<u>Deploying .NET Core Applications using Azure DevOps CI/CD</u> <u>Pipelines and Azure App Services</u>

We will use Azure DevOps Project to set up continuous delivery (CD) and continuous integration (CI) pipelines in this project. The purpose is to quickly deploy an app to a Azure services, in this case App Service

In this project, we will build an sample ASP.NET core sample code, explore the CI/CD pipelines, commit code changes and run CI/CD.

1. Setting up a sample .NET core project:

We wil first create a directory

```
C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test> md testnet
Directory: C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test
```

```
PS C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test> cd testnet
PS C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet>
```

After installing the .net SDK in the system, we will run the command:

dotnet new sln -o HelloWorldApp

This will create a solution file

```
PS C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet> dotnet new sln -o HelloWorldApp
The template "Solution File" was created successfully.

PS C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet>
```

We wil go inside the the file and create the new mvc project:

dotnet new mvc -n HelloWorldApp.Web

```
PS C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet> cd .\HelloWorldApp\
PS C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet\HelloWorldApp> dotnet new mvc -n HelloWorldApp.Web
The template "ASP.NET Core Web App (Model-view-Controller)" was created successfully.
This template contains technologies from parties other than Microsoft, see https://aka.ms/aspnetcore/7.0-third-party-notices for details.

Processing post-creation actions...
Restoring C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet\HelloWorldApp\HelloWorldApp.Web\HelloWorldApp.Web.csproj:
Determining projects to restore...
Restored C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet\HelloWorldApp\HelloWorldApp.Web\HelloWorldApp.Web.csproj (in 170 ms).
Restored c:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet\HelloWorldApp\HelloWorldApp.Web\HelloWorldApp.Web.csproj (in 170 ms).
```

Now we will add the project to the solution:

```
PS C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet\HelloWorldApp> dotnet sin HelloWorldApp.sin add HelloWorldApp.Web\HelloWorldApp.Web.csproj
Project `HelloWorldApp.Web\HelloWorldApp.Web.csproj` added to the solution.
PS C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet\HelloWorldApp> |
```

Now we will build in local machine to test

```
PS C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet\HelloWorldApp> dotnet build
MSBuild version 17.6.3+07e294721 for .NET
Determining projects to restore...
All projects are up-to-date for restore.
HelloWorldApp.Web -> C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet\HelloWorldApp\HelloWorldApp.Web\bin\Debug\net7.0\HelloWorldApp.Web.dll

Build succeeded.
0 Warning(s)
0 Error(s)
```

We can see it has built without any error:

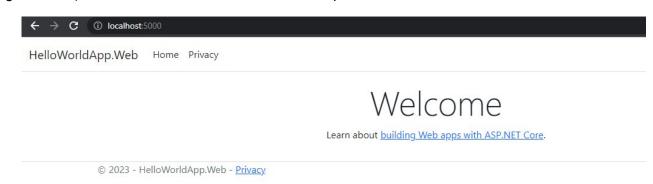
```
PS C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet\HelloWorldApp> cd .\HelloWorldApp.Web\bin\Debug\net7.0\
PS C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet\HelloWorldApp\HelloWorldApp.Web\bin\Debug\net7.0> ls
    Directory: C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet\HelloWorldApp\HelloWorldApp.Web\bin\Debug\net7.0
                                          Length Name
Mode
                    LastWriteTime
             11-07-2023
                            11:08
                                             127 appsettings.Development.json
                                             151 appsettings.json
             11-07-2023
                            11:08
             11-07-2023
                                            443 HelloWorldApp.Web.deps.json
                            11:12
             11-07-2023
                                           47104 HelloWorldApp.Web.dll
                            11:12
             11-07-2023
                            11:12
                                          154624 HelloWorldApp.Web.exe
             11-07-2023
                                           34536 HelloWorldApp.Web.pdb
             11-07-2023
                                             416 HelloWorldApp.Web.runtimeconfig.json
             11-07-2023
                             11:12
                                            9819 HelloWorldApp.Web.staticwebassets.runtime.json
PS C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet\HelloWorldApp\HelloWorldApp.Web\bin\Debug\net7.0>
```

Now we will check out dll from our project folder

```
PS C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet\HelloWorldApp\HelloWorldApp.Web> dotnet ./bin/debug/net7.0/HelloWorldApp.Web.dll
info: Microsoft.Hosting.Lifetime[14]
    Now listening on: http://localhost:5000
info: Microsoft.Hosting.Lifetime[0]
    Application started. Press Ctrl+C to shut down.
info: Microsoft.Hosting.Lifetime[0]
    Hosting environment: Production
info: Microsoft.Hosting.Lifetime[0]
    Content root path: C:\Users\ACER\Desktop\test\testnet\HelloWorldApp\HelloWorldApp.Web
```

We see we can host it locally

Going to the http://localhost:5000 we can see our sameple .net core web all



2. Add the Code to the github:

As it works, we will create a new repository in github and push these there.

