

AZURE MASTER CLASS

V2

- ▶ Playlist for the Master Class:
 <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIVtbbG169nGccbp8VSpAozu3w9xSQJoY>
- ▶ GitHub Repo artifacts including this handout:
 <https://github.com/johnthebrit/AzureMasterClass>



JOHN SAVILL'S AZURE MASTER CLASS



V2

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FORMAT

- PowerPoint
- Whiteboard
- Demo

What format should my Azure Masterclass be?

You can see how people vote. [Learn more](#)

PPT only (animated)	12%
PPT behind me, some boarding	53%
All whiteboard no ppt	35%

[273 votes](#) • Poll closed

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AGENDA

- Cloud and Microsoft Azure 101
- Identity and Governance
- Understanding Options, Cost and Optimization
- Azure Storage and Database Services
- Using Virtual Networks
- Enabling Azure-to-On-Premises Connectivity
- VMs and VM Scale Sets
- Containers and other Compute Services
- Load Balancing and Enabling External Connectivity to Azure Services
- High Availability, Disaster Recovery and Migration with Azure
- Secrets and Keys
- Monitoring and Security
- Infrastructure as Code and DevOps
- Other Key Azure Technologies to Complete your Azure Environment

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SOUP TO NUTS

- Goal is to start from the beginning
- Build in a logical way from nothing to being able to architect and operate Azure environments

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MASTER CLASS EVOLUTION

- Technology changes
- I will update modules over time
- I will add/remove potentially
- I will reference and link to deeper dives
- Make sure to subscribe and set the notification bell to find out about updates and new content
- Use the [playlist](#)
- [GitHub repo](#) for the code linked from playlist

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STAY CURRENT

- I post a [weekly update](#) every Sunday lunchtime
- Less than 15 minutes covering all the previous weeks changes



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MICROSOFT CERTIFICATION?

- This is not focused on any specific certification
- My focus is to teach you Azure
- However this would help with:



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LET'S BEGIN!



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CLOUD AND MICROSOFT AZURE 101

Types of Cloud Service

Microsoft Azure Primer

Types of “as a Service”

Getting access to Azure and types of subscription

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CLOUD SERVICES

- Many types of Cloud Service
- These cloud services can be hosted:
 - Within an organization's own infrastructure, Private Cloud, with full access to all aspects and all responsibility
 - From an external party accessed over the Internet and made available to general public, Public Cloud, e.g. Microsoft Azure, Amazon Web Services. Access only to specific aspects based on the service and responsibility based on type of service
 - Some organizations share an infrastructure which can be thought of as a Community Cloud
 - A combination of clouds brings a Hybrid Cloud solution

