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Taller DevOps

Web App Node - Github integration - Pull requests

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Overview

In this lab, you will learn how you can connect Azure with Github, add testing and production stages to the Pipelines to deploy a Node web application

Fork the Node & Express Demo App Repository

The Node and Express app is a simple website for a fictitious company. This app uses Express and Handlebars to serve up a few common pages you'd see on any company website. Also included are some unit tests that ensure those routes are working and serving up the right content.

You can head over to my GitHub account to fork this repository.

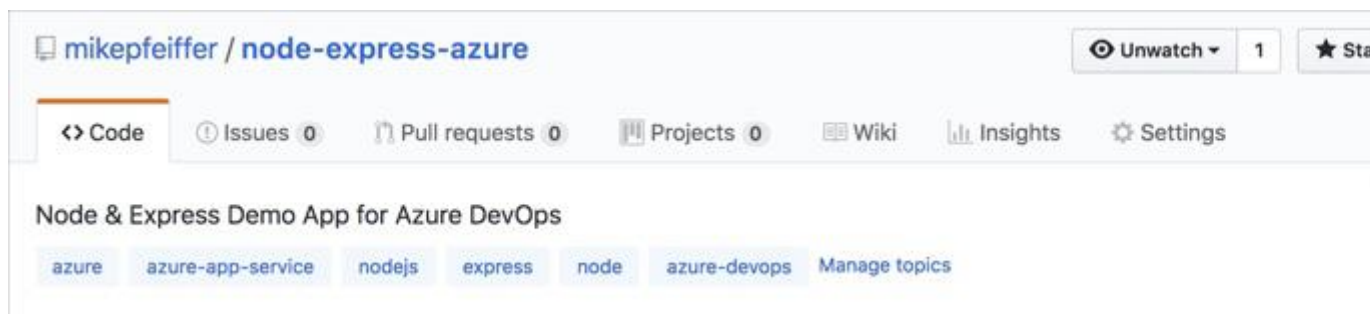


Figure 3. Fork the node-express-azure Repository.

Next, we can move on to deploying the infrastructure to support both development and production deployment slots using Azure App Service.

Deploy the App Service Infrastructure

We're going to use an Azure Web App for Linux resource to power our Node and Express application. We'll set things up so our CI/CD pipeline can build and deploy the app into a development/staging slot. Then we'll set up a manual approval into the production slot.

We'll use an Azure Resource Manager (ARM) template to build the App Service infrastructure.

Navigate to the node-express-azure repository you forked in the previous step. You'll see a "Deploy to Azure" button about halfway down the screen.



Figure 4. Deploying the ARM Template.

Clicking the "Deploy to Azure" button will redirect you to the Azure portal as shown in Figure 5.

The image shows the "Custom deployment" page in the Azure portal. The page has a header with "Home > Custom deployment" and a sub-header "Custom deployment" with the text "Deploy from a custom template". Below this, there is a "TEMPLATE" section with a "Customized template" icon and "5 resources". There are three links: "Edit template", "Edit parameters", and "Learn more". Below this is the "BASICS" section with three dropdown menus: "Subscription" (Microsoft Partner Network), "Resource group" ((New) NodeDemo), and "Location" (West US 2). Below this is the "SETTINGS" section with two text input fields: "Site host name" (node-express-demo) and "App service plan name" (app-svc-plan-demo). Below this is the "TERMS AND CONDITIONS" section with a checkbox labeled "I agree to the terms and conditions stated above". At the bottom, there is a blue "Purchase" button highlighted with a red rectangular border.

Figure 5. Launching the ARM Template.

Notice that you'll need to set a globally unique hostname for your web application, along with a name for the new app service plan. I'd recommend deploying these resources into a new resource group. That way when you're done with this walkthrough, you can clean up the Azure resources easily by deleting the resource group.

Click "Purchase" to launch the template to agree that you'll have to pay for the App Service resources that this template deploys on your behalf.

After you launch the template you should see a successful deployment message, and you should have a new resource group similar to the one shown in Figure 6. Notice that there is an App Service Plan, a web app that represents the production deployment slot, and a slot for development called “dev”.

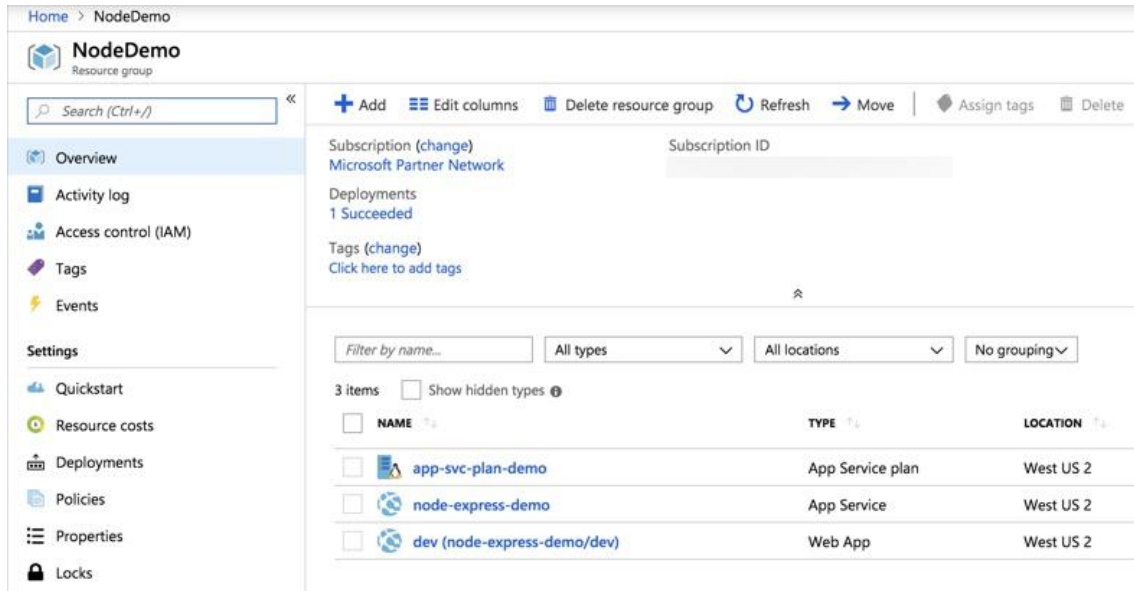


Figure 6. Reviewing the Resources.

Quick side note about the ARM template: the Deploy to Azure button references the azuredeploy.json ARM template in my GitHub repository. If you want to update the template, update the version in your own repo, and don't forget to change the target of the button in the source of your README.md file.

Create a Build Pipeline

We're ready to move on and set up a build pipeline in Azure DevOps. Head back to dev.azure.com and create a new project inside your organization. Use the settings shown in Figure 7.

Create a project to get started

Project name *

node-express-demo ✓

Description

Visibility

Public

Anyone on the internet can view the project. Certain features like TFVC are not supported.

Private

Only people you give access to will be able to view this project.

^ Advanced

Version control

Git

Work item process

Agile

+ Create project

Figure 7. The New Project Settings.

After clicking on the “Create project” button, you’ll see a summary page for the project. Navigate to Pipelines and click on Builds as shown in Figure 8.

