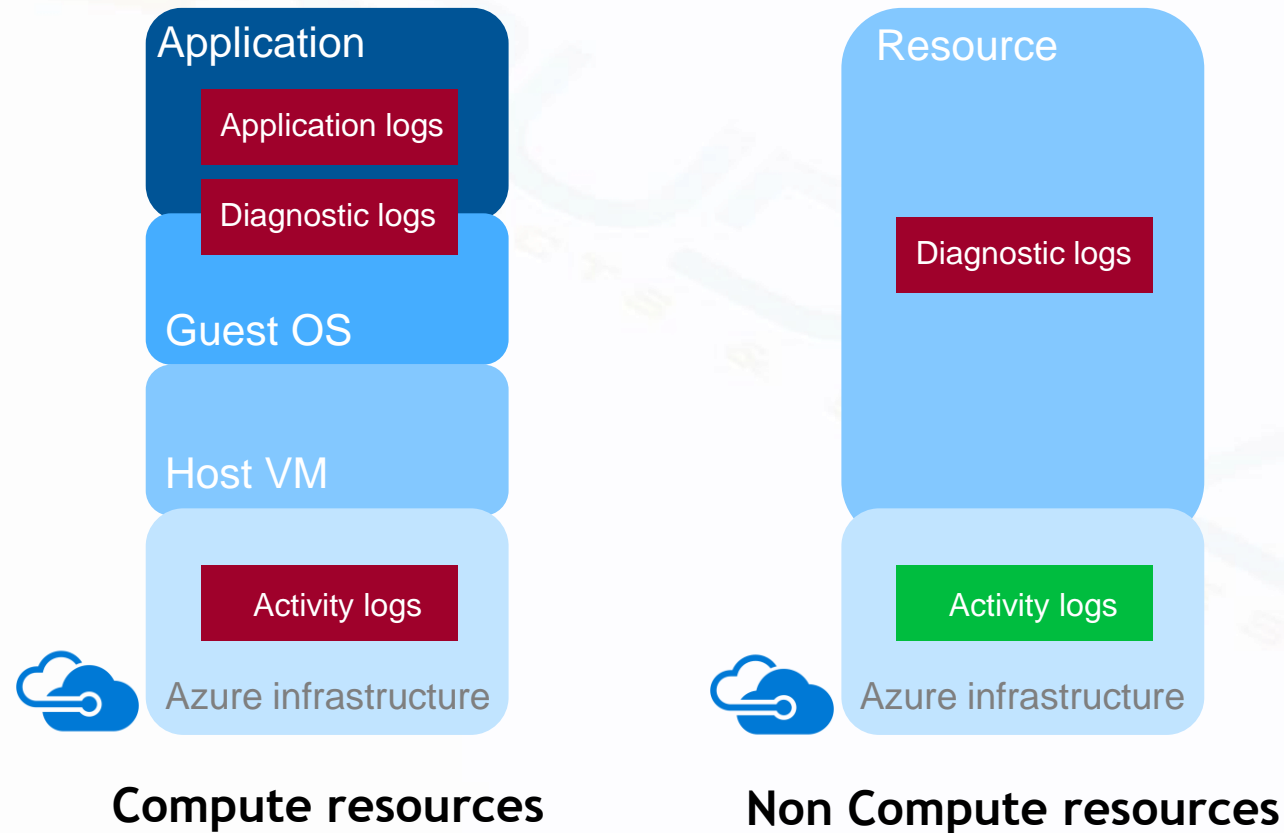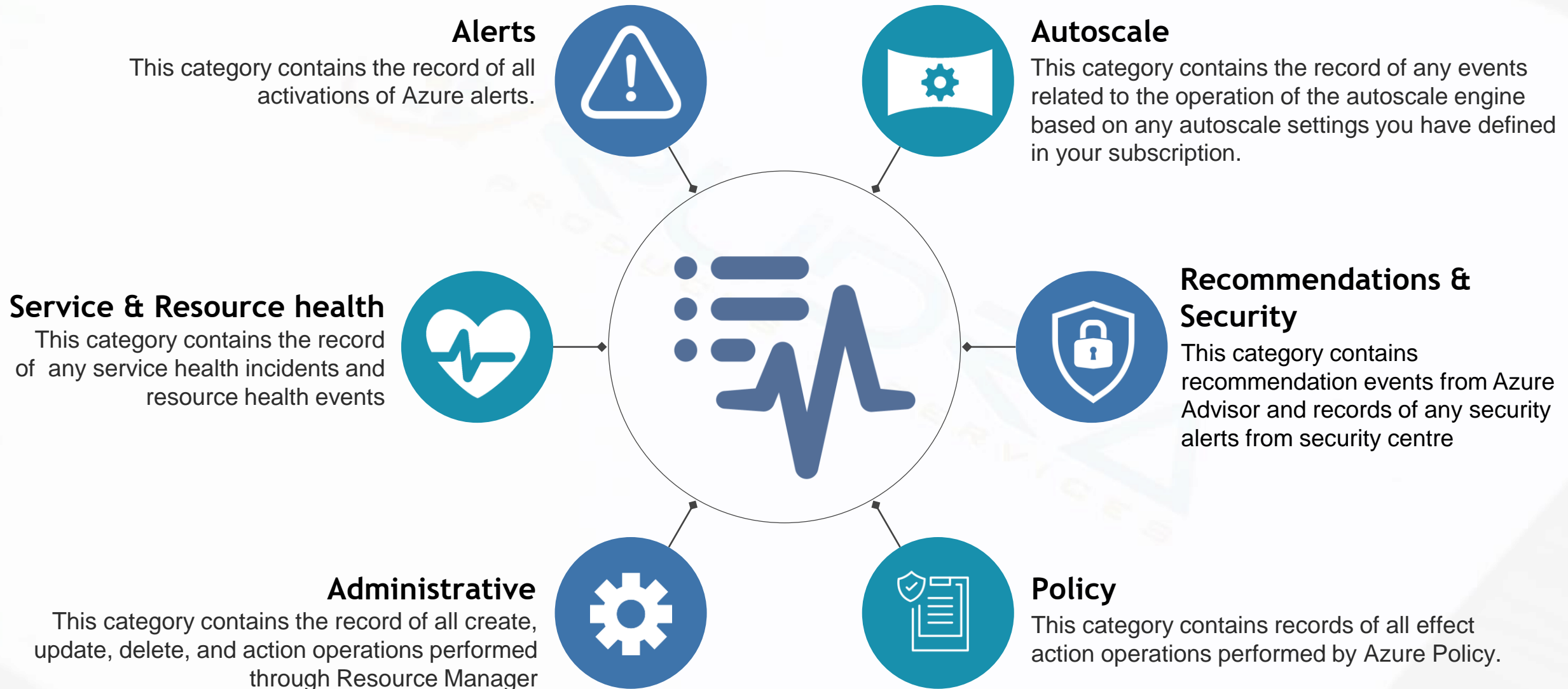# Introduction to Azure Monitor Activity Logs, Metrics
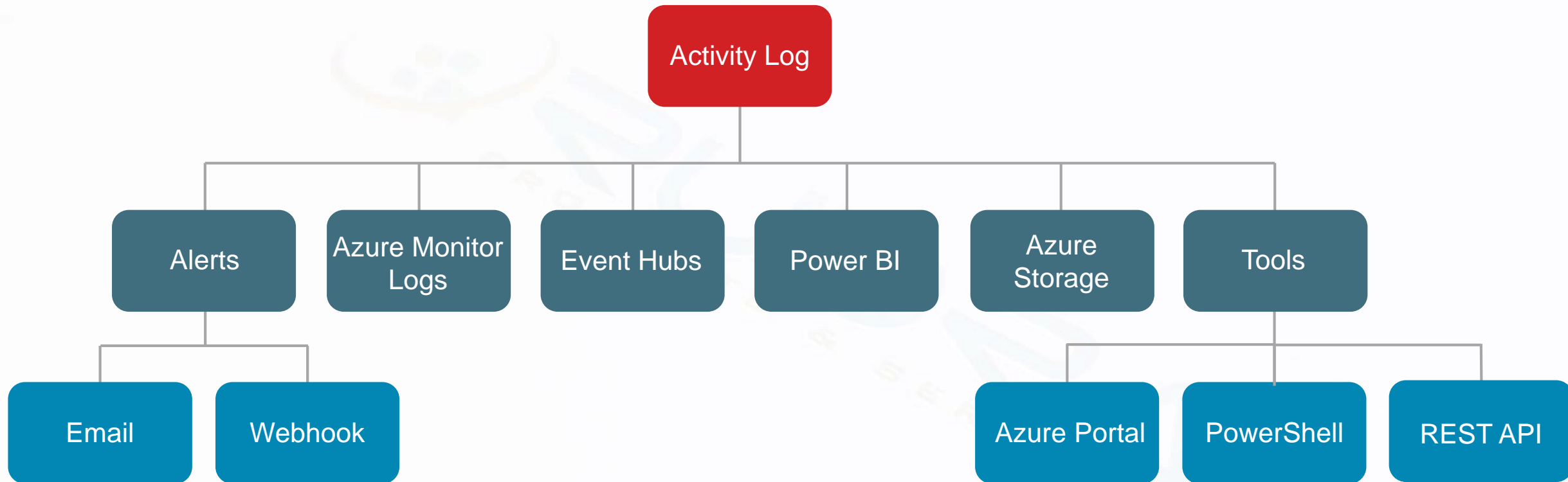
Activity logs

