

How to Upload and Download Files Pragmatically to Azure Blob Storage using VB.Net

In this tutorial I'm going to show how to:

- Connect to Azure Storage
- List files/folders (CloudBlockBlob/CloudBlobDirectory) within an Azure File Storage
- Create a Shared Access Signature for a Blob
- Obtain Blob properties
- Read content from a Blob
- Write content to a Blob
- Upload a Blob to Azure File Storage
- Delete a Blob
- Rename/move a Blob
- Download a Blob

Source code for this Project can be found here:

<https://github.com/patricksameerajayalath/Azure.FileStorage>

You can find the Part 1 of this tutorial here:

<https://github.com/patricksameerajayalath/AzureTutorials/blob/master/Azure%20File%20Storage%20Overview.pdf>

At the end of this tutorial we will be ending up a UI like bellow.

Application name

Home

About

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Container name: app-data

Directory path: /app-data/upload_docs

Type	Name	Path	Absolute Path	URL	File Content	File Properties
File	address.txt	upload_docs/address.txt	/app-data/upload_docs/address.txt	View File	Melbourne, Australia	File size: 20 bytes Last modified: 17/04/2019 4:21:12 AM +00:00
Folder	images	upload_docs/images/	/app-data/upload_docs/images/	-	-	-
File	name.txt	upload_docs/name.txt	/app-data/upload_docs/name.txt	View File	Patrick Sameera	File size: 15 bytes Last modified: 17/04/2019 4:21:12 AM +00:00
File	phone.txt	upload_docs/phone.txt	/app-data/upload_docs/phone.txt	View File	+61 000-000-000	File size: 15 bytes Last modified: 17/04/2019 4:21:12 AM +00:00
File	test.txt	upload_docs/test.txt	/app-data/upload_docs/test.txt	View File	Hello world !!!	File size: 17 bytes Last modified: 10/05/2019 12:53:40 AM +00:00

Upload Functionality:

Choose File

No file chosen

Upload File

Write To File Functionality:

File name:

test.txt

Content:

Hello world !!!

Write To File

Delete File Functionality:

Upload Functionality:

Choose File

No file chosen

Upload File

Write To File Functionality:

File name:

test.txt

Content:

Hello world !!

Write To File

Delete File Functionality:

File name:

test.txt

Delete File

Rename File Functionality:

Current file name:

test.txt

New file name:

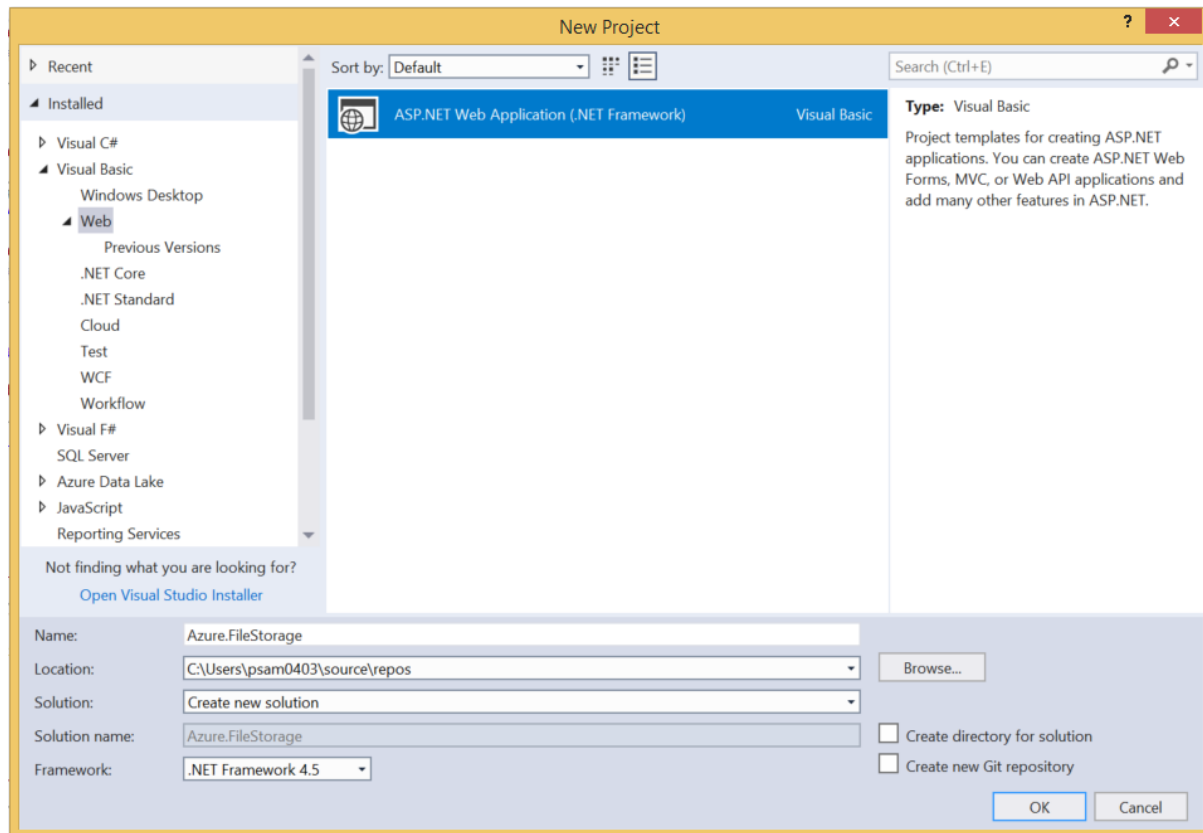
test123.txt

Rename File

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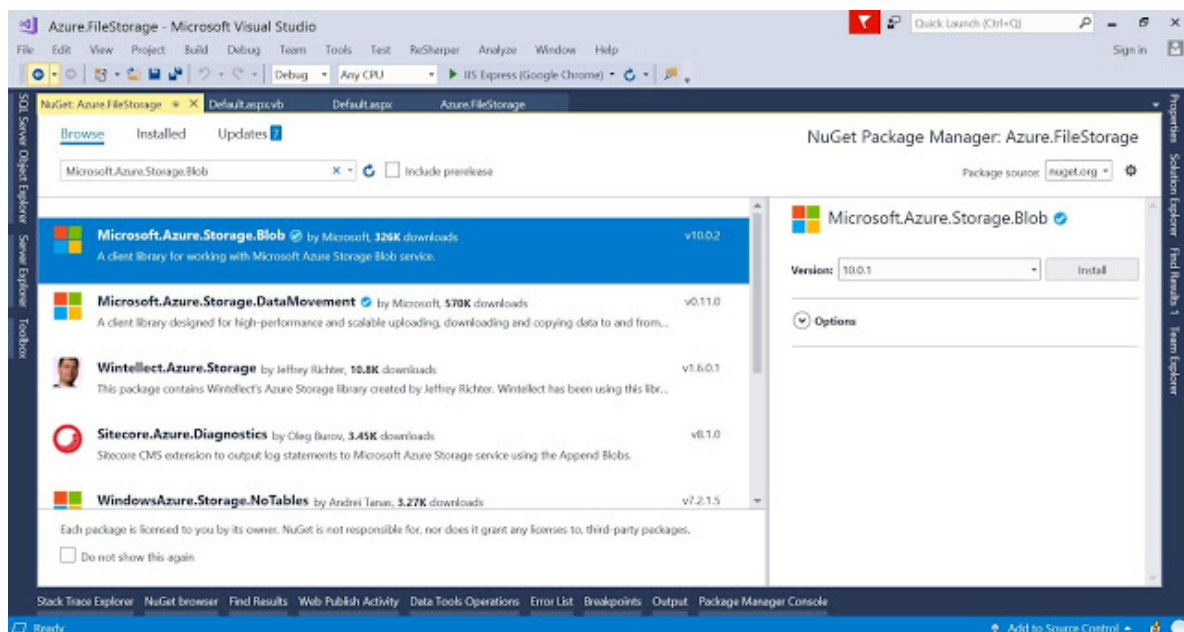
To get start we will be creating an ASP.Net Web Project.