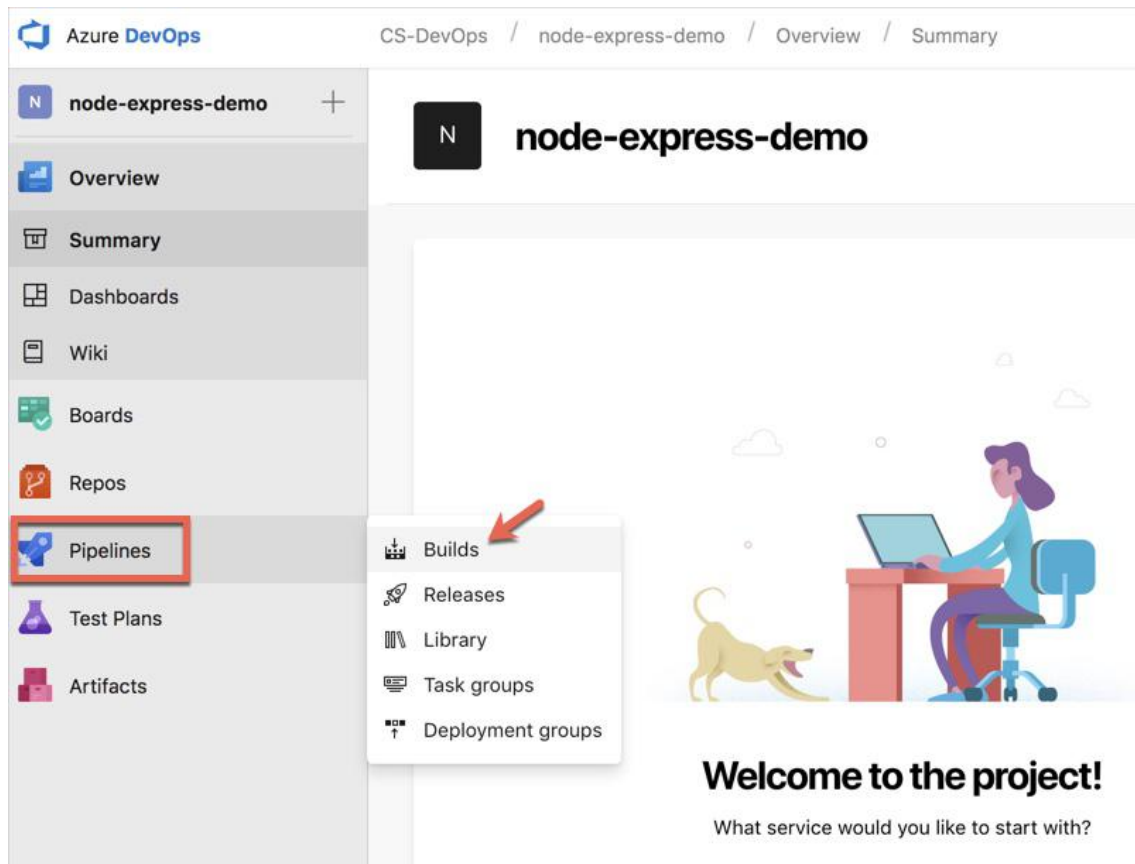


Figure 8. Creating a New Build Pipeline.

Next, click the button to create a new build pipeline. You'll be prompted to choose a repository. Select GitHub. You'll see a screen like the one in Figure 9 where you'll need to authorize the Azure DevOps service to connect to your GitHub account on your behalf. Click Authorize.

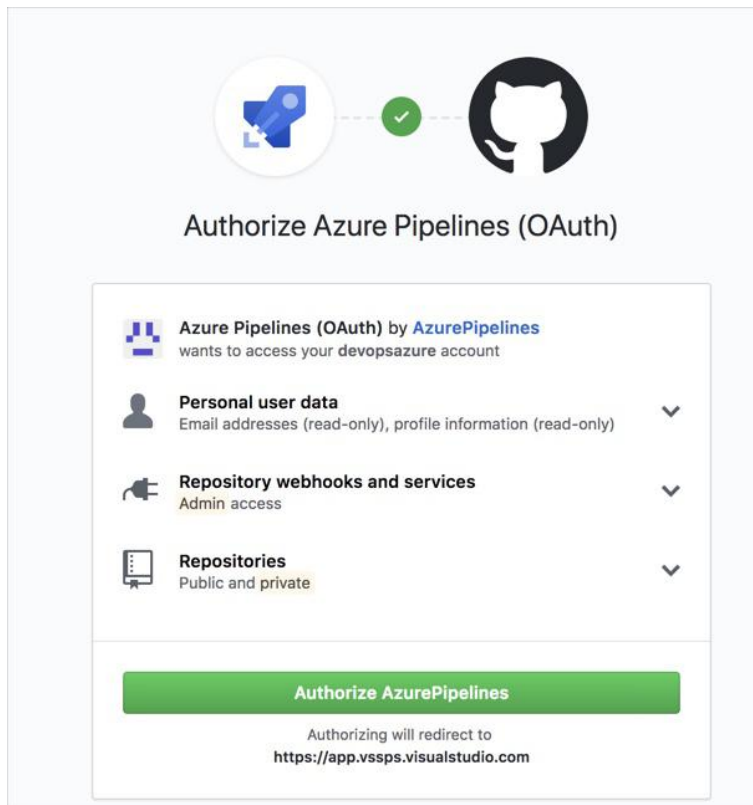


Figure 9. Authorizing the GitHub Connection.

After your connection to GitHub has been authorized select the node-express-azure repo that you forked in the first step. You should end up seeing a “New pipeline” screen like the one shown in Figure 10.