We will add this to Azure repo later.

First we will initialize the repo using git init in git bash

```
ACER@DESKTOP-U4LROSH MINGW64 ~/Desktop/Test/testnet/HelloWorldApp (master)
$ git init
Initialized empty Git repository in C:/Users/ACER/Desktop/Test/testnet/HelloWorl
dApp/.git/
ACER@DESKTOP-U4LROSH MINGW64 ~/Desktop/Test/testnet/HelloWorldApp (master)
$ ls
HelloWorldApp.Web/ HelloWorldApp.sln
```

Then we will add a gitignore file

```
ACER@DESKTOP-U4LROSH MINGW64 ~/Desktop/Test/testnet/HelloWorldApp (master)
$ vim .gitignore
```

```
w MINGW64:/c/
bin
debug
~
~
```

Now we will add and commit

```
ACER@DESKTOP-U4LROSH MINGW64 ~/Desktop/Test/testnet/HelloWorldApp (master)

$ git add .
warning: in the working copy of '.gitignore', LF will be replaced by CRLF the ne
xt time Git touches it
warning: in the working copy of 'HelloWorldApp.Web/wwwroot/lib/bootstrap/dist/cs
s/bootstrap-grid.css', LF will be replaced by CRLF the next time Git touches it
warning: in the working copy of 'HelloWorldApp.Web/wwwroot/lib/bootstrap/dist/cs
```

```
ACER@DESKTOP-U4LROSH MINGW64 ~/Desktop/Test/testnet/HelloWorldApp (master)
$ git commit -m "First commit add all file"
```

In github i have created new repository:

Create a new rep A repository contains all proje Import a repository.	Pository ect files, including the revision history. Already have a project repository elsewhere?
Required fields are marked wi	th an asterisk (*).
Owner *	Repository name *
	AzureProj1
	AzureProjt is available.
Description (optional)	nort and memorable. Need inspiration? How about redesigned-umbrella?
while the company of the second of	one with .Net core application and Azure devops

Now we will add this as origin our git repo

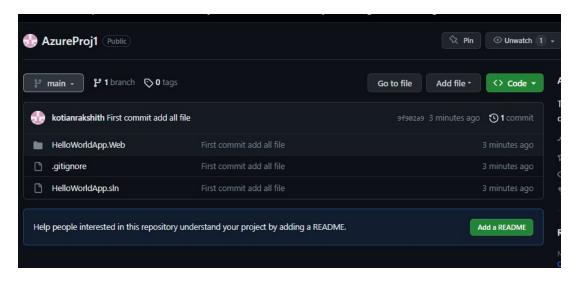
```
ACER@DESKTOP-U4LROSH MINGW64 ~/Desktop/Test/testnet/HelloWorldApp (master)
$ git remote add origin git@github.com:kotianrakshith/AzureProj1.git
```

Now we will rename and push all the files:

```
ACER@DESKTOP-U4LROSH MINGW64 ~/Desktop/Test/testnet/HelloWorldApp (master)
$ git branch -M main

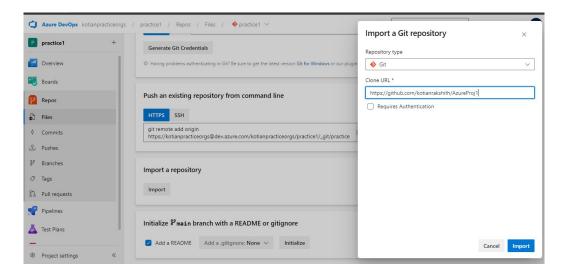
ACER@DESKTOP-U4LROSH MINGW64 ~/Desktop/Test/testnet/HelloWorldApp (main)
$ git push -u origin main
Enumerating objects: 105, done.
Counting objects: 100% (105/105), done.
Delta compression using up to 4 threads
Compressing objects: 100% (98/98), done.
Writing objects: 100% (105/105), 910.77 KiB | 1.76 MiB/s, done.
Total 105 (delta 31), reused 0 (delta 0), pack-reused 0
remote: Resolving deltas: 100% (31/31), done.
To github.com:kotianrakshith/AzureProj1.git
* [new branch] main -> main
branch 'main' set up to track 'origin/main'.
```

Now we see that all files are in github



3. Import the project to Azure Repo:

Go to Repos section of Azure DevOps and click on 'Import a repository':

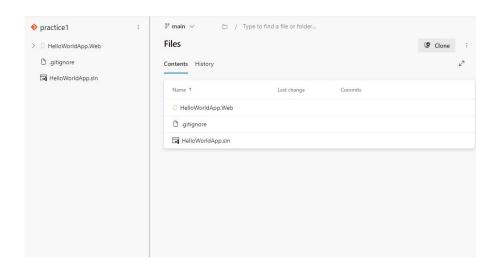


Now paste your github link and import.

