



WorkshopPLUS – Azure: Infrastructure as Code

Module 4 – ARM Templates

Microsoft Services





Section 1

ARM Templates - Overview of Azure Templates

Microsoft Services



Objectives

After completing this learning unit, you will

- Be able to describe what a template is
- The sections of template architecture
- Differences in deployment mechanisms
- Template features

Instructing Azure to build your scenario

- Portal, PowerShell, & Templates achieve the same results
- How to achieve same results wildly varies by tool



Scenario considerations for deciding on the tool

- How many of the same resources are being deployed
- Frequency of updating those resources
- Remediation methods if deployment fails
- Familiarity with resource features
- Ease of destroy & re-deploying resources

Tool comparison for deployment/administration

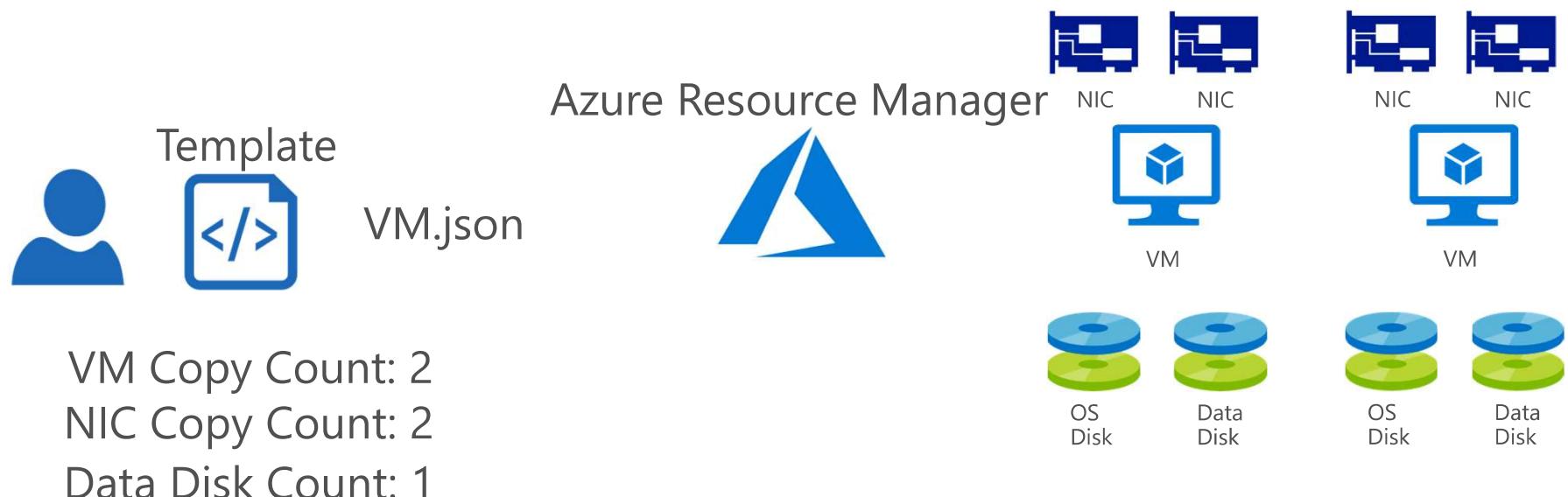
Task / Operation	Portal	PowerShell/CLI	Templates
Learning new resources	Easy, point and click	Moderate, minimal help	Hard, exact syntax
Built-in wizard	Yes, all resources	Minimal	No
Azure documentation	Frequent examples	Less frequent examples	Least frequent examples
Update resources	Adhoc only	Adhoc only	Yes, original code req.
Create multiples of resource	No	No, scripting required	Yes, native capability
Create multiple resource types	Yes, wizard only	No, scripting required	Yes, native capability
Set deployment order	No, wizard only	No, scripting required	Yes, native capability
Resume failed deployments	No, re-deploy only	No, scripting required	Yes, re-push code
Version-control	No	Yes, since it's code	Yes, since it's code
Ability to teardown & re-deploy	No	No	Yes

What are Azure Templates?