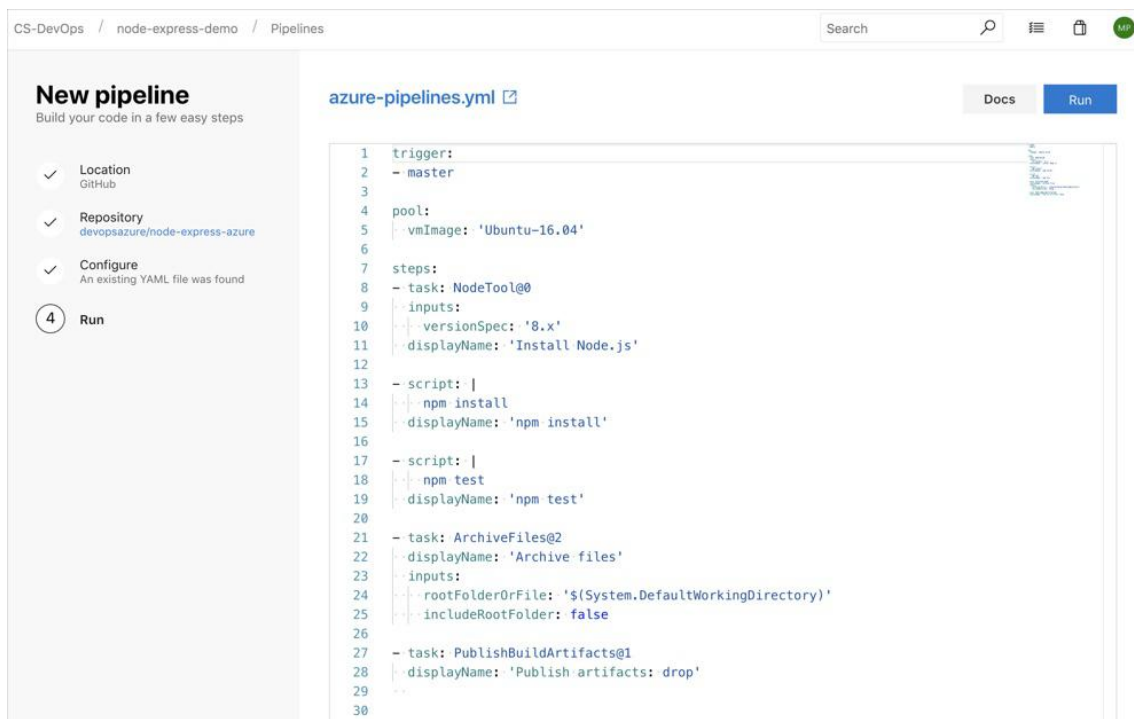
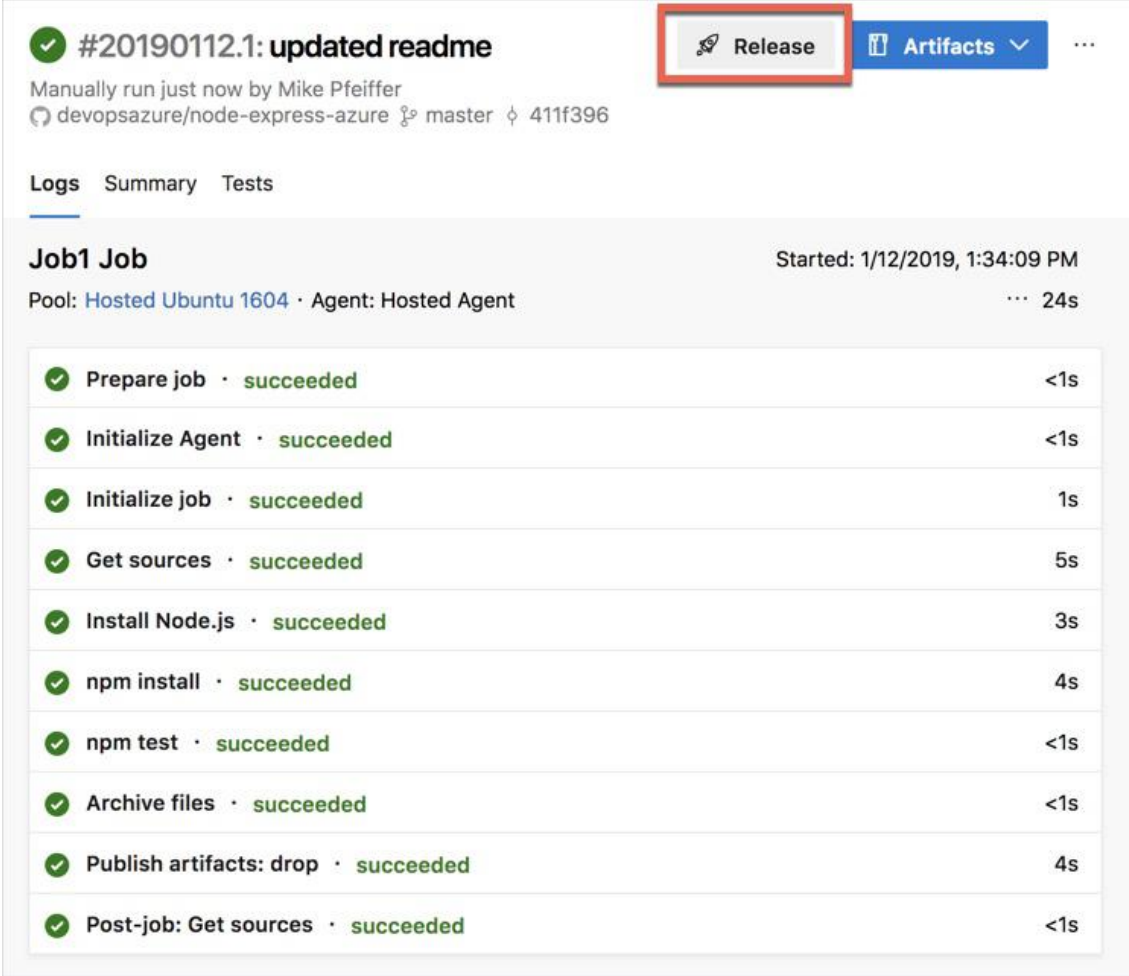


Figure 10. Creating the New Build Pipeline.

The new pipeline wizard should recognize that we already have an `azure-pipelines.yml` in the repository. This file contains all of the settings that the build service should use to build and test our application, as well as generate the output artifacts that will be used to deploy the app later in our release pipeline.

After you click “Run” to kick off your first build, you should see a screen like the one shown in Figure 11.



#20190112.1: updated readme
Manually run just now by Mike Pfeiffer
devopsazure/node-express-azure master 411f396

Release Artifacts

Logs Summary Tests

Job1 Job Started: 1/12/2019, 1:34:09 PM
Pool: Hosted Ubuntu 1604 Agent: Hosted Agent 24s

Prepare job	succeeded	<1s
Initialize Agent	succeeded	<1s
Initialize job	succeeded	1s
Get sources	succeeded	5s
Install Node.js	succeeded	3s
npm install	succeeded	4s
npm test	succeeded	<1s
Archive files	succeeded	<1s
Publish artifacts: drop	succeeded	4s
Post-job: Get sources	succeeded	<1s

Figure 11. Reviewing the Build Status.

Notice that a lot went on with the build. The service used an Ubuntu 16.04 build agent to grab the code from GitHub, installed our development dependencies, and then ran our unit tests to validate the application. Finally, the code was bundled into an output artifact and published so we can use it as an input artifact for our upcoming release pipeline.

Click on the release button at the top of this screen to create a new release pipeline.

Create a Release Pipeline

When you get into the release pipeline screen, you'll need to select a template. For this scenario, we are going to choose “App Service deployment with slot”.

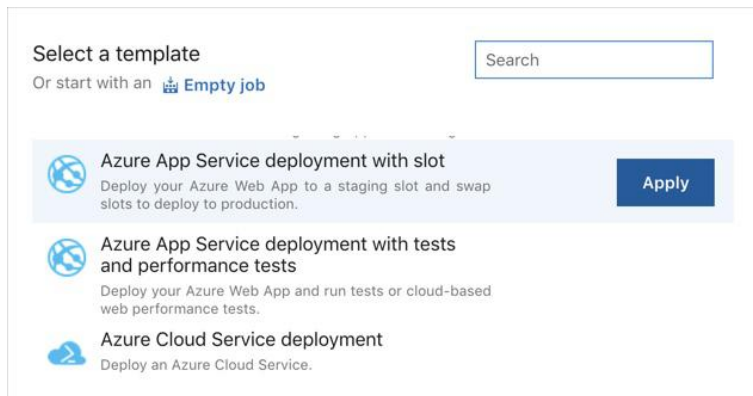


Figure 12. Selecting the Deployment Template.

Click on the apply button to create the new deployment stage within the release pipeline. On the next screen, you'll be able to configure this stage. Change the name to "development" as shown in Figure 13.