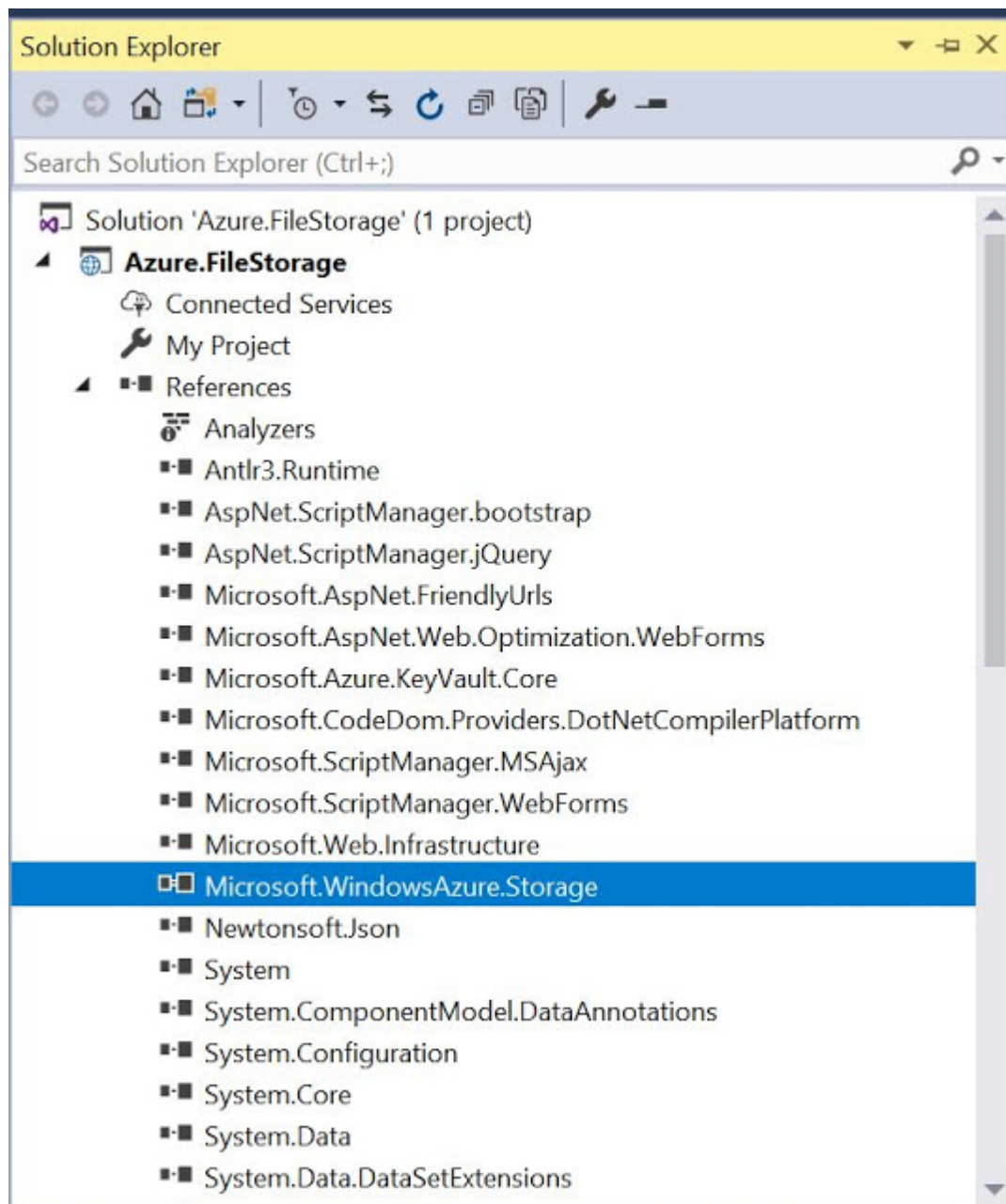
- Language – VB.Net



In the Solution Explorer, right click on the Project and select Manage NuGet Packages.

Under Browse tab Search for *Microsoft.Azure.Stroage.Blob* and on the results Select it and Click Install.





For this tutorial we will be using the same File Storage Account we created earlier tutorial.

<https://github.com/patricksameerajayalath/AzureTutorials/blob/master/Azure%20File%20Storage%20Overview.pdf>

Microsoft Azure

Home > Storage > app-data

app-data

Overview

Authentication method: Access key (Switch to Azure AD User Account)

Location: app-data / appdata_blobs

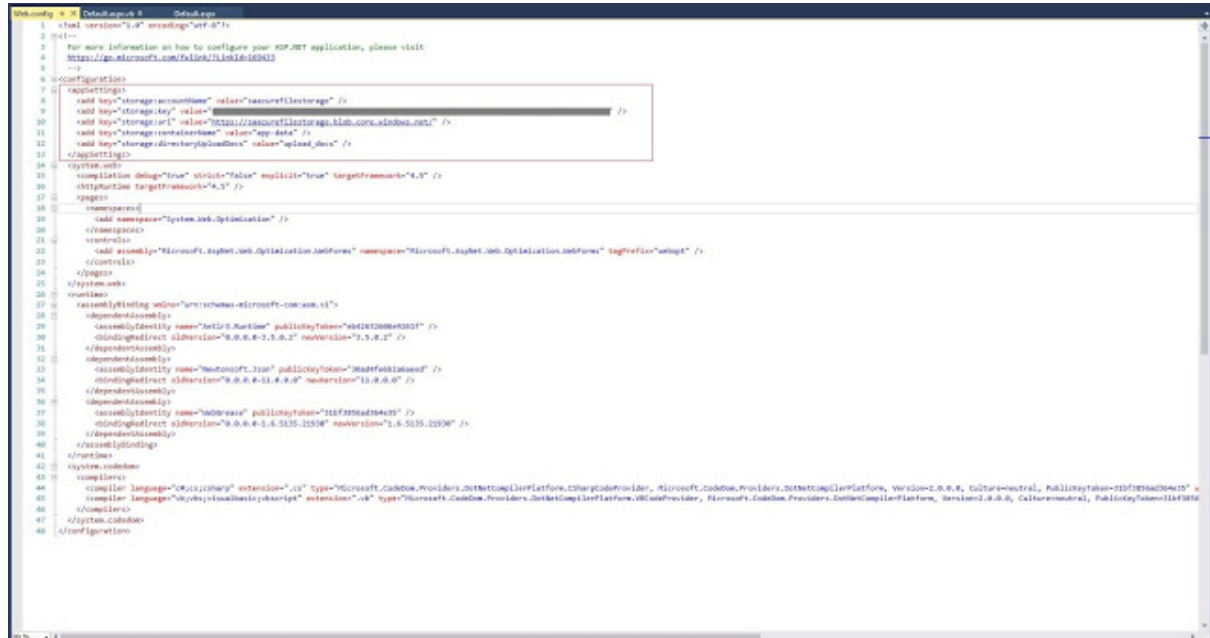
Search blobs by prefix (case-sensitive)

