

Building a Cloud Centric Network with Azure Virtual WAN



Please note – the views/opinions in this presentation are entirely my own. This presentation will not be kept updated after Azure Back to School 2024 (September 2024) – so may be outdated if downloaded afterwards.

If in any doubt, please check latest documentation and MS Links for updated info!





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Azure Back to School 2024!



https://azurebacktoschool.com/







Agenda

- What is Azure Virtual WAN?
- Use Cases
- Core Components
- Why Azure Virtual WAN? Core Benefits
- Security
- Expansion
- Where do we begin?
- Demo Environment & Code
- Resources



What is Azure Virtual WAN?

- Azure Virtual WAN is a Networking Service that brings various elements together in a single operational interface.
- Key Features Include:
 - Software-defined connectivity
 - Centralised network management
 - Optimised security and agility thanks to the Microsoft Global Network

Azure Virtual WAN now generally available

Published date: September 24, 2018

What is Azure Virtual WAN?



Azure Virtual WAN is a **Networking Service** that brings various aspects together in a single Azure Service:

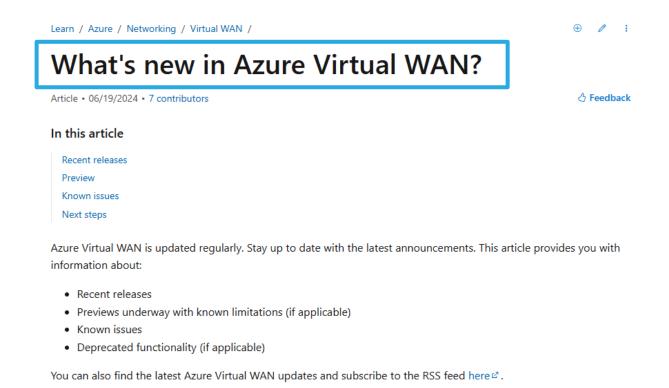
Hub / Spoke – replaced with Virtual WAN Hub and VNET Peering to Spokes

Routing and Route Tables – Automated VPNs/ExpressRoute
- Centralised
Management

Firewalling – Azure native options and 3rd Party NVAs



Virtual WAN is always improving....



• https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-wan/whats-new



Virtual WAN is always improving....

Preview

The following features are currently in gated public preview. After working with the listed articles, you have questions or require support, reach out to the contact alias (if available) that corresponds to the feature.

C Expand table

Type of preview	Feature	Description	Contact alias	Limitations
Managed preview	Route-maps	This feature allows you to perform route aggregation, route filtering, and modify BGP attributes for your routes in Virtual WAN.	preview-route- maps@microsoft.com	Known limitations are displayed here: About Route-maps.
Managed preview	Aruba EdgeConnect SD- WAN	Deployment of Aruba EdgeConnect SD- WAN NVA into the Virtual WAN hub	preview-vwan- aruba@microsoft.com	

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-wan/whats-new

Where is Virtual WAN available?



Geopolitical region	Australia Central, Australia Central 2 France Central, France South, Germany North, Germany West Central, North Europe, Norway East, Switzerland North, Switzerland West, West Europe, UK West, UK South East US, West US, East US 2, West US 2, Central US, South Central US, North Central US, West Central US, Canada Central, Canada East East Asia, Southeast Asia		 Wide range of locations 		
Australia Government			 US Government and Azure China also available Availability Zones – key consideration 		
Europe					
North America			Avaitability Zones – key consideration		
Asia					
India	India West, India Central, India South	Geopolitical region	Azure regions		
Japan	Japan West, Japan East	US Government	US Gov Arizona, US Gov Iowa, US Gov Texas, US Gov Virginia, US DoD Central, US DoD East		
Oceania	Australia Southeast, Australia East	cloud			
South Africa	South Africa North, South Africa West	China East	China East2		
South America	Brazil South	China North	China North2		
South Korea	Korea Central, Korea South	China North	Clinia North2		
UAE	UAE North, UAE Central				

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-wan/virtual-wan-locations-partners

Use Cases



- The key aspect Bringing together core networking features:
 - Branch connectivity route your branch to branch traffic via Microsoft's Network.
 - Site-to-site VPN connectivity.
 - Remote user VPN connectivity (point-to-site).
 - Private connectivity (ExpressRoute).
 - Intra-cloud connectivity (transitive connectivity for virtual networks).
 - VPN ExpressRoute inter-connectivity.
 - Routing Configuration Route Tables, Custom Routing etc.
 - Azure Firewall & Firewall Manager integration
 - Transit & Internal Connectivity Hub/Hub/Spoke/Spoke



Virtual WAN is like a buffet...



Virtual WAN provides many services – you can choose which you want to use.

Some organisations will use many, others will use only a few.

Some will go back for a second helping!



Two SKUs

Virtual WAN type	Hub type	Available configurations
Basic	Basic	Site-to-site VPN only
Standard	Standard	ExpressRoute
		User VPN (P2S)
		VPN (site-to-site)
		Inter-hub and VNet-to-VNet transiting through the virtual hub
		Azure Firewall
		NVA in a virtual WAN

① Note

You can upgrade from Basic to Standard, but can't revert from Standard back to Basic.

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-wan/virtual-wan-about

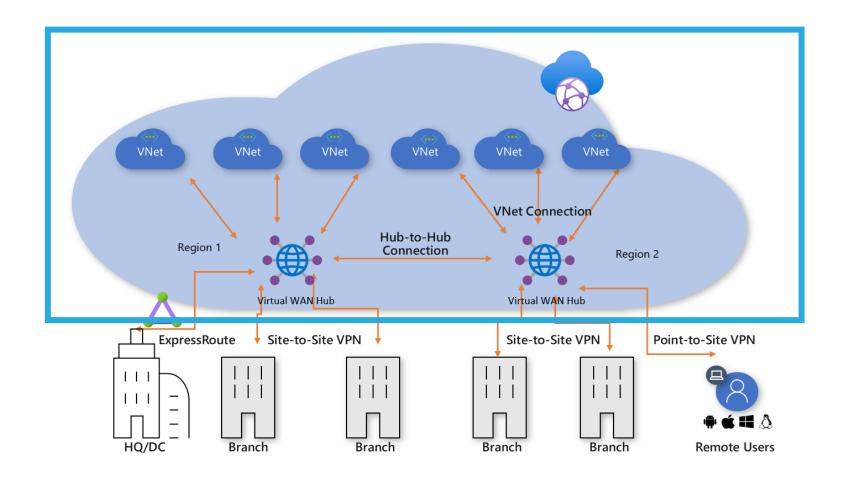


Core Components

- 5 Key Virtual WAN components you will likely use in all deployments that span **more than 1 Azure Region**:
 - Virtual WAN
 - Hub
 - Hub to Hub Connection
 - Hub Virtual Network Connection
 - Hub Route Table