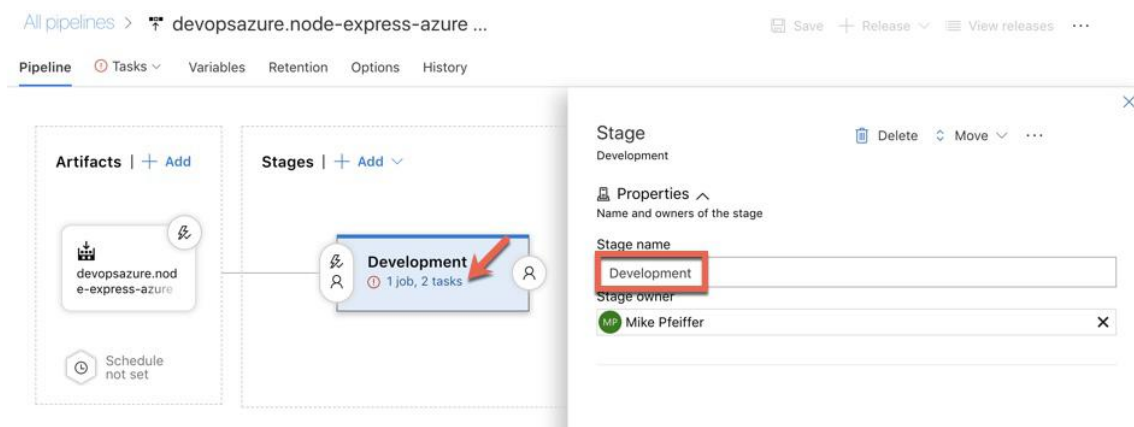


Figure 13. Updating the Development Stage.

While on this screen, click on the link that says "2 tasks" inside your development stage. This will take you to a screen where you can configure the deployment task. Make sure you fill out all the fields as shown in Figure 14.

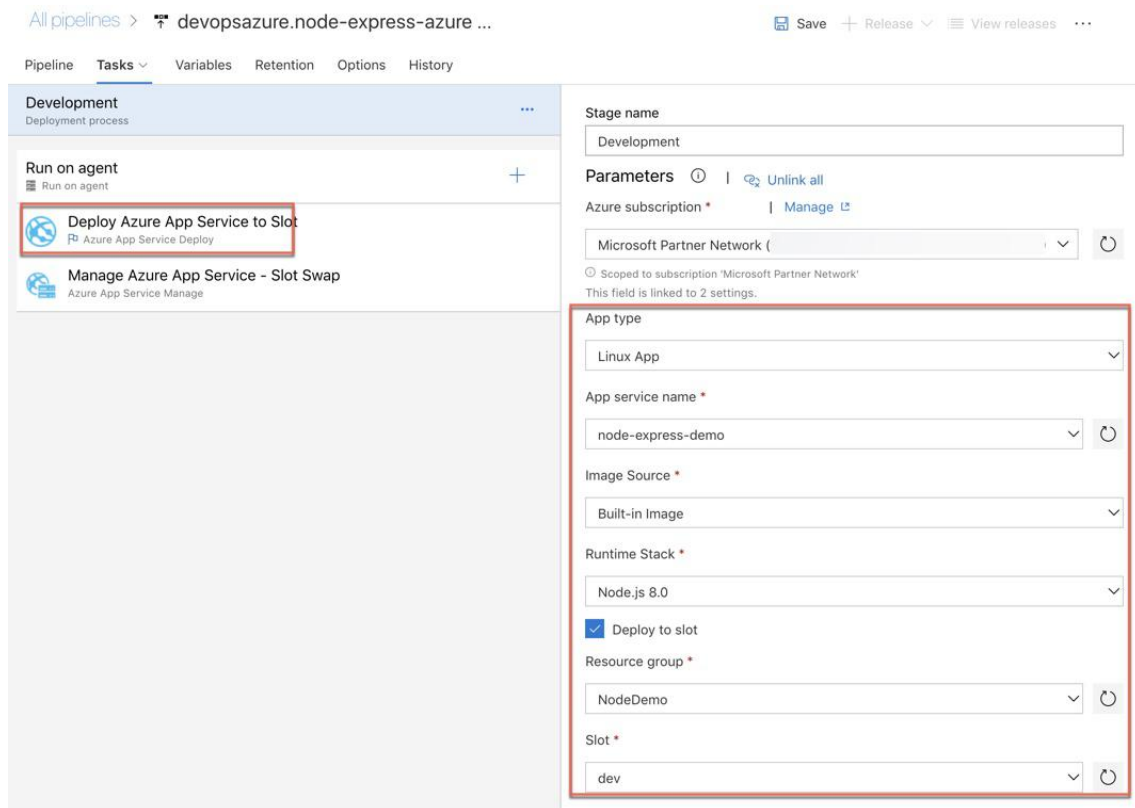


Figure 14. Configuring the Deployment Task.

Next, highlight and remove the second deployment task for swapping the slots.

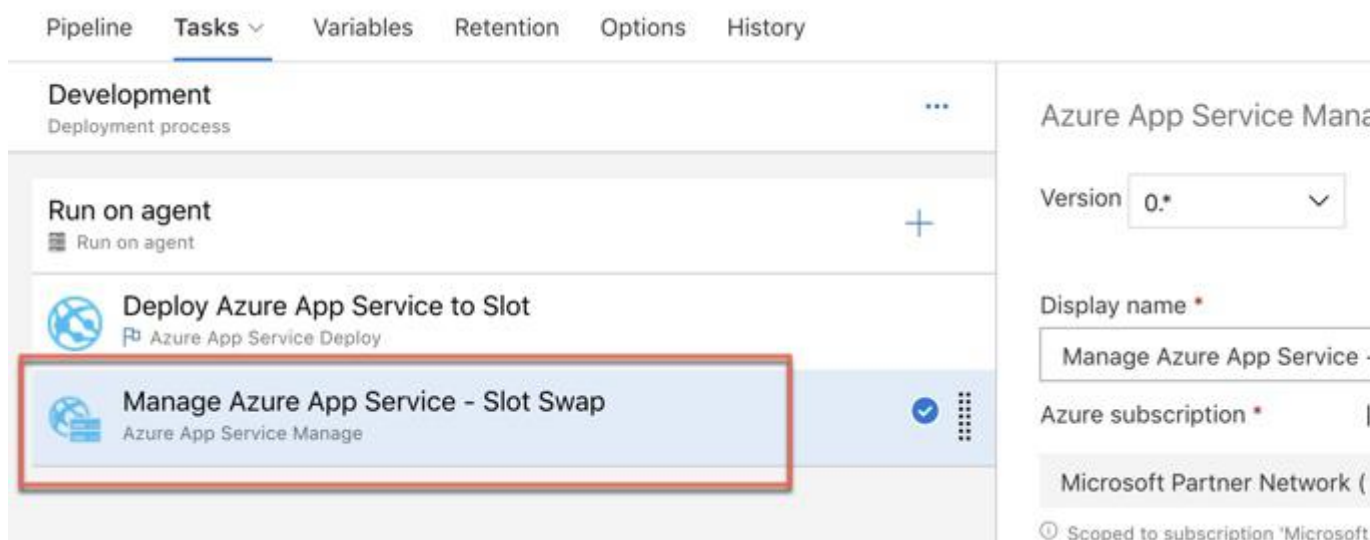


Figure 15. Removing the Slot Swap Task.

Finally, click Save.

