Azure File Storage Overview

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

- Create a Resource Group
- Create a Storage Account
- Create a Container inside Blob Storage
- Upload Blobs to the Container
- Generate SAS from Azure Portal
- Use of Windows Azure Storage Explorer
- Generate SAS from Widows Azure Storage Explorer

Important:

This tutorial is Part 1, of a series of tutorials.

- *Part 1: Azure File Storage Overview*
- *Part 2: Azure File Storage using VB.Net*

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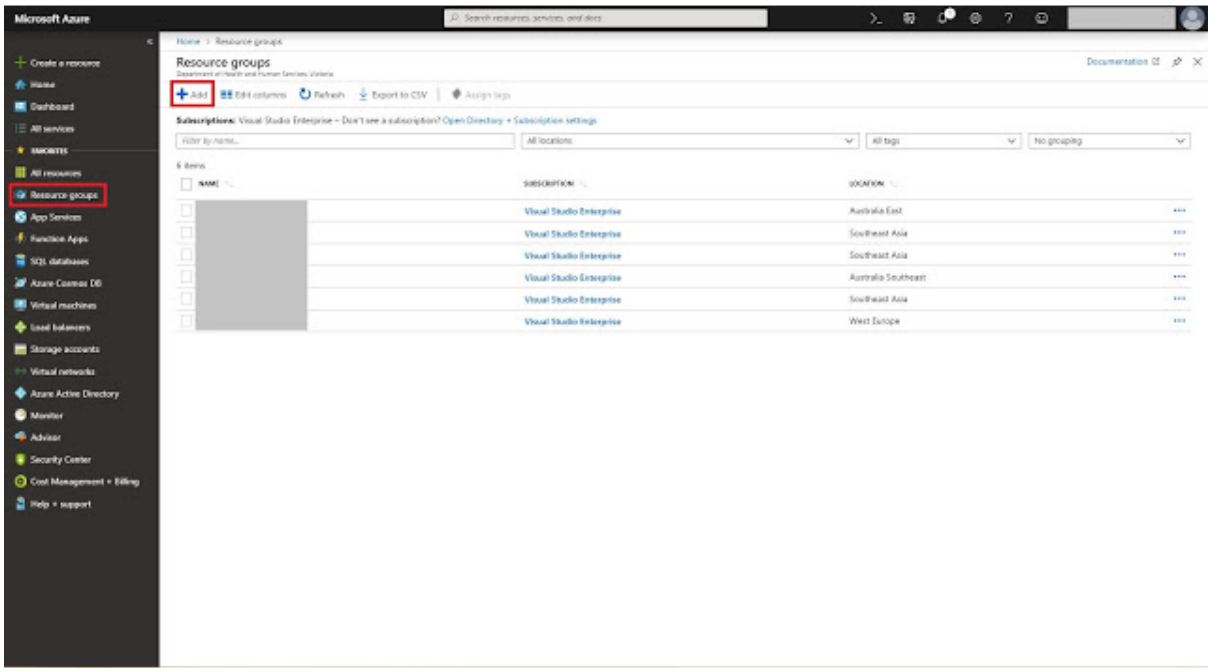
Step 01: Create a Resource Group

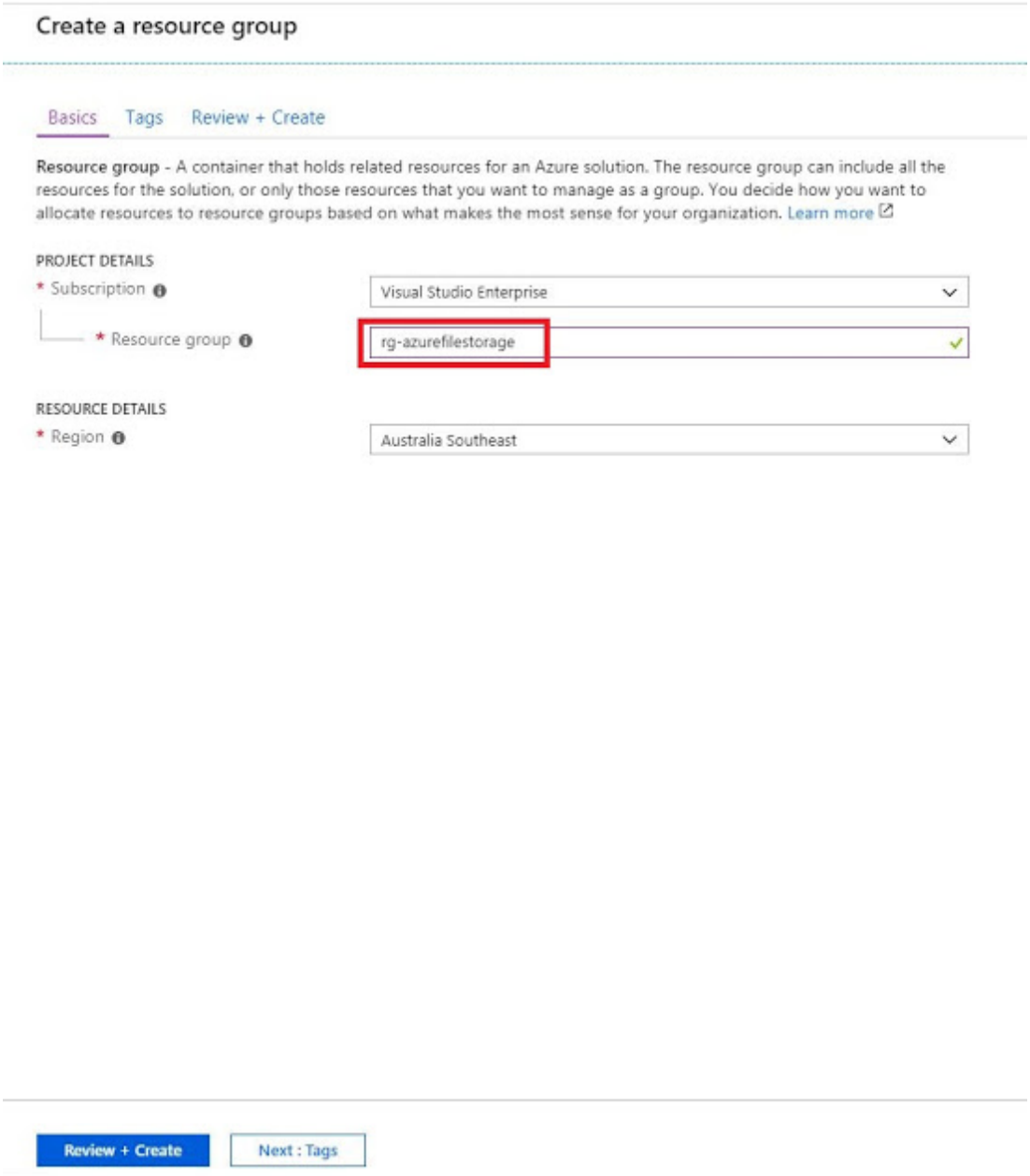
As the first step, we need to create Resource Group.

If you have an existing Resource Group that you want to associate, then you can skip this step.

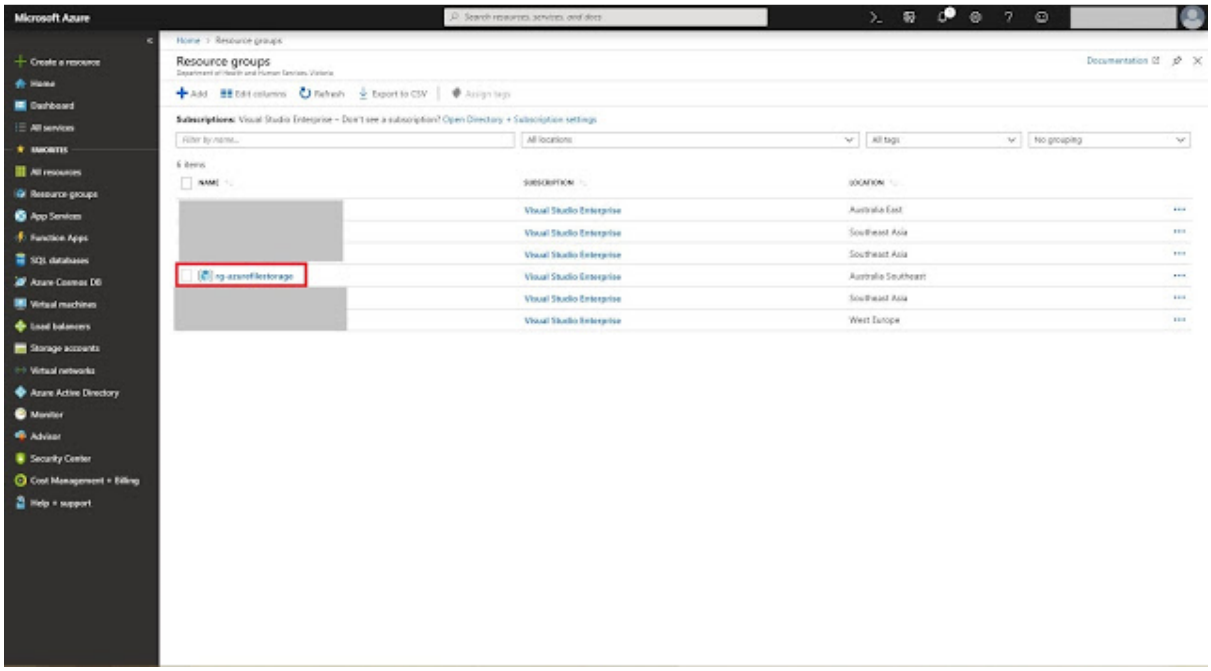
Click on Add button. (Menu → Resources Groups)



Give a name to the Resource Group: "rg-azurefilestorage"



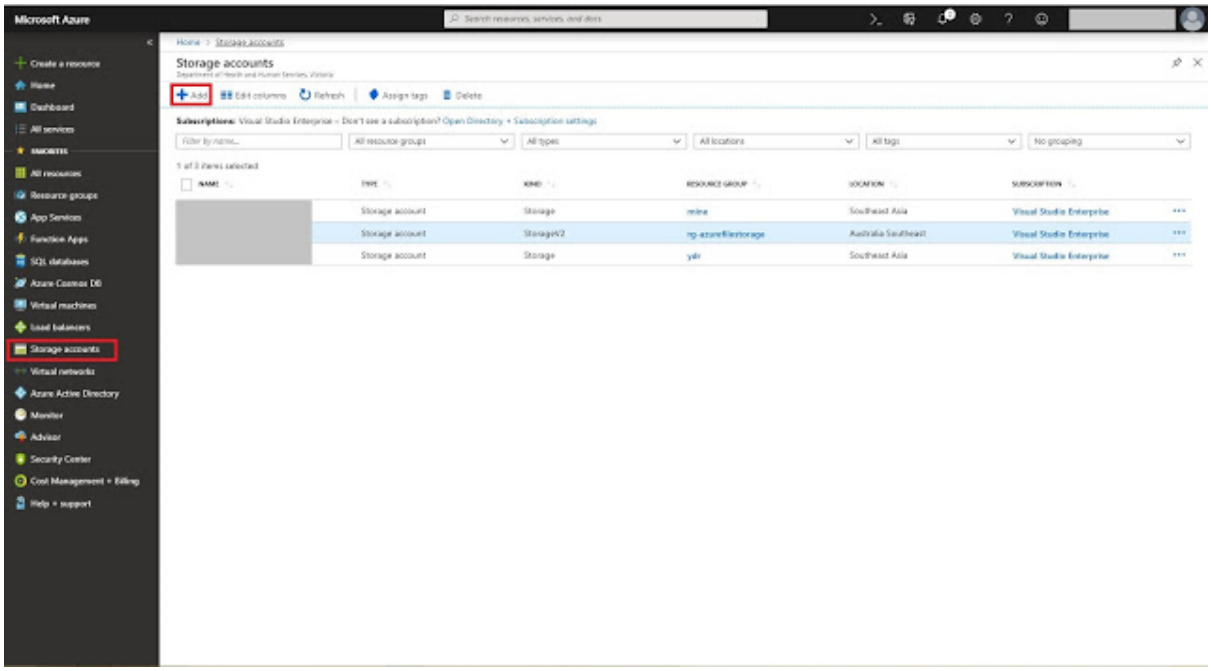
We can see the newly created Resource Group.



