| **Property** | **System-assigned managed identity** | **User-assigned managed identity** |
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| Creation | Created as part of an Azure resource, such as an Azure virtual machine or Azure App Service. | Created as a standalone Azure resource. |
| Lifecycle | Shared lifecycle with the Azure resource. When the parent resource is deleted, the managed identity is also deleted. | Independent life cycle. Must be explicitly deleted. |
| Sharing across Azure resources | Cannot be shared. Associated with a single Azure resource. | Can be shared. A user-assigned managed identity can be associated with more than one Azure resource. |
| Common use cases | Workloads that are contained within a single Azure resource. Workloads for which you need independent identities, such as an application that runs on a single virtual machine. | Workloads that run on multiple resources and which can share a single identity. Workloads that need preauthorization to a secure resource as part of a provisioning flow. Workloads where resources are recycled frequently, but permissions should stay consistent. For example, a workload where multiple virtual machines need to access the same resource. |