.NET CORE AZURE UBUNTU VM DEPLOY GUIDE

PETRO KOLOSOV

ABSTRACT. Simple and easy way to deploy your .NET Core web application to the Azure Ubuntu-based virtual machine.

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1. Main aim of the work

- Given:
- Main aim of the work:

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 $Key\ words\ and\ phrases.$ Azure, DevOps, Virtual machine, Deploy, Nginx, SSH, CI/CD, Azure pipelines, Github actions .

2. VIRTUAL MACHINE CREATION

Firstly, it is necessary to create a virtual machine (unexpectedly) where deployment to be hosted on. In this guide is considered free virtual machine of type Standard B1ms (1 vcpu, 2 GiB memory) with Ubuntu 20.04 operating system. Definitely it won't be considered step by step creation in this document, however required VM parameter are as follows:

- Size: Standard B1ms (1 vcpu, 2 GiB memory)
- OS: Ubuntu Server 20.04 LTS Gen2
- Availability options: No infrastructure required
- Authentication type: SSH public key
- SSH public key source: Use existing public key (create it before you created VM)
- Public inbound ports: HTTP(80), HTTPS(443), SSH(22)
- OS disk type: Standard SSD
- Encryption type: Default
- Public IP: Basic SKU, Static (be sure to create static IP)
- Select inbound ports: HTTP(80), HTTPS(443), SSH(22)
- Boot diagnostics: Disabled

Chosen parameters of the virtual machine are collected in order to minimize vm's cost. If you are not sure, refer to the screenshots via the reference [Kol22c].

3. Connect to VM via SSH

In order to configure virtual machine manually (as this guide tends to describe), we have to connect to it via SSH using the specified RSA private and public key-pair. It is assumed that programmer uses WSL2 under Windows 10 in order to work with VM via the SSH. By default, SSH keys are stored under the path c/Users/username/.ssh. Assume that RSA key-pair is stored there and have the names id_rsa and id_rsa.pub for private and public keys respectively. In order to interact the VM via SSH it is necessary to copy RSA keypair to the WSL username/.ssh folder, we use the commands under WSL

- cp /mnt/c/Users/pkolosov/.ssh/id_rsa /.ssh/
- cp /mnt/c/Users/pkolosov/.ssh/id_rsa.pub /.ssh/

Then connection is available now using the command

• ssh -i /.ssh/id_rsa razumovsky_r@MachineStaticIP

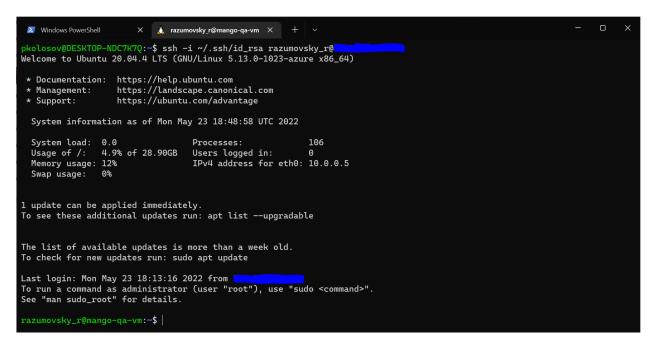


Figure 1. SSH connected successfully.

Therefore, the SSH connection between WSL2 under Windows 10 is established so that we are able to configure our virtual machine as per our needs.

4. Install .NET SDK and Runtime to the Ubuntu 20.04

Next, we should install the .NET SDK (unexpectedly again) in order to run our application. Proceeding, we refer to the Microsoft documentation article named Install the .NET SDK or the .NET Runtime on Ubuntu [Cor22], precisely the version is 20.04. As per documentation, consider the following commands to install .NET 6.0 SDK to your Ubuntu VM