Virtual WAN

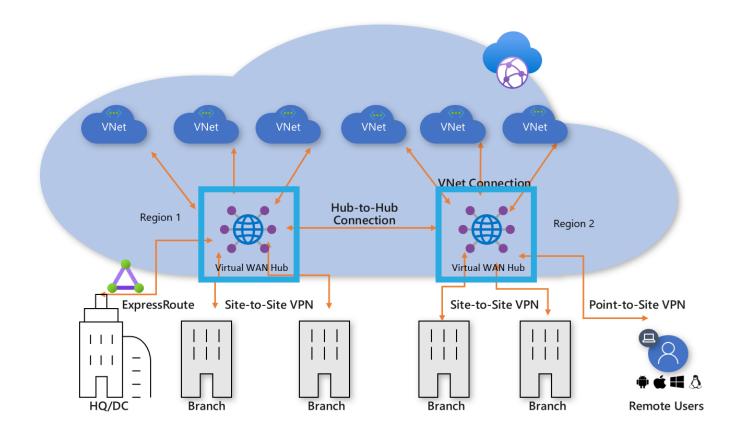


- Virtual overlay of your Azure Networking
- A collection of multiple Resources
- Contains all Virtual WAN components within your topology



Hub

- The Virtual Hub is a Microsoft Managed Virtual Network, containing various service endpoints.
- The Hub is the Core of the Virtual WAN network in an Azure Region. Typically 1 Hub per Region but can be more.
- Gateways for VPN/ExpressRoute deployed within Hubs.
- Firewalls / NVAs deployed into Hubs.
- Note consider routing units!

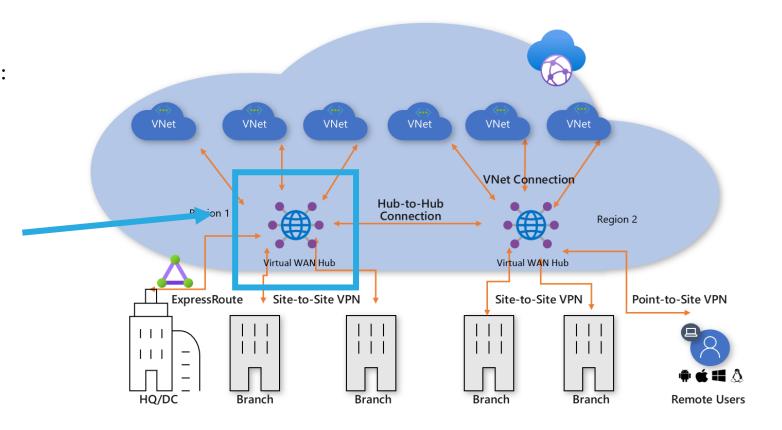




What's in the Hub?

Items we can deploy into a Hub:

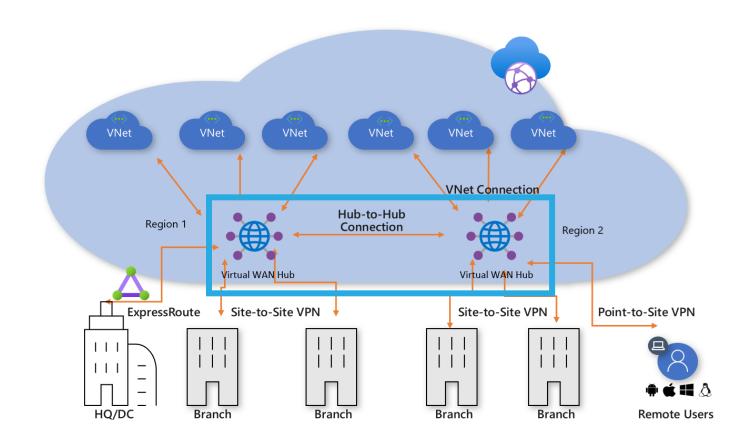
- Virtual Network Gateway
- ExpressRoute Gateway
- P2S Gateway
- Azure Firewall or NVA
- Route Tables
- Hub to Hub Connection





Hub to Hub Connection

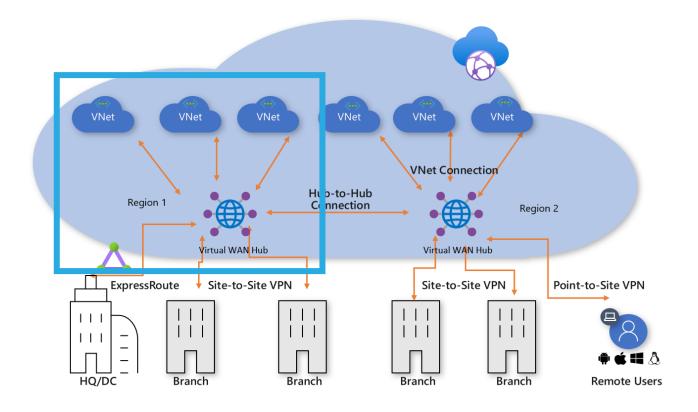
- Virtual WAN Hubs are connected within a Virtual WAN.
- Hubs can communicate freely and routing is propagated.
- Inter-Region connectivity is established using Virtual WAN Hubs.
- Connectivity can be controlled using a Firewall or NVA. Note: there are were limitations around interregion communication.