NAME	MODIFIED	ACCESS TIME	BLOB TYPE	SIZE	LEGACY STATE
.					...
images					...
address.txt	4/17/2019, 2:21:52 PM	Hot (Inferred)	Block blob	20 B	Available
name.txt	4/17/2019, 2:21:52 PM	Hot (Inferred)	Block blob	15 B	Available
phone.txt	4/17/2019, 2:21:52 PM	Hot (Inferred)	Block blob	15 B	Available
test.txt	5/18/2019, 10:55:48 AM	Hot (Inferred)	Block blob	17 B	Available

We will be storing all Storage Account related information in Web.config.

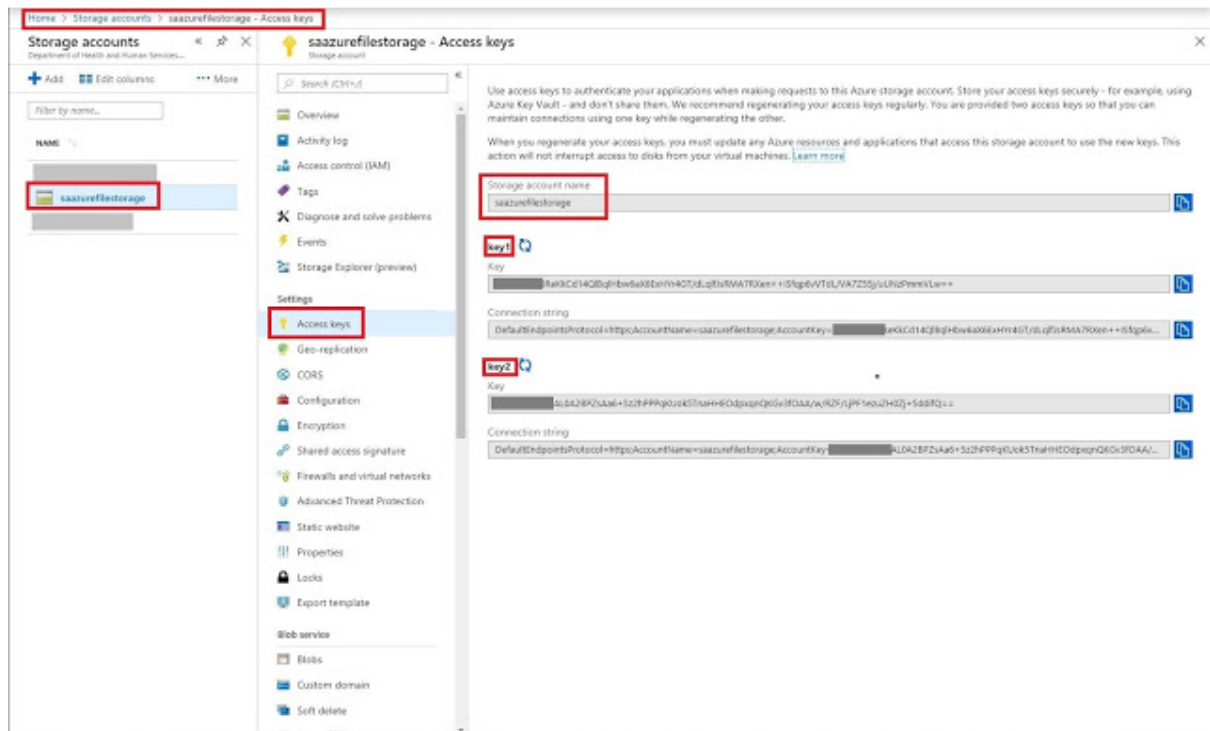
Web.config

<https://github.com/patricksameerajayalath/Azure.FileStorage/blob/master/Web.config>