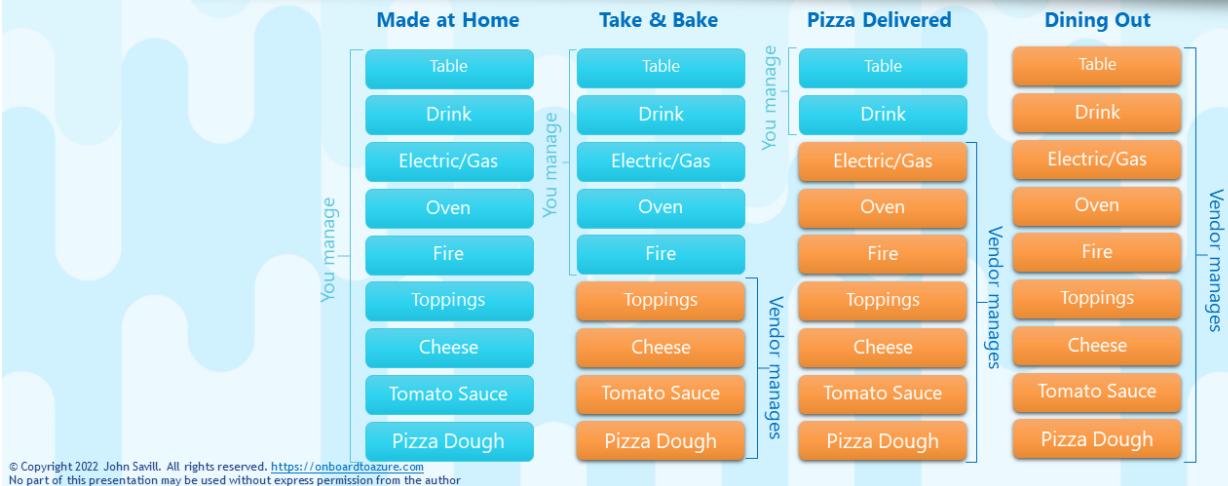
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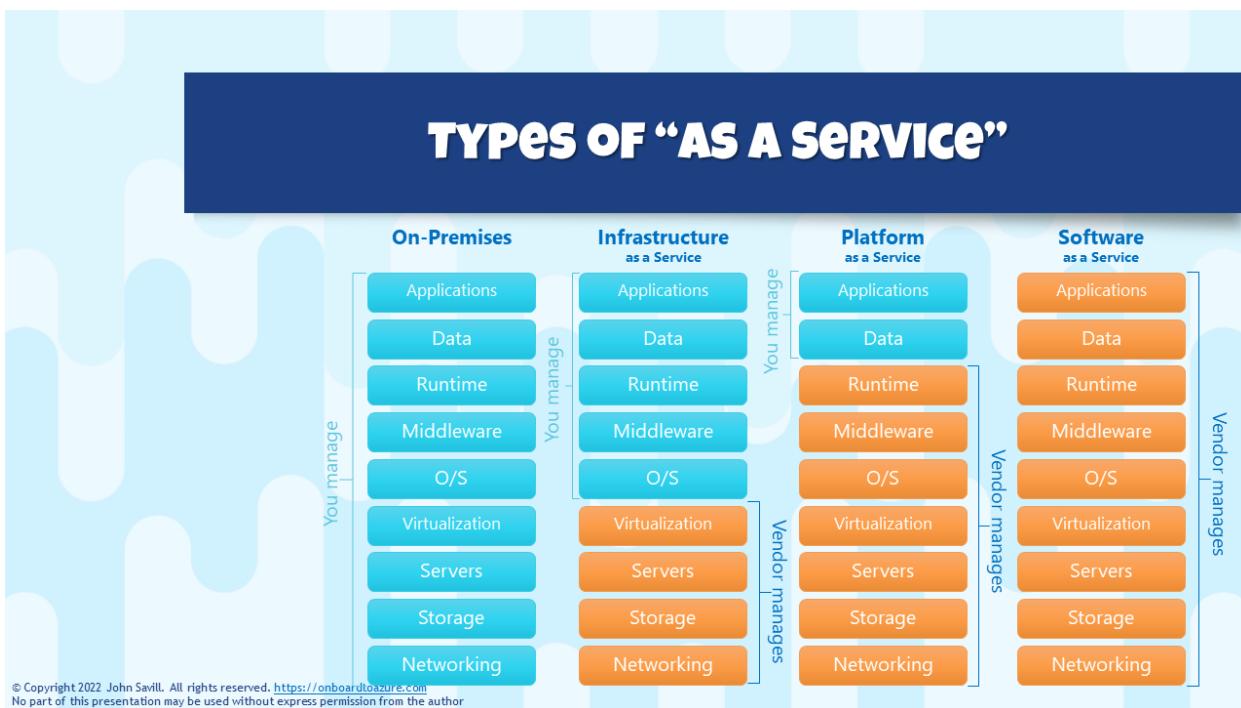
WHAT IS A “CLOUD”

- Many definitions
- US NIST defines 5 critical characteristics to be a cloud
 - On-demand self-service
 - Broad network access
 - Resource pooling
 - Rapid elasticity
 - Measured service
- <http://dx.doi.org/10.6028/NIST.SP.800-145>

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TYPES OF “AS A SERVICE”





IMPORTANT POINT

**In a real public cloud
you are not putting
in an order for
servers to be racked!**

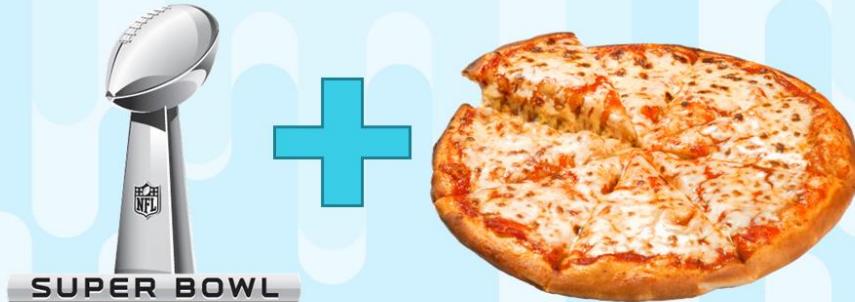
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WHEN TO USE PUBLIC CLOUD SOLUTIONS

