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| **Criteria** | **Azure App Service** | **AKS** |
| Hosted types |  |  |
| Jargons | App Service Plan / container | Node / Cluster / Pod / Replica / container orchestration |
| Container orchestration | Close | Checkmark |
| Synonymous with | Docker in case of container involvement | Docker Swarm |
| Managed container orchestration service | Close | Checkmark |
| Platform-agnostic | Close | Checkmark |
| Abstracts the OS | Apart from the container, app service is OS-dependent | Checkmark |
| Portable | Apart from the container, app service is not natively portable | Checkmark |
| Pod-level resource management | NA | Checkmark |
| Cluster-level resource management | NA | Checkmark |
| Support for containerization/Docker | Checkmark | Checkmark |
| Ideal for Micro-service or large-scale Deployment (like, 10s of different APIs) | Close | Checkmark |
| Easy pluggability of external monitoring/logging systems | Close | Checkmark |
| Costly in long-run | Checkmark | Close |
| Production-grade application deployment | Close | Checkmark |
| Downtime on additional Workload deployment | Not reliable | Zero down-time |
| Best for small-scale, Quick and dirty start | Checkmark | Close |
| Best option to deploy across different environments like DEV/UAT/Prod | Close | Checkmark |
| CI / CD support or deploy from BitBucket / GitHub etc. | Checkmark | Checkmark |
| Deployment (a.k.a) | Web Deploy (Slow) | Rollout (Fast) |
| Expertise to setup | Close | Checkmark |
| Auto-scaling | Vertical / Horizontal | More granular: Pod-level / Cluster-level |
| Support for both app service and container deployment | Checkmark | Close |
| Stateful | Close | Checkmark |
| Best option for single monolithic web app | Checkmark | Close |
| Better control (security/scaling/CPU/resources) | Close | Checkmark |
| High-level setup steps | * Decide an app service plan * Create app service * Deploy web app | * Create AKS cluster * Setup ingress controller * Setup DNS Record * Setup cert-manager * Setup Azure Container Registry * Setup namespace * Push image * Deploy web app |