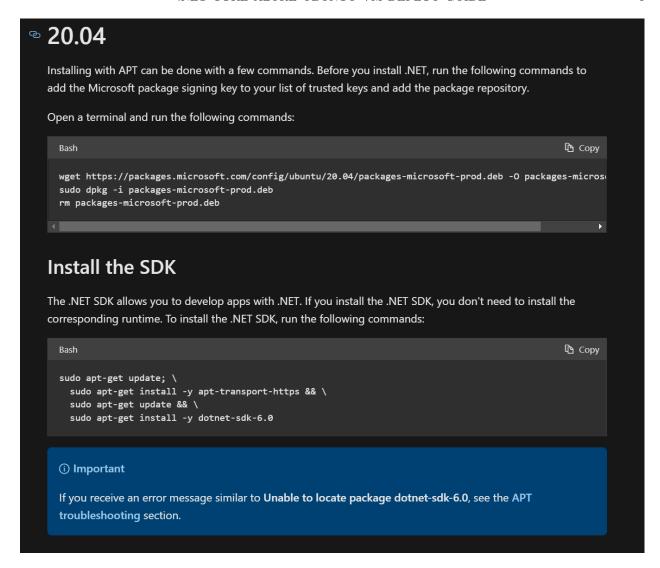


Figure 2. Ubuntu 20.04 install .NET 6.0 SDK MSDN.

Prepare your virtual machine applying the commands

- wget https://packages.microsoft.com/config/ubuntu/20.04/packages-microsoft-prod.deb
- sudo dpkg -i packages-microsoft-prod.deb
- rm packages-microsoft-prod.deb

The terminal output is as follows

```
Windows PowerShell
                         × 🍌 razumovsky_r@mango-qa-vm × + ∨
razumovsky_r@mango-qa-vm:~$ wget https://packages.microsoft.com/config/ubuntu/20.04/packages-microsoft-prod.deb -0 packa
ges-microsoft-prod.deb
 --2022-05-24 14:20:42-- https://packages.microsoft.com/config/ubuntu/20.04/packages-microsoft-prod.deb
Resolving packages.microsoft.com (packages.microsoft.com)... 13.90.56.68
Connecting to packages.microsoft.com (packages.microsoft.com)|13.90.56.68|:443... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 3690 (3.6K) [application/octet-stream]
Saving to: 'packages-microsoft-prod.deb
2022-05-24 14:20:42 (496 MB/s) - 'packages-microsoft-prod.deb' saved [3690/3690]
 razumovsky_r@mango-qa-vm:~$ sudo dpkg -i packages-microsoft-prod.deb
Selecting previously unselected package packages-microsoft-prod.
(Reading database ... 57953 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack packages-microsoft-prod.deb ...
Unpacking packages-microsoft-prod (1.0-ubuntu20.04.1)
Setting up packages-microsoft-prod (1.0-ubuntu20.04.1)
razumovsky_r@mango-qa-vm:~$ rm packages-microsoft-prod.deb
razumovsky_r@mango-qa-vm:~$ |
```

Figure 3. Virtual machine preparation..

Apply the following commands in order to install the SDK

- sudo apt-get update
- sudo apt-get install -y apt-transport-https
- sudo apt-get update
- sudo apt-get install -y dotnet-sdk-6.0

The terminal output after .NET 6.0 SDK installation is as follows

```
**Notion Processing Stranger Care Vision of the Company of the Com
```

Figure 4. Ubuntu 20.04 install .NET 6.0 SDK terminal output.

Figure 5. Ubuntu 20.04 install .NET 6.0 SDK terminal output.

```
Selecting previously unselected package netstandard-targeting-pack-2.1.

Preparing to unpack .../8-netstandard-targeting-pack-2.1.2.1.0-1_.and64.deb ...

Unpacking netstandard-targeting-pack-2.1 (2.1.0-1) ...

Selecting previously unselected package dothet-sdh-6.0.

Preparing to unpack .../9-dothet-sdh-6.0.(6.0.300-1_.and64.deb ...

Unpacking dothet-sdh-6.0 (6.0.300-1] ...

Setting up dothet-sdh-6.0 (6.0.300-1] ...

Setting up dothet-tangeting-pack-6.0 (6.0.5-1) ...

Setting up dothet-sdh-6.0 (6.0.5-1) ...

Setting up dothet-backfr-6.0 (6.0.5-1) ...

Setting up dothet-sdh-6.0 (6.0.5-1) ...

Setting
```

Figure 6. Ubuntu 20.04 install .NET 6.0 SDK terminal output.

