What is Azure?

- Microsoft's cloud platform offering 200+ services
- Used for hosting apps, databases, VMs, containers, and DevOps pipelines
- Pay-as-you-go, scalable, secure, and global
- Used by enterprises, startups, and government organizations

Azure vs AWS

- Both are top cloud providers with similar core services
- AWS is older; Azure integrates deeply with Microsoft ecosystem
- Azure Active Directory + hybrid cloud support is stronger
- Pricing and services comparable; choice depends on company environment
- Many enterprises using Windows/Office prefer Azure

Why DevOps Engineers Need Azure?

- Most DevOps pipelines run on cloud platforms now

- Azure provides built-in CI/CD tools, container services, and automation

- Easy deployment to Web Apps, VMs, Containers, AKS

- Azure Monitor + Log Analytics for real-time monitoring

- Huge demand for Azure DevOps skills in the job market.

Azure DevOps
vs
GitHub Actions

- Azure DevOps = full suite: Repos, Boards, Pipelines, Artifacts, Test Plans
- GitHub Actions = CI/CD only, built inside GitHub
- Azure DevOps great for enterprise workflows + project management
- GitHub Actions great for open-source and lightweight automation
- Many companies use both depending on workflows.