Hub Virtual Network Connection

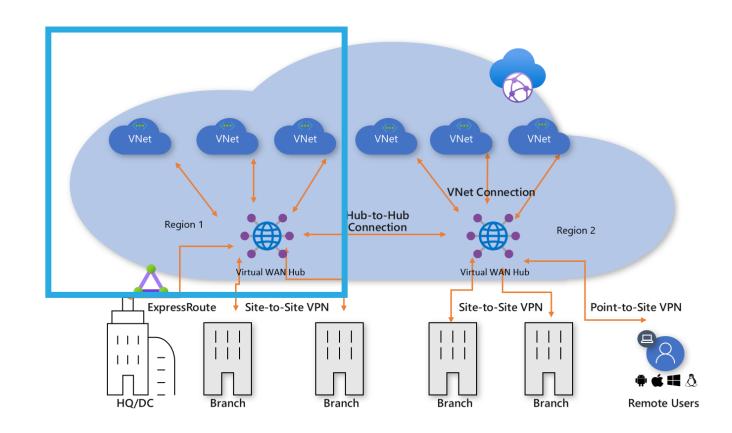
- A Hub Virtual Network connection joins a spoke network to a Virtual WAN Hub.
- A Virtual Network can be connected to a single Virtual WAN hub.
- Traffic is enabled between the Virtual WAN Hub and Spoke Virtual Network.
- Azure Firewall or an NVA is used in many cases to control this traffic.





Hub Route Table

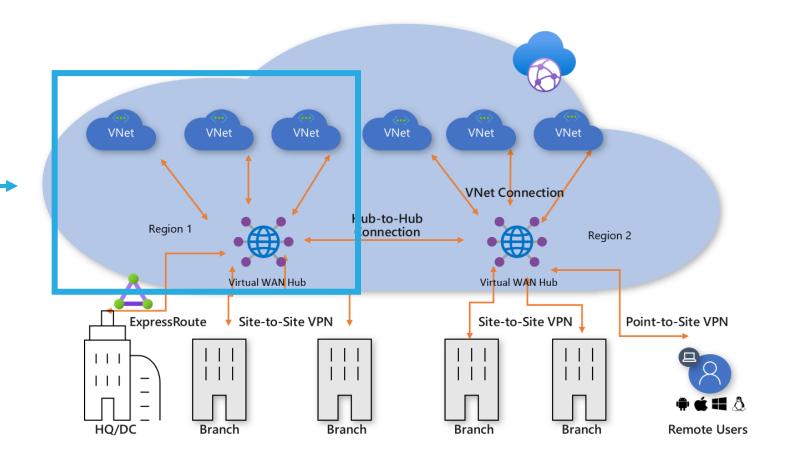
- Each Hub has its own default route table. This can be edited to add static routes if required.
- Static routes take precedence over dynamic routes.
- Associated with a Hub and it's connected Virtual Networks.
- Connections, e.g. VPN, ExpressRoute or PS2 will also have a routing configuration that propagates to a route table.
- Labels can be used to logically group route tables.





What about Hub and Spoke?

- Virtual WAN replaces an existing Hub Spoke architecture with Spoke VNETs peered into a Virtual WAN Hub.
- Hubs become fully managed by Virtual WAN.
- Central management of all Hubs in the topology.
- All Spokes peer into a Virtual WAN Hub, with connectivity and inter-region traffic routed via the Hub.



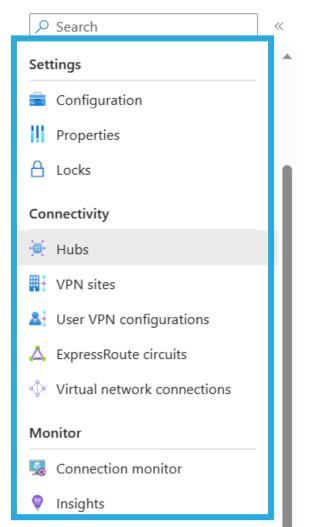
Why Virtual WAN? Core Benefits:

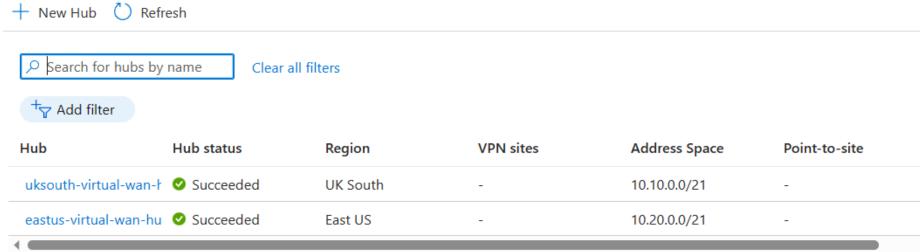


- An Integrated Solution All core networking aspects in a single control Resource. Site to Site and Connectivity options are easily accessed and managed. Simple administration!
- An Automated Solution Connect Virtual Networks to the Hubs easily, and also bring additional services into Virtual WAN with ease again, centralised, simplified and automated is the key.
- **Troubleshooting** End to End visibility, allowing rapid diagnosis of issues and simple troubleshooting.
- Centralised Control A centralised service that brings core networking together, removing the need to configure and manage multiple separate resources.
- Firewalling Integrations to Azure Firewall, Azure Firewall Manager, and NVA options.
- **Rapid Expansion** Simple expansion to other Regions, with automated routing and simplified connectivity via the Global Transit Architecture.

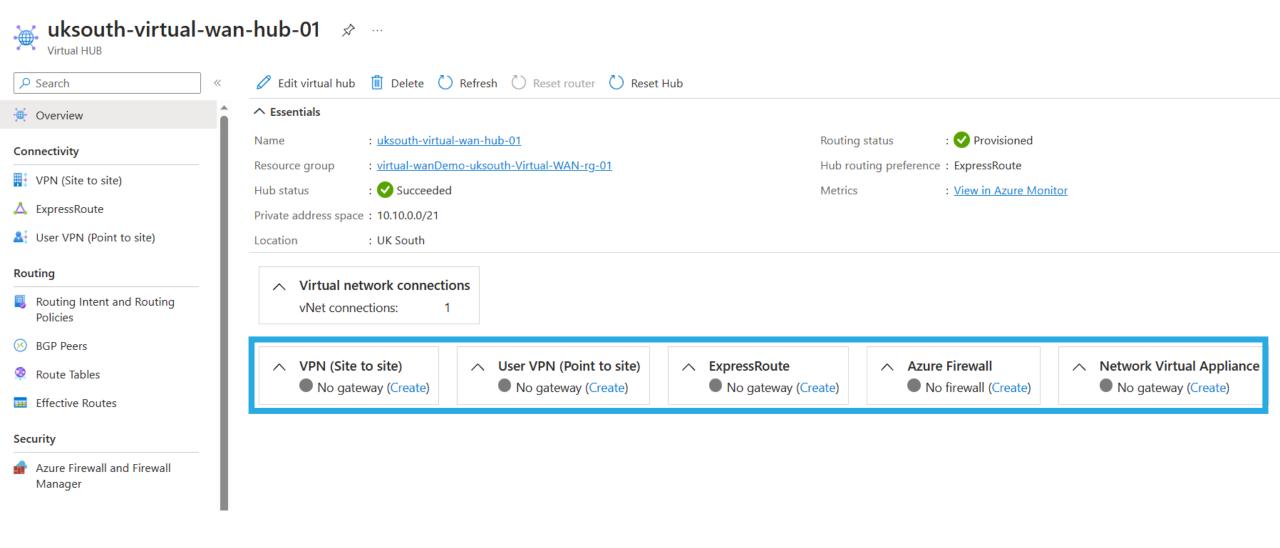
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virtual-wanDemo-virtual-wan-01 | Hubs 🖈 …