In order to install the .NET Runtime we refer again to the Microsoft documentation, that

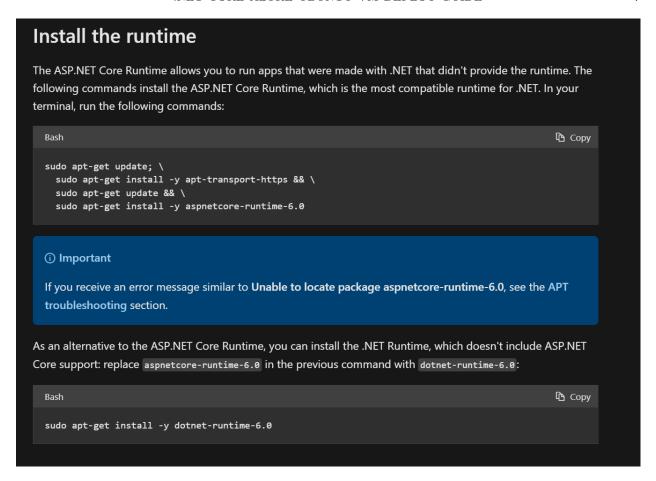


Figure 7. Install the .NET SDK or the .NET Runtime on Ubuntu MSDN.

We install .NET runtime using the commands

- sudo apt-get update
- sudo apt-get install -y apt-transport-https
- sudo apt-get update
- sudo apt-get install -y aspnetcore-runtime-6.0

Terminal output as follows

Figure 8. Ubuntu 20.04 install .NET 6.0 Runtime terminal output.

Therefore, the .NET SDK and Runtime are installed so that we are able to run specified .NET app on behalf of our Ubuntu virtual machine.

5. Copy build files to the VM via SSH

Now we have to build our .NET Core Web Application to the specified folder, say /mango-linux-build/src. Note that it is much better to build it on behalf of Windows 10 main machine, not WSL 2.0 one. We use the following commands to build .NET Core Web App with Release configuration

- cd E:/RiderProjects/MangoMessengerAPI/MangoAPI.Presentation
- dotnet publish "MangoAPI.Presentation.csproj" -r linux-x64
 - -o /mango-linux-build/src

Terminal output is as follows

```
Mindows PowerShell
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

Try the new cross-platform PowerShell https://aka.ms/pscore6

PS C:\Users\pkolosov> cd E:\fiderProjects\MangoMessengerAPI/MangoAPI.Presentation
PS E:\MiderProjects\MangoMessengerAPI/MangoAPI.Presentation
Restord E:\MiderProjects\MangoMessengerAPI/MangoAPI.Donain/MangoAPI.DataAccess.csproj (in 278 ms).
Restord E:\MiderProjects\MangoMessengerAPI/MangoAPI.Donain/MangoAPI.Presentation.sproj (in 278 ms).
Restord E:\MiderProjects\MangoMessengerAPI/MangoAPI.Donain/MangoAPI.Presentation.sproj (in 278 ms).
Restord E:\MiderProjects\MangoMessengerAPI/MangoAPI.Donain/MangoAPI.Presentation.sproj (in 278 ms).
Restord E:\MiderProjects\MangoMessengerAPI/MangoAPI.Presentation.sproj (in 278 ms).
Restord E:\MiderProjects\MangoMessengerAPI/MangoAPI.Application\MangoAPI.Presentation\MangoAPI.Presentation.proj (in 278 ms).
Restord E:\MiderProjects\MangoMessengerAPI/MangoAPI.Application.dillo.Sprojects\MangoMessengerAPI/MangoAPI.Application.Delway.Applicati
```

Figure 9. Publish .NET Web app terminal output.