- Written in industry standard **JavaScript Object Notation** (JSON)
- Declarative syntax = Describes the end state
I want 3 VMs configured a specific way; then I want 1 VM configured another way
- Integrates with Azure's existing governance structure
The Identity pushing the code is fenced by role-based access control, Policy, etc.
- Works with common source code repository solutions
- Azure Resource Manager ^(ARM) orchestrates the instructions
Example tools that push templates to ARM: Portal, PowerShell, REST API

Template advantages – Iterative/Updatable

- Template updates can be pushed to update environment



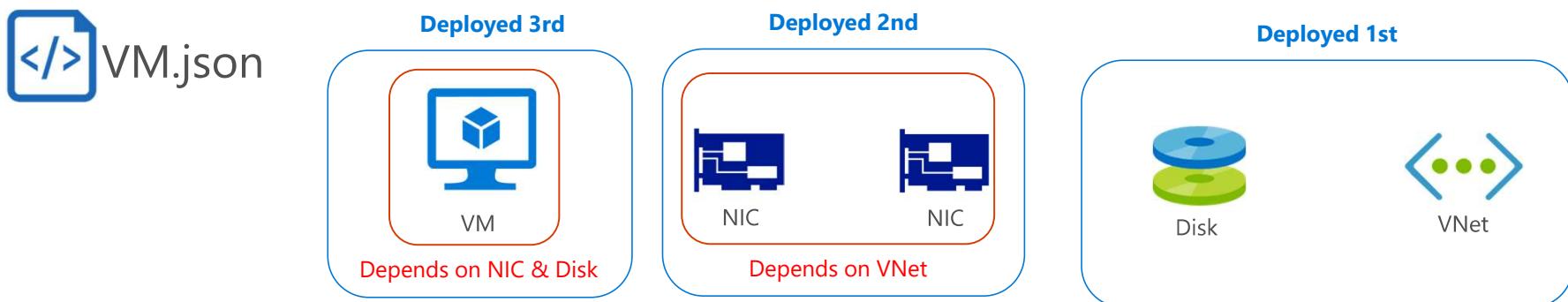
- Remember: The template describes the desired end state

Template advantages – Modular or Specific

- Templates can be flexible & modular or fixed & specific
 - Modular example: generic VM tier whose configuration is decided at deployment
Great for re-using framework, but authoring the parameter input takes longer
 - Modular real life: **X** count of VMs with **Y** count of disks on **Z** virtual network
 - Specific example: Solution describes the full end to end server-side environment
Great for deploying a replica of an end state with faster turnaround
 - Specific real life: Deploy a SharePoint solution in many environments
- All resources in a template are deployed into the same resource group or subscription

Templates – Deployment order / Dependencies

- No need to write deployment order as serial code
PowerShell serial code: **T**op of code-first to deploy; **B**ottom of code-last to deploy
- Code dictates deployment order by stating dependencies
 - Template example: VM depends on the NIC which depends on the Vnet
 - Only resources from the same template should be defined as dependencies
- All Resources are deployed at the same time
Dependencies are deployed first in the “at the same time” parallel manner



Template advantages – Teardown

- Deployment options can state to remove anything existing that's not in the template at the scope it's deployed to
Great for removing previous builds



- Remember: This is a destructive action, use carefully

Template Structure

```
{  
  "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#",  
    States if you're performing a resource group or a subscription scope of deployment  
  "contentVersion": "",  
    Your version of the template, it has no bearing on the actual deployment  
  "parameters": { },  
    The only values that are end user provided which customize the deployment on execution  
  "variables": { },  
    Constructed values that can reduce complex expressions  
  "functions": [ ],  
    User-defined functions that are available as expressions within the template.  
  "resources": [ ],  
    Resource types that are deployed or updated in a resource group or subscription  
  "outputs": { }  
    Values that are returned after deployment  
}
```

Template Structure - Parameters

```
"parameters": {  
    "<parameter-name>" : {  
        "type" : <string, securestring, int, bool, object, secureObject, array>  
        "defaultValue": "<default-value-of-parameter>",  
        "allowedValues": [ "<array-of-allowed-values>" ],  
        "minValue": <minimum-value-for-int>,  
        "maxValue": <maximum-value-for-int>,  
        "minLength": <minimum-length-for-string-or-array>,  
        "maxLength": <maximum-length-for-string-or-array-parameters>,  
        "metadata": {  
            "description": "<description-of-the parameter>"  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Template Structure – Parameters - Example

```
"parameters": {  
    "AzureRegion": {  
        "type": "string",  
        "defaultValue": "EastUS",  
        "allowedValues": ["EastUS", "WestUS", "CentralUS"],  
        "metadata": {  
            "description": "Azure region to deploy to"  
        }  
    },  
    "VMCount": {  
        "type": "int",  
        "defaultValue": "1",  
        "maxLength": 5,  
        "metadata": {  
            "description": "Number of VMs to deploy"  
        }  
    },  
},
```

Template Structure – Variables - Example