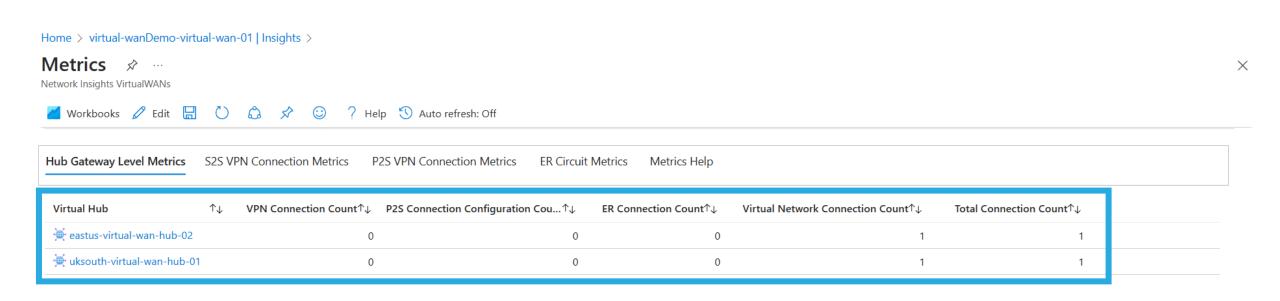




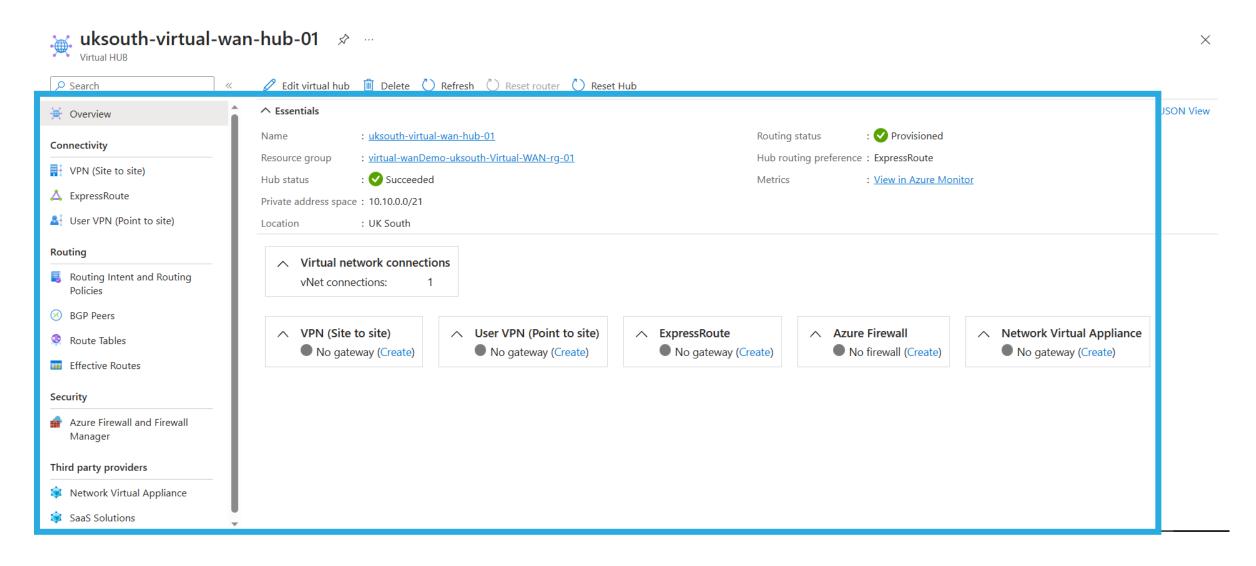
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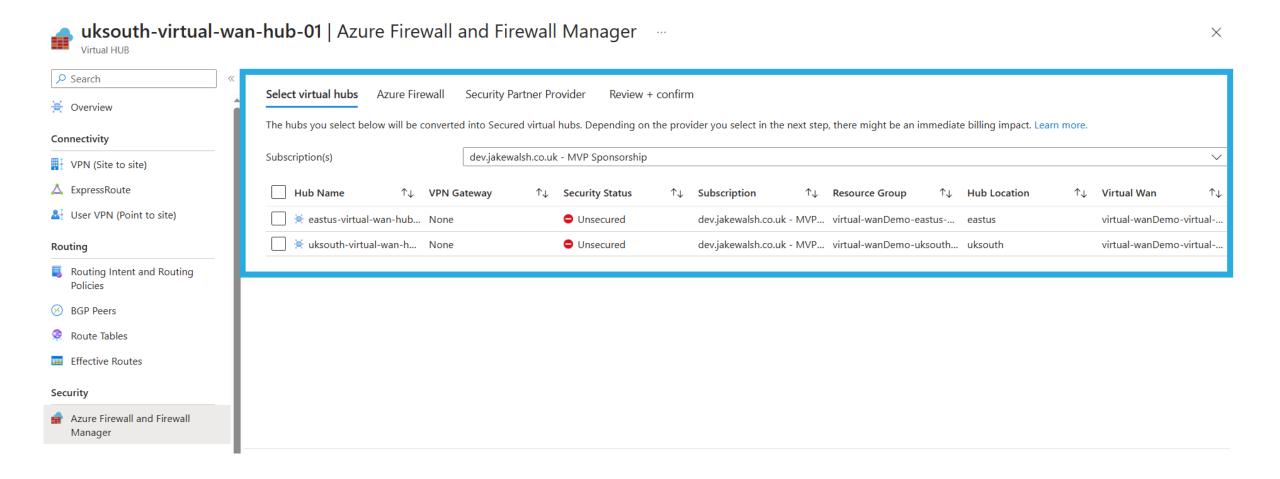
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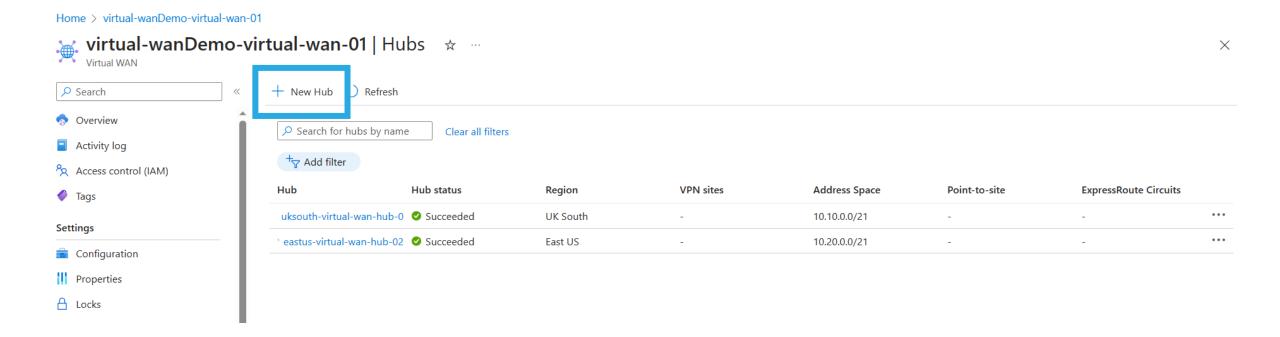
Centralised Control – A centralised service that brings core networking together, removing the need to configure and manage multiple separate resources.