You can also push from your local repo is you want:



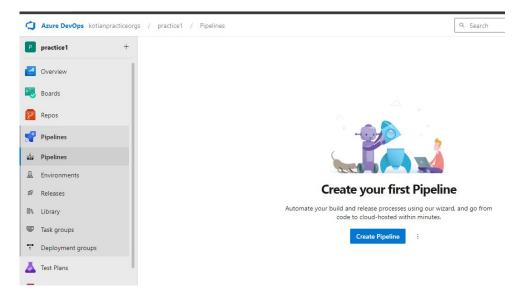
We'll send you a notification when it's ready. For now, you can work on some other project or just take a moment to sit back, relax and enjoy your day.



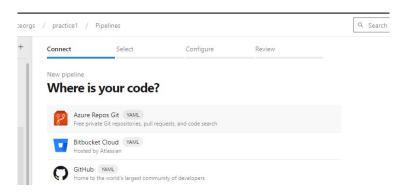
Once its imported you should be able to see your files

4. Creating a pipeline

Go to pipline section of the Azure DevOps and click 'create pipeline'



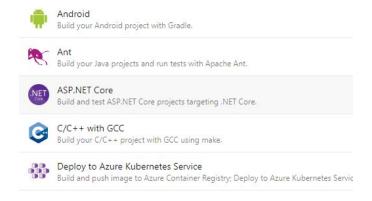
For the code chose Azure Repos Git:



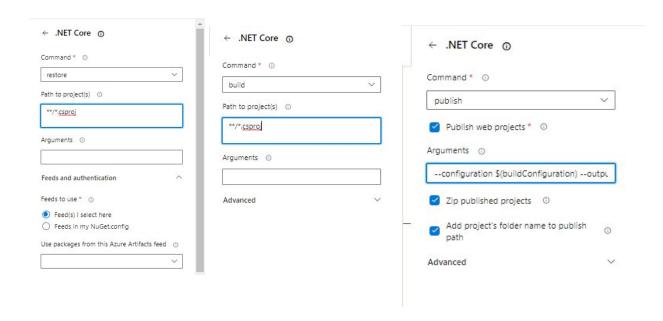
And chose your repo:



In the template configuraion we will chose ASP.NET core

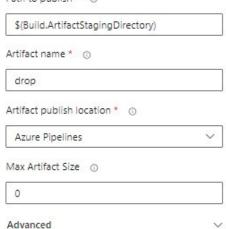


You will see an yaml, we will edit this code to add restore, build, publish steps:



We will also add publish build artifact task:



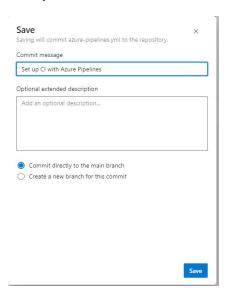


Finally we will have the whole code:

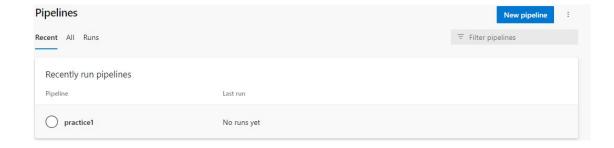
```
trigger:
     - main
 8
9 pool:
    vmImage: ubuntu-latest
11
12 variables:
     - buildConfiguration: 'Release'
13
14
15
    steps:
16 - task: DotNetCoreCLI@2
17 inputs:
Settings
21 - task: DotNetCoreCLI@2
22 __inputs:
    --- command: 'build'
23
     projects: '**/*.csproj'
     Settings
25 - task: DotNetCoreCLI@2
26 - inputs:
27 --- command: 'publish'
28 --- publishWebProjects: true
29 --- arguments: '--configuration-$(buildConfiguration) --output $(Build.ArtifactStagingDirectory)'
     Settings
30 - task: PublishBuildArtifacts@1
    PathtoPublish: '$(Build.ArtifactStagingDirectory)'
ArtifactName: 'drop'
publishLocation: 'Container'
32
33
34
35
```

It will be saved in the Azure repo, but i will also add it in the github repo for future reference.

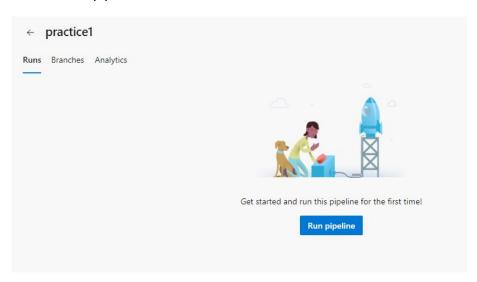
Now you can save:



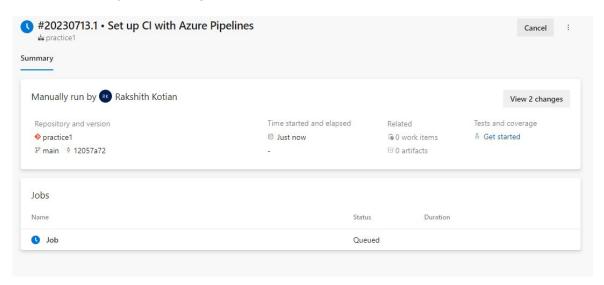
Now you can see a pipeline created:



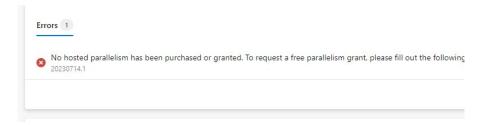
Lets run the pipeline:



We can see the job is running:



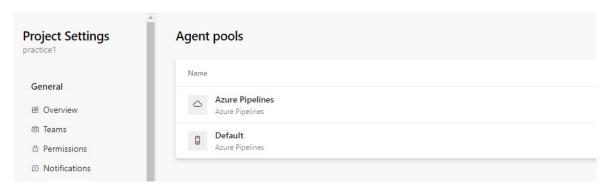
We got an error because in the free Azure we have setup we do not yet have access to run parallel job in Microsoft hosted machine.



So we can run the build in the local machine:

We will first add our local machine as an agent:

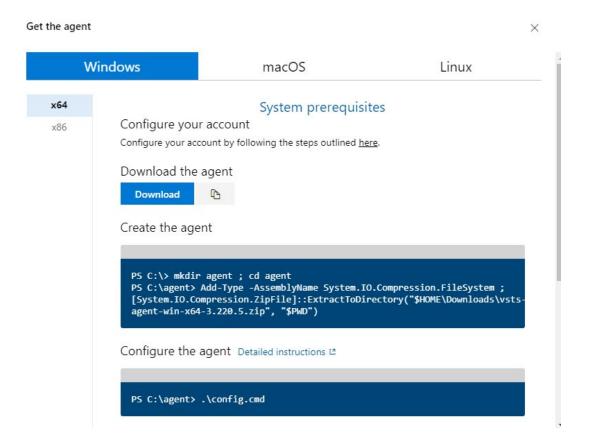
In project settings go to agent pools:



Here go to default and click New agent:



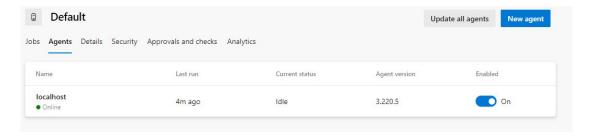
Steps are given in detail:



We will follow the same step in windows local machine:

```
Enter server URL > https://dev.azure.com/kotianpracticeorgs/
Enter authentication type (press enter for PAT) >
Connecting to server ...
>> Register Agent:
Enter agent pool (press enter for default) >
Enter agent name (press enter for DESKTOP-U4LROSH) > localhost
Scanning for tool capabilities.
Connecting to the server.
Successfully added the agent
Testing agent connection.
Enter work folder (press enter for _work) >
2023-07-14 04:42:46Z: Settings Saved.
Enter run agent as service? (Y/N) (press enter for N) >
Enter configure autologon and run agent on startup? (Y/N) (press enter for N) >
PS C:\agent> .\run.cmd
Scanning for tool capabilities.
Connecting to the server.
2023-07-14 04:44:39Z: Listening for Jobs
```

(Personal access token required for this can be created from User setting-> personal access tokens)



Now we can see one new agent is added.

Now to change the our build to run in localhost we will have to change the code:

In the YAML under pool, delete the vmlmage line and replace it with the following:

pool:

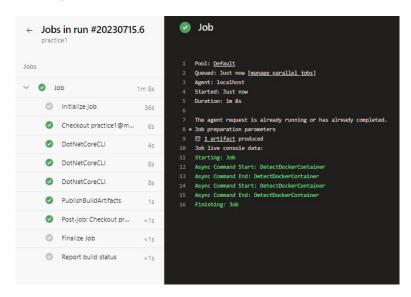
name: Default

```
5
6 trigger:
7 - main
8
9 pool:
10 - name: Default
11
12 variables:
13 - buildConfiguration: 'Release'
```

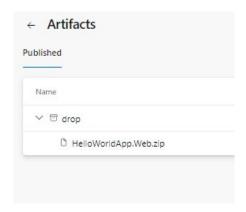
Once you save and run it will ask for permission to use the default pool, you can confirm.



Now if you see the build has completed



You can go to the artifact created:



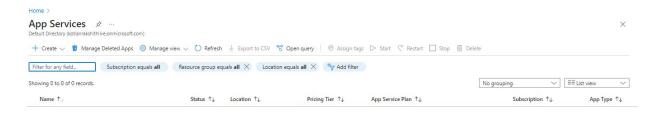
You will see the zip created and if you download and open you will see all the required files:



5. Create an app service:

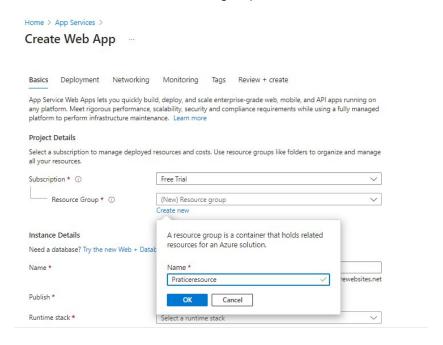
If we want to deploy our app to an app service we need to create an app service.