Step 02: Create a Storage Account

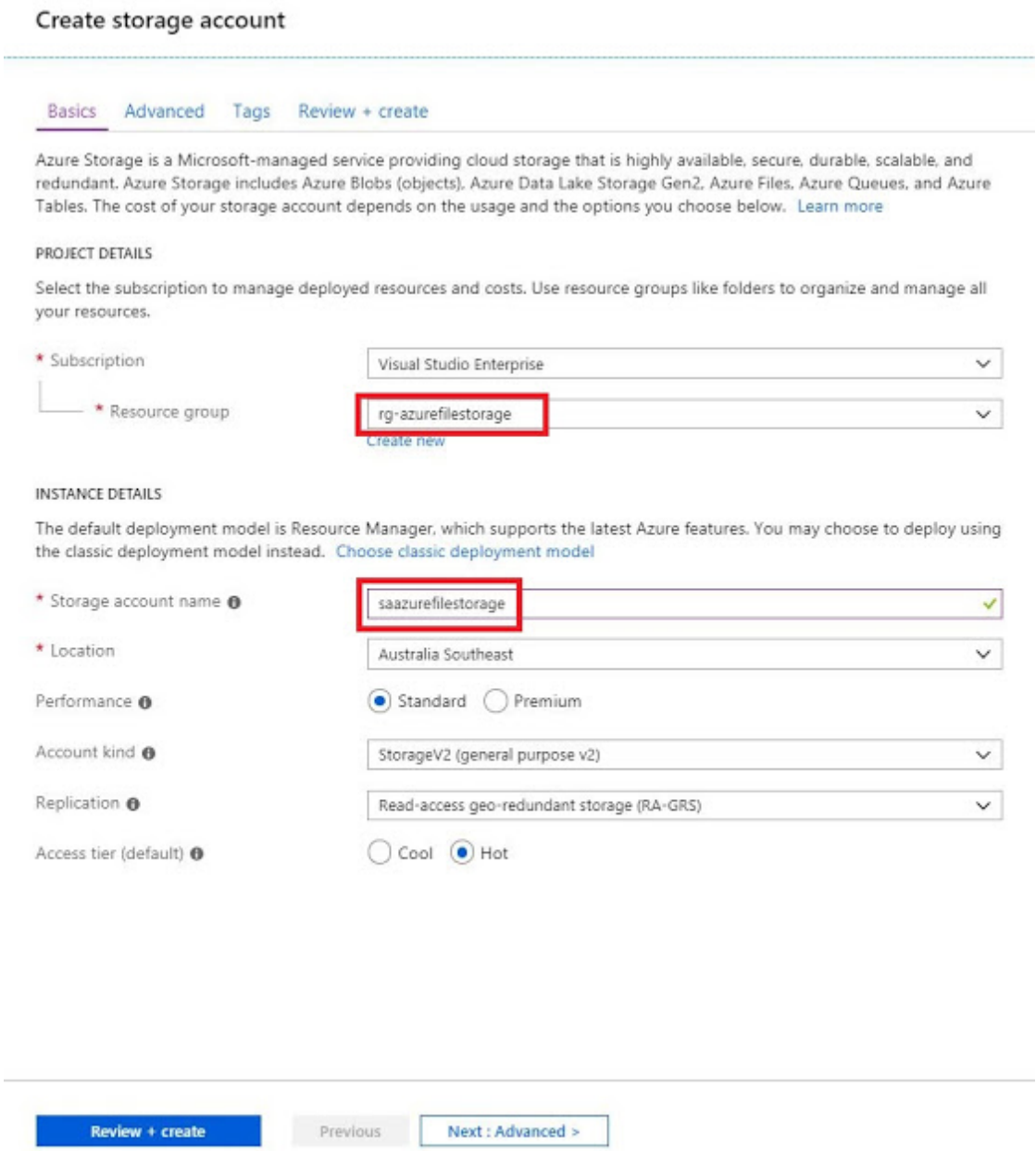
Next, we need to create a Storage Account.

Click on + Add button. (Menu → Storage Accounts)

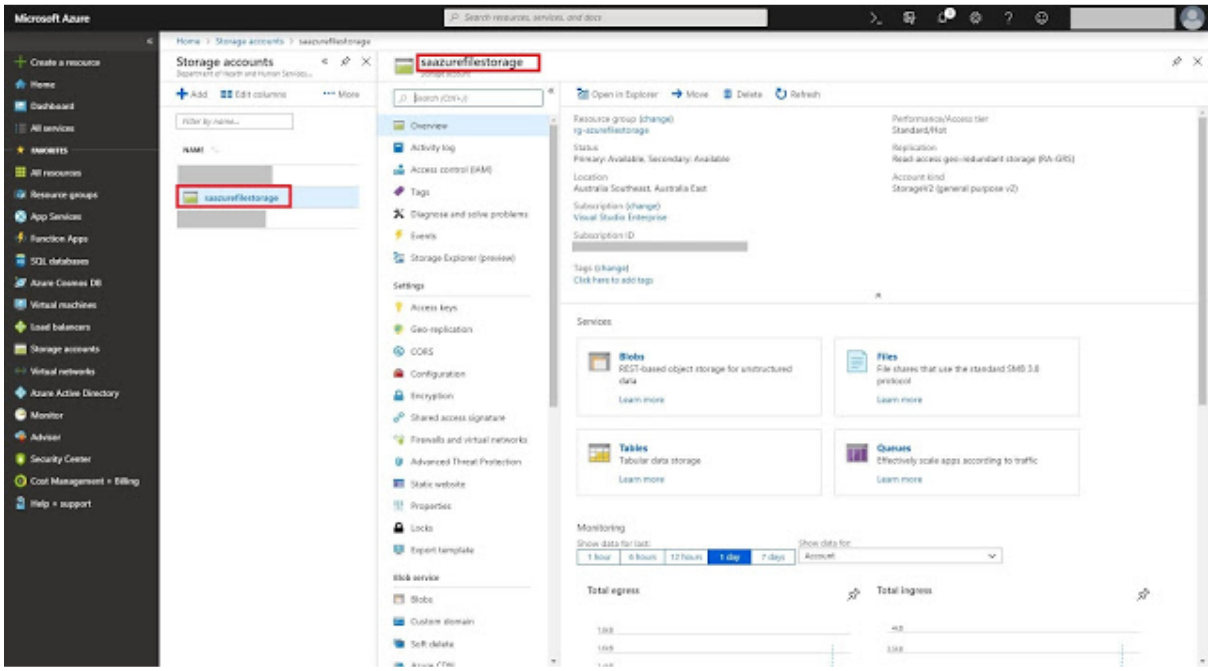


Select the Resource Group we created earlier from the drop-down menu

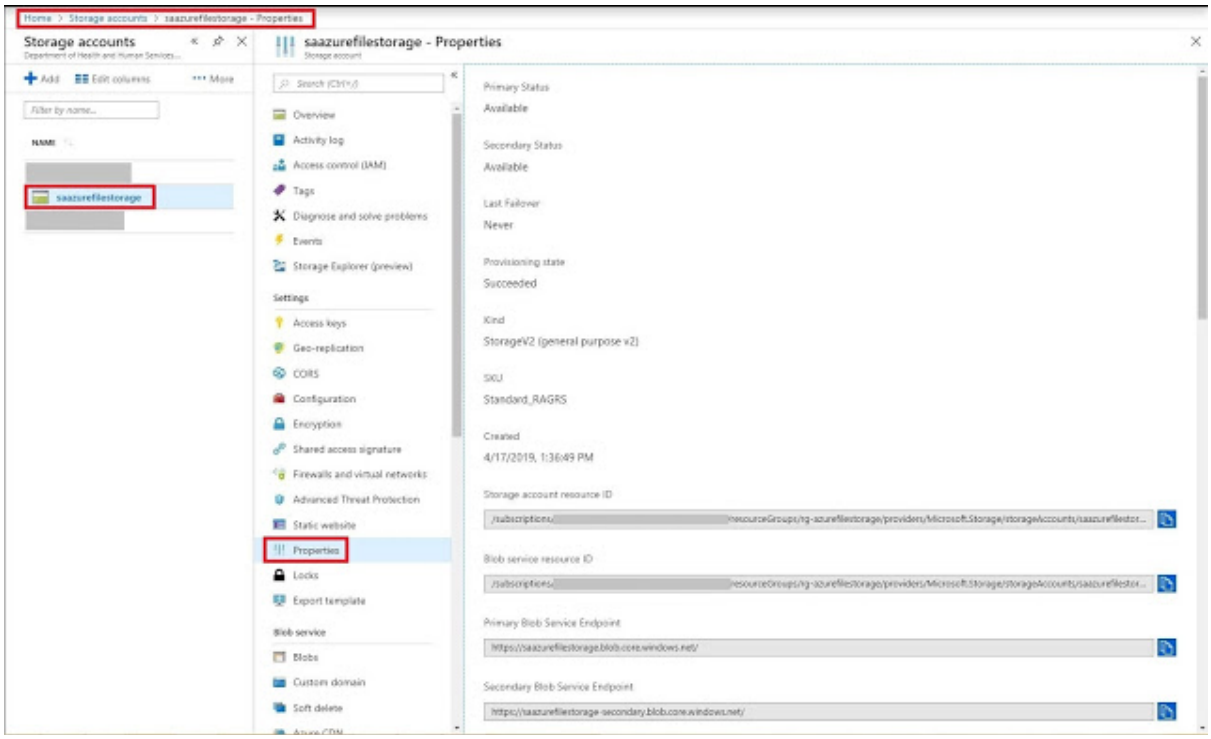
Give a name to the File Storage "saazurefilestorage"



We can see the newly created Storage Account.

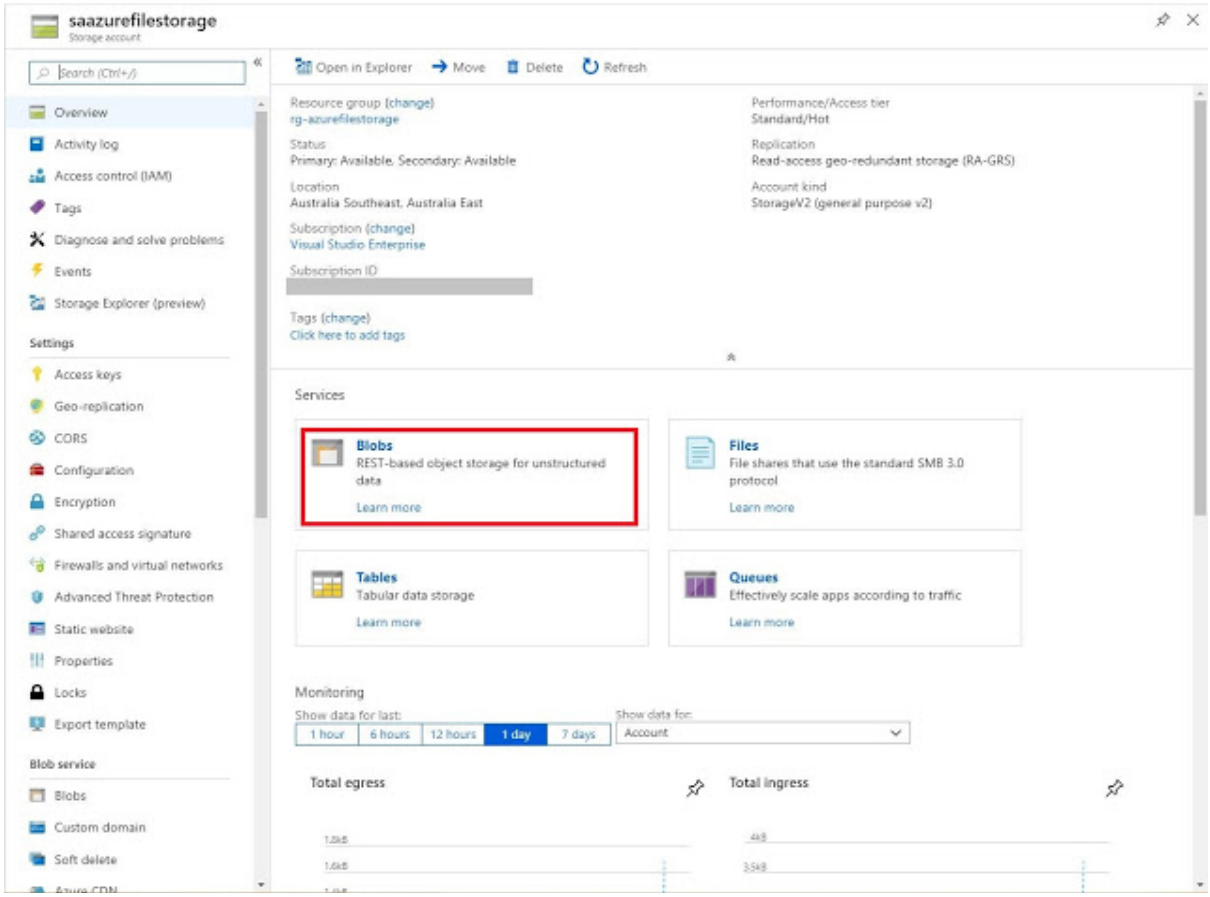


We can view the Properties for the Storage Account.