Firewalling – Integrations to Azure Firewall, Azure Firewall Manager, and NVA options.



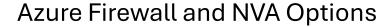
Rapid Expansion - Simple expansion to other Regions, with automated routing and simplified connectivity.





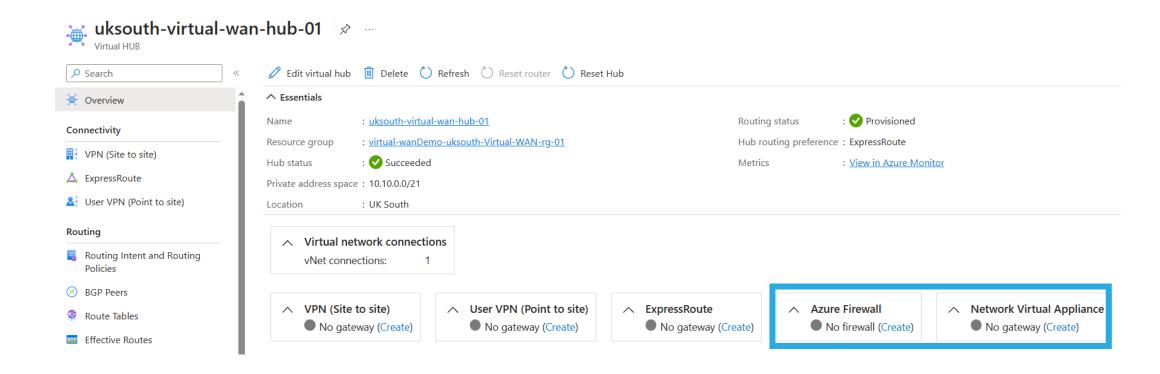
Security!

- There are numerous security aspects within Azure Virtual WAN 5 key areas:
 - Azure Firewall or NVA Options
 - Monitoring
 - Packet Capture
 - Administration
 - Azure Security Baseline for Virtual WAN





- Virtual WAN supports Azure Firewall and NVA options via supported vendors
- NVAs = Deployment Process
- Azure Firewall convert Standard to Secured Hub





Azure Firewall and NVA Options

Key benefits

When an NVA is deployed into a Virtual WAN hub, it can serve as a third-party gateway with various functionalities. It could serve as an SD-WAN gateway, Firewall, or a combination of both.

Deploying NVAs into a Virtual WAN hub provides the following benefits:

- Pre-defined and pre-tested selection of infrastructure choices (NVA Infrastructure Units): Microsoft and the
 partner work together to validate throughput and bandwidth limits prior to solution being made available to
 customers.
- Built-in availability and resiliency: Virtual WAN NVA deployments are Availability Zone (AZ) aware and are automatically configured to be highly available.
- No-hassle provisioning and boot-strapping: A managed application is prequalified for provisioning and bootstrapping for the Virtual WAN platform. This managed application is available through the Azure Marketplace link.
- Simplified routing: Leverage Virtual WAN's intelligent routing systems. NVA solutions peer with the Virtual WAN hub router and participate in the Virtual WAN routing decision process similarly to Microsoft Gateways.
- Integrated support: Partners have a special support agreement with Microsoft Azure Virtual WAN to quickly diagnose and resolve any customer problems.
- Optional platform-provided lifecycle management: Upgrades and patches are managed either directly by you or
 as part of the Azure Virtual WAN service. For best practices related to software lifecycle management for NVAs in
 Virtual WAN, please reach out to your NVA provider or reference provider documentation.
- Integrated with platform features: Transit connectivity with Microsoft gateways and Virtual Networks, Encrypted ExpressRoute (SD-WAN overlay running over an ExpressRoute circuit) and Virtual hub route tables interact seamlessly.