- There is no definite right or wrong answer
- Shift responsibility and focus on what matters to the business
- Different organizations have different priorities and can operate services/datacenters at different price points and environment impact
- Requirements for resiliency or proximity not possible or practical on-premises
- The key point is that Public Cloud solutions charge you based on consumption
 - If I consume 100 TB of storage I pay for 100 TB and not the 500 TB I may need in the future
 - If a virtual machine runs for 12 hours a month I pay for the 12 hours it is running only
- The fact you pay only when its needed means Public Cloud fits a number of key scenarios perfectly

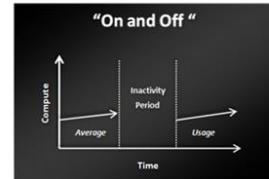
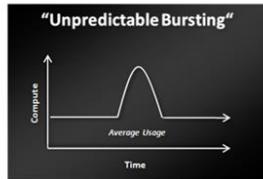
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PUBLIC CLOUD EXAMPLE



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OTHER GREAT SCENARIOS

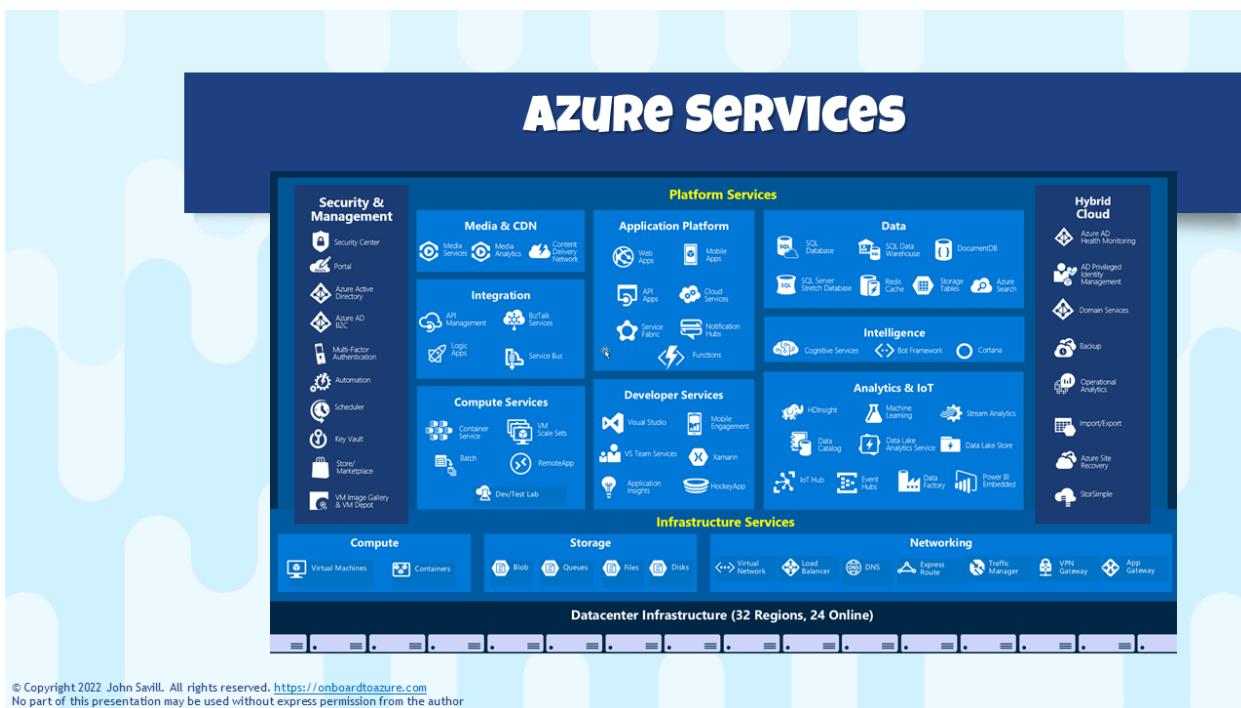


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KEY SCENARIOS I SEE

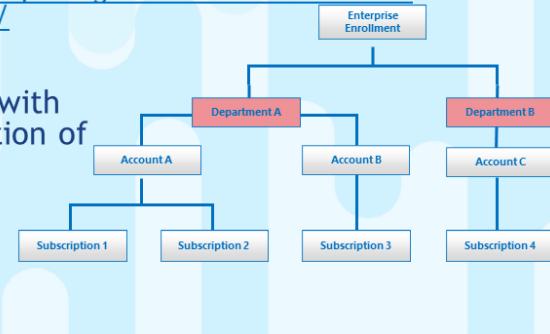
- Test and development
- Disaster Recovery
- DMZ scenarios
- Special projects
- Many organizations are just “all in”