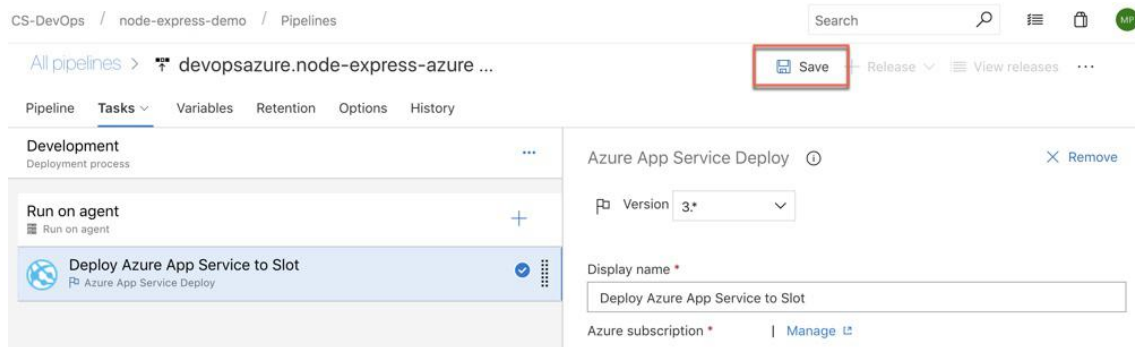


Figure 16. Save the Changes to the Development Stage.

Head back over to the "Pipeline" tab at the top left of the screen. Inspect the deployment triggers for the artifacts as shown in Figure 17.

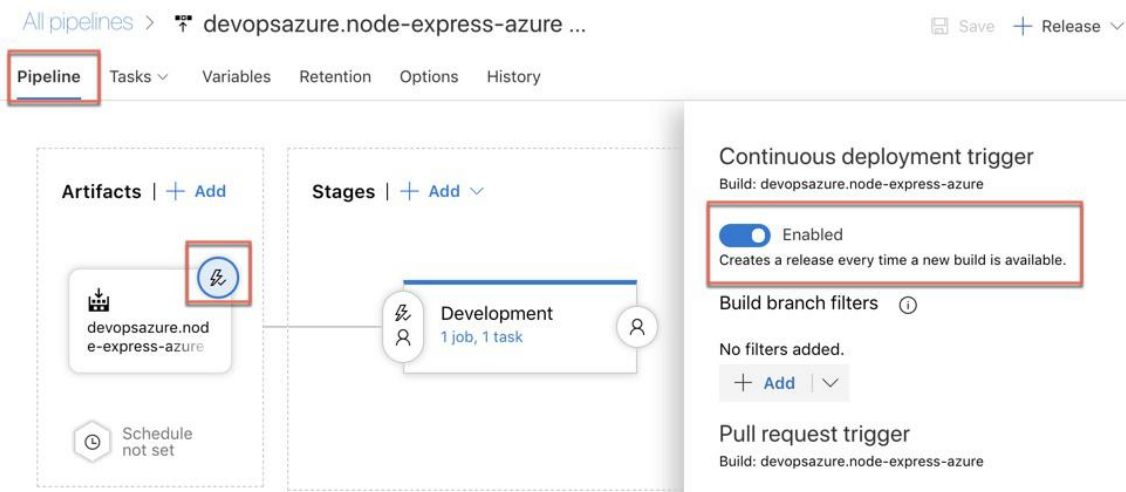


Figure 17. Reviewing the Deployment Trigger.

Notice that continuous deployment is enabled by default. Going forward, each new build will trigger a deployment to our development slot in Azure App Service.

First, let's trigger a manual release.

Create Your First Release to Development

Click the "Release" button on the top right of the release pipeline screen and create a new release. Use the settings as shown in Figure 18.

Create a new release

devopsazure.node-express-azure - CD

Pipeline

Click on a stage to change its trigger from automated to manual.

Development

Stages for a trigger change from automated to manual.

Artifacts

Select the version for the artifact sources for this release

Source alias	Version
devopsazure.node-express-azu...	20190112.1

Release description

Create

Cancel

Figure 18. Triggering a Release.

Click on the "Create" button to deploy the application to the development deployment slot. You should see a successful status in the properties of the release.

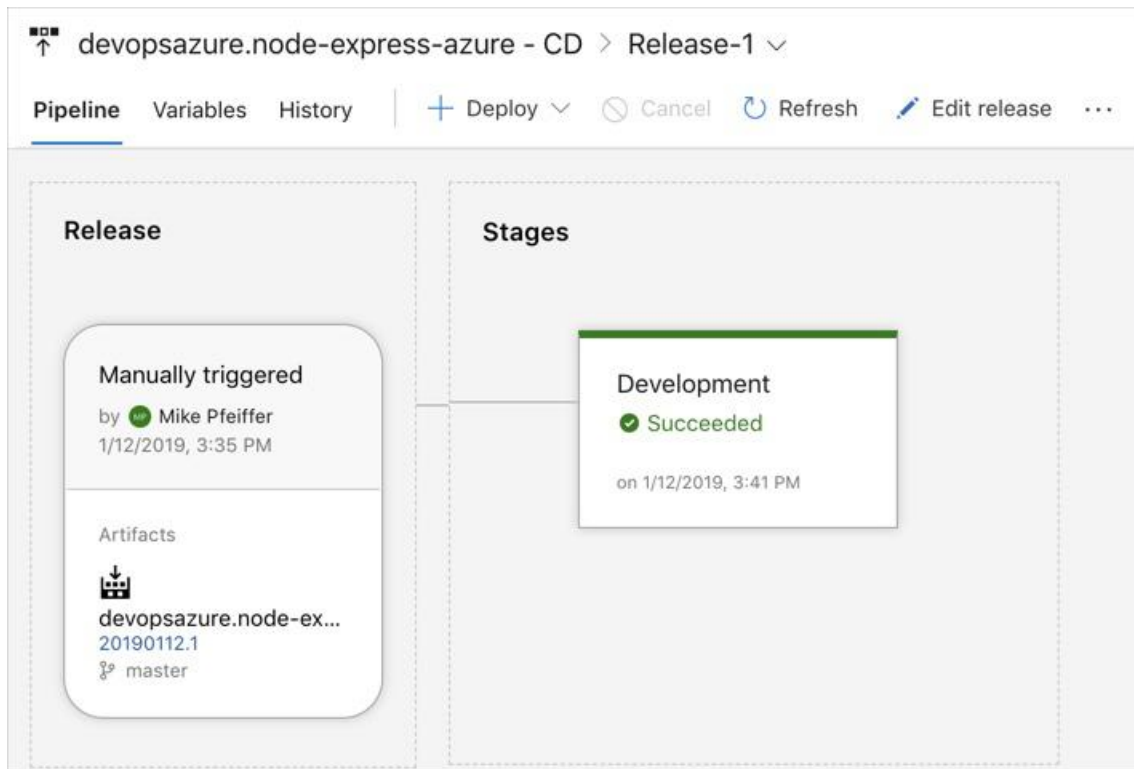


Figure 19. Reviewing the Release Status.

Navigate to the public URL of the "dev" deployment slot in your web browser. The hostname will have "-dev" appended to it. For example, my web app is named "node-express-demo" and the "dev" deployment slot URL is <https://node-express-demo-dev.azurewebsites.net>.