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-wan/about-nva-hub



Azure Firewall and NVA Options

Partners	Virtual WAN NVA Vendor Identifier	Configuration/How-to/Deployment guide	Dedicated support model
Barracuda Networks ☑	barracudas dwan release	Barracuda SecureEdge for Virtual WAN Deployment Guide ♂	Yes
Cisco SD-WAN ₫	ciscosdwan	The integration of the Cisco SD-WAN solution with Azure virtual WAN enhances Cloud OnRamp for Multi-Cloud deployments and enables configuring Cisco Catalyst 8000V Edge Software (Cisco Catalyst 8000V) as a network virtual appliance (NVA) in Azure Virtual WAN hubs. View Cisco SD-WAN Cloud OnRamp, Cisco IOS XE Release 17.x configuration guide ©	Yes
VMware SD- WAN ௴	vmwaresdwaninvwan	VMware SD-WAN in Virtual WAN hub deployment guide ☑. The managed application for deployment can be found at this Azure Marketplace link ☑.	Yes
Versa Networks ௴	versanetworks	If you're an existing Versa Networks customer, log on to your Versa account and access the deployment guide using the following link Versa Deployment Guide 2. If you're a new Versa customer, sign-up using the Versa preview sign-up link 2.	Yes
Aruba EdgeConnect 🗗	arubaed geconnectent er prise	Aruba EdgeConnect SD-WAN deployment guide . Currently in Preview: Azure Marketplace link .	No

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-wan/about-nva-hub#partners

Azure Firewall and NVA Options

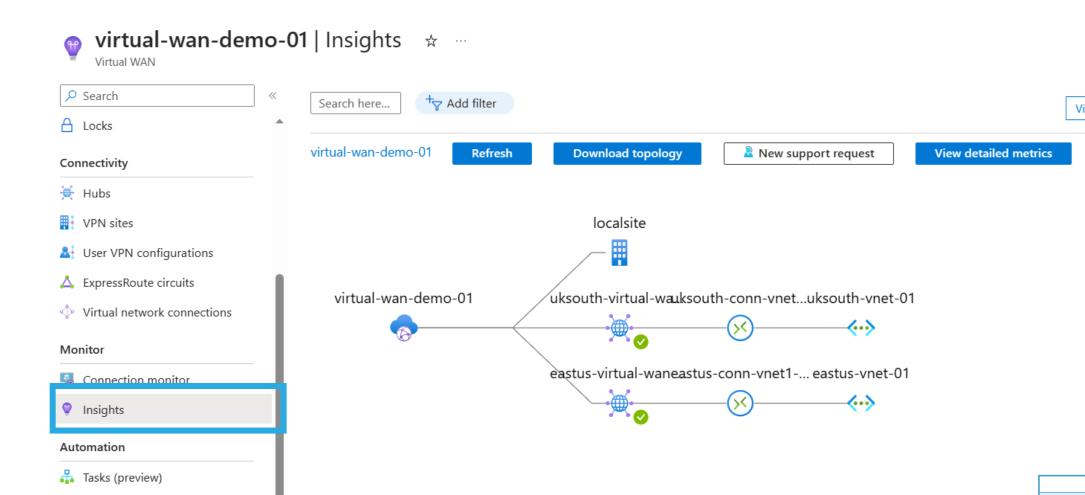
- Azure Firewall provides an Azure Native Firewall option that can be controlled and Managed using Azure Firewall Manager.
- Security Partner Providers bring Security as a Service (SECaaS) to Azure Virtual WAN Zscaler, CheckPoint, iboss...
- Hub Routing Intent GA 18/05/2023: https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-wan/how-to-routing-policies



Monitoring



- A wide range of options using Azure Monitor
- Insights Dashboard for Virtual WAN



Monitoring – let's talk metrics!



etric	Description					
rtual Hub ata Processed	Data in bytes/second on how much traffic traverses the virtual hub router in a g period. Note that only the following flows use the virtual hub router: VNet to VI and VPN/ExpressRoute branch to VNet (interhub).				Description	
			Tunnel Egress Pa	cket Drop Count	Count of Outgoing packets dropped by tunnel.	
			Tunnel Ingress Packet Drop Count Tunnel NAT Packet Drops		Count of Incoming packets dropped by tunnel. Number of NATed packets dropped on a tunnel by drop type and NAT rule.	
Metric	Description		Tunnel Egress TS Mismatch Packet		Outgoing packet drop count from traffic selector mismatch of a tunn	
Gateway P2 Bandwidth	Average point-to-site aggregate bandwidth of a gateway in bytes pe		_			
P2S Connec	Point-to-site connection count of a gateway. To ensure you're vice Azure Monitor, select the Aggregation Type for P2S Connection select Max if you split By Instance .	_	Drop	S MISMALEN PACKEL	Incoming packet drop count from traffic selector mismatch of a tunn	
User VPN	Number of User VPN Routes configured on the VPN gateway. This					
Routes Coun	nt into Static and Dynamic Routes.	Metric		Description		
		BGP Peer S	Status	BGP connectivity st	atus per peer and per instance.	
		BGP Route	es Advertised	Number of routes a	advertised per peer and per instance.	
		BGP Rou				
		BGP Route	es Learned	Number of routes I	earned per peer and per instance.	

Monitoring – let's talk metrics!



		Gateway Diagnostic I	
Metric	Description	Town I B'	
BitsInPerSecond	Bits per second ingressing Azure via ExpressRoute gateway that can be split for specific connections.	Tunnel Diag Logs	
	spin to specific confidences.	Route Diagr	
BitsOutPerSecond	Bits per second egressing Azure via ExpressRoute gateway that can be split for specific connections.	Logs	
		IKE Diagnos	
Bits Received Per Second	Total Bits received on ExpressRoute gateway per second.	Logs	
CPU Utilization	CPU Utilization of the ExpressRoute gateway.		
Packets per second	Total Packets received on ExpressRoute gateway per second.		
Count of routes advertised to peer	Count of Routes Advertised to Peer by ExpressRoute gateway.		
Count of routes learned from peer	Count of Routes Learned from Peer by ExpressRoute gateway.		
Frequency of routes changed	Frequency of Route changes in ExpressRoute gateway.		
Number of VMs in Virtual Network	Number of VMs that use this ExpressRoute gateway.		

