✓ 100 XP ▶

Create an initiative definition

2 minutes

After you determine your policy definitions, the next step is to create an initiative definition for your policies. An initiative definition has one or more policy definitions. One example for using initiative definitions is to ensure your resources are compliant with security regulations.
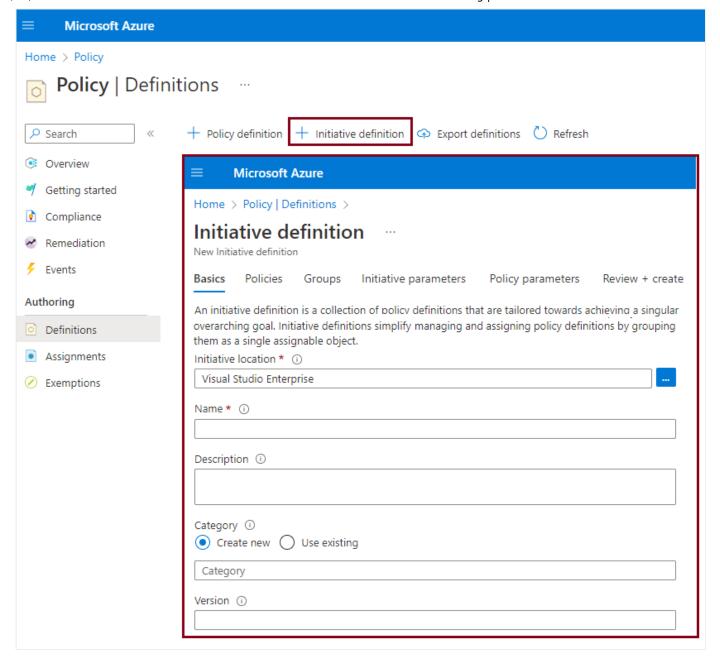
> 💡 **Tip**
>
> Even if you have only a few policy definitions in your organization, we recommend creating and applying an initiative definition.

Add a new initiative definition

When you create an initiative definition, be sure the definition uses the specific JSON format required by Azure. For more information, see Azure Policy initiative definition structure.

Here's an example of how to create a new initiative definition in the Azure portal:

Use a built-in initiative definition

You can create your own initiative definitions, or use built-in definitions in Azure Policy. You can sort the list of built-in initiatives by category to search for definitions for your organization.

Here are some examples of built-in initiative definitions:

- **Audit machines with insecure password security settings**: Use this initiative to deploy an audit policy to specified resources in your organization. The definition evaluates the resources to check for insecure password security settings. This initiative is located in the Guest Configuration category.

- **Configure Windows machines to run Azure Monitor Agent and associate them to a Data Collection Rule**: Use this initiative to monitor and secure your Windows VMs, Virtual Machine Scale Sets, and Arc machines. The definition deploys the Azure Monitor Agent extension and associates the resources with a specified Data Collection Rule. This initiative is located in the Monitoring category.

- **Configure Azure Defender to be enabled on SQL servers**: Enable Azure Defender on your Azure SQL Servers to detect anomalous activities indicating unusual and potentially harmful attempts to access or exploit databases. This initiative is located in the SQL category.

Next unit: Scope the initiative definition

Continue >

How are we doing?   ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