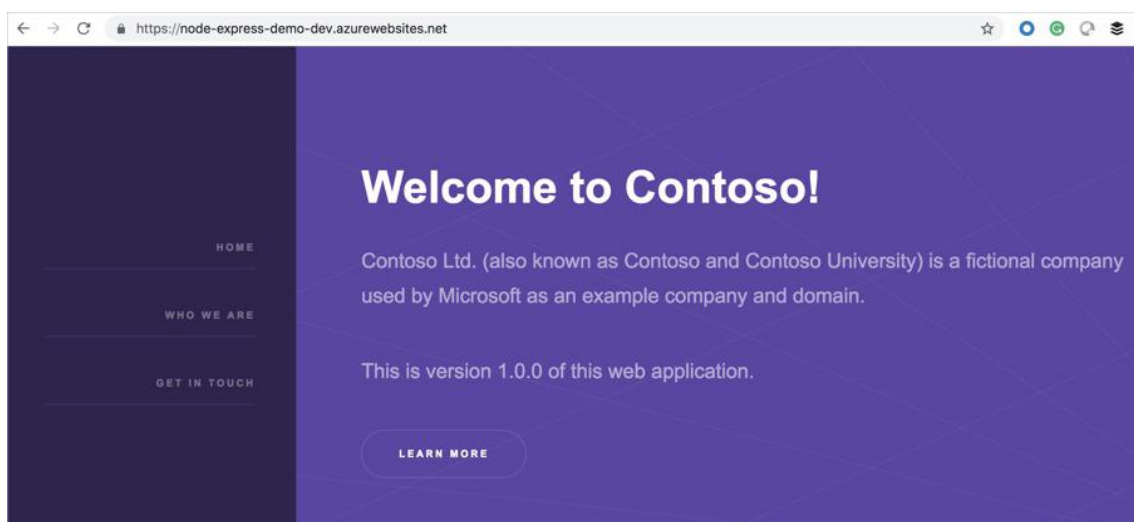


Figure 20. The Demo Node App Running in the "dev" Deployment Slot.

You should see the sample web application when you visit the "dev" slot URL. The production slot will show the default Azure App Service splash page since it is virtually untouched at this point. Let's change that in the next step.

Create a Release Stage for Production

Head back over to the Azure DevOps portal and go to Pipelines > Releases. Click on the "Edit" button to modify the pipeline. Highlight the Development stage and click the dropdown to clone the stage.



Figure 21. Cloning the Development Stage.

Rename the stage to "Production".

Next, click the pre-deployment conditions button for the Production stage. Enable pre-deployment approvals and add yourself as an approver.

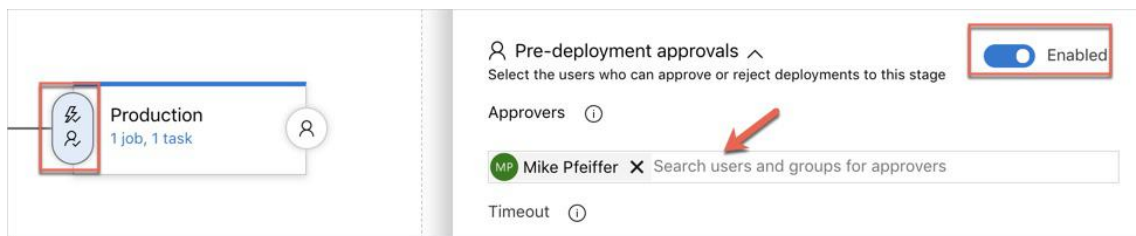


Figure 22. Requiring Approval for Production Deployment.

We're doing this because we don't want automated deployments going straight into production. We're not building a continuous deployment pipeline for production. We're building continuous delivery pipeline.

Continuous delivery is a process that ensures our application is production ready. When we are doing a scheduled deployment we can do so with confidence since we know the application has been through a pipeline of tests before-hand.

Next, click on the "task" link on the Production stage. We need to modify this task so that it does not deploy our code into the development slot.

Save + Release View releases ...

Stage name
Production

Parameters ⓘ | Unlink all

Azure subscription * | Manage

Microsoft Partner Network ✓ ↻

ⓘ Scoped to subscription 'Microsoft Partner Network'

App type
Linux App ▾

App service name *
node-express-demo ▾ ↻

Image Source *
Built-in Image ▾

Runtime Stack *
Node.js 8.0 ▾

☐ Deploy to slot

This field is linked to 1 setting in 'Deploy Azure App Service to Slot'

Figure 23. Updating the Deployment Task.

Simply uncheck "slot" and this will infer that the production slot of the web app should be used during the deployment. Click save when complete.

Validating the Pipeline

Navigate to your GitHub account and into the views folder of the demo application. Edit the index.handlebars file to update the app to version 2.0.0.

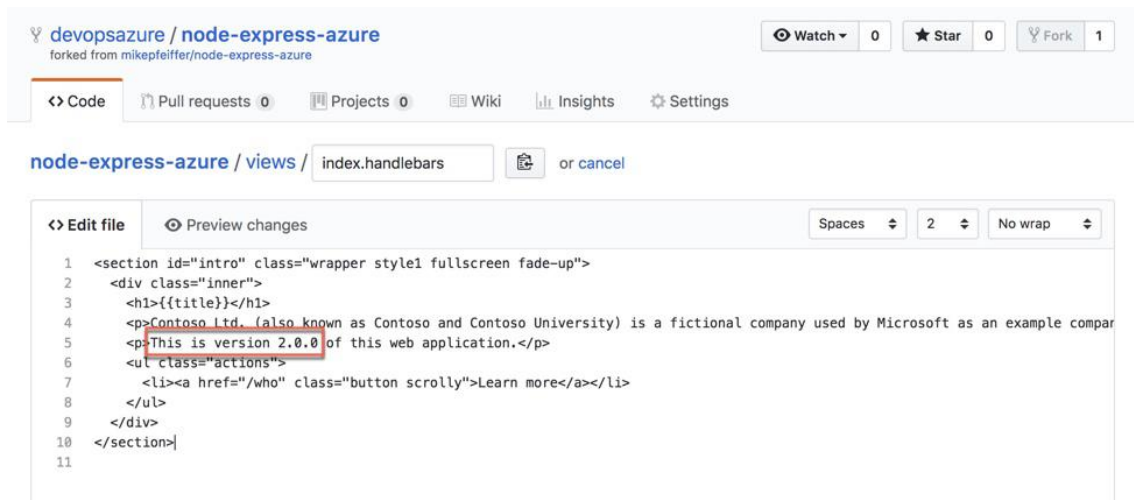


Figure 24. Radically Modifying the Code Base for the App.

Committing the change in this repo should automatically trigger a build, perform our tests, and publish a deployment package. We can confirm this by reviewing the build status.

After the build, you should see a new release. The development stage should be green indicating that the deployment succeeded. The production stage should be blue and show that it's pending approval.

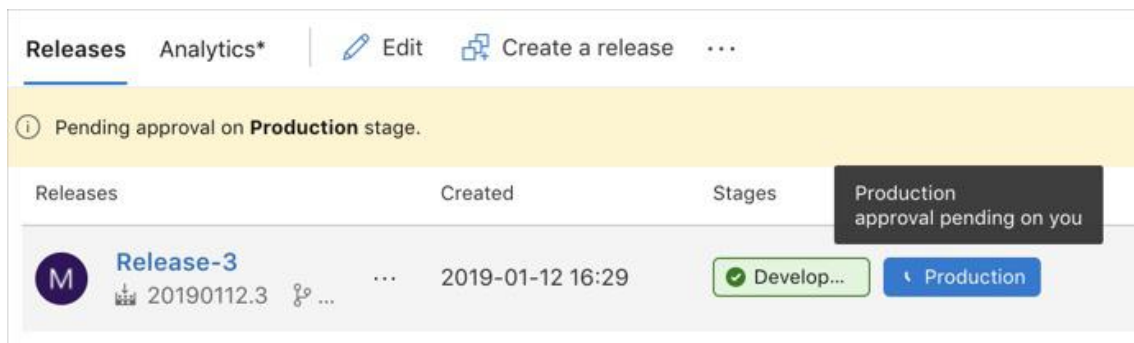


Figure 25. Reviewing the Release Status.