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HOW TO GET AZURE?

- Get a free one-month trial with \$200 credit
 - <http://azure.microsoft.com/pricing/free-trial/>
- Get Azure as part of your existing Visual Studio Enterprise
 - <https://azure.microsoft.com/pricing/member-offers/credit-for-visual-studio-subscribers/>
- Buy Azure as you use it
- Create an Azure agreement with Microsoft which allows creation of different subscriptions and administrators plus reduced rates
 - Cloud Service Provider



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ACCOUNT SETUP METHODOLOGY

- Different options for creating accounts including:
 - Functional Teams (Sales, Legal, Marketing)
 - Business Divisions (Windows, Bing)
 - Geographic (North America, Europe)
 - Applications



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LIMITS AND QUOTAS

- There are soft limits and hard limits
- Initially subscriptions have fairly low limits to help protect you from over use
- <http://azure.microsoft.com/documentation/articles/azure-subscription-service-limits/>
- You can increase this via Subscription - Usage + quotas - Request Increase
- On your account you can enable or remove spending limits

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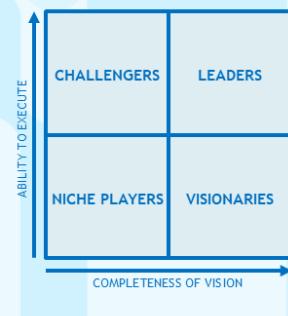
RELIABILITY LAYER IN THE CLOUD

- Reliability in the hardware is what you often implement on-premises
 - Centralized storage (e.g. a SAN)
 - Clusters of hosts
 - Migration of VMs between hosts in planned situations and failover in unplanned
 - Typically single instance of workloads
- Reliability in the software is used in the cloud
 - Distributed, multiple instances of compute and storage
 - VMs typically not migrated during maintenance
- Note Azure datacenter architectures are highly durable and resilient!
- Reliability in the software is the only practical architecture for mega-scale however it does not mean its worse than reliability in the hardware
- You need to factor this as part of your architecture and provide reliability in the application through multiple instances

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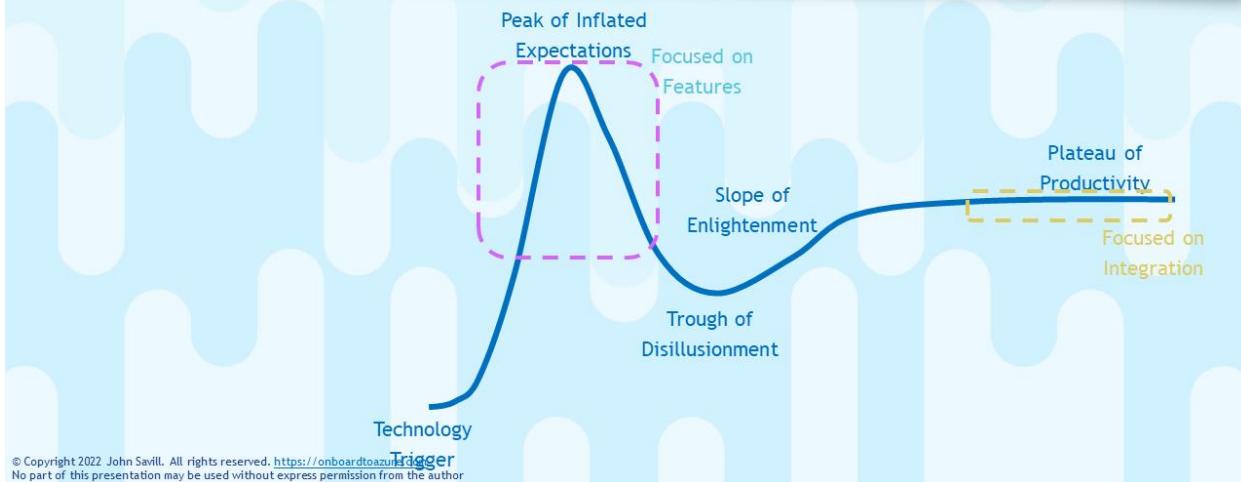
WHY SHOULD YOU USE AZURE?