Let's create the folder mango-backend where build files to be stored. Do not forget to connect to your Azure VM via SSH. Do not also forget to assign read-write privileges to the folder, using the commands

- sudo mkdir /mango-backend
- sudo chmod a+rwx /mango-backend

Terminal output:

Figure 10. Create folder at remote VM.

As next step consider to copy build files to the remote folder on your Azure VM so that we execute our program after. We copy the build files on behalf of WSL2 this time. In order to copy the build files we use following commands

- cd /mnt/e/mango-linux-build
- scp -r -i /.ssh/id_rsa ./src/* razumovsky_r@VM_IP_ADDRESS:/home/razumovsky_r/mango-backend

where id_rsa is the private key. Terminal output:

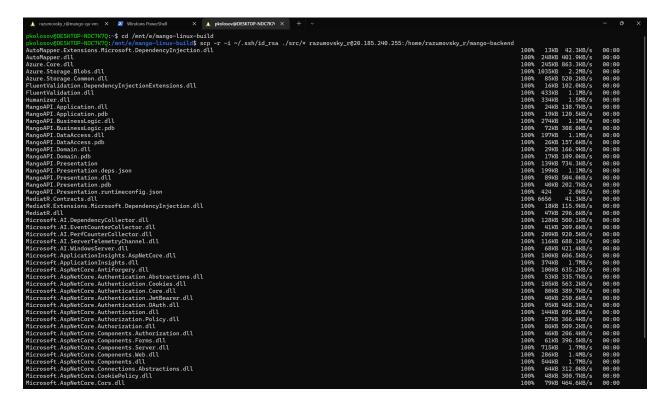


Figure 11. Copy build files via SSH.

Ensure build files are copied successfully to the remote VM, use the command 1s -1 mango-backend. Terminal output:

```
🇼 razumovsky_r@mango-qa-vm 💢 🔼 Windows PowerShell
                                                         pkolosov@DESKTOP-NDC7K7C X
razumovsky_r@mango-qa-vm:~$ ls -l mango-backend/
total 109356
                                            13312 May 24 18:26 AutoMapper.Extensions.Microsoft.DependencyInjection.dll 253440 May 24 18:26 AutoMapper.dll 251304 May 24 18:26 Azure.Core.dll
-rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
-rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
-rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
-rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
                                            1060240 May 24 18:26 Azure.Storage.Blobs.dll
                                             87440 May 24 18:26 Azure.Storage.Common.dll
15872 May 24 18:26 FluentValidation.DependencyInjectionExtensions.dll
-rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
-rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
-rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
                                             442880 May 24 18:26 FluentValidation.dll
-rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
                                             342120 May 24 18:26 Humanizer.dll
-rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
                                              24064 May 24 18:26 MangoAPI.Application.dll
-rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
                                              19104 May 24 18:26 MangoAPI.Application.pdb
-rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
                                             280576 May 24 18:26 MangoAPI.BusinessLogic.dl
-rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
                                             73596 May 24 18:26 MangoAPI.BusinessLogic.pdb
-rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
                                             201728 May 24 18:26 MangoAPI.DataAccess.dll
-rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
                                              27072 May 24 18:26 MangoAPI.DataAccess.pdb
-rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
                                              29696 May 24 18:26 MangoAPI.Domain.dll
-rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
                                              17636 May 24 18:26 MangoAPI.Domain.pdb
-rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
                                             142840 May 24 18:26 MangoAPI.Presentation
 rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
                                             203748 May 24 18:26 MangoAPI.Presentation.deps.json
 rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
                                              90624 May
                                                        24 18:26 MangoAPI.Presentation.dll
                                              40580 May 24 18:26 MangoAPI.Presentation.pdb
 rwxrwxr-x 1 razumovsky_r razumovsky_r
```

Figure 12. Check files at remote VM.

Therefore, the specified .NET Core web application is copied to the Ubuntu virtual machine so that it can be executed thanks to the previously installed .NET SDKs and runtimes.