We will go to Azure portal now and navigate to app service:

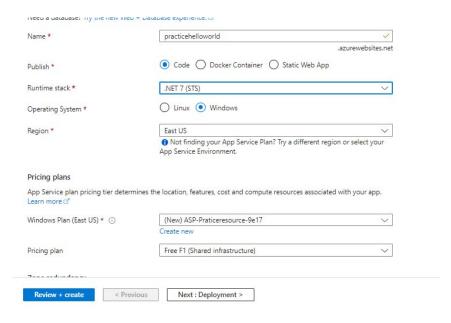


Click create,

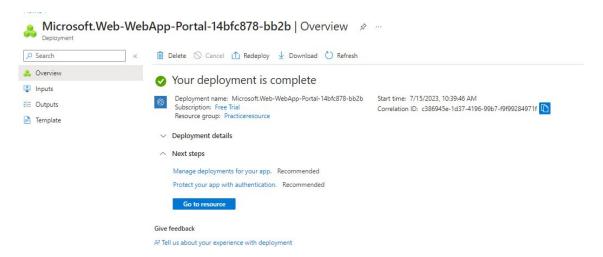
Then we will add new resource group



Then give a name and .net runtime stack

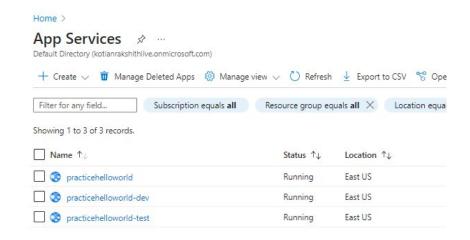


Then you can review and create:



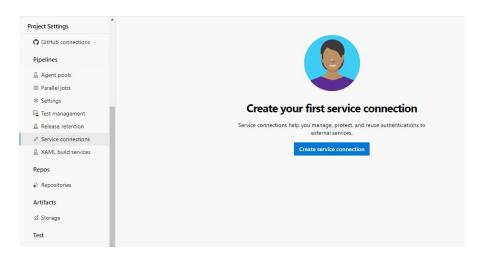
Simiarly we wil also create web app for dev and test environment.

You should finally have three web app like below:

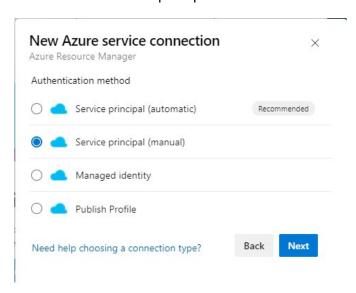


6. Connect Azure DevOps with Azure Portal subscription using Azure AD:

We will go to project settings in Azure DevOps and Service connections:



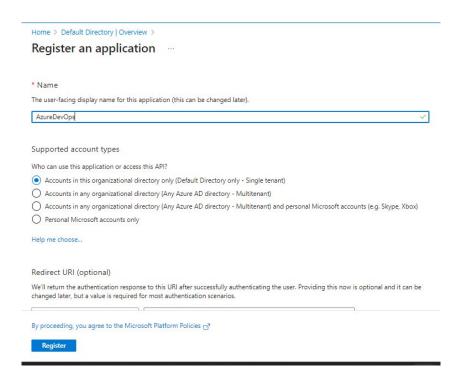
We will select service principal:



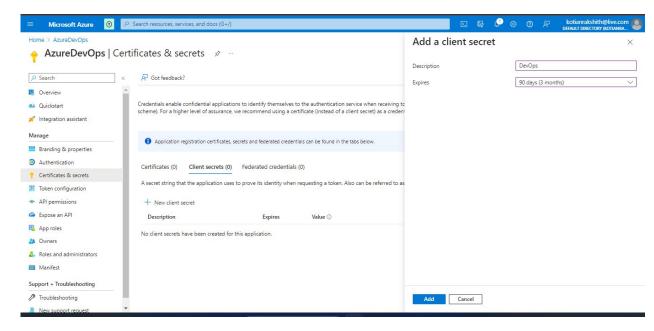
As we need some details in the next page to be filled, we will open Azure AD(soon will be renamed to Entra ID)

Add an app registration:

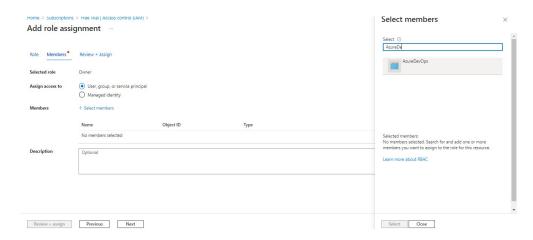
We will name it AzureDevOps and register



We will also go to clients and secrets and create a secret:

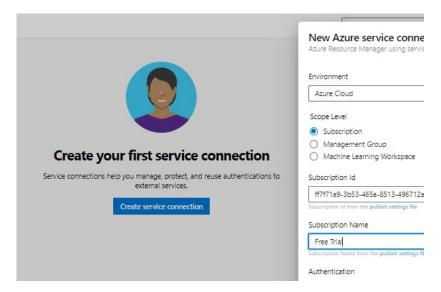


We will also go to subscription and add a new role assignment to the app registration we just created.