- Gartner has a magic quadrant around many technologies. The magic quadrant are leaders in their vision and ability to execute
- Microsoft is in the leader magic quadrant for many services, e.g.:
 - Cloud Infrastructure and Platform Services
 - Access Management
 - Cloud DBMS
 - Cloud AI Developer services
 - Multiple security offerings
 -
- Microsoft can provide a hybrid solution



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BUT WHAT ABOUT Feature X?



WHAT DOES THIS mean?

- Azure is really one of the few realistic big guys in this space
- The billions of dollars needed to be available geographically available and commit to the scale limit those who can truly play in this space
- Everyone else will likely be niche players
- You are betting on a good horse 😊
- If Azure does become self-aware it will treat you well as an early adopter



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END OF MODULE



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Links for module

- ▶ NIST cloud definition:
 <http://dx.doi.org/10.6028/NIST.SP.800-145>
- ▶ Azure PUE:
 <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/3-key-cloud-adoption-trends-in-migrating-and-modernizing-workloads/>
- ▶ Azure Free Trial:
 <http://azure.microsoft.com/pricing/free-trial/>
- ▶ Azure Limits:
 <http://azure.microsoft.com/documentation/articles/azure-subscription-service-limits/>
- ▶ Azure Services:
 <https://azure.microsoft.com/products/>



IDENTITY

Identity Basics

AD and Azure AD

Conditional Access and MFA

Just-in-time Permissions

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THE NEED FOR IDENTITY

- For any service it's critical to be able to apply the principle of least privilege
- This requires granting certain actions (roles) to certain security principals at a defined scope
- We are focusing on the security principals
- Any actor should be uniquely identifiable
- A central store for the identities is required along with capabilities to use them

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OR IS IT? Decentralized Identity

- Gaining momentum
- Puts the user in the center instead of an IdP
- The user (or other entity) owns the identity and controls information shared
- Other entities can issue credentials (issuer) to a subject that the subject can choose to share with other entities (verifier)
- This is all rooted in some trust system to ensure the authenticity and integrity of the credentials

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ENTER.... AZURE AD

- Azure AD is the identity provider for the Microsoft clouds
 - Azure
 - Microsoft 365
 - Dynamics 365
- Azure AD ≠ AD in the cloud
- Azure AD SKUs and Licensing

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HOW DO YOU GET AZURE AD?

- You probably already have it
- Azure AD is the directory service used by most Microsoft services including Office 365, Dynamics CRM and even Azure subscriptions
- Managed through Azure or Office Portal
- Can create additional Azure AD tenants
- By default will be a <name>.onmicrosoft.com
- Can add a custom domain name(s)

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AZURE AD OBJECTS

- Users
- Groups (Assigned/Dynamic)
- Enterprise Applications/Azure Resources (Service Principals)
- Managed identities (special service principals)
- Devices
- Stuff
- Users and groups will often come from ADDS

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AD → AZURE AD SYNC

- AD is the source of truth
- An Azure AD instance can only sync from one Azure AD Connect (and optional staging)
- One AD can sync to multiple Azure AD instances
- Azure AD Connect Cloud Sync provides a cloud-based sync engine

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AUTHENTICATION & AUTHORIZATION

- Authentication (AuthN) - Proving who you are
- Authorization (AuthZ) - What I can do (access/actions)
- For Azure AD there is cloud and federated authentication
 - Password Hash (PHS) (cloud)
 - Pass-through Authentication (PTA) (hybrid)
 - Federation (hybrid)
- Generally recommended in this order
- PTA/Federation has benefits related to locked accounts/logon hours/expired password
- All methods can use either seamless (PHS/PTA) or single (federation) sign-on
- You can perform a staged rollout from federation to cloud authentication
- PHS recommended even if using another method as primary
- Authorization is always against Azure AD

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ROLES AND ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

- Many built-in roles related to Azure AD and Microsoft SaaS solutions
- Roles can be given to users and a special type of group (cloud)
- Custom roles can be created if built-in do not meet requirements
- Always think least privilege
- Scope is normally global however Administrative Units can limit scope of roles to subset of users, groups and/or devices
- <https://mystaff.microsoft.com/> may be useful for simple management

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PRIVILEGED IDENTITY MANAGEMENT

- Enables elevation of Azure AD (and ARM) roles when needed for limited time
- Can also be used to elevate to a privileged group membership or ownership for limited time
- Roles must be pre-assigned to be available for users
- Users then elevate on-demand or for a future time
- Azure AD P2 feature!