6. Configure Ubuntu service

In this section the main aim is to implement an Ubuntu service such that runs our previously built .NET Core web application. It means that we have to configure the environment variables used in our application as well as to configure the firewall rules so that application will be able to communicate with another resources like databases, blobs etc. Ubuntu server refers to the entry point of the web app, that is

/home/razumovsky_r/mango-backend/MangoAPI.Presentation

Use the command to create service

sudo vim /etc/systemd/system/mangoback.service

Paste the following text there

[Unit]

Description=Mango Messenger Backend Service for Azure Dev Environment After=network.target

[Service]

Environment=ASPNETCORE_URLS=http://+:8080/

Environment=MANGO_JW_ISSUER="https://front.mangomessenger.company"

Environment=MANGO_JWT_AUDIENCE="https://back.mangomessenger.company"

Environment=MANGO_JWT_SIGN_KEY="d32d7cea-4cb8-4488-aa94-323ffb8cbdf4"

Environment=MANGO_EMAIL_NOTIFICATIONS_ADDRESS="mango@gmail.com"

Environment=MANGO_FRONTEND_ADDRESS="https://front.mangomessenger.company/"

Environment=MANGO_DATABASE_URL="database.connection.string"

Environment=MANGO_SEED_PASSWORD="seedPass"

Environment=MANGO_BLOB_URL="blob.url.connection.string"

Environment=MANGO_BLOB_CONTAINER="container.name"

Environment=MANGO_BLOB_ACCESS="blob.access.url"

Environment=MANGO_MAILGUN_API_KEY="mailgun.api.key"

Environment=MANGO_MAILGUN_API_BASE_URL="https://api.mailgun.net"

Environment=MANGO_MAILGUN_API_BASE_DOMAIN="back.mangomessenger.company"

Environment=MANGO_BACKEND_ADDRESS="https://back.mangomessenger.company/"

Type=simple

WorkingDirectory=/home/razumovsky_r/mango-backend

ExecStart=/home/razumovsky_r/mango-backend/MangoAPI.Presentation

User=razumovsky_r

Group=razumovsky_r

[Install]

WantedBy=multi-user.target

From the vim it should look as follows [Kol22b]

Figure 13. Ubuntu service opened in vim.

Make sure all resources are listening from the outside, check firewall rules on database side prior to run the service. Start and check health of the service using

- sudo systemctl start mangoback
- sudo systemctl status mangoback

Terminal output:

Figure 14. Run ubuntu service and check status, terminal output.

As a result of this section, we have created a specified ubuntu service that runs our previously copied .NET Core web application using installed .NET SDK and runtime.

7. Install and configure Nginx server

Now we have to configure the nginx server in order to expose our .NET Core web application to the outside. As a result of this section web app will be exposed and accessible via VM's external IP address. Let's install it using the commands

- sudo apt update -y
- sudo apt install -y nginx build-essential

Terminal output:

```
Windows PowerShell
                             🍌 pkolosov@DESKTOP-NDC7K7C X 🍶 razumovsky_r@mango-dev-vr X
razumovsky_r@mango-dev-vm:~$ sudo apt update <mark>-y</mark>
Hit:1 http://azure.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal InRelease
Get:2 http://azure.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates InRelease [114 kB]
Get:3 http://azure.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-backports InRelease [108 kB]
Hit:4 https://packages.microsoft.com/ubuntu/20.04/prod focal InRelease
Get:5 http://azure.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-security InRelease [114 kB]
Get:6 http://azure.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates/main amd64 Packages [1811 kB]
Get:7 http://azure.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates/universe amd64 Packages [924 kB]
Get:8 http://azure.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-security/main amd64 Packages [1471 kB]
Get:9 http://azure.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-security/main Translation-en [252 kB]
Get:10 http://azure.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-security/restricted amd64 Packages [934 kB]
Get:11 http://azure.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-security/restricted Translation-en [133 kB]
Fetched 5862 kB in 1s (4329 kB/s)
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
13 packages can be upgraded. Run 'apt list --upgradable' to see them.
razumovsky_r@mango-dev-vm:~$ sudo apt install -y nginx build-essential
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
build-essential is already the newest version (12.8ubuntu1.1).
nginx is already the newest version (1.18.0-Oubuntu1.3).
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 13 not upgraded.
razumovsky_r@mango-dev-vm:~$
```

Figure 15. Ubuntu install nginx terminal output.