```
"variables": {  
    "GeneralName": "[concat(parameters('Department'), parameters('Application'))]",  
    "VMName": "[toLowerCase(variables('GeneralName'))]"  
},
```

Template – Sample – Hard Coded

```
{  
  "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#",  
  "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",  
  "parameters": {},  
  "variables": {},  
  "resources": [  
    {  
      "apiVersion": "2018-10-01",  
      "type": "Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks",  
      "name": "Engineering-vnet",  
      "location": "EastUS",  
      "properties": {  
        "addressSpace": {  
          "addressPrefixes": ["10.10.10.0/24"]  
        }  
      }  
    }],  
  "outputs": {}  
}
```

{ Template – Sample – Modernized

```
$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#",
"contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",
"parameters": {
    "Department": {
        "type": "string"
    },
    "VnetAddressPrefix": {
        "type": "string"
    }
},
"variables": {
    "VnetName": "[concat(parameters('Department'), '-vnet')]"
},
"resources": [
    {
        "apiVersion": "2018-10-01",
        "type": "Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks",
        "name": "[variables('VnetName')]",
        "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",
        "properties": {
            "addressSpace": {
                "addressPrefixes": "[parameters('VnetAddressPrefix')]"
            }
        }
    }
],
"outputs": {}
```

Lab: Deployments

Create a VM in Azure Portal
then explore & deploy its
template



Knowledge Check

- What template section has values inputted at time of deployment?

Parameters

- What are examples of template functions?

- String: length, concat, toLower
- Resource: resourceGroup, resourceId
- Numeric: add, min, max
- <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-resource-manager/resource-group-template-functions>

- Where can JSON code be stored?

Any source code repository tool such as Azure DevOps, Subversion, & GitHub



Section 2

IntelliSense & Template Functions

Microsoft Services



Objectives

- Learn how to efficiently write ARM templates
- Leverage IntelliSense and snippets in VS Code
- Understand functions available in ARM templates

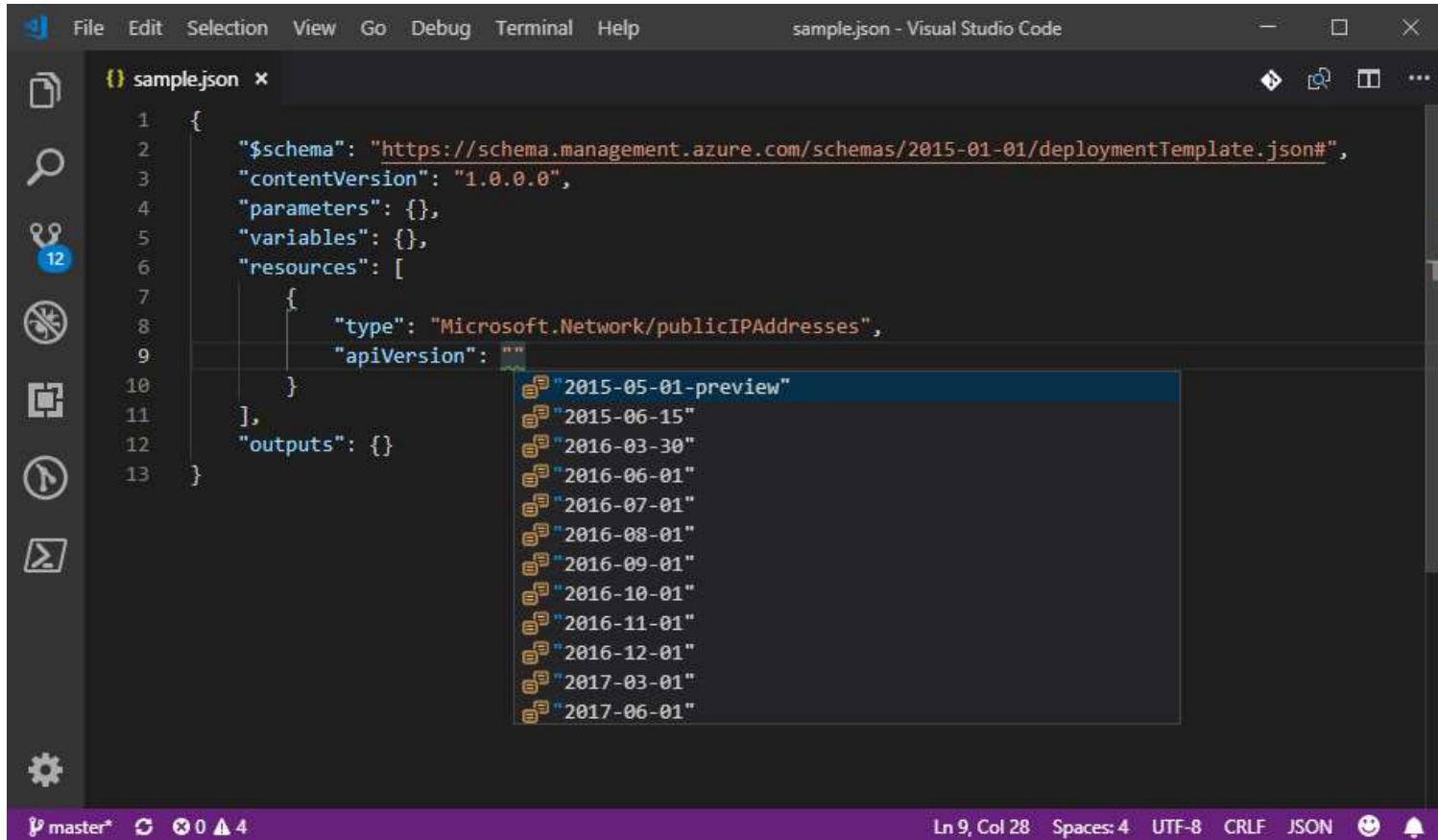
IntelliSense in VS Code

- IntelliSense is built into VS Code
- Offers suggestions while building JSON template
- Calls ARM API for core suggestions out of the box
- VS Code extensions enhance suggestions

[Azure Resource Manager Tools](#) extension adds IntelliSense for:

- Template Language Expression (TLE) function names
- Parameter & Variable references
- `resourceGroup()` & `subscription()` properties
- Properties of references to variables that are objects

Native IntelliSense in VS Code



A screenshot of the Visual Studio Code interface, showing the file `sample.json`. The code is a JSON object representing an Azure deployment template. The cursor is positioned at line 9, column 28, under the `"apiVersion": "` part of the `publicIPAddresses` resource definition. A dropdown menu is open, displaying a list of valid `apiVersion` values, each preceded by a small orange square icon. The list includes:

- 2015-05-01-preview
- 2015-06-15
- 2016-03-30
- 2016-06-01
- 2016-07-01
- 2016-08-01
- 2016-09-01
- 2016-10-01
- 2016-11-01
- 2016-12-01
- 2017-03-01
- 2017-06-01

The interface shows standard VS Code UI elements like the sidebar, status bar, and bottom navigation bar.