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ENTRA PERMISSIONS MANAGEMENT

- Also allows on-demand elevation
- More ad-hoc at very granular permission level
- Works across clouds (Azure, AWS, GCP)
- Can also analyze permissions used and optionally right size
- Separate license

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ACCESS REVIEWS

- Very often people change roles, get new permissions and never lose old permissions!
- Access reviews enable review on
 - Group membership
 - App assignment
 - Role assignment
- Review can be by administrators, delegated people or self-review

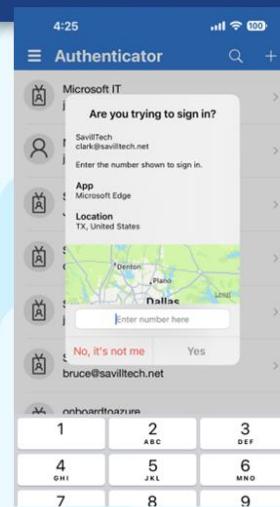
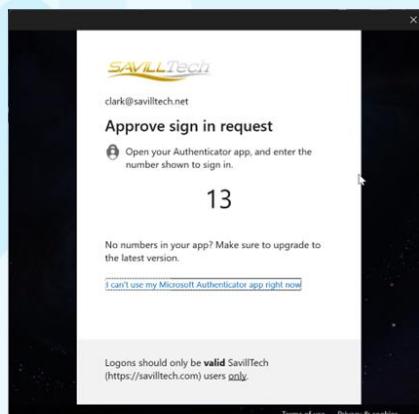
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AZURE AD MFA

- Passwords on their own are not good!
- MFA blocks 99.9% of attacks
- What is MFA?
 - Something we know (pin/gesture)
 - Something we are (biometric)
 - Something we have (phone, token, laptop)
- Should be used sparingly or responding will become muscle memory and want to avoid MFA fatigue

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AUTHENTICATION CONTEXT AND NUMBER MATCHING



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AZURE AD MFA

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- What is MFA?
 - Something we know (pin/gesture)
 - Something we are (biometric)
 - Something we have (phone, token, laptop)
- Should be used sparingly or responding will become muscle memory and want to avoid MFA fatigue
- Azure AD P1 OR use Security Defaults (or be a Global Admin)
- Passwordless such as H4B, authenticator app, FIDO2 key, CBA

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SECURING REGISTRATION AND SSPR

- MFA registration is combined with SSPR
 - <https://aka.ms/SSPRsetup>
- There is a chicken & egg problem
- Users must initially setup their security registration which would authenticate with password only
- Conditional Access - User actions - Register security information can lock down
- <https://passwordreset.microsoftonline.com>

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CONDITIONAL ACCESS

- Is triggered for any authorization regardless of authentication method
- Provides rich controls around users, roles, apps, environment etc
- AAD P1+

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B2B AND B2C

- Often we will have people in other companies we want to collaborate with
- They can be invited into our AAD as a B2B guest
- Cross-tenant access settings provide control on collaboration and inbound MFA trust
- B2C is aimed at our customers as a separate type and tenant instance that is fully customizable with other types of social identity support
- Changes coming in future to more unification

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ENTITLEMENT MANAGEMENT AND WORKFLOWS

- Enables access packages to be created of:
 - Groups
 - Applications
 - SharePoint sites
- Lifecycle workflows automate tasks associated with on and off boarding

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AD IN AZURE?

- Good old AD DS is likely not going anywhere
- Azure AD DS provides a managed AD with objects replicated from AAD (requires password hash sync)
- If have existing AD typically extend that to Azure instead
- VMs can be auto-joined to AD through IaaS VM extension (store creds in Key Vault!)