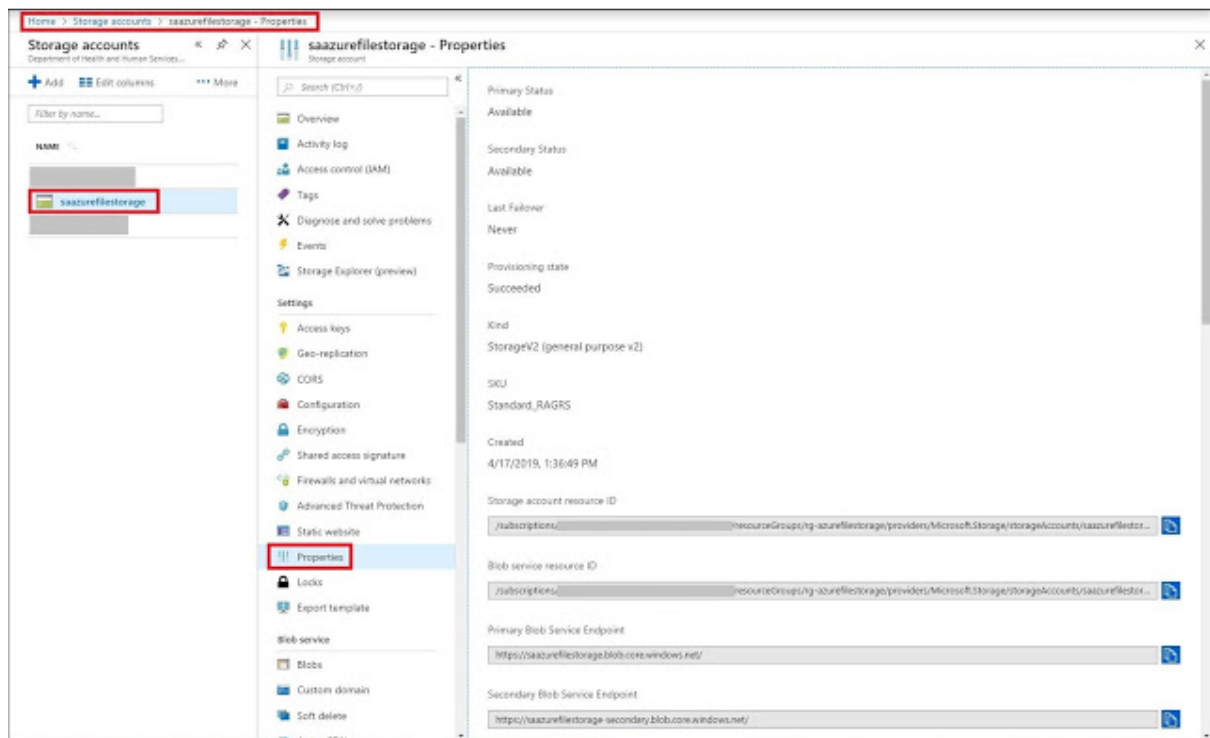


```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='utf-8'?>
<!--
For more information on how to configure your ASP.NET application, please visit
https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=899693
-->
<configuration>
  <appSettings>
    <add key="storageaccountname" value="saazurefilestorage" />
    <add key="storagekey" value="<!--[Redacted]-->" />
    <add key="storageurl" value="https://saazurefilestorage.blob.core.windows.net/" />
    <add key="storagecontainername" value="app-data" />
    <add key="storagecontainerpath" value="upload_docs" />
  </appSettings>
  <system.web>
    <compilation debug="true" strict="false" explicit="true" targetframework="4.5" />
    <scriptRuntime targetFramework="4.5" />
  </system.web>
  <system.webServer>
    <add name="System.Web.Optimization" />
    <add name="Microsoft.AspNet.Web.Optimization.Abstractions" namespace="Microsoft.AspNet.Web.Optimization.Abstractions" tagPrefix="unpkg" />
    <add name="Microsoft.AspNet.Web.Optimization.Optimization" namespace="Microsoft.AspNet.Web.Optimization.Optimization" tagPrefix="unpkg" />
  </system.webServer>
  <runtime>
    <assemblyBinding xmlns="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:asm.v1">
      <dependentAssembly>
        <assemblyIdentity name="AntiXamarin" publicKeyToken="e4286004e202f" />
        <bindingRedirect oldVersion="9.0.0.0-9.5.0.0" newVersion="9.5.0.0" />
      </dependentAssembly>
      <dependentAssembly>
        <assemblyIdentity name="Microsoft.Win32" publicKeyToken="315f5d68418f48ee" />
        <bindingRedirect oldVersion="9.0.0.0-9.5.0.0" newVersion="9.5.0.0" />
      </dependentAssembly>
      <dependentAssembly>
        <assemblyIdentity name="System.Linq" publicKeyToken="b77a5c561934e089" />
        <bindingRedirect oldVersion="9.0.0.0-9.5.0.0" newVersion="9.5.0.0" />
      </dependentAssembly>
      <dependentAssembly>
        <assemblyIdentity name="System.Linq.Parallel" publicKeyToken="b77a5c561934e089" />
        <bindingRedirect oldVersion="9.0.0.0-9.5.0.0" newVersion="9.5.0.0" />
      </dependentAssembly>
      <dependentAssembly>
        <assemblyIdentity name="System.Linq.ParallelExtensions" publicKeyToken="b77a5c561934e089" />
        <bindingRedirect oldVersion="9.0.0.0-9.5.0.0" newVersion="9.5.0.0" />
      </dependentAssembly>
    </assemblyBinding>
  </runtime>
  <system.codedom>
    <compilers>
      <compiler language="c#;cs;csharp" extension=".cs" type="Microsoft.CodeDom.Providers.DotNetCompilerPlatform, Microsoft.CodeDom.Providers.DotNetCompilerPlatform, version=2.0.0.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=31f6cd49e4" />
      <compiler language="vb;vbs;visualbasic;visualbasicscript" extension=".vb" type="Microsoft.CodeDom.Providers.DotNetCompilerPlatform.VBCodeProvider, Microsoft.CodeDom.Providers.DotNetCompilerPlatform, version=2.0.0.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=31f6cd49e4" />
    </compilers>
  </system.codedom>
</configuration>
```

You can get the connection string from "Access Keys" tab.