```
1 {  
2     "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#",  
3     "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",  
4     "parameters": {},  
5     "variables": {},  
6     "resources": [  
7         {  
8             "type": "Microsoft.Network/publicIPAddresses",  
9             "apiVersion": ""  
10        }  
11    ],  
12    "outputs": {}  
13 }
```

Enhanced IntelliSense in VS Code

The screenshot shows a Visual Studio Code window with a dark theme. The file being edited is named "sample.json". The JSON code defines a schema for an Azure deployment template. The "parameters" section contains two properties: "ipName" and "ipType", both of type "string". The "resources" section contains an array of objects, each representing a public IP address resource. The "name" field of one resource object is highlighted with a red bracket, and the "parameters('')" placeholder is shown. A tooltip from the enhanced IntelliSense feature is displayed, listing the available parameters: "ipName" and "ipType". The status bar at the bottom shows the file path "sample.json - Visual Studio Code", the current line and column "Ln 17, Col 35", and the file encoding "UTF-8".

```
1 {  
2     "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#",  
3     "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",  
4     "parameters": {  
5         "ipName": {  
6             "type": "string"  
7         },  
8         "ipType": {  
9             "type": "string"  
10        }  
11    },  
12    "variables": {},  
13    "resources": [  
14        {  
15            "type": "Microsoft.Network/publicIPAddresses",  
16            "apiVersion": "2018-08-01",  
17            "name": "[parameters('')]"  
18        }  
19    ],  
20    "outputs": {}  
21}
```

Snippets in VS Code

- Snippets quickly insert common code blocks
- Customizable in JSON format
- ARM template snippet samples available:
 - GitHub repository: [