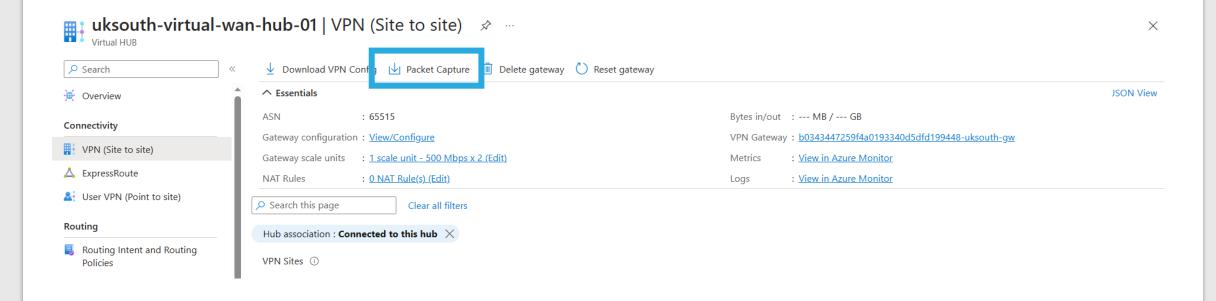
Metric	Description
Gateway Diagnostic Logs	Gateway-specific diagnostics such as health, configuration, service updates, and additional diagnostics.
Tunnel Diagnostic Logs	These are IPsec tunnel-related logs such as connect and disconnect events for a site-to-site IPsec tunnel, negotiated SAs, disconnect reasons, and additional diagnostics.
Route Diagnostic Logs	These are logs related to events for static routes, BGP, route updates, and additional diagnostics.
IKE Diagnostic Logs	IKE-specific diagnostics for IPsec connections.

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-wan/monitor-virtual-wan-reference

Packet Capture – available for S2S VPNs



- Requires a Virtual WAN and Hub, with a S2S VPN Gateway deployed.
- Logs captures to a Storage Account Container
- Supports optional filters, e.g. TCPFlags or MaxFileSize





Packet Capture – available for S2S VPNs

Home > Virtual WANs > virtual-wan-demo-01 > uksouth-virtual-wan-hub-01 VPN (Site to site) >	Start Packet Capture		\times
Packet Capture			
	Start		
Start Stop Stop Refresh			
This operation captures all packets on the Site to Site VPN Gateway that match the filter criteria specified. This inclu-	Filters		
A valid SAS (or Shared Access Signature) Uri with read/write access is required to complete a packet capture. When	Max Capture File Size (i)	100	\Box
A valid SAS (of Shared Access Signature) off with read/write access is required to complete a packet capture. w	Max Packet Buffer Size ①	120	
	Packets to capture	2 selected	~
	Source Subnet ①	0.0.0.0/0	
	Source Port ①	0	
	Destination Subnet ①	0.0.0.0/0	
	Destination Port ①	0	
	TCP Flags	5 selected	~
	Protocol ①	16	
	Capture Single Direction Traffic Only		



Administration – obvious, but relevant...

- Centralised Cloud Network use Entra ID credentials for Administration
- Entra ID means PIM / MFA etc.
- No need for a jump host or Bastion to administrate network appliances (even more so with PAAS offerings like Azure Firewall/Gateway).
- Management via ARM / Azure Portal

Azure Security Baseline – a very worthwhile read!



Learn / Security / Benchmark / Security baselines for Azure (MCSB v1) /

⊕ :

Azure security baseline for Virtual WAN

Article • 09/20/2023 • 1 contributor

In this article

Security profile Identity management

Data protection

Asset management

Show 2 more

This security baseline applies guidance from the Microsoft cloud security benchmark version 1.0 to Virtual WAN. The Microsoft cloud security benchmark provides recommendations on how you can secure your cloud solutions on Azure. The content is grouped by the security controls defined by the Microsoft cloud security benchmark and the related guidance applicable to Virtual WAN.

You can monitor this security baseline and its recommendations using Microsoft Defender for Cloud. Azure Policy definitions will be listed in the Regulatory Compliance section of the Microsoft Defender for Cloud portal page.

When a feature has relevant Azure Policy Definitions, they are listed in this baseline to help you measure compliance with the Microsoft cloud security benchmark controls and recommendations. Some recommendations may require a paid Microsoft Defender plan to enable certain security scenarios.

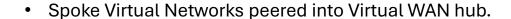
https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/security/benchmark/azure/baselines/virtual-wan-security-baseline



Expansion Options

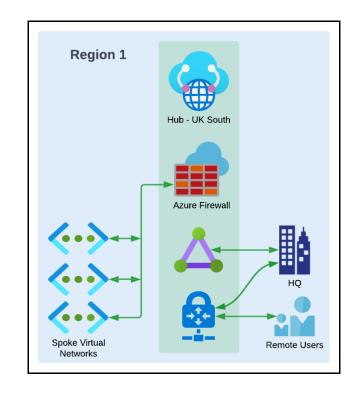
Expansion is easy with Virtual WAN:

 Our start – Single Virtual WAN hub, ExpressRoute and a VPN Gateway for IPsec or P2S Users.



• All Traffic via Single Azure Firewall instance.

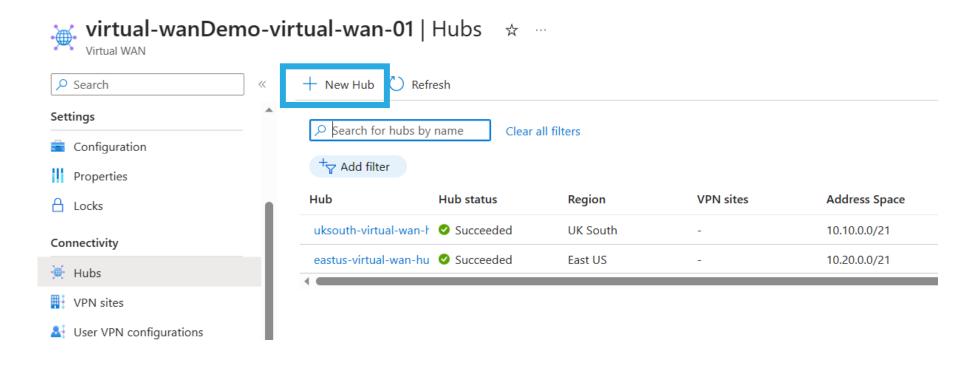
How do we expand to other Regions?