You can get the Blob URL from "Properties" tab.



Default.aspx

<https://github.com/patricksameerajayalath/Azure.FileStorage/blob/master/Default.aspx>

[illegible]

Default.aspx.vb

<https://github.com/patricksameerajayalath/Azure.FileStorage/blob/master/Default.aspx.vb>

```

1  Imports System.IO
2  Imports Microsoft.Windows.Storage.Auth
3  Imports Microsoft.Windows.Storage.Auth
4
5
6  Namespace
7      Public Class _Default
8          Inherits Page
9
10         Protected Sub Page_Load(ByVal sender As Object, ByVal e As EventArgs) Handles Me.Load
11
12             ShowDocumentList()
13
14         End Sub
15
16         Private Sub ShowDocumentList()
17
18             Dim blobContainer As CloudBlobContainer = GetStorageContainerReference()
19
20             'add key="storage:directoryblobdoc" value="upload.doc" />
21             Dim directoryblobdocs As String = ConfigurationManager.AppSettings("storage:directoryblobdocs")
22             Dim blobDirectoryblobdocs As CloudBlobDirectory = blobContainer.GetStorageReference(directoryblobdocs)
23             Dim blobListblobdocs As CloudBlobList = blobContainer.GetBlobReference(directoryblobdocs)
24
25             Dim blobList As IEnumerable(Of ICloudBlobItem) = blobDirectoryblobdocs.ListBlobs()
26
27             Try
28
29                 ContainerName.Text = blobListblobdocs.ContainerName
30                 DirectoryPath.Text = blobListblobdocs.Uri.AbsolutePath
31
32                 documentList.Text = "table class=table table-hover"
33
34                 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "tr"
35                 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "th scope=col">type</th>"
36                 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "th scope=col">name</th>"
37                 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "th scope=col">path</th>"
38                 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "th scope=col">absolute path</th>"
39                 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "th scope=col">url</th>"
40                 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "th scope=col">file contents</th>"
41                 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "th scope=col">file properties</th>"
42                 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "</tr>"
43
44                 For Each blobItem As ICloudBlobItem In blobList
45
46                     If blobItem.GetType() = GetType(CloudBlobItem) Then
47
48                         Dim blob As CloudBlob = DirectCast(blobItem, CloudBlob)
49
50                         documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "tr"
51
52                         ' blob type
53                         documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "td:file:pub"
54
55                         ' file name

```

Patrick Sameera Jayalath

Code Snippets:

<https://github.com/patricksameerajayalath/Azure.FileStorage/blob/master/Default.aspx.vb>

Code 01 - Connect to Azure Storage

```
16 Dim blobContainer As CloudBlobContainer = GetStorageContainerReference()  
17  
18 ' <add key="storage:directoryUploadDocs" value="upload_docs" />  
19 Dim directoryUploadDocs As String = ConfigurationManager.AppSettings("storage:directoryUploadDocs")  
20 Dim blobDirectoryUploadDocs As CloudBlobDirectory = blobContainer.GetDirectoryReference(directoryUploadDocs)  
21 Dim blockBlobUploadDocs As CloudBlockBlob = blobContainer.GetBlockBlobReference(directoryUploadDocs)
```

```
151 Private Function GetStorageContainerReference() As CloudBlobContainer  
152  
153 Dim credentials As StorageCredentials = New StorageCredentials(ConfigurationManager.AppSettings("storage:accountName"), Configurati  
154 Dim blobClient As CloudBlobClient = New CloudBlobClient(New Uri(ConfigurationManager.AppSettings("storage:uri")), credentials)  
155  
156 Dim containerName As String = ConfigurationManager.AppSettings("storage:containerName")  
157 Dim blobContainer As CloudBlobContainer = blobClient.GetContainerReference(containerName)  
158  
159 Return blobContainer  
160  
161 End Function
```

Code 02 - List files/folders (CloudBlockBlob/CloudBlobDirectory) within an Azure File Storage

```
23 Dim blobList As IEnumerable(Of IListBlobItem) = blobDirectoryUploadDocs.ListBlobs()
```

```
42 For Each blobItem As IListBlobItem In blobList  
43  
44 If blobItem.GetType() = GetType(CloudBlockBlob) Then  
45  
46 Dim blob As CloudBlockBlob = DirectCast(blobItem, CloudBlockBlob)  
47  
48 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "<tr>"  
49  
50 ' blob type  
51 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "<td>File</td>"
```

```
100 Else If blobItem.GetType() = GetType(CloudBlobDirectory) Then  
101  
102 Dim blob As CloudBlobDirectory = DirectCast(blobItem, CloudBlobDirectory)  
103  
104 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "<tr>"  
105  
106 ' type  
107 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "<td>Folder</td>"  
108  
109 ' directory name  
110 Dim directoryName As String = New DirectoryInfo(blob.Prefix).Name  
111 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "<td>"  
112 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & directoryName  
113 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "</td>"  
114
```