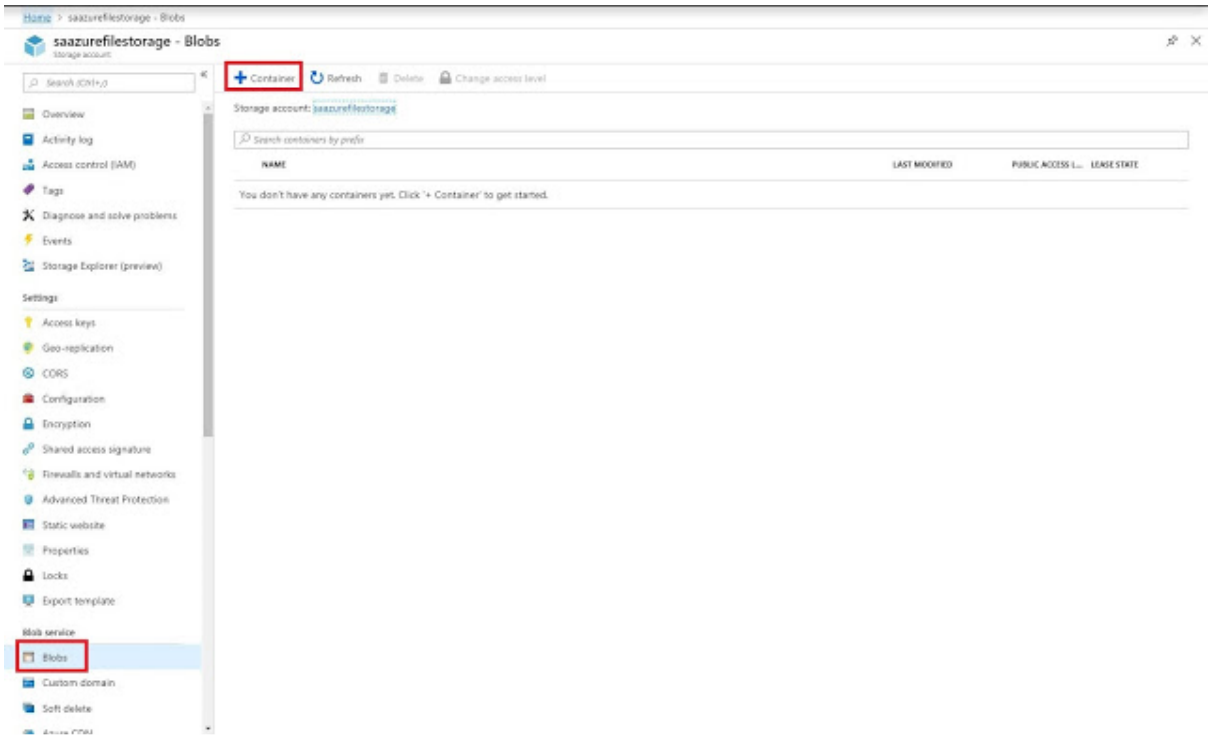


Step 03: Create a Container inside Blob Storage

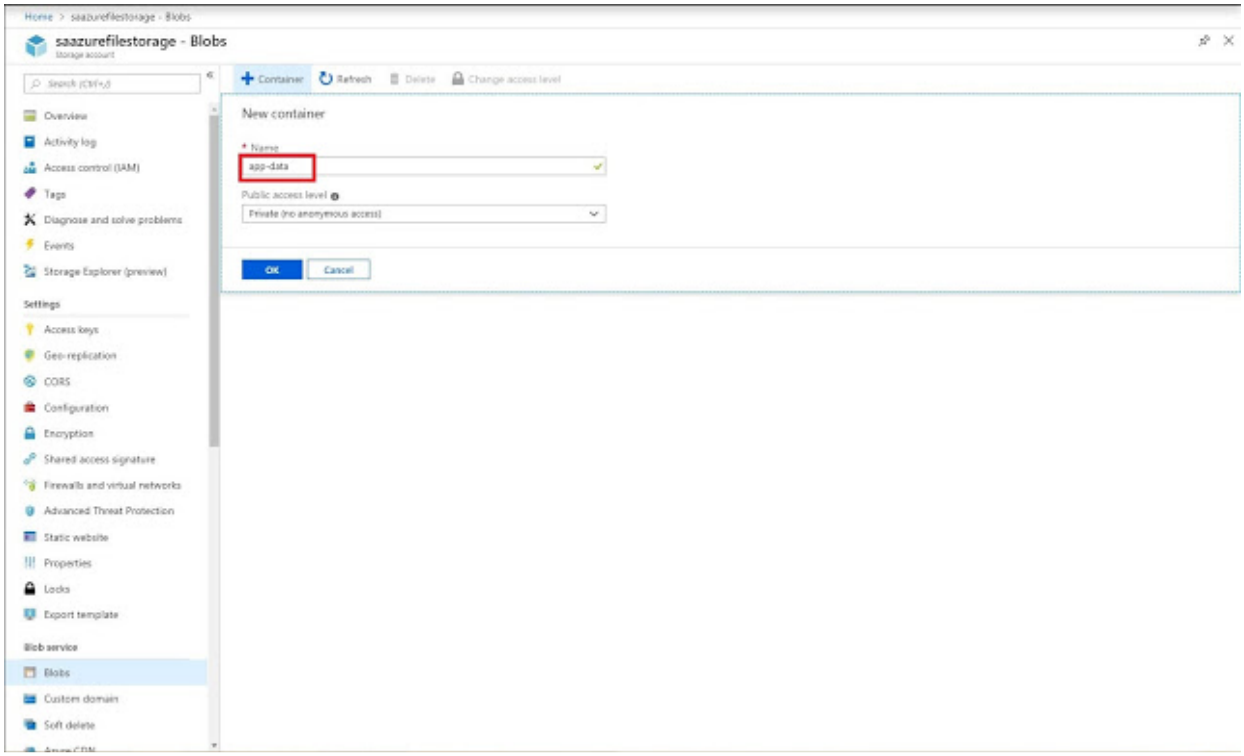
On the new Storage Account we created click on Blobs.



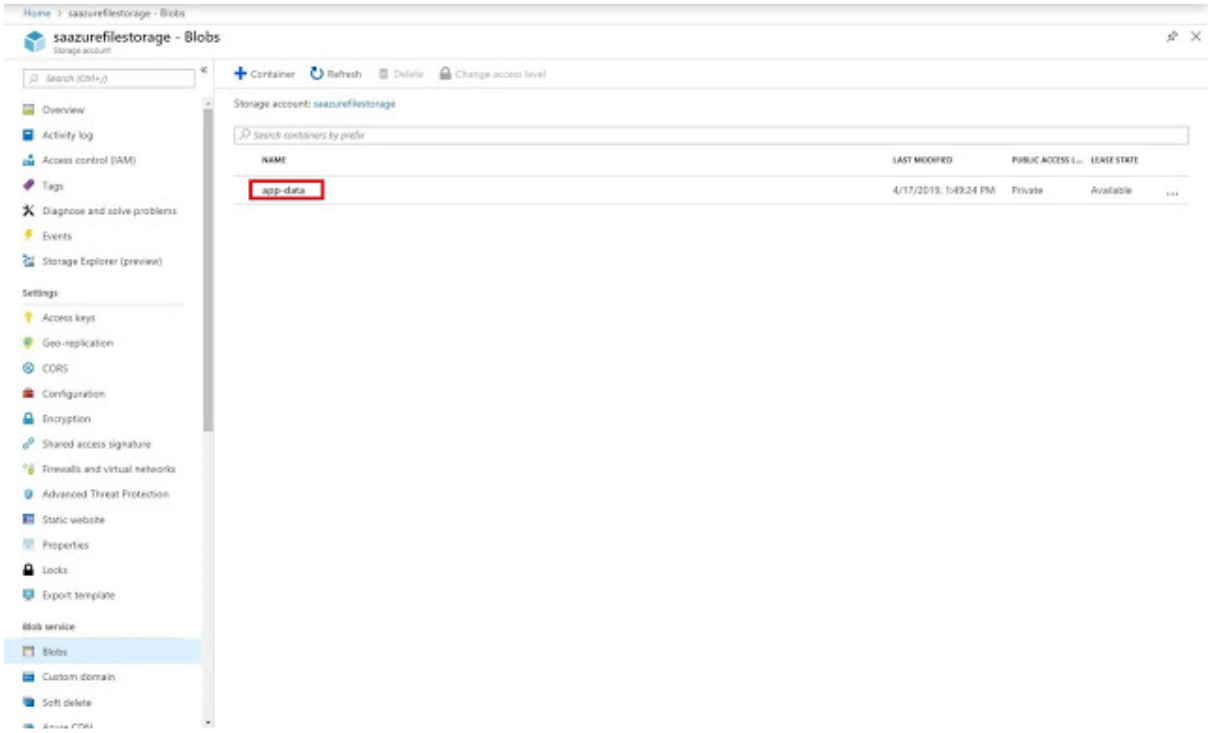
Click on Add Container button.



Give a name to the Container "app-data"

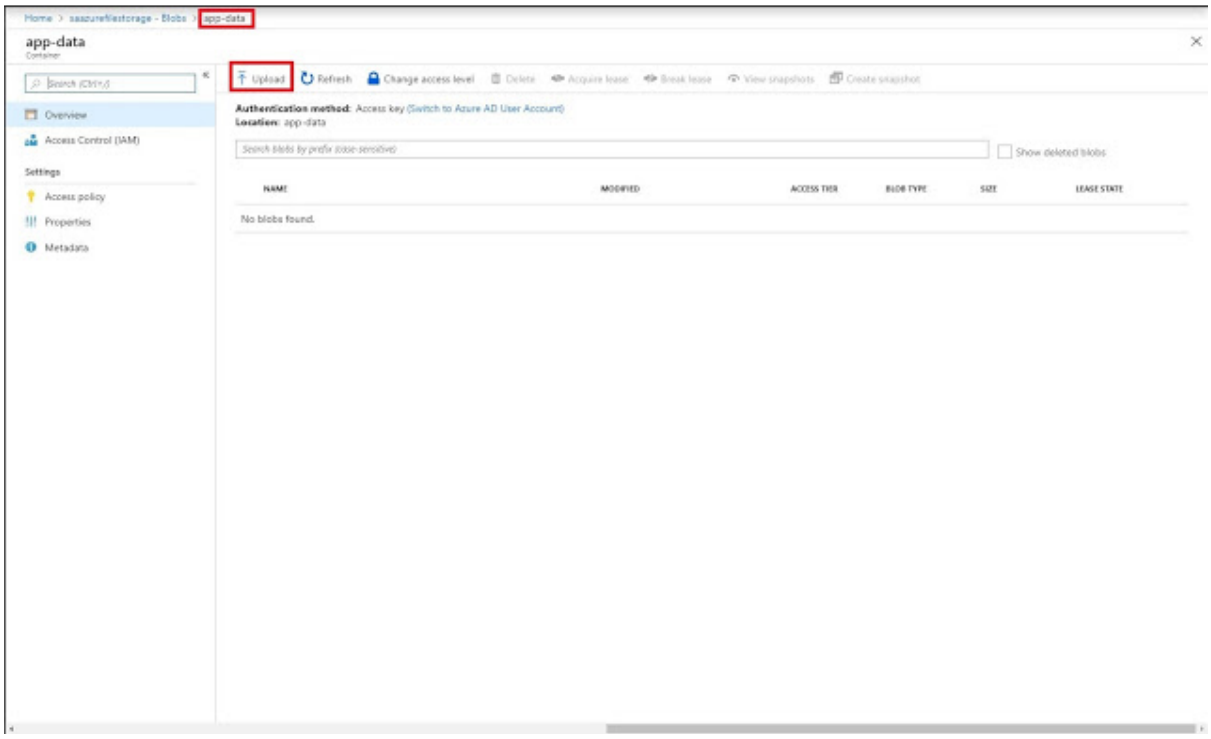


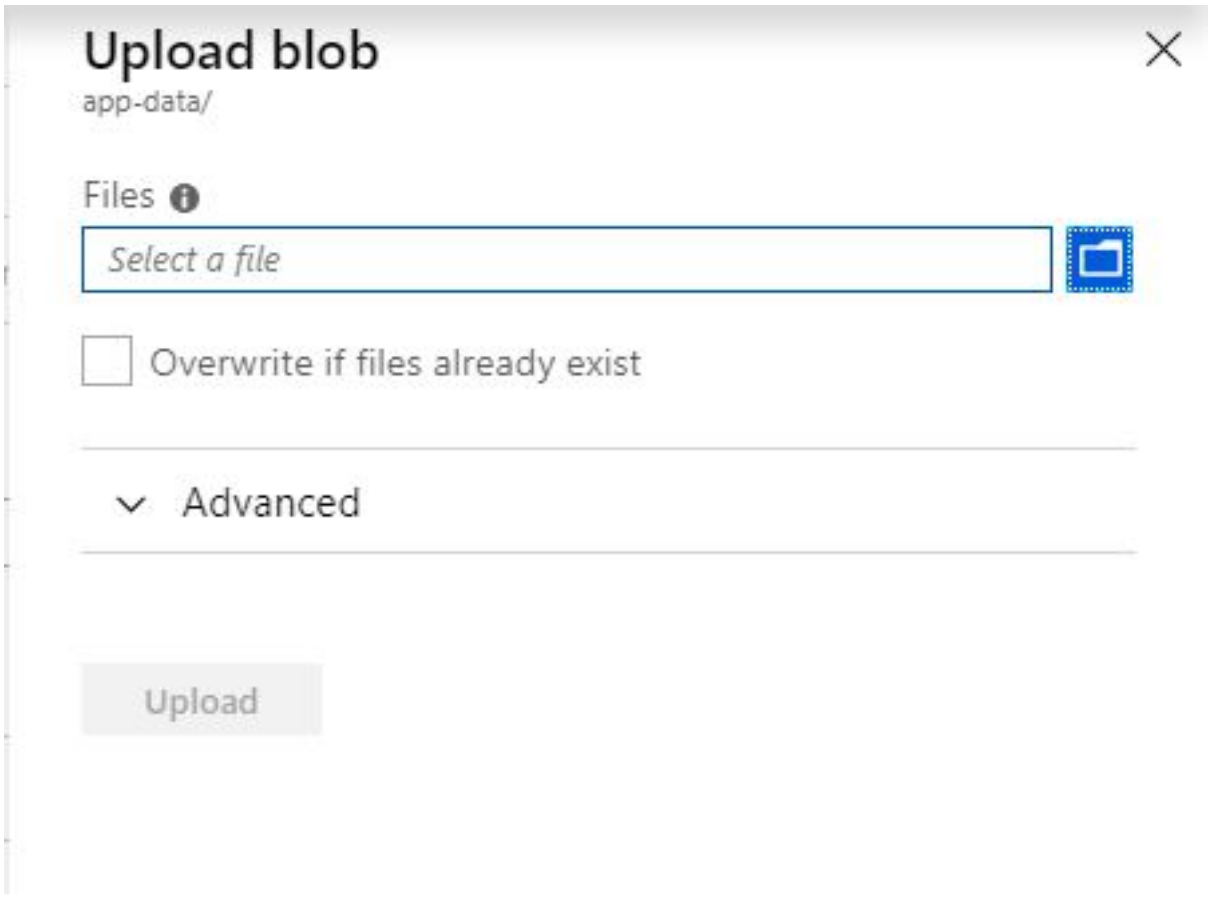
We can see the newly created Container.

