5. This is the choice between FREE & azure will do its best to stay awake & responsive "or" you allocate resource you will pay for & it will be performant and ready
6. Standard stuff
7. The function is backed by a storage account so choose one or create one. I typically will have a resource group already set up with storage so I keep everything easy to find and named similar but unique

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# Levels of Support and Versioning

- **Generally available (GA)** - Fully supported and approved for production use.
- **Preview** - Not yet supported but is expected to reach GA status in the future.
- **Experimental** - Not supported and might be abandoned in the future; no guarantee of eventual preview or GA status.

Language	1.x	2.x	3.x1
C#	GA (.NET Framework 4.7)	GA (.NET Core 2.2)	Preview (.NET Core 3.x)
JavaScript	GA (Node 6)	GA (Node 8 & 10)	Preview (Node 8 & 10)
F#	GA (.NET Framework 4.7)	GA (.NET Core 2.2)	Preview (.NET Core 3.x)
Java	N/A	GA (Java 8)	Preview (Java 8)
PowerShell	Experimental	GA (PowerShell Core 6)	Preview (PowerShell Core 6)
Python	Experimental	GA (Python 3.7.x)	Preview (Python 3.7.x)
TypeScript	Experimental	GA	Preview2
Bash	Experimental	N/A	N/A
Batch (.cmd, .bat)	Experimental	N/A	N/A
PHP	Experimental	N/A	N/A

# Types of Bindings

Type	1.x	2.x1	Trigger	Input	Output
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<a href="#">Cosmos DB</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Event Grid</a>	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Event Hubs</a>	✓	✓	✓		✓
<a href="#">HTTP &amp; webhoo</a>	✓	✓	✓		✓
<a href="#">IoT Hub</a>	✓	✓	✓		✓
<a href="#">Microsoft Graph</a>					
<a href="#">Excel tables</a>		✓		✓	✓
<a href="#">Microsoft Graph</a>					
<a href="#">OneDrive files</a>		✓		✓	✓
<a href="#">Microsoft Graph</a>					
<a href="#">Outlook email</a>		✓			✓
<a href="#">Microsoft Graph</a>					
<a href="#">events</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Microsoft Graph</a>					
<a href="#">Auth tokens</a>	✓			✓	
<a href="#">Mobile Apps</a>	✓			✓	✓
<a href="#">Notification Hub</a>	✓				✓
<a href="#">Queue storage</a>	✓	✓	✓		✓
<a href="#">SendGrid</a>	✓	✓			✓
<a href="#">Service Bus</a>	✓	✓	✓		✓
<a href="#">SignalR</a>		✓		✓	✓
<a href="#">Table storage</a>	✓	✓		✓	✓
<a href="#">Timer</a>	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Twilio</a>	✓	✓			✓

# Bindings as it relates to the Microsoft Graph

Buyer Beware however...

An auth token input binding allows you to interact with any Microsoft Graph API.

An Excel table input binding allows you to read data from Excel.

An Excel table output binding allows you to modify Excel data.

A OneDrive file input binding allows you to read files from OneDrive.

A OneDrive file output binding allows you to write to files in OneDrive.

An Outlook message output binding allows you to send email through Outlook.

A collection of Microsoft Graph webhook triggers and bindings allows you to react to events from the Microsoft Graph.

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# Durable Functions, what is that?

Durable Functions is an extension of Azure Functions that lets you write stateful functions in a serverless compute environment

Function chaining

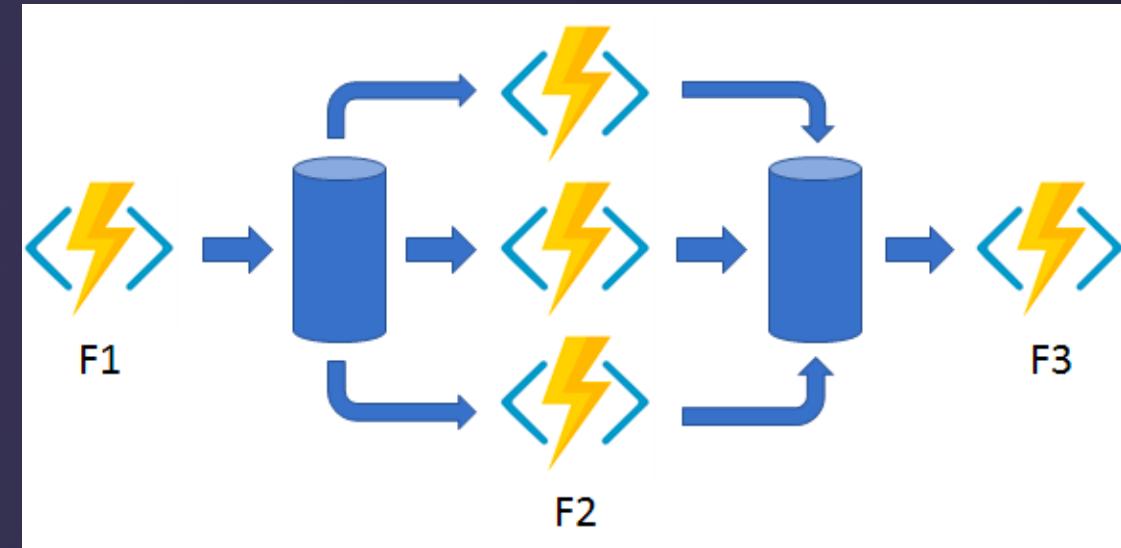
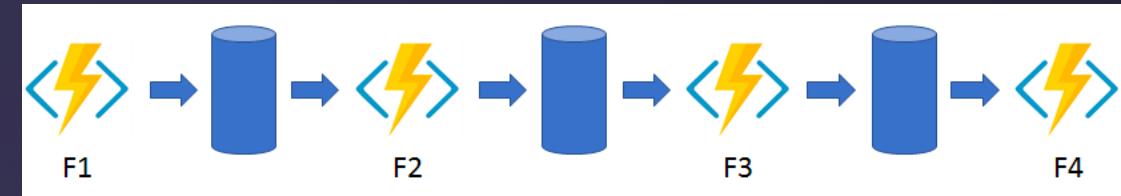
Fan-out/fan-in

Async HTTP APIs

Monitoring

Human interaction

Aggregator (stateful entities)



# Session Flow

Azure Function  
What it is? Why  
do you need it!

How does  
Azure Function  
Work

*Very Fast* real  
world **DEMO(1)**  
no code

Triggers  
Explained

Multiple  
**DEMOS(2)**  
focusing on  
Triggers

Bindings  
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**DEMO(3)**  
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Bindings

Infrastructure,  
Billing & other  
Considerations

Versioning &  
Runtime & why  
it matters

Long Running  
& State aware  
Functions

*Slooooowly*  
deconstruct  
**DEMO(1)** in  
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Questions and  
Answers

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**PLEASE RATE THIS  
SESSION ON THE APP**