Code 03 - Write content to a Blob

```
238 Private Sub WriteToFile_Click(ByVal sender As Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles WriteToFile.Click
239
240     Dim selectedFileName As String = WriteToFileName.Text
241     Dim content As String = FileContent.Text
242
243     Dim blobContainer As CloudBlobContainer = GetStorageContainerReference()
244
245     '<add key="storage:directoryUploadDocs" value="upload_docs" />
246     Dim directoryUploadDocs As String = ConfigurationManager.AppSettings("storage:directoryUploadDocs")
247     Dim blobDirectoryUploadDocs As CloudBlobDirectory = blobContainer.GetDirectoryReference(directoryUploadDocs)
248     Dim blockBlobUploadDocs As CloudBlockBlob = blobContainer.GetBlockBlobReference(directoryUploadDocs)
249
250     Dim selectedBlob As CloudBlockBlob = blobDirectoryUploadDocs.GetBlockBlobReference(selectedFileName)
251
252     If (selectedBlob.Exists()) Then
253
254         Try
255
256             Dim streamWriter As StreamWriter = New StreamWriter(selectedBlob.OpenWrite())
257
258             streamWriter.Write(content)
259             streamWriter.WriteLine()
260
261             streamWriter.Close()
262
263             ShowDocumentList()
264
265             Message.Text = ""
266
267         Catch ex As Exception
268
269             Message.Text = "Error writing to file " + selectedFileName + "<br> " + err.ToString()
270
271         End Try
272
273     Else
274
275         Message.Text = "File " + selectedFileName + " doesn't exists. Content cannot be written to it."
276
277     End If
278
279 End Sub
```

Code 04 - Create a Shared Access Signature for a Blob

```
69 ' blob url
70 Dim policy As new SharedAccessBlobPolicy
71 policy.Permissions = SharedAccessBlobPermissions.Read
72 policy.SharedAccessExpiryTime = DateTimeOffset.UtcNow.AddMinutes(20)
73
74 Dim blobUri As String = blob.Uri.ToString() + blob.GetSharedAccessSignature(policy)
75
76 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "<td>"
77 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "<a href="" + blobUri + "">"
78 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "View File"
79 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "</a>"
80 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "</td>"
```

Code 05 - Obtain Blob properties

```
92 ' blob properties
93 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "<td>"
94 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "File size: " & String.Format("{0:#,###}", blob.Properties.Length) & " bytes <b
95 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "Last modified: " & blob.Properties.LastModified.ToString
96 documentList.Text = documentList.Text & "</td>"
```

Code 06 - Upload a Blob to Azure File Storage

```
163 Private Sub AddFile_Click(ByVal sender As Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles AddFile.Click
164
165     If Page.IsPostBack = True Then
166
167         Dim blobContainer As CloudBlobContainer = GetStorageContainerReference()
168
169         '<add key="storage:directoryUploadDocs" value="upload_docs" />
170         Dim directoryUploadDocs As String = ConfigurationManager.AppSettings("storage:directoryUploadDocs")
171         Dim blobDirectoryUploadDocs As CloudBlobDirectory = blobContainer.GetDirectoryReference(directoryUploadDocs)
172         Dim blockBlobUploadDocs As CloudBlockBlob = blobContainer.GetBlockBlobReference(directoryUploadDocs)
173
174         Dim fileName As String = Path.GetFileName(FindFile.PostedFile.FileName)
175
176         Dim selectedBlob As CloudBlockBlob = blobDirectoryUploadDocs.GetBlockBlobReference(fileName)
177
178         If (selectedBlob.Exists()) Then
179
180             Message.Text = "File " + fileName + " already exists."
181
182         Else
183
184             Try
185
186                 Dim sourceStream As Stream = FindFile.PostedFile.InputStream
187                 sourceStream.Position = 0
188
189                 dim cloudBlob As CloudBlockBlob = blobDirectoryUploadDocs.GetBlockBlobReference(fileName)
190
191                 cloudBlob.UploadFromStream(FindFile.PostedFile.InputStream)
192
193                 ShowDocumentList()
194
195                 Message.Text = ""
196
197             Catch err As Exception
198
199                 Message.Text = "Error saving file " + fileName + "<br>" + err.ToString()
200
201             End Try
202
203         End If
204
205     End If
206
207 End Sub
```

Code 07 - Read content from a Blob

```
82         ' blob content
83         Dim blockBlobFile As CloudBlockBlob = blobDirectoryUploadDocs.GetBlockBlobReference(fileName)
84         Dim streamReader As New StreamReader(blockBlobFile.OpenRead())
```