Click approve to kick-off the production deployment.

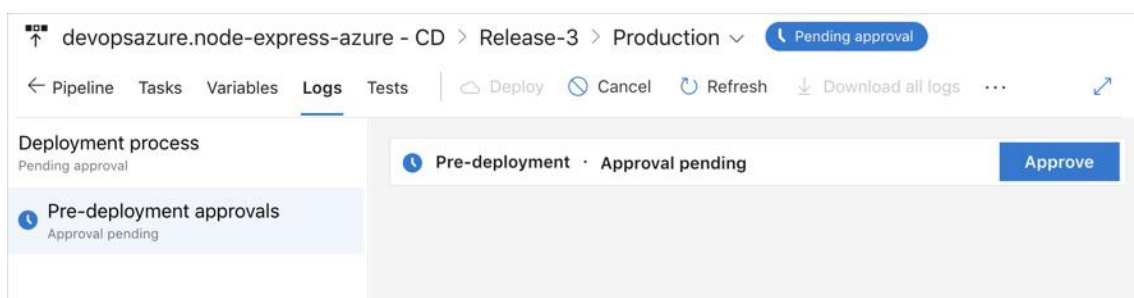


Figure 26. Deploying to Production. Never do this on a Friday!

Go back to your pipeline view and you should see the deployment to production succeeded.

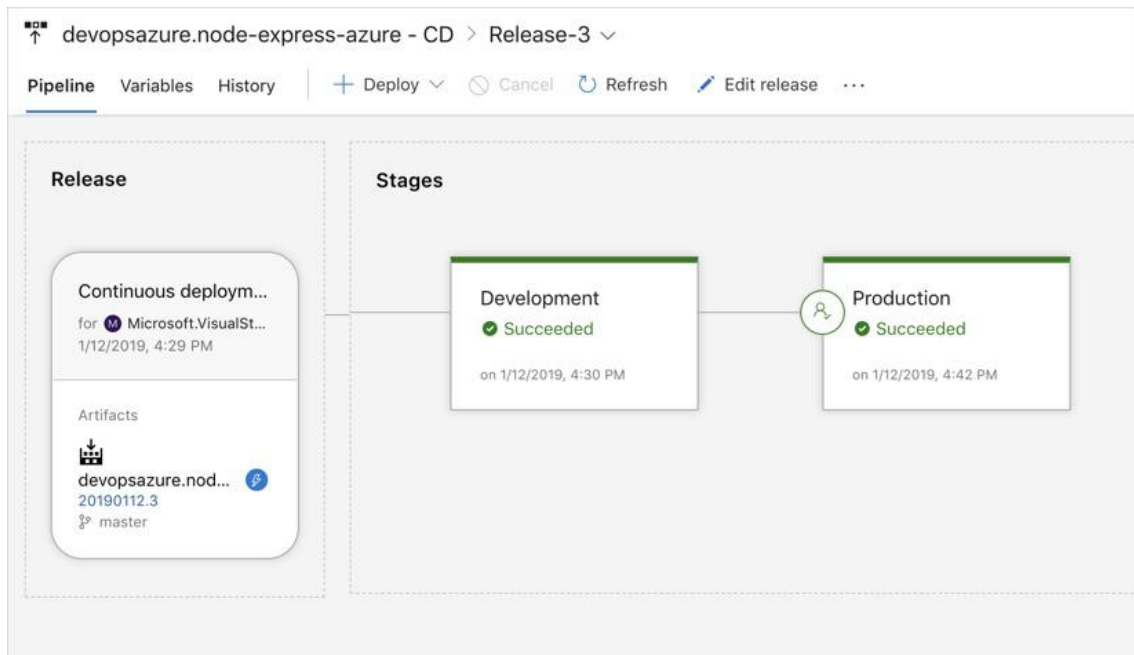


Figure 27. Validating the Status.

Finally, head over to the web app URL for the production slot to confirm the correct version is running.

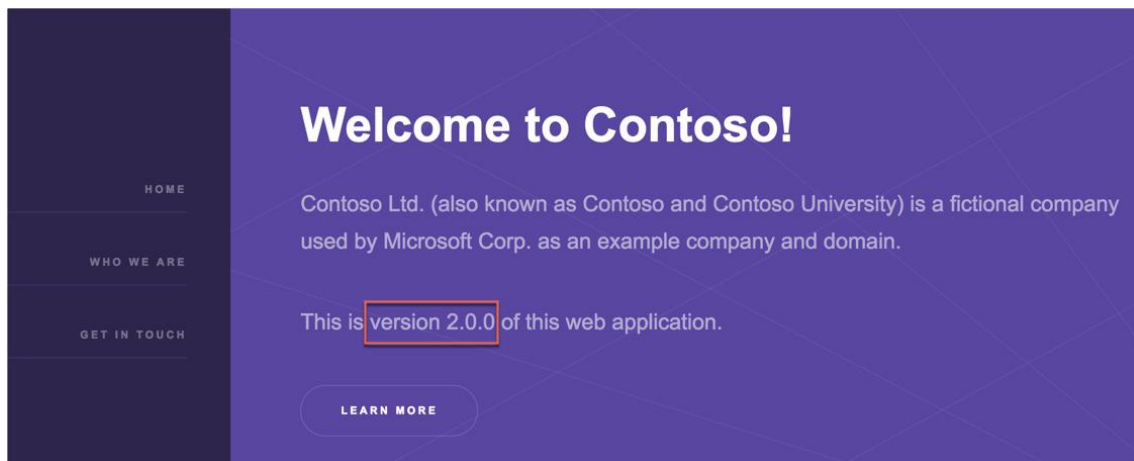


Figure 28. Reviewing the Version.

You should see version 2.0.0 on the homepage.

Set up a Build Badge for Your Project

Have you ever seen those build pass/fail badges when browsing projects on GitHub? They're really cool because you can tell at a glance if the code is still working or if it's old and busted.

Let's setup a badge for this project.

Go back to your Builds section and click the status badge button.