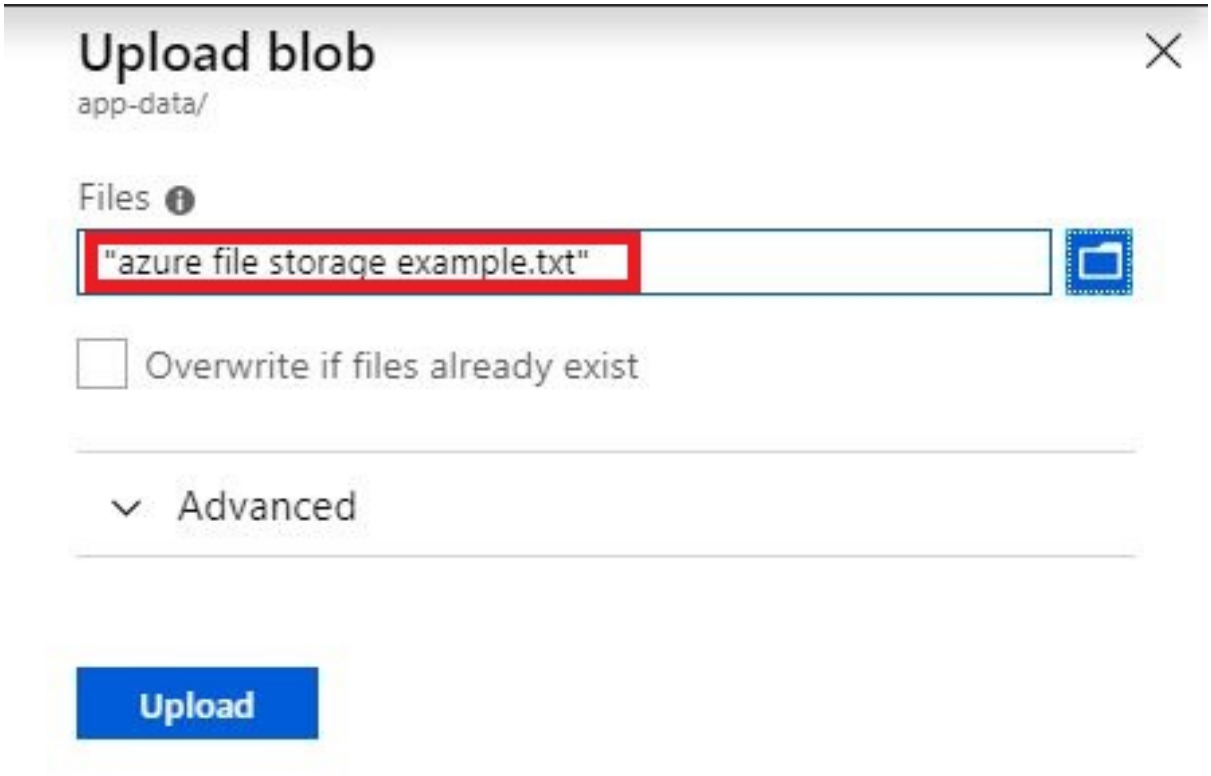


Step 04: Upload blobs to the Container

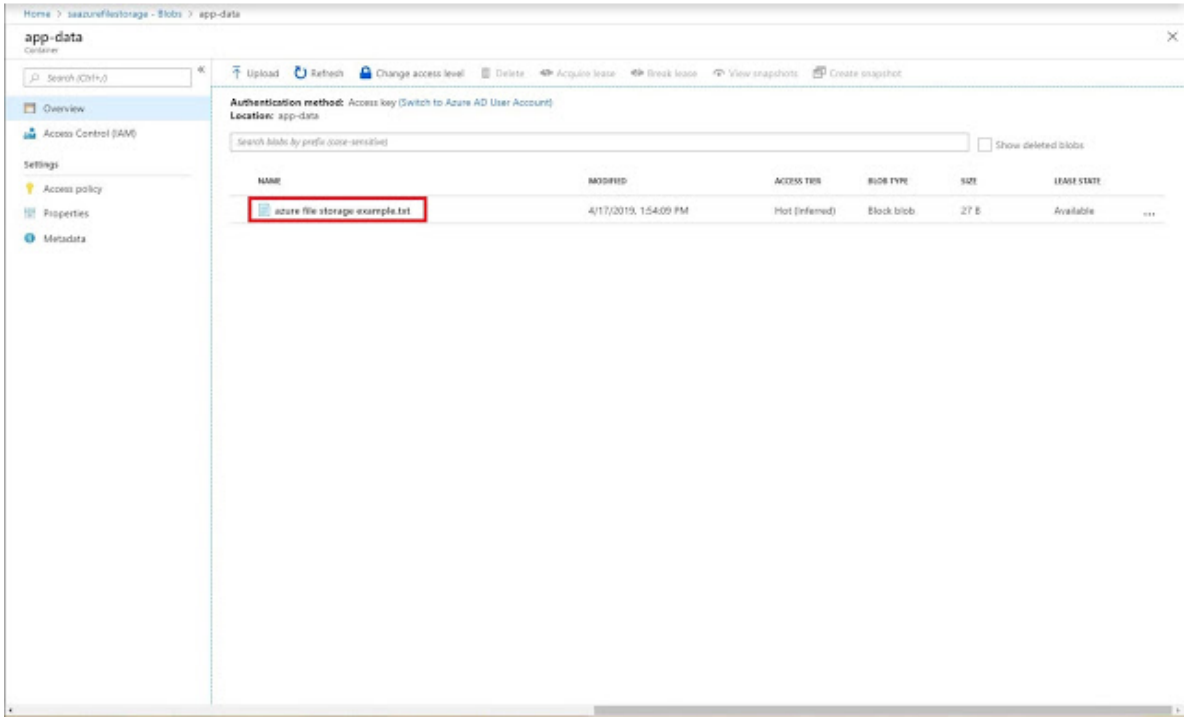
Go inside the new Container we created earlier and click on Upload button.



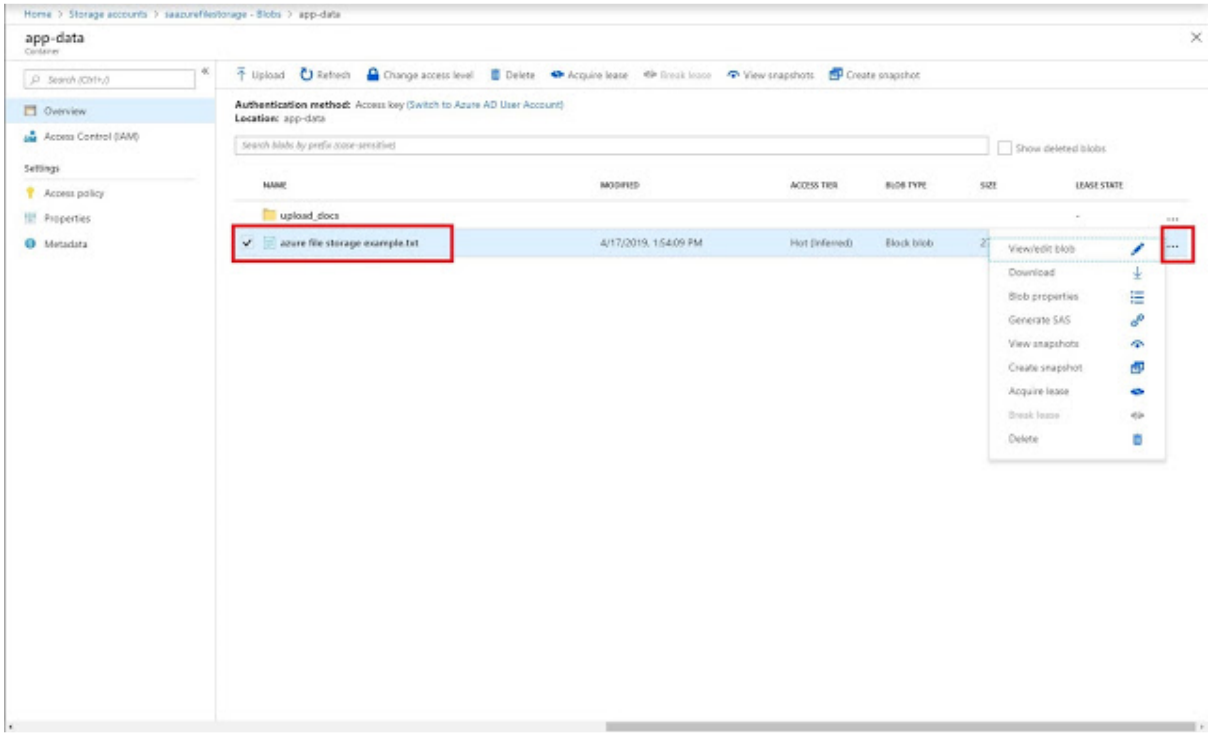




We can see the uploaded blobs.

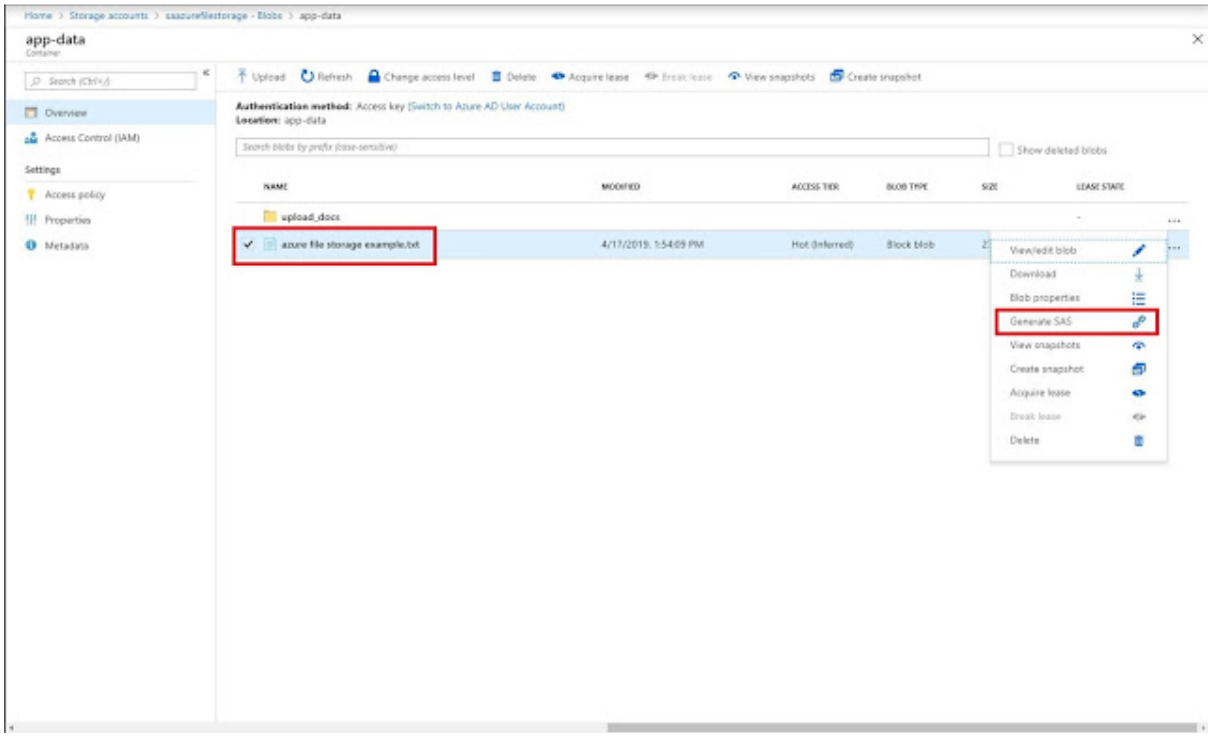


Blob properties can be viewed by clicking on "..." button.