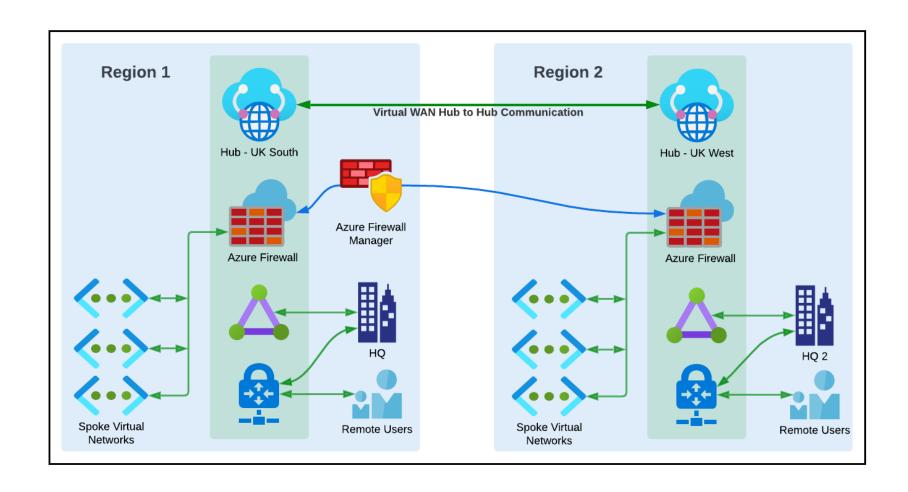


- \checkmark Regional Expansion is simple and done by adding Hubs
- ✓ Hubs are fully-meshed by default, enabling communication



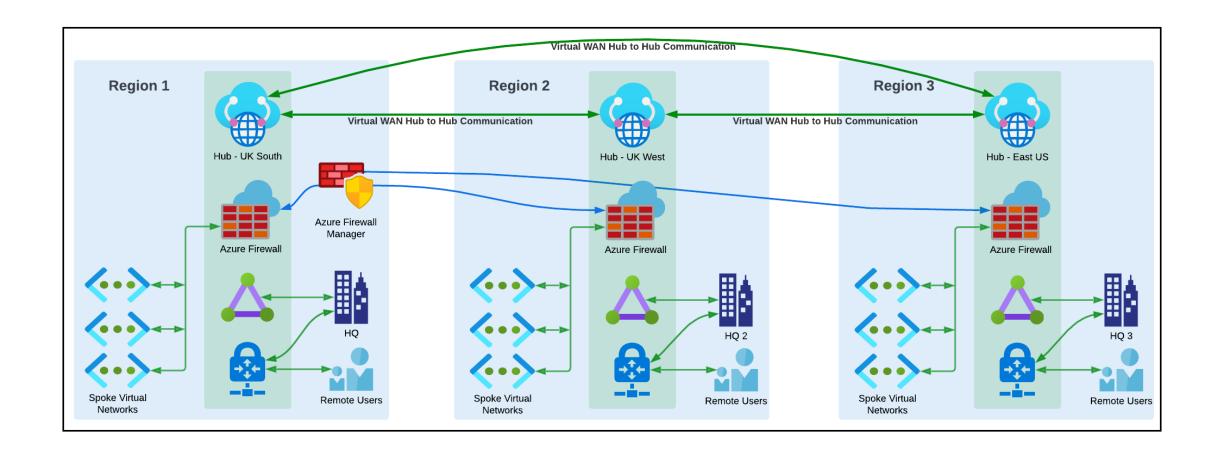


Expansion Options... +1 Region





Expansion Options... +2 Regions





Expansion Options

- ✓ Regional Expansion
- ✓ Firewalling options Scale up to Premium
- ✓ Hub Routing Intent Cross Region & Internet traffic all via NVAs/AzFWs
- ✓ Centralised Firewall Rulesets and Management
- ExpressRoute and VPN Gateway Support (S2S and P2S)
- ✓ Full Mesh Topology enabling communication via the MS Global Network
- ✓ Spokes can communicate (via Firewall if required).
- ✓ Automated Route Table Management & Provisioning
- ✓ Single Control of Virtual Networks via Virtual WAN
- ✓ Scale in routing units up to 50Gbps and 50,000 VMs per Hub



Where do we begin?

- **Recommendation** Get familiar with the basics and concepts using a lab. My Terraform Environment can help here!
- Consider upskilling and training AZ-700 and AZ-305 exams are helpful.
- **Have a plan!** Consider the Cloud Adoption Framework guidance and understand drivers/goals/objectives.
- Organisational deployment **Start with a Single Hub** and expand from there.
- Consult Guidance MS docs for migrating from Hub/Spoke https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-wan/migrate-from-hub-spoke-topology
- Engage a Partner Design/Implementation/Support etc.



Demo / Lab Environment - Terraform

```
# virtual-wan Resources
# virtual-wan
resource "azurerm_virtual_wan" "virtual-wan1" {
                     = "${var.lab-name}-virtual-wan-01"
  resource_group_name = azurerm_resource_group.region1-rg1.name
  location
                    = var.region1
  # Configuration
  office365_local_breakout_category = "OptimizeAndAllow"
  tags = {
   Environment = var.environment_tag
# virtual-wan Hub 1
resource "azurerm_virtual_hub" "region1-vhub1" {
                     = "${var.region1}-virtual-wan-hub-01"
  resource_group_name = azurerm_resource_group.region1-rg1.name
  location
  virtual_wan_id = azurerm_virtual_wan.virtual-wan1.id
  address prefix
                   = var.virtual-wan-region1-hub1-prefix1
  tags = {
   Environment = var.environment_tag
```

https://github.com/jakewalsh90/Terraform-Azure/tree/main/Virtual-WAN-Demo



Useful Links

- https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-wan/
- John Savill https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-GyAURZWzg
- Global Transit Architecture: https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-wan/virtual-wan-global-transit-network-architecture
- https://jakewalsh.co.uk/deploying-azure-virtual-wan-using-terraform/
- https://github.com/jakewalsh90/Terraform-Azure/tree/main/vWAN-DemoLab
- https://github.com/jakewalsh90/Terraform-Modules-Azure/tree/main/azure-quick-virtualwan
- Exams Az-700 and Az-305
- NVA Options: https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-wan/about-nva-hub
- https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-wan/about-nva-hub#partners

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