The Azure Activity log is a subscription log that provides insight into subscription-level events that have occurred in Azure. This includes a range of data, from Azure Resource Manager operational data to updates on Service Health events.
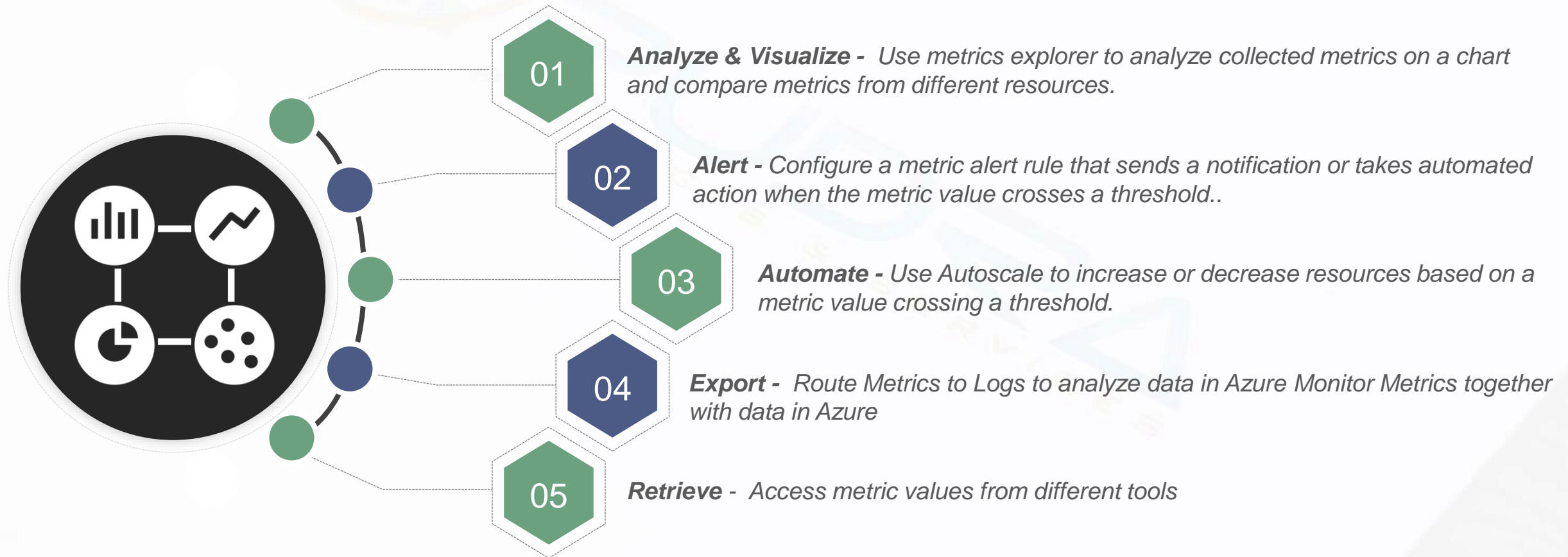