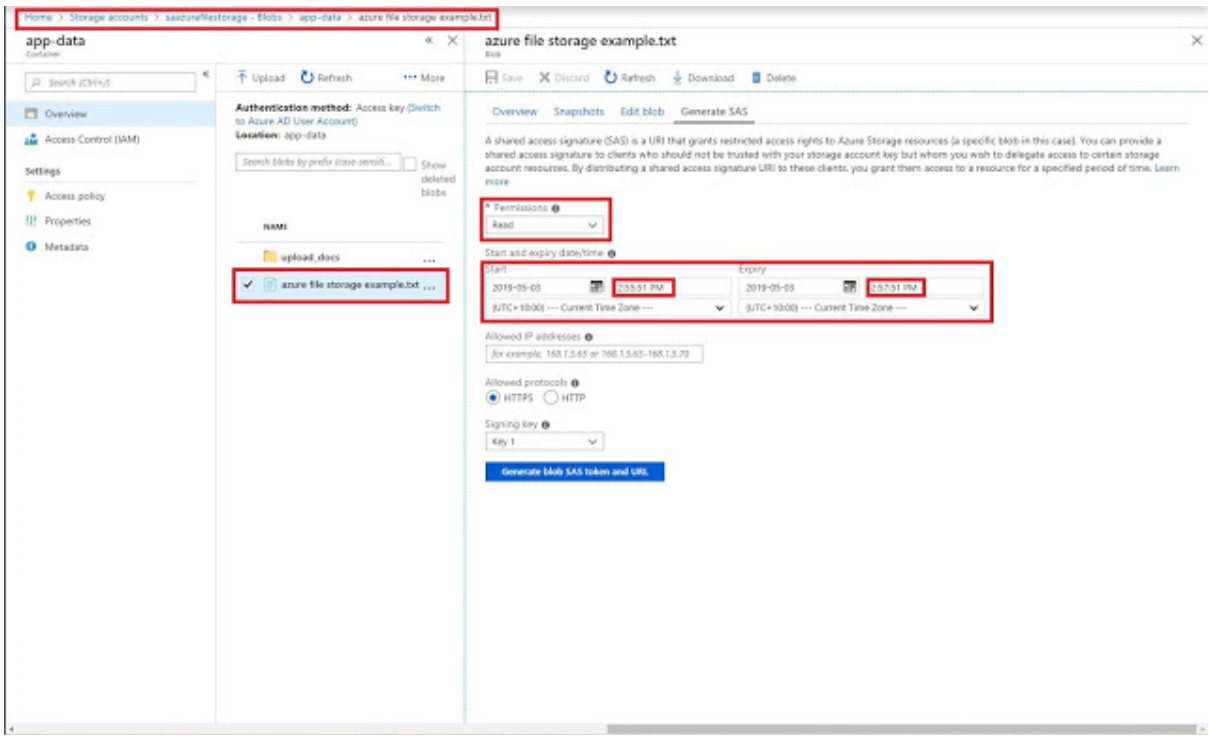
Step 05: Generate SAS from Azure Portal

We can share a file in a Blob Storage by generating a SAS.



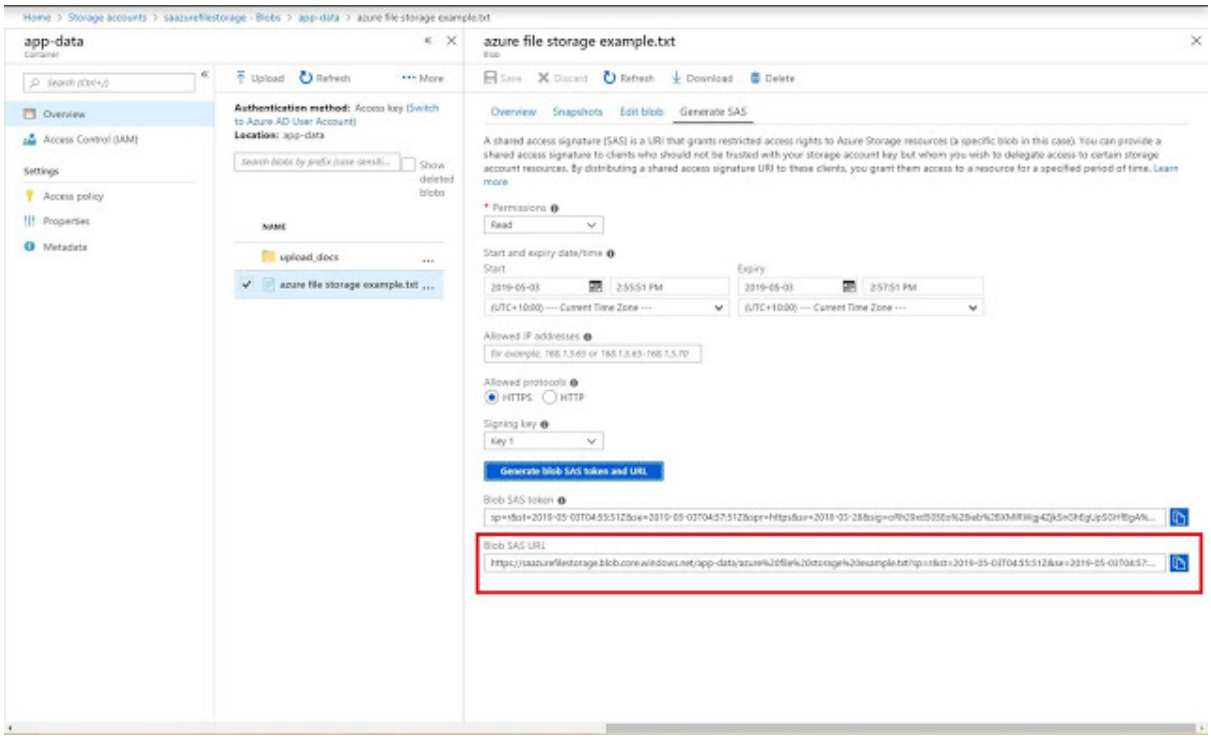
We can set bellow properties on SAS:

- Permission - (Read, Create, Write, Delete) What permissions we provide to the shared file URL
- Start and expiry date/time - From which date/time To which date/time shared file URL is valid
- Allowed IP addresses
- Allowed protocols - HTTPS or HTTP
- Signing key - Key 1 or Key 2



So above Shared File URL is valid:

From 2019-05-03 2:55.51 PM To 2019-05-03 2:57:51 PM



Shared URL will look something like this:

https://saazurefilestorage.blob.core.windows.net/app-data/azure%20file%20storage%20example.txt?sp=r&st=2019-05-03T04:55:51Z&se=2019-05-03T04:57:51Z&spr=https&sv=2018-03-28&sig=oRh29xd505Eo%2Bieb%2BXMlRWgj4ZjkSnGhEgUpSGHfBgA%3D&sr=b

Bellow will be the token:

sp=r&st=2019-05-03T04:55:51Z&se=2019-05-03T04:57:51Z&spr=https&sv=2018-03-28&sig=oRh29xd505Eo%2Bieb%2BXMlRWgj4ZjkSnGhEgUpSGHfBgA%3D&sr=b

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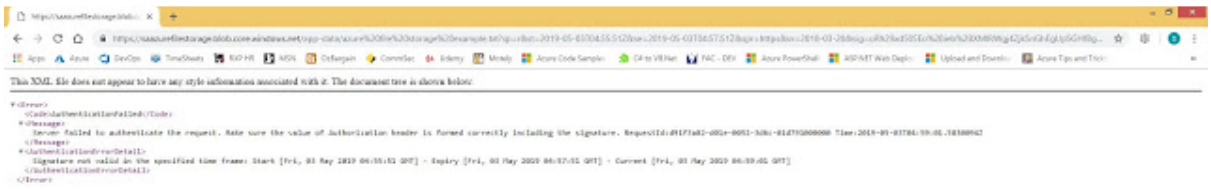
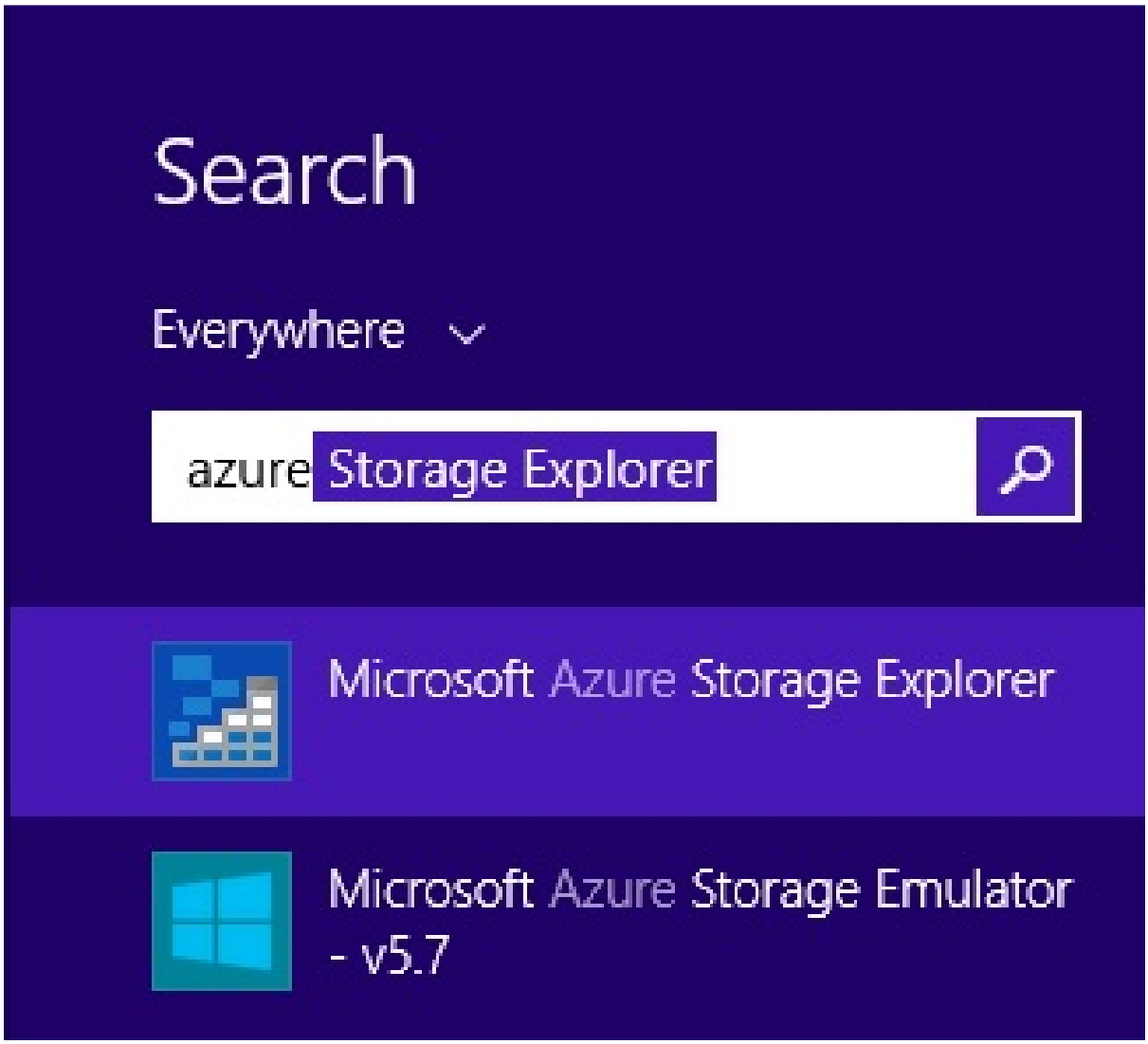
We can view the file content by pasting URL to a browser:

If we try to view that file outside the specified valid time frame we will be prompted with bellow error.