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END OF MODULE



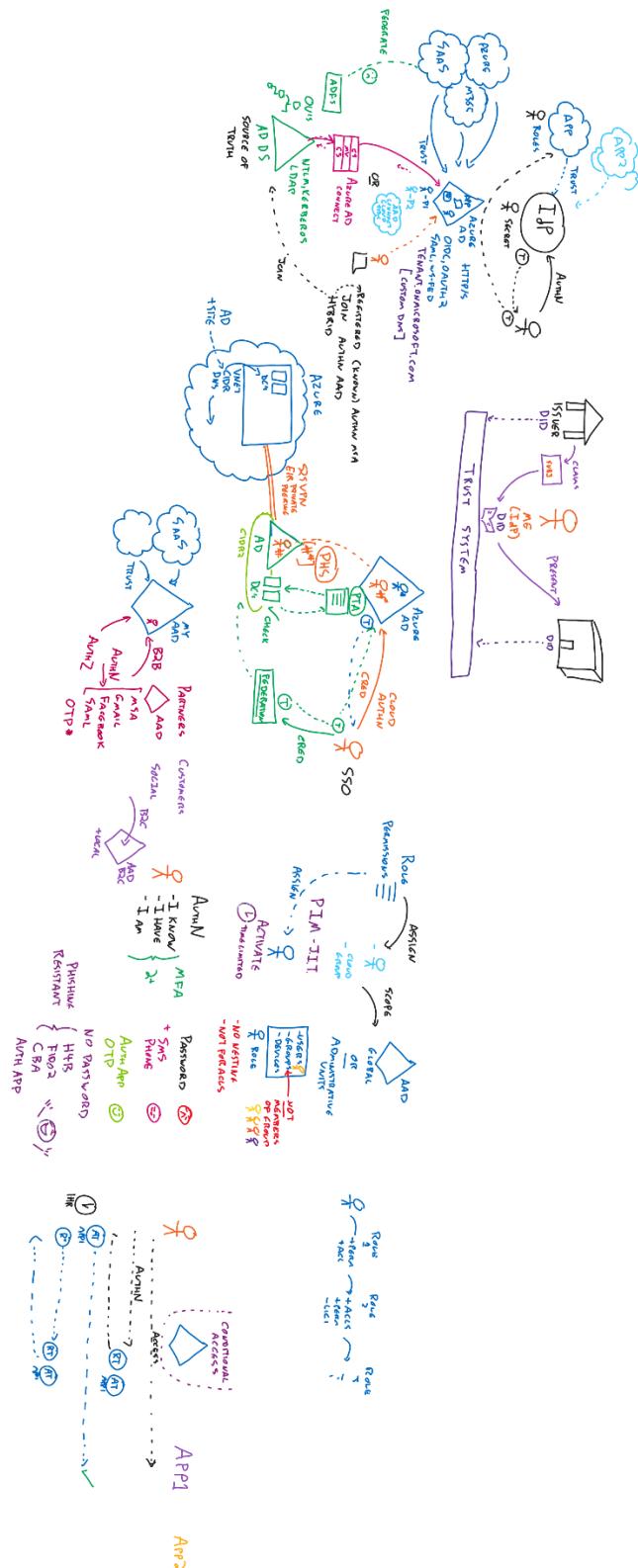
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Links for module

► Azure AD SKUs:

- 🔗 <https://learn.microsoft.com/azure/active-directory/authentication/concept-mfa-licensing#feature-comparison-based-on-licenses>

Whiteboard for module



V2

Governance

Importance of Guard Rails

Management Group, Subscriptions and Resource Groups

Policy, RBAC and Budgets

Standards and Architecture Guidance

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Governance 101

- Governance in the cloud is critical
- Our processes and behavior is different in the cloud compared to on-premises
- In the cloud by default there are many types of public facing services available
 - This could be bad!
- Governance is about enforcement of rules and ensuring proper functioning to standards

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UNDERSTAND YOUR REQUIREMENTS

- Take some time to understand your requirements
 - Corporate standards and operational practices
 - Regulatory compliance
- Azure is a shared responsibility model for many aspects of compliance
- Compliance portal can help track

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**Often these are all
around mitigating risk**

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KEY ORGANIZATIONAL COMPONENTS

- Management Groups
- Subscriptions
- Resource Groups

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SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

- RBAC
- Policy
- Budget
- Locking (subscription/RG/resource)

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A QUICK WORD ON ARM

- This will be covered in detail in the IaC module
- Understanding the structure of resources helps with Azure Policy
- Everything in Azure is made up of resources that are defined in resource providers
- A resource has properties and actions