Compute resources

Non Compute resources

Activity log record categories

Alerts
This category contains the record of all activations of Azure alerts.

Autoscale
This category contains the record of any events related to the operation of the autoscale engine based on any autoscale settings you have defined in your subscription.

Service & Resource health
This category contains the record of any service health incidents and resource health events

Recommendations & Security
This category contains recommendation events from Azure Advisor and records of any security alerts from security centre

Administrative
This category contains the record of all create, update, delete, and action operations performed through Resource Manager

Policy
This category contains records of all effect action operations performed by Azure Policy.

Activity log – Things you can do

Metrics

Metrics are numerical values that describe some aspect of a system at a particular time. Metrics are collected at regular intervals and are useful for alerting because they can be sampled frequently, and an alert can be fired quickly with relatively simple logic.

01 **Analyze & Visualize -** *Use metrics explorer to analyze collected metrics on a chart and compare metrics from different resources.*

02 **Alert -** *Configure a metric alert rule that sends a notification or takes automated action when the metric value crosses a threshold..*

03 **Automate -** *Use Autoscale to increase or decrease resources based on a metric value crossing a threshold.*

04 **Export -** *Route Metrics to Logs to analyze data in Azure Monitor Metrics together with data in Azure*

05 **Retrieve -** *Access metric values from different tools*

Sources of Metrics

- **Platform metrics** are created by Azure resources and give you visibility into their health and performance. Platform metrics are collected from Azure resources at one-minute frequency unless specified otherwise in the metric's definition.

- **Guest OS metrics** are collected from the guest operating system of a virtual machine.

- **Application metrics** are created by Application Insights for your monitored applications and help you detect performance issues and track trends in how your application is being used.

- **Custom metrics** are metrics that you define in addition to the standard metrics that are automatically available.