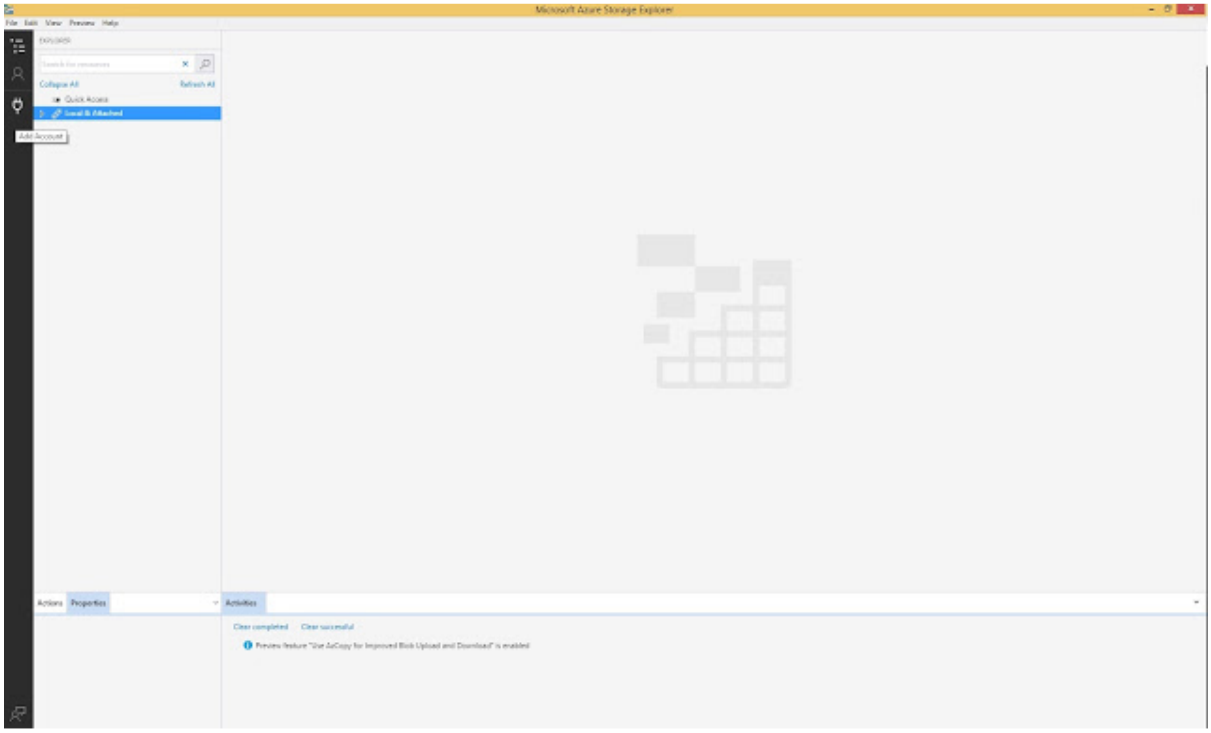


Step 06: Use of Windows Azure Storage Explorer

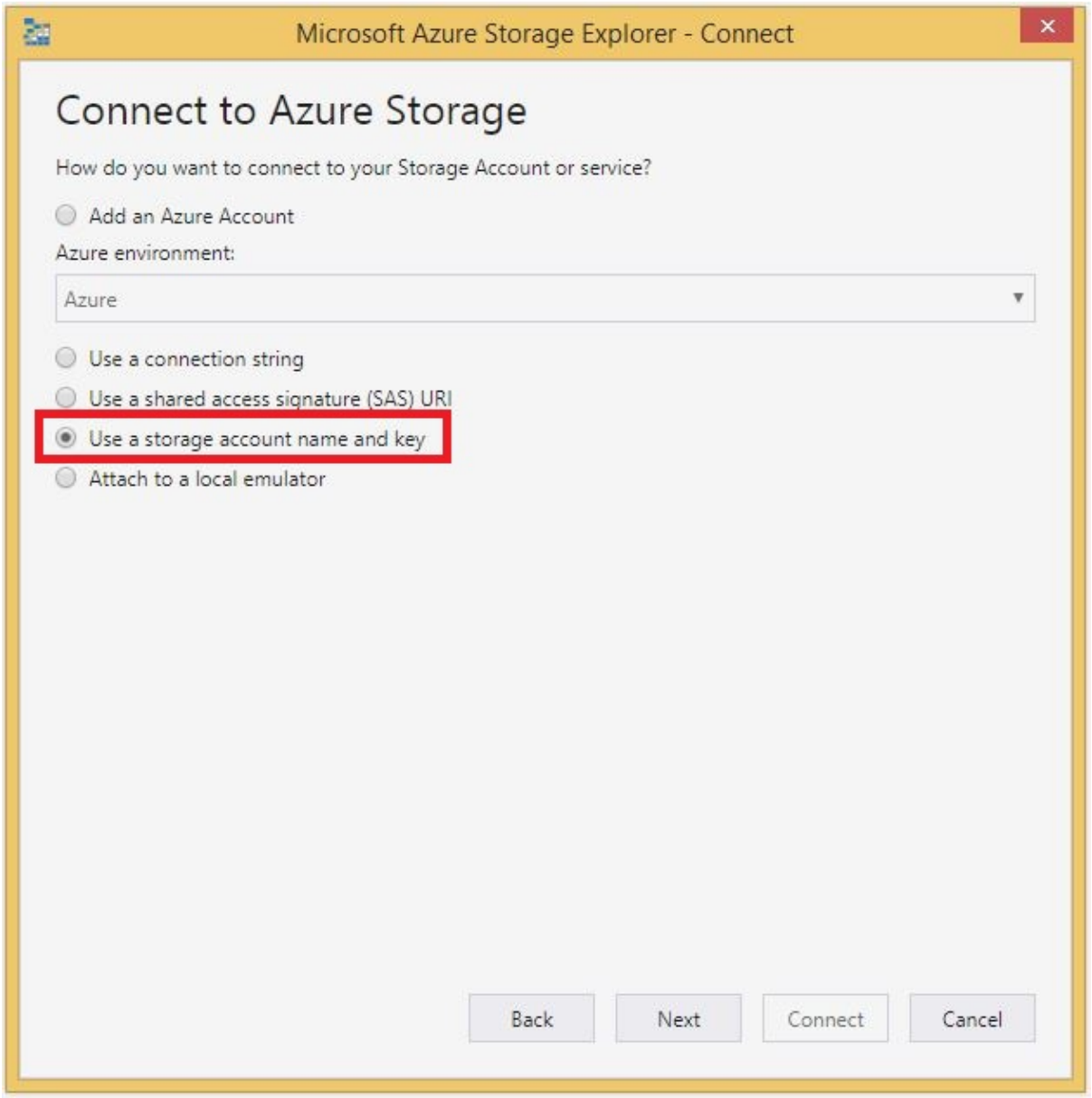
Got to Windows and type Azure Storage Explorer on the Windows search.



To add an Storage Account click on Add Account.

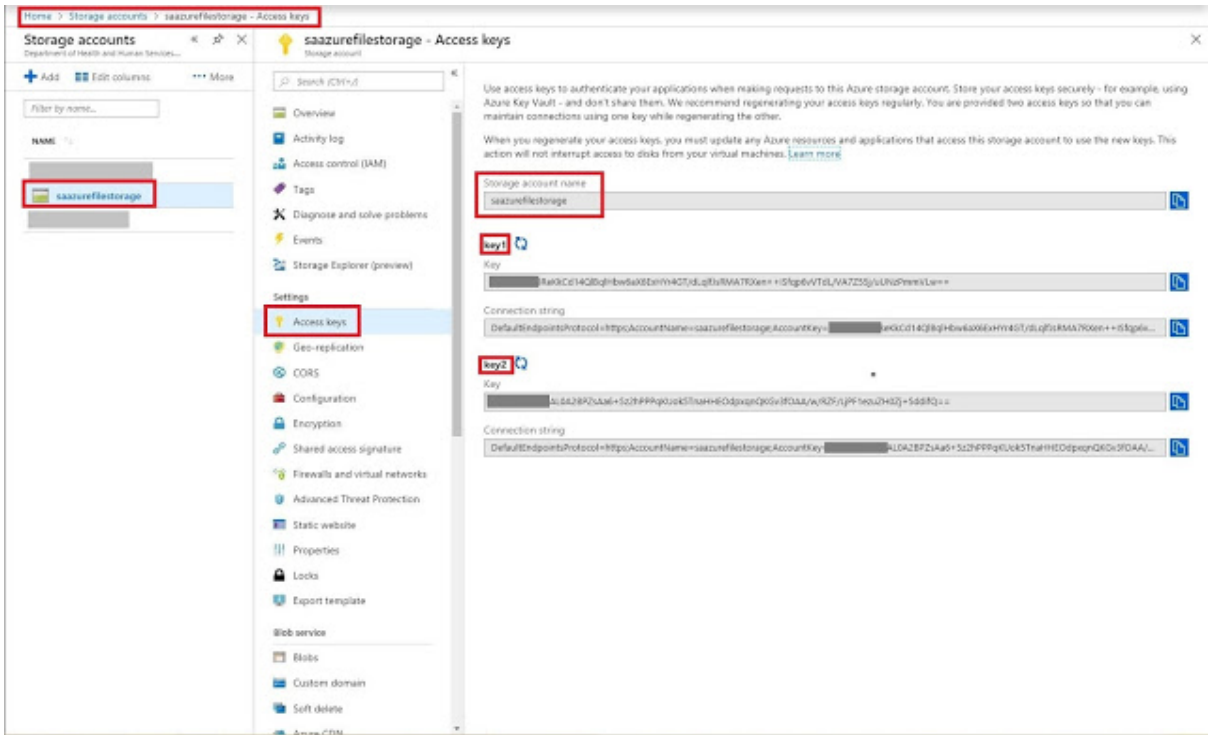


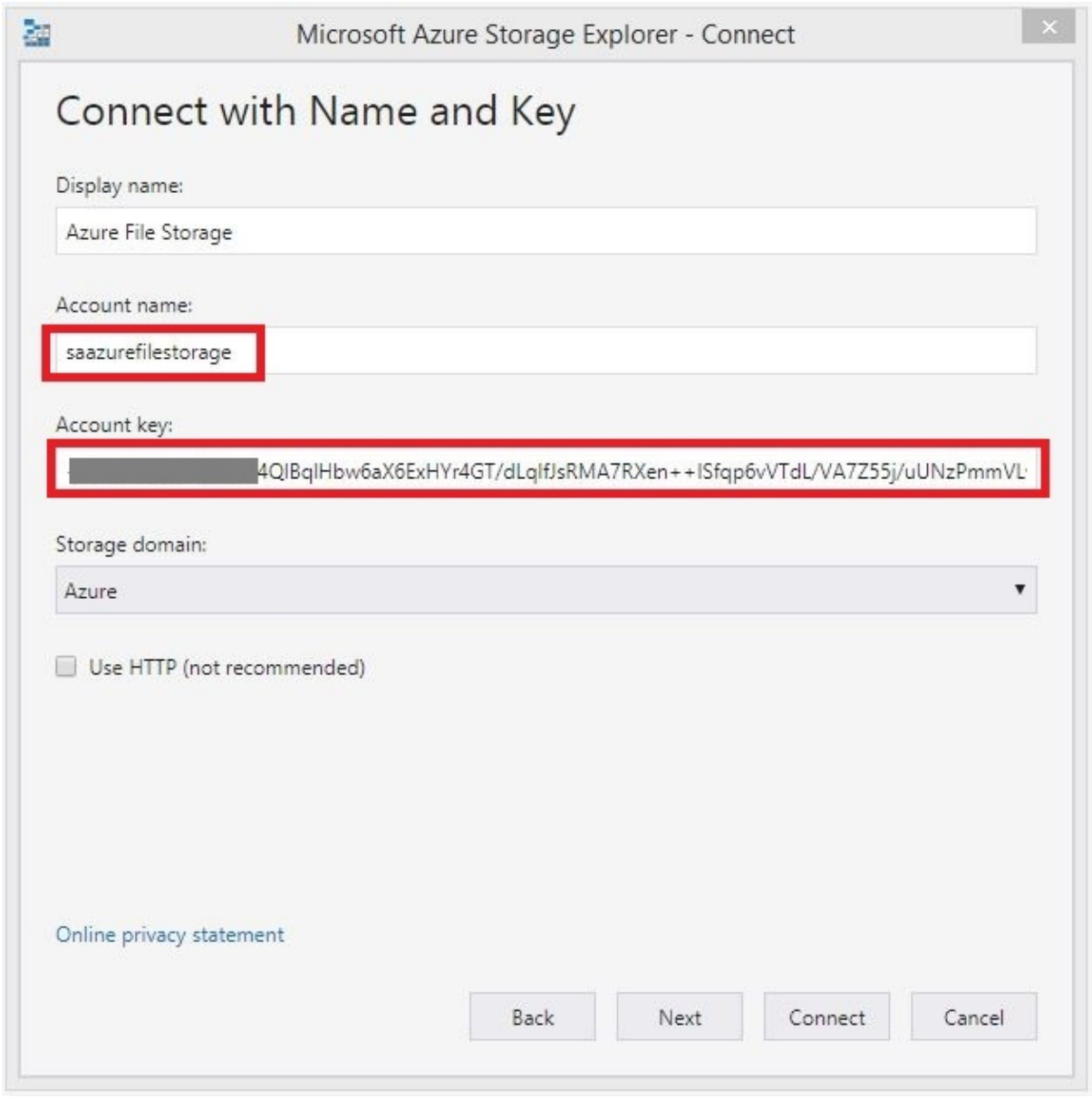
Select the option "Use a storage account name and key"