Next, it is necessary to create nginx configuration [Kol22a] that exposes our application, that is

```
server {
    server_name STATIC_IP_ADDRESS_OF_VM;

location / {
    include proxy_params;
    proxy_pass http://127.0.0.1:8080;
}

location /swagger {
    include proxy_params;
    proxy_pass http://127.0.0.1:8080;
}

location /api {
```

```
include proxy_params;
    proxy_pass http://127.0.0.1:8080;
}

location /notify {
    proxy_pass http://127.0.0.1:8080;
    proxy_http_version 1.1;
    proxy_set_header Upgrade $http_upgrade;
    proxy_set_header Connection "upgrade";
    proxy_set_header Host $host;
    proxy_cache_bypass $http_upgrade;
}
```

We create it at the following path on behalf of our Azure VM via SSH

sudo vim /etc/nginx/conf.d/back.mangomesenger.company.conf

Restart nginx and validate its state using the commands

- sudo systemctl restart nginx
- sudo nginx -t

Terminal output:

```
Windows PowerShell X | hokolosov@DESKTOP-NDC7K7C X | razumovsky_r@mango-qa-vm X +

razumovsky_r@mango-qa-vm:~$ sudo systemctl restart nginx

razumovsky_r@mango-qa-vm:~$ sudo nginx -t

nginx: the configuration file /etc/nginx/nginx.conf syntax is ok

nginx: configuration file /etc/nginx/nginx.conf test is successful

razumovsky_r@mango-qa-vm:~$
```

Figure 16. Restart and test nginx terminal output.

Now we must be able to find our application listening to the

http://STATIC_IP_ADDRESS_OF_THE_VM

And actually it works as expected

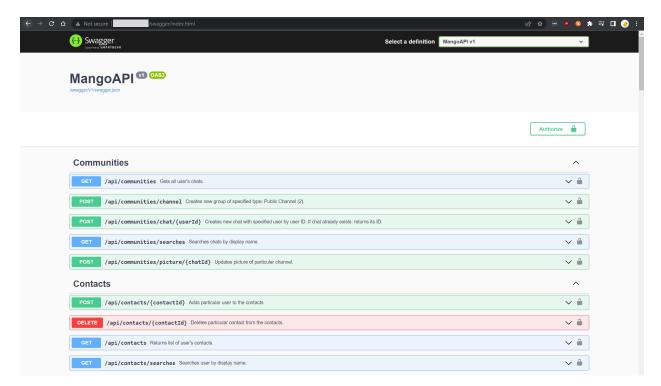


Figure 17. .NET Core web app accessed via browser using static IP address of the virtual machine.

In this section we have installed and configured the nginx web server so that it exposes our .NET Core web application (run on behalf of Ubuntu service) from the previous section and makes it available from the web browser under the url http://STATIC_IP_ADDRESS_OF_THE_VM.

8. Configure domain name and SSL

In this section our main aim is to assign specified (previously bought) domain name to our .NET Core web application as well as to configure SSL certificate for it. What is domain name?

Domain name – is a string of text that maps to a numeric IP address, used to access a website from client software [Clo22]. The actual address of a website is a complex numerical IP address (e.g. 103.21.244.0), but thanks to DNS, users are able to enter human-friendly domain names and be routed to the websites they are looking for.