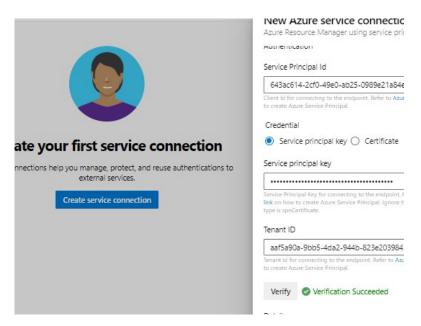


Now using all the info we will fill the Azure DevOps service connection fields:

First we will give subscription id and name



Then we will give Service Principal Id(client ID) Service principal key(secret value), Tenant ID.



Then when we verify it should be successful otherwise it may be missing something.

When we verify and save a new service connection should be added:



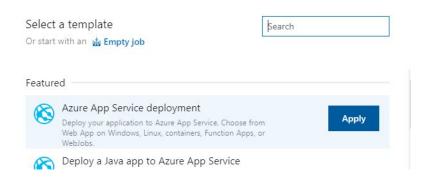
This will help you to find the web app created in Azure portal in Azure DevOps portal.

7. Create a release pipeline:

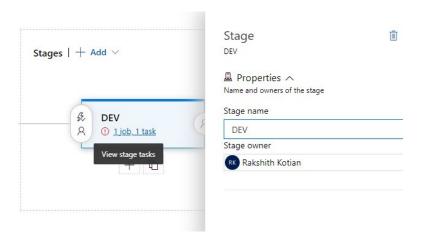
In the Azure DevOps go to pipeline and then releases and then click new pipeline:



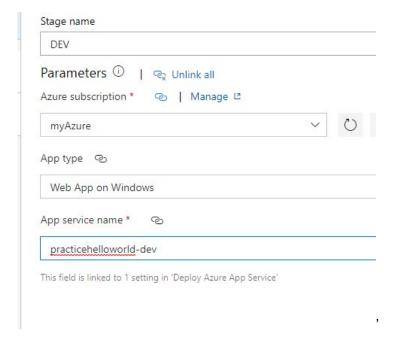
In template chose 'Azure App Service Deployment':



Name it and got to tasks:

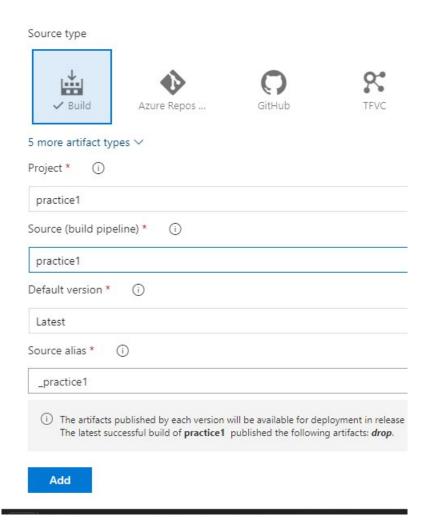


Here chose your subscription and the webapp:



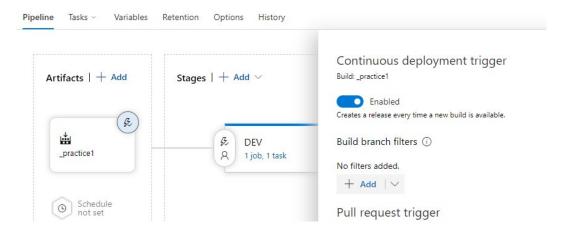
Save it.

Now go to the pipeline and add artifact:



You can select your project where build is done and click add

You can also enable continuous deployment using the trigger:



Now we have pipeline till Dev.



Either we can run this manually, but as there is automated CI/CD lets just change small code and it should build and deploy automatically:

We are editing HelloWorldApp.Web/Views/Home/Index.cshtml

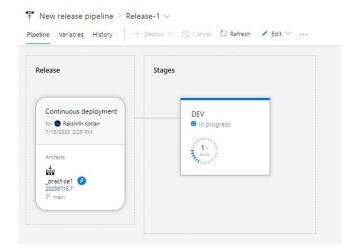
(This is the index page of our web app)

We will commit this.