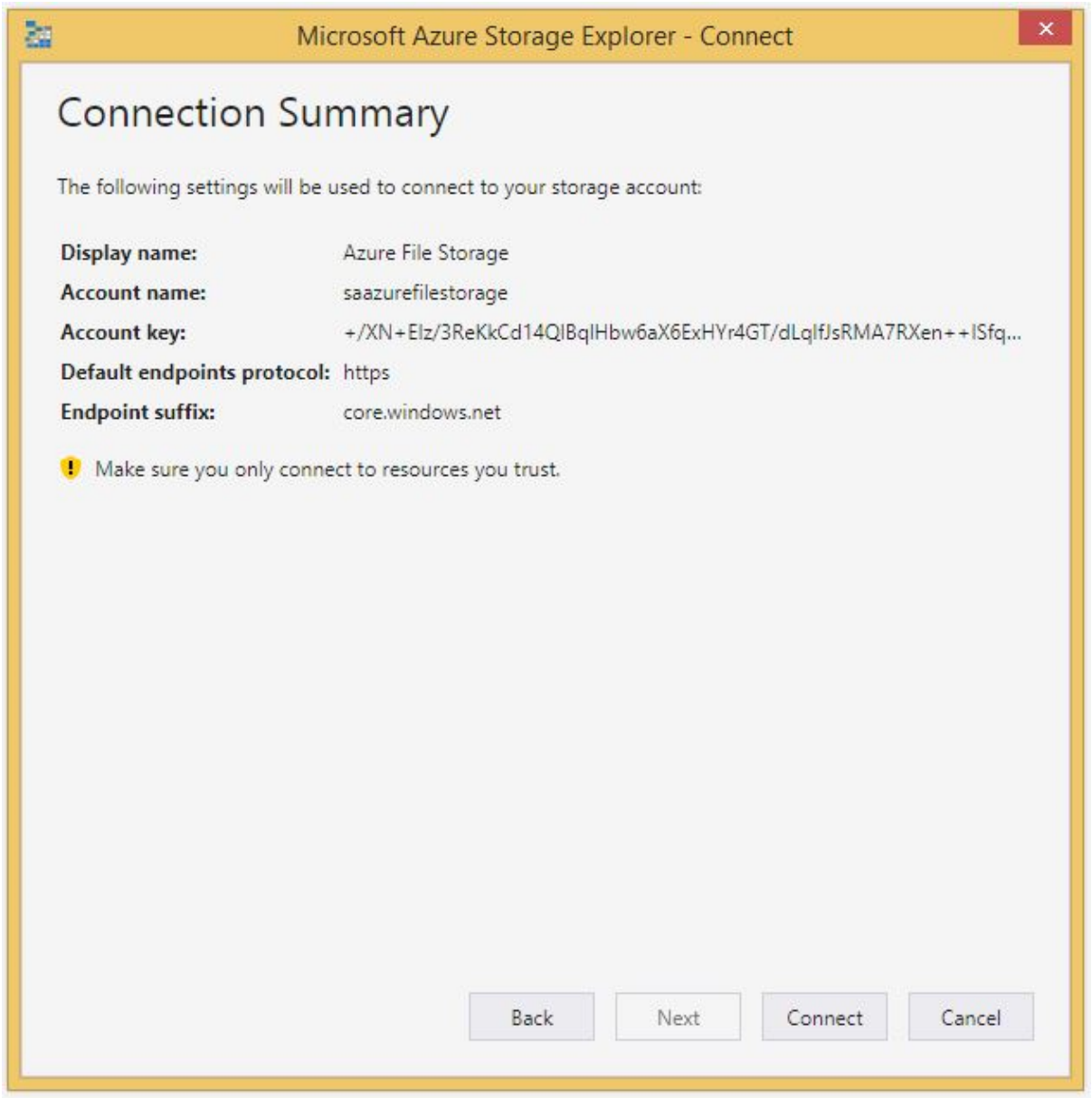


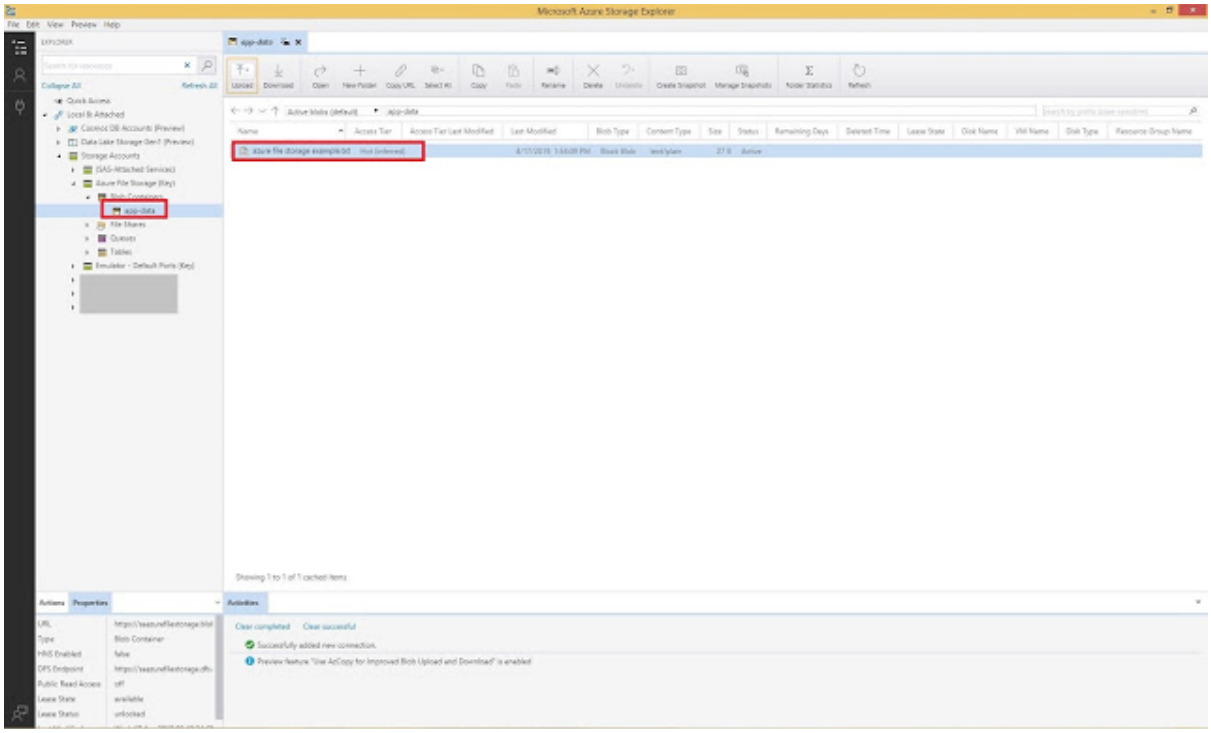
You can get the storage account name and key for the previously created Storage Account through Azure Portal.

Go to Access keys under Storage Account.



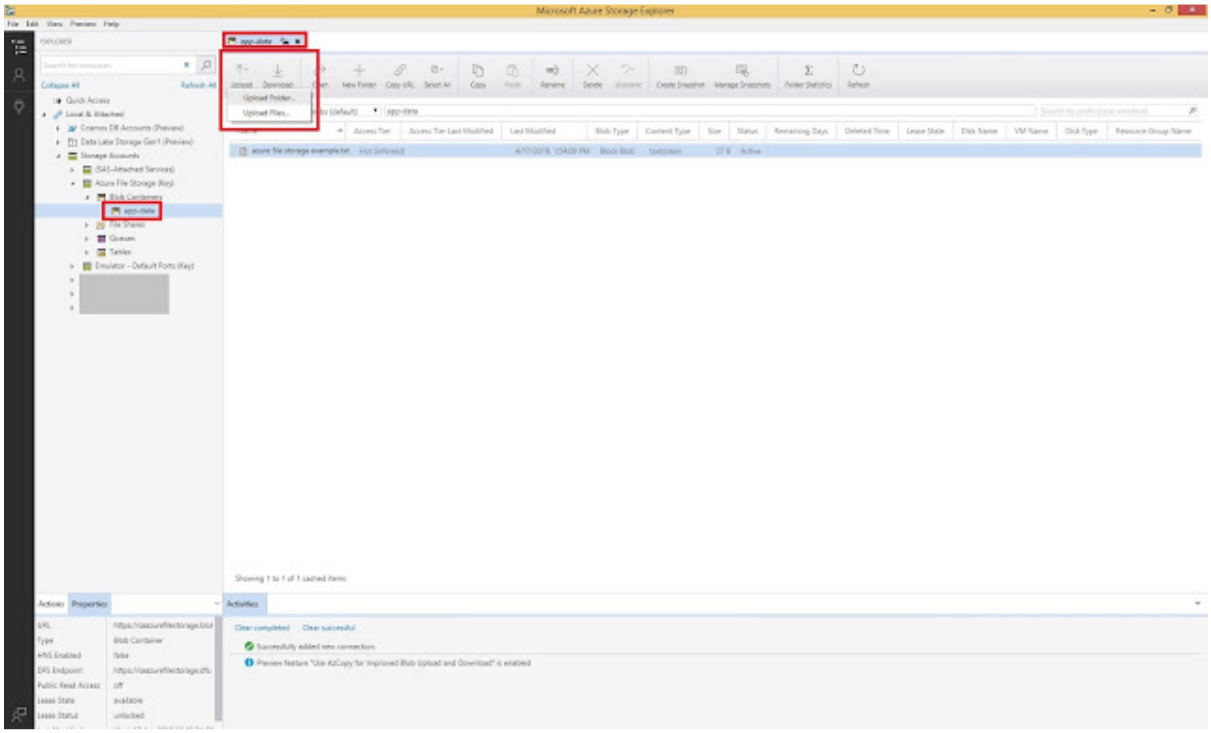

Microsoft Azure Storage Explorer - Connect
Connect with Name and Key
Display name:
Azure File Storage
Account name:
saazurefilestorage
Account key:
4QIBqlHbw6aX6ExHYr4GT/dLqlfJsRMA7RXen++ISfqp6vVTdL/VA7Z55j/uUNzPmmVL
Storage domain:
Azure
Use HTTP (not recommended)
Online privacy statement
Back
Next
Connect
Cancel

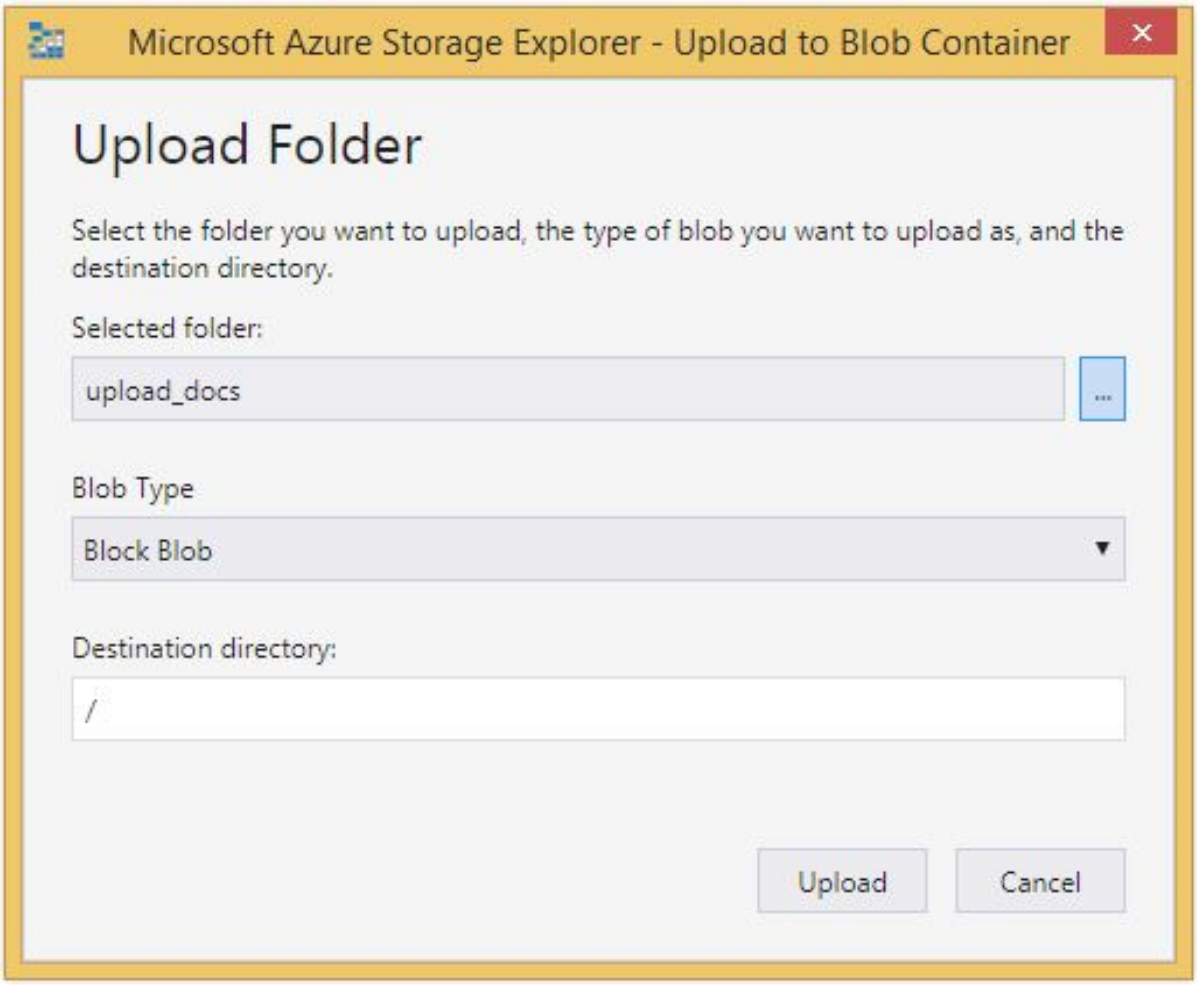

Microsoft Azure Storage Explorer - Connect
Connection Summary
The following settings will be used to connect to your storage account:
Display name: Azure File Storage
Account name: saazurefilestorage
Account key: +/XN+Elz/3ReKkCd14QlBqlHbw6aX6ExHYr4GT/dLqlfJsRMA7RXen++ISfq...
Default endpoints protocol: https
Endpoint suffix: core.windows.net
Make sure you only connect to resources you trust.
Back
Next
Connect
Cancel