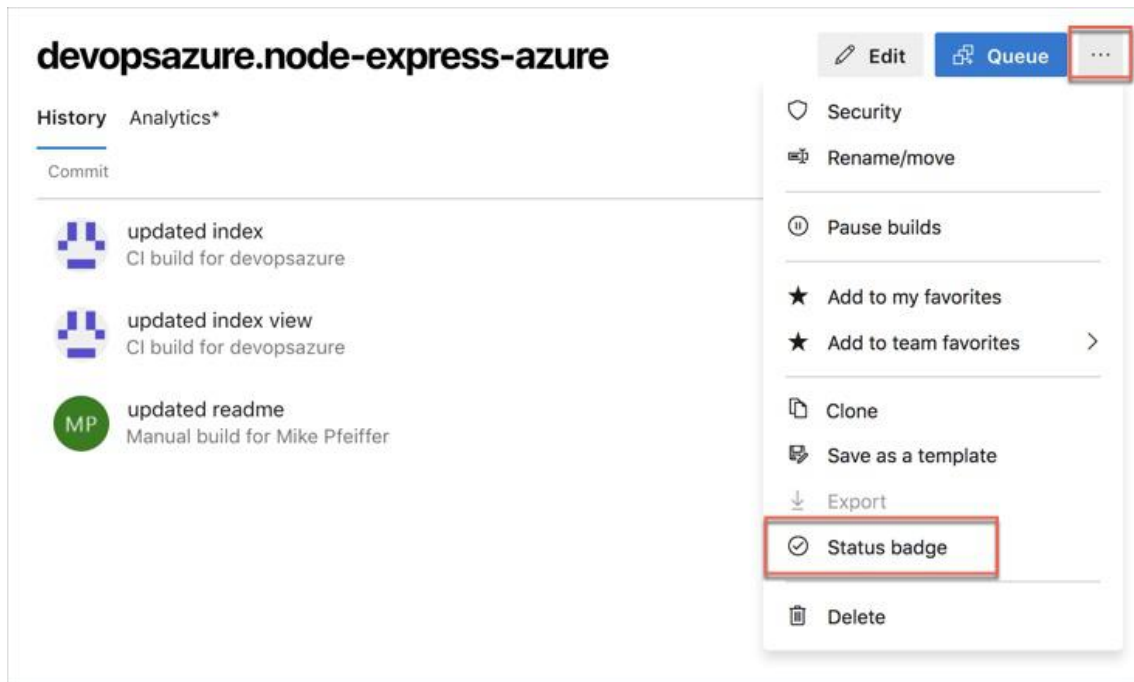


Figure 29. Locating the Status Badge Button.

Copy the markdown code for the status badge.

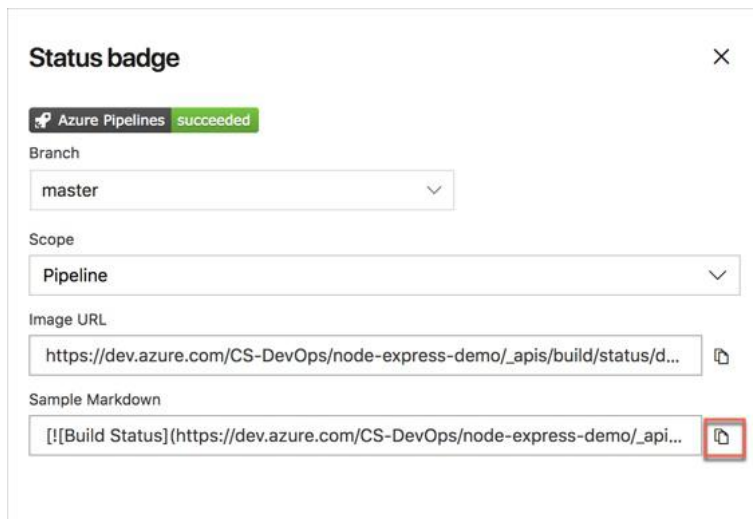


Figure 30. Copying the Markdown.

Now, go back to GitHub and modify the README.md file in your node-express-azure repo. Paste the markdown you copied from the status badge page.

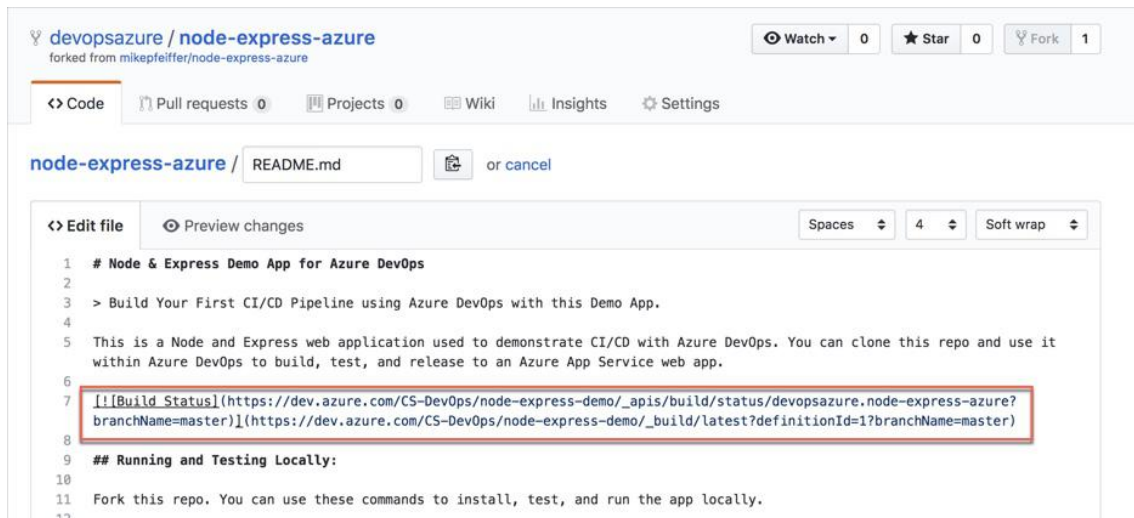


Figure 31. Updating README.md.

Commit the change and view the README. You should see a build passing status icon.

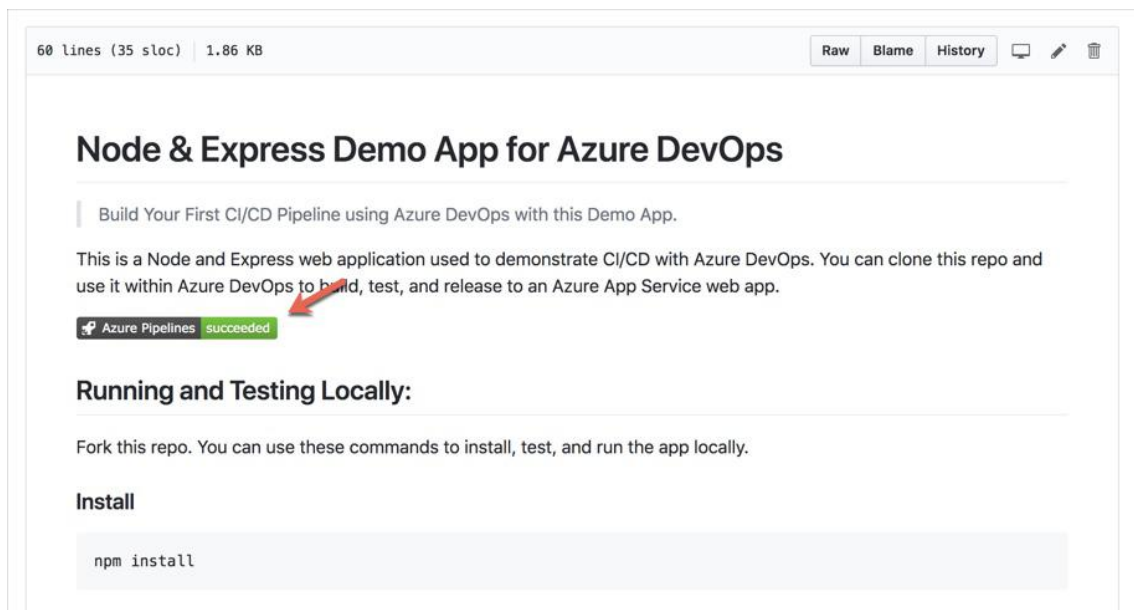


Figure 32. Badge Status Icon in Action.

Create a Release Stage for Production

Head back over to the Azure DevOps portal and go to Pipelines > Releases. Click on the "Edit" button to modify the pipeline. Highlight the Development stage and click the dropdown to clone the stage.