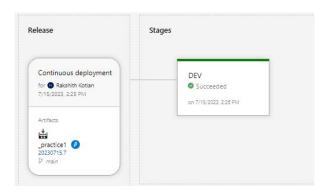
First we will see pipeline running:



Once its successfull we will see release running:

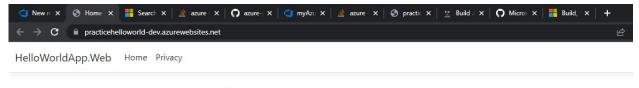


Then you can see successful release pipline:



Then you can check its log and go to the url mentioned:

We see that it is successfully deployed and available in the web app url:



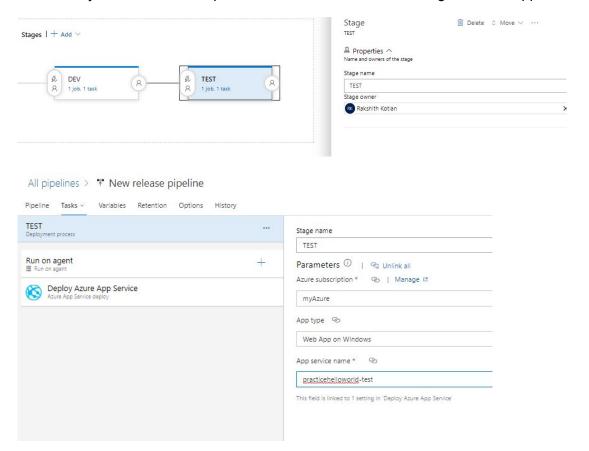
Welcome to DEV environment

Learn about building Web apps with ASP.NET Core.

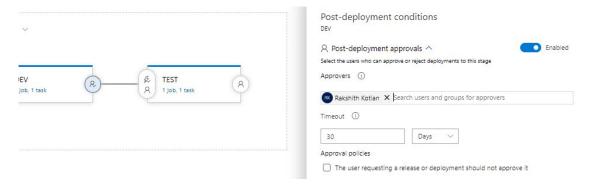
8. Deploy till Production:

Till now we deployed till dev environment. Lets add test environment and also production environment.

First let us just clone DEV step and rename it to TEST and change the web app:



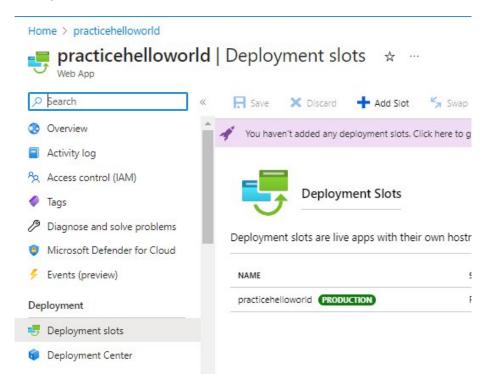
We will also add the post deployment condition to require approval between the stages:



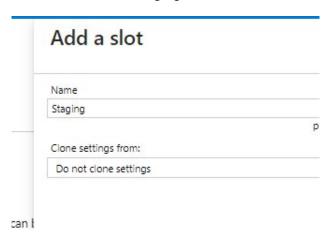
Now before we add production let us add a deployment slot in production web app so we can use the swap between two slots.

(we have to upgrade webapp which provides staging slots)

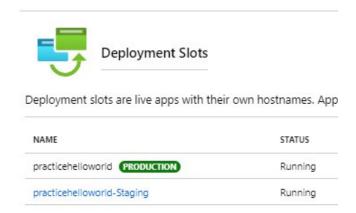
Now go to the app service and then 'Deploment slots' and click Add slot:



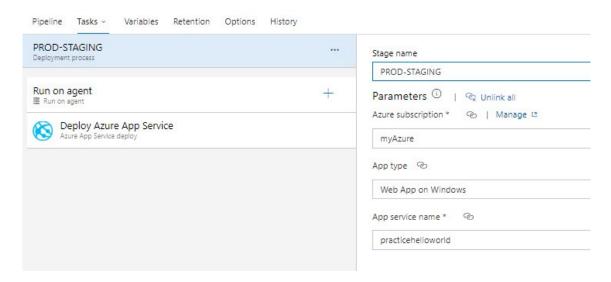
We will name it as staging and add it:



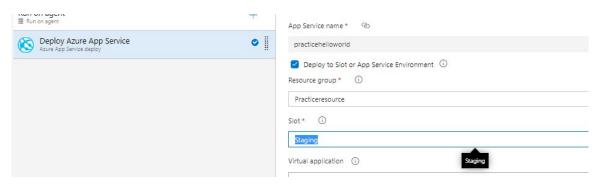
Now you will be abe to see two deployment slots:



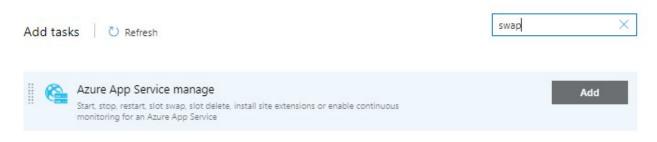
Now lets add new stage for production in release pipeline:



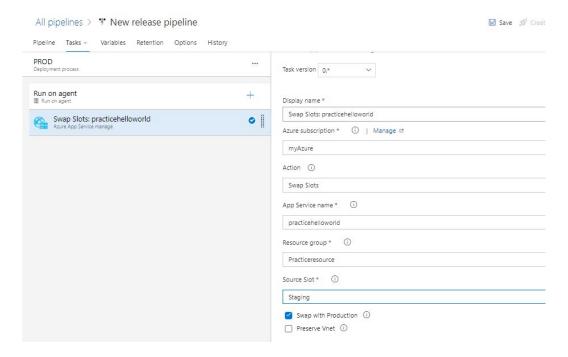
In the task change deployment to staging slot:



Then add the new step to swap the slots(Azure App Service Manage):



Now fill the required details:



Also make sure you have post deployment conditon for approval in every step.

Now your pipeline stages is complete:

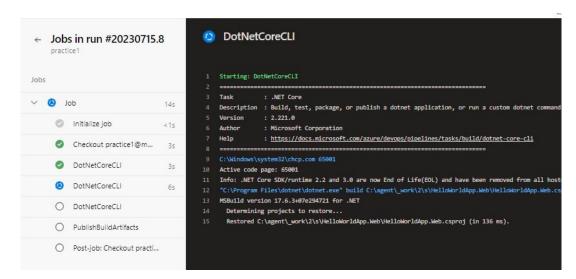


9. Make final changes and trigger CI/CD:

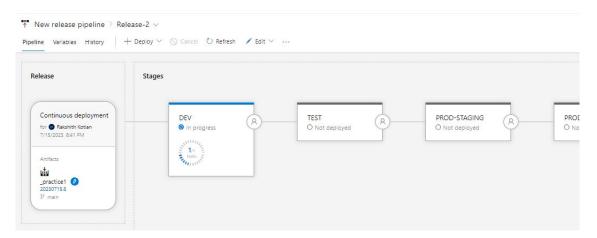
Now lets make changes in the index file as we did before:

When we commit it it will trigger the CI/CD pipeline:

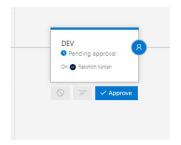
First build pipeline will run:



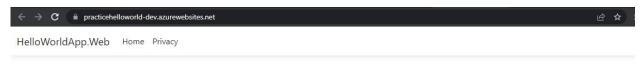
Then release will begin:



Once DEV stage is complete it will wait for approval to proceed to next stage:



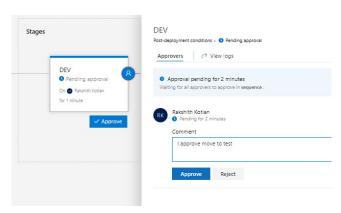
When we check the dev app service link we should see our changes reflected:



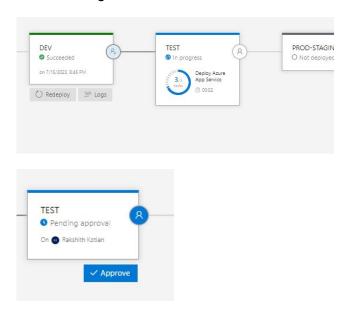
Welcome to Rakshiths demo This application is production ready.

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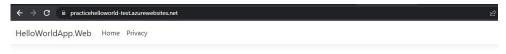
Now let us approve:



Now test stage will start:



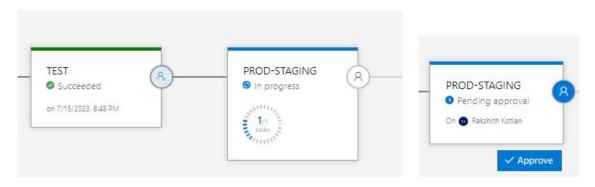
Similarly we will check the test link:



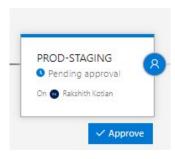
Welcome to Rakshiths demo This application is production ready.

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Now after approving again it will deploy to staging slot:



We will now check the staging link:



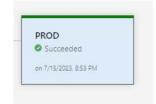


Welcome to Rakshiths demo This application is production ready.

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Finally we approve the swapping:





Now let us go to our final production link:

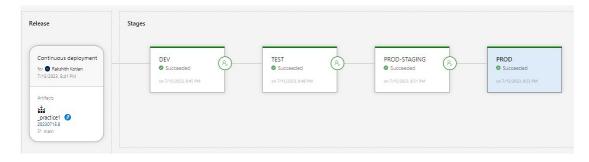


Welcome to Rakshiths demo This application is production ready.

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We see that it is successfully deployed.

We can see the whole pipeline completed:



That completes this detailed deployment of our application through Azure DevOps.