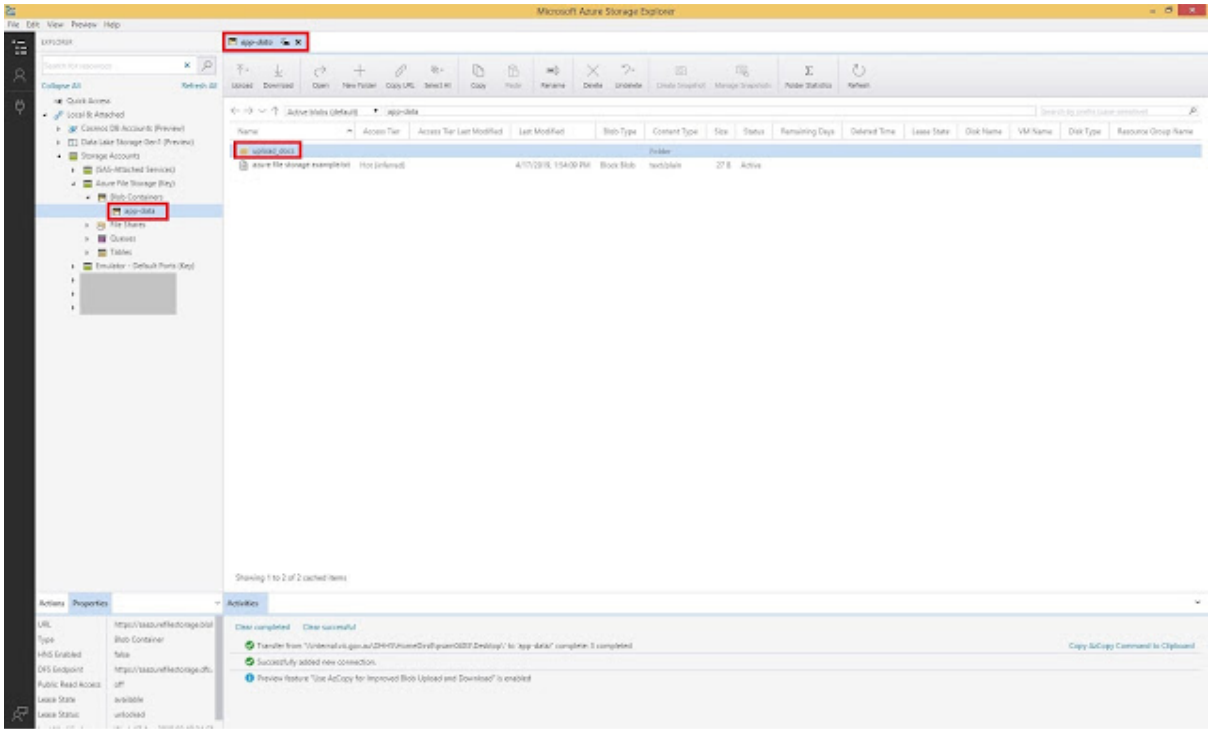


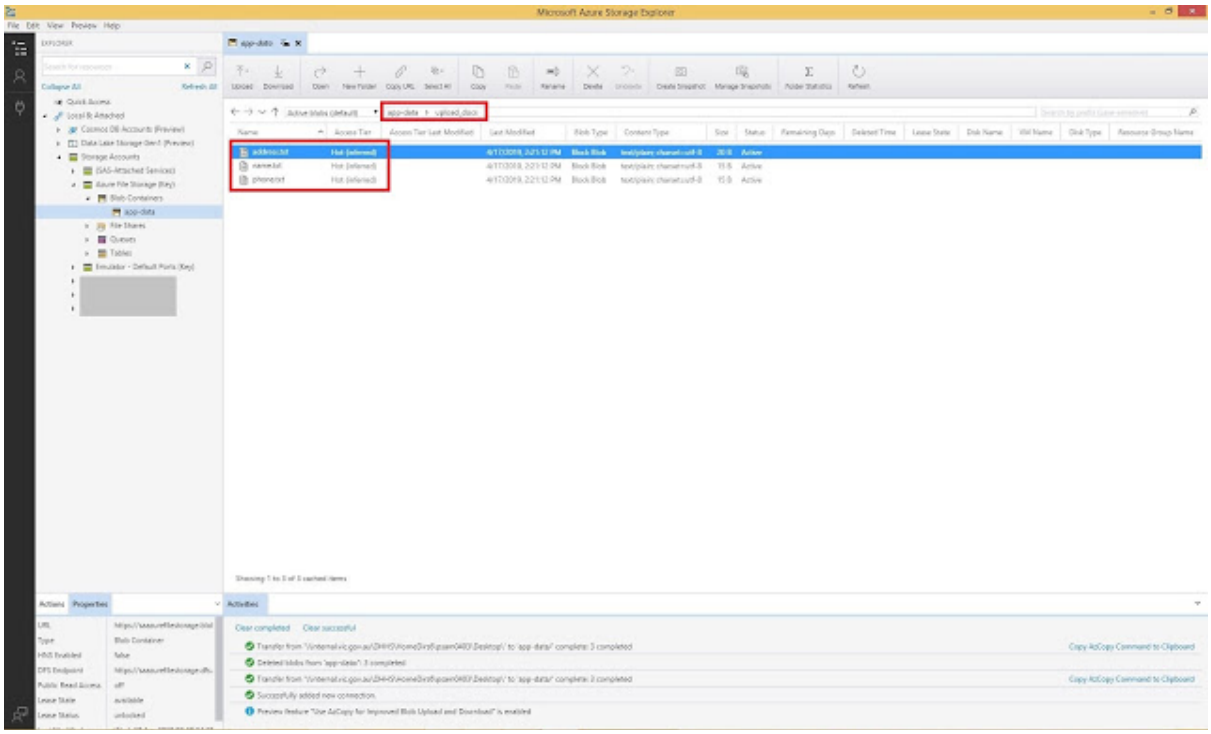
Also, you can upload folders through Windows Azure Storage Explorer. (folder upload is not available through portal at the moment)

Select Upload Folder.



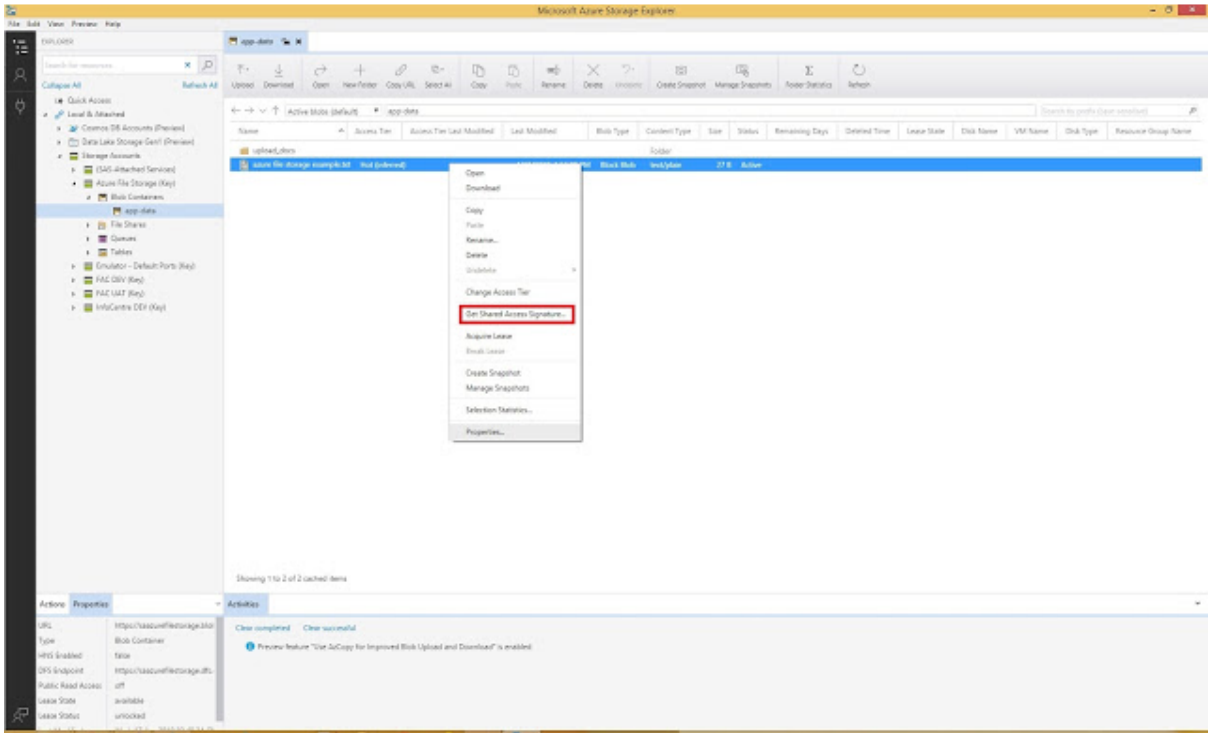

Microsoft Azure Storage Explorer - Upload to Blob Container
Upload Folder
Select the folder you want to upload, the type of blob you want to upload as, and the destination directory.
Selected folder:
upload_docs
...
Blob Type
Block Blob
Destination directory:
/
Upload
Cancel

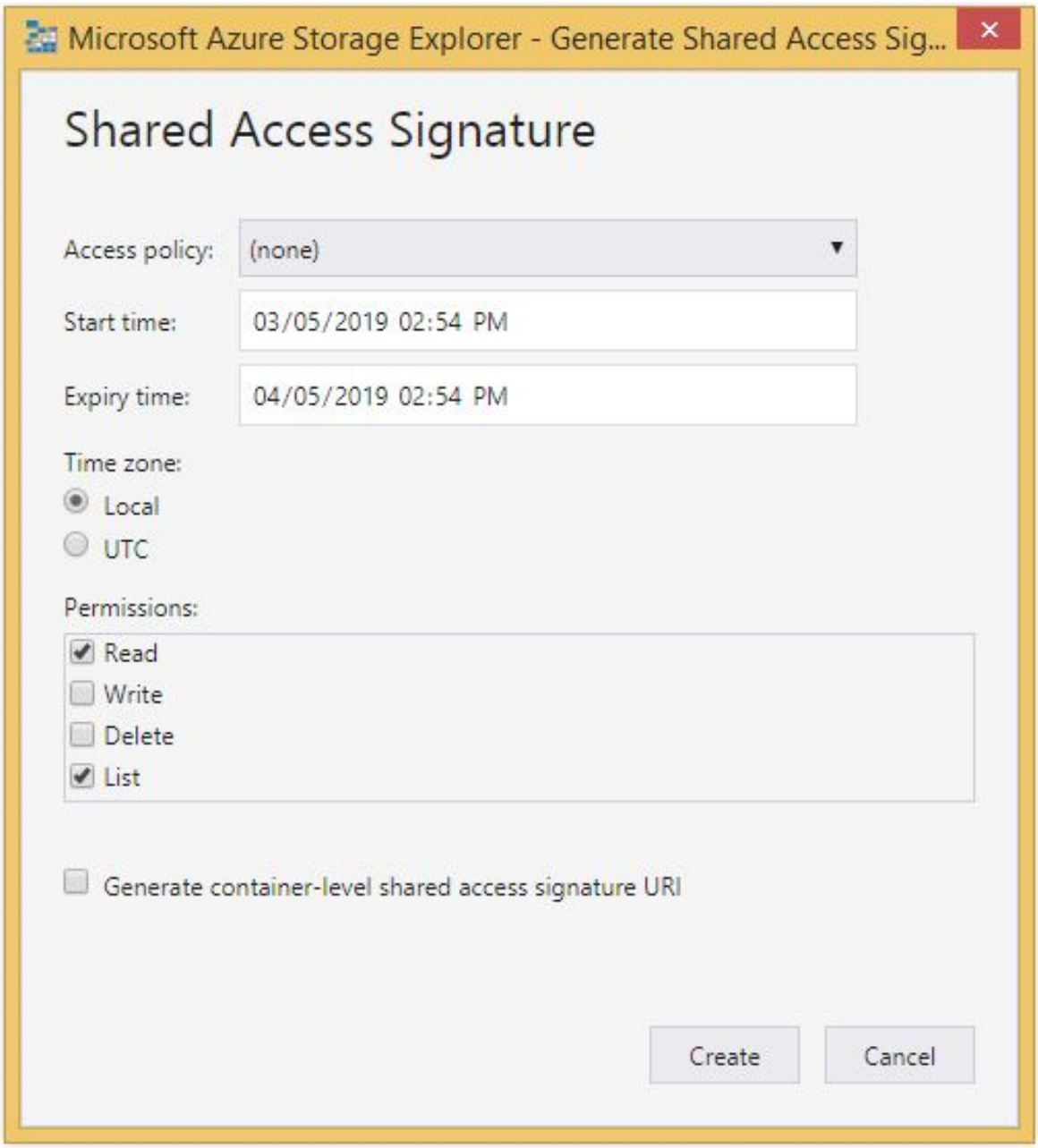

Microsoft Azure Storage Explorer


Microsoft Azure Storage Explorer

Step 07: Generate SAS from Widows Azure Storage Explorer

Right click on the file.




Microsoft Azure Storage Explorer - Generate Shared Access Sig...
Shared Access Signature
Access policy:
(none)
Start time:
03/05/2019 02:54 PM
Expiry time:
04/05/2019 02:54 PM
Time zone:
Local
UTC
Permissions:
Read
Write
Delete
List
Generate container-level shared access signature URI
Create
Cancel