Code 08 - Delete a Blob

```
209 Private Sub DeleteFile_Click(ByVal sender As Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles DeleteFile.Click
210
211     Dim selectedFileName As String = DeleteFileName.Text
212
213     Dim blobContainer As CloudBlobContainer = GetStorageContainerReference()
214
215     '<add key="storage:directoryUploadDocs" value="upload_docs" />
216     Dim directoryUploadDocs As String = ConfigurationManager.AppSettings("storage:directoryUploadDocs")
217     Dim blobDirectoryUploadDocs As CloudBlobDirectory = blobContainer.GetDirectoryReference(directoryUploadDocs)
218     Dim blockBlobUploadDocs As CloudBlockBlob = blobContainer.GetBlockBlobReference(directoryUploadDocs)
219
220     Dim selectedBlob As CloudBlockBlob = blobDirectoryUploadDocs.GetBlockBlobReference(selectedFileName)
221
222     If (selectedBlob.Exists()) Then
223
224         selectedBlob.Delete()
225
226         ShowDocumentList()
227
228         Message.Text = ""
229
230     Else
231
232         Message.Text = "File " + selectedFileName + " cannot be deleted. It doesn't exists."
233
234     End If
235
236 End Sub
237
```

Code 09 - Rename/Move a Blob

```
281 Private Sub RenameFile_Click(ByVal sender As Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles RenameFile.Click
282
283     Dim oldName As String = RenameFileName.Text
284     Dim newName As String = NewFileName.Text
285
286     Dim blobContainer As CloudBlobContainer = GetStorageContainerReference()
287
288     '<add key="storage:directoryUploadDocs" value="upload_docs" />
289     Dim directoryUploadDocs As String = ConfigurationManager.AppSettings("storage:directoryUploadDocs")
290     Dim blobDirectoryUploadDocs As CloudBlobDirectory = blobContainer.GetDirectoryReference(directoryUploadDocs)
291     Dim blockBlobUploadDocs As CloudBlockBlob = blobContainer.GetBlockBlobReference(directoryUploadDocs)
292
293     Dim selectedBlobOld As CloudBlockBlob = blobDirectoryUploadDocs.GetBlockBlobReference(oldName)
294     Dim selectedBlobNew As CloudBlockBlob = blobDirectoryUploadDocs.GetBlockBlobReference(newName)
295
296     If (selectedBlobOld.Exists()) Then
297
298         Try
299
300             selectedBlobNew.StartCopyFromBlob(selectedBlobOld)
301             selectedBlobOld.Delete()
302
303             ShowDocumentList()
304
305             Message.Text = ""
306
307         Catch ex As Exception
308
309             Message.Text = "Error writing to file " + newName + "<br>" + err.ToString()
310
311         End Try
312
313     Else
314
315         Message.Text = "File " + oldName + " doesn't exists. Content cannot be written to it."
316
317     End If
318
319 End Sub
```

Code 10 - Download a Blob

```
321 Private Sub DownloadFile_Click(ByVal sender As Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles DownloadFile.Click
322
323     Dim selectedFileName As String = DownloadFileName.Text
324
325     Dim blobContainer As CloudBlobContainer = GetStorageContainerReference()
326
327     '<add key="storage:directoryUploadDocs" value="upload_docs" />
328     Dim directoryUploadDocs As String = ConfigurationManager.AppSettings("storage:directoryUploadDocs")
329     Dim blobDirectoryUploadDocs As CloudBlobDirectory = blobContainer.GetDirectoryReference(directoryUploadDocs)
330     Dim blockBlobUploadDocs As CloudBlockBlob = blobContainer.GetBlockBlobReference(directoryUploadDocs)
331
332     Dim selectedBlob As CloudBlockBlob = blobDirectoryUploadDocs.GetBlockBlobReference(selectedFileName)
333
334     If (selectedBlob.Exists()) Then
335
336         Dim fileName As String = Path.GetFileName(selectedBlob.Name)
337         Dim downloadFilePath As String = "c:\users\psam0403\desktop\" + fileName
338
339         ' method 1 - DownloadToFile
340         'selectedBlob.DownloadToFile(downloadFilePath, FileMode.Create)
341
342         ' method 2 - DownloadToStream
343         'Dim memoryStream As MemoryStream = New MemoryStream()
344         'selectedBlob.DownloadToStream(memoryStream)
345         'Dim byteArray As Byte() = memoryStream.ToArray()
346         'Dim newDownloadFile As New FileStream(downloadFilePath, FileMode.Create, FileAccess.Write)
347         'memoryStream.WriteTo(newDownloadFile)
348         'newDownloadFile.Close()
349         'memoryStream.Close()
350
351         'ShowDocumentList()
352
353         'Message.Text = ""
354
355         ' method 3 - Response.Redirect
356         Dim policy As New SharedAccessBlobPolicy
357         policy.Permissions = SharedAccessBlobPermissions.Read
358         policy.SharedAccessExpiryTime = DateTimeOffset.UtcNow.AddMinutes(20)
359
360         Dim blobUri As String = selectedBlob.Uri.ToString() + selectedBlob.GetSharedAccessSignature(policy)
361         Response.Redirect(blobUri)
362
363     Else
364
365         Message.Text = "File " + selectedFileName + " cannot be downloaded. It doesn't exists."
366
367     End If
368
369 End Sub
```