8.1. Buy and configure domain name using Cloudflare. For instance, the domain name can be bought on the one of the following resources

```
• https://www.name.com
```

[•] https://www.namecheap.com

[•] https://get.tech

After that we have to associate our domain with the cloudflare.com service in order to manage out domain name and get some free DDoS protection and request analytics. For instance, I have bought a domain name withing name.com service and configured it using the following DNS records:

- hassan.ns.cloudflare.com
- sonia.ns.cloudflare.com

So it looks like as follows

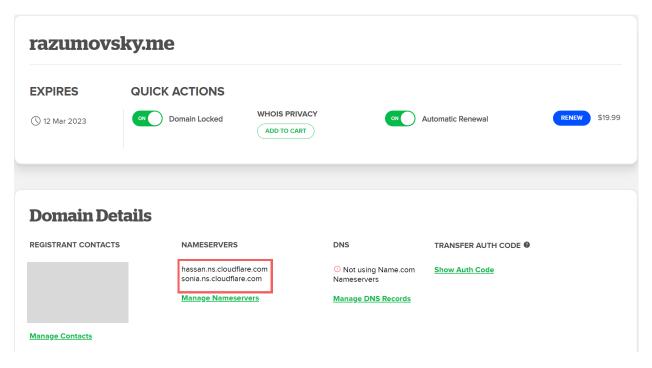


Figure 18. Domain name configuration at name.com.

After that we have to configure our domain name at cloudflare providing an IP address of the virtual machine we host our .NET Core web application, that is

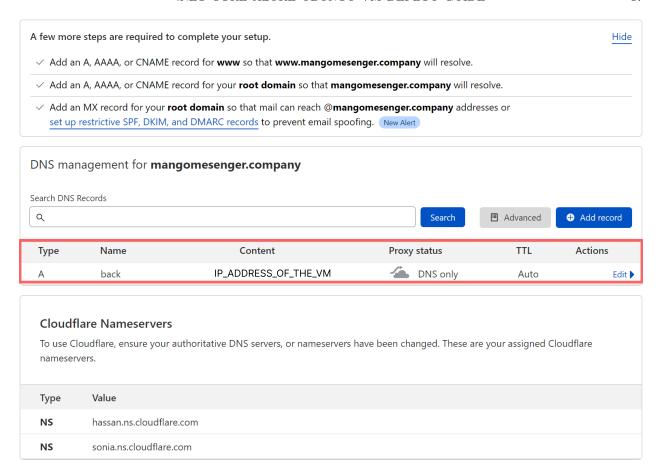


Figure 19. Domain name configuration at cloudflare.com.

8.2. Configure nginx for the Domain name. Now our aim is to make sure that nginx server accepts connections to the VM via the Domain name we previously bought and configured. Yet again we use SSH + RSA key pair and change the address in our nginx configuration as follows

```
server {
    server_name back.mangomesenger.company;

location / {
    include proxy_params;
    proxy_pass http://127.0.0.1:8080;
}

location /swagger {
    include proxy_params;
    proxy_pass http://127.0.0.1:8080;
}
```

```
location /api {
    include proxy_params;
    proxy_pass http://127.0.0.1:8080;
}

location /notify {
    proxy_pass http://127.0.0.1:8080;
    proxy_http_version 1.1;
    proxy_set_header Upgrade $http_upgrade;
    proxy_set_header Connection "upgrade";
    proxy_set_header Host $host;
    proxy_cache_bypass $http_upgrade;
}
```

We, actually, have changed only the top line server_name to the server_name back.mangomesenger.company;

Let's restart and test the nginx server using the commands

- sudo systemctl restart nginx
- sudo nginx -t

So that our web application is available now under the HTTP external url, yet without SSL certificate

http://back.mangomesenger.company/swagger

- 9. Build Angular Project
- 10. Copy Angular to the Remote VM via SSH
- 11. Configure Nginx for the Angular Project
- 12. Configure Domain Name for the Angular Project
 - 13. Configure the HTTPS again
 - 14. Conclusions

Conclusions of your manuscript.

References

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 $Email\ address{:}\ \verb+kolosovp94@gmail.com+$

 URL : https://razumovsky.me/