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RBAC

- At all levels, access control can be leveraged on the management plane
- Some services also support RBAC on data plane, e.g. some storage services
- Inherited
- Roles consist of actions that are assigned to security principal at a scope
- Can create custom roles
- Grant to groups not users
- Leverage PIM for just-in-time

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ABAC

- RBAC may not be granular enough or you start to hit limits
- ABAC adds conditions to role assignments based on attributes of the resources and potentially the principal accessing
- Limited support today but growing

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AZURE POLICY

- Azure Policy sits at the top of ARM and any CRUD operation has to pass through it
- Can be used for enforcement and audit
- Start with audit!
- A policy is a set of conditions built around resource attribute aliases and an effect
- Focus is on the resource but recent DenyAction impacts the type of operation, e.g. delete
- Policies can be grouped into initiatives for assignment and compliance

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COST MANAGEMENT AND BUDGETS

- Cost Management provides insight and control of Azure (and AWS) spend
 - Cost analysis
 - Cost anomaly alerts
 - Budgets based on actual spend and forecast % of budget
 - Trigger Alerts & Action Groups
- Cost allocation with EA or Customer Agreement
- API is available along with PowerBI reports and ability to schedule exports
- Estimate Azure costs with Pricing Calculator
- Always optimize your Azure costs

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WAYS TO OPTIMIZE COST

- Make sure you right size, autoscale, serverless and shutdown!
- But you still have to spend money 😊
- Reserved Instances provide a discount for a commitment of specific resource/family in specific region for a 1- or 3-year duration
- Azure Savings Plan is very flexible compute services in any region for 1 or 3 years with lower discount than RI
- Azure Hybrid Benefit allows utilization of existing Windows and SQL licenses to Azure resources to reduce bill
- On-Demand Capacity Reservation works with the above cost tools when used to provide SLA backed capacity availability

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NAMING STANDARDS

- Having a standard is very important
- Azure has some great recommendations
- Remember naming conventions apply to all resources and guest OS
- Have consistent for cloud and on-premises

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TAGGING!

- A name:value pair which can be very powerful
- Identify attributes/metadata of a resource
- Have standards for tags used and values
- Can enforce use through policy
 - Be careful of deny!
- Can be used for search, filter and billing
- Value could be document if required
- Not inherited but could be copied via policy
- Cost management enables inheritance for USAGE records related to billing

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BLUEPRINTS & DEPLOYMENT STACKS

- Blueprints together different types of artifact in its own construct to “stamp” a configuration
 - Resource Groups, RBAC, ARM JSON, Policy
 - Different deploy modes
- The same can be done with regular templates (except the Deny assignments)
- Deployment Stacks are the deployment of a collection of resources and perform lifecycle operations on that collection of resources

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AZURE RESOURCE GRAPH & RESOURCE CONFIGURATION CHANGES

- Provides way to query ARM very efficiently and across subscriptions using KQL
- KQL also used in Log Analytics
- Can use portal or PowerShell/CLI/REST
- Also powered by ARG is Resource Configuration Changes (ResourceChanges)

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AZURE ADVISOR

- Throughout your Azure life there is constant re-evaluation and optimization
- Azure Advisor provides recommendations around key areas and should be checked weekly

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KEY MICROSOFT RESOURCES

- [Aka.ms/governancedocs](https://aka.ms/governancedocs)
- [Landing Zones](#)
- [Cloud Adoption Framework](#)
- [Well-Architected Framework](#)
 - Includes a review
- [Azure Architecture Center](#)

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END OF MODULE



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Links for module

- Compliance Overview:
 <https://www.microsoft.com/trust-center/compliance/compliance-overview>
- Subscription limits:
 <https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/azure-resource-manager/management/azure-subscription-service-limits>
- Pricing calculator:
 <https://azure.microsoft.com/pricing/calculator/>
- Governance documentation:
 <https://aka.ms/governancedocs>
- Landing Zones:
 <https://learn.microsoft.com/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/ready/landing-zone/>
- Cloud Adoption Framework:
 <https://learn.microsoft.com/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/>
- Well Architected Framework:
 <https://learn.microsoft.com/azure/architecture/framework/>
- Azure Architecture Center:
 <https://learn.microsoft.com/azure/architecture/>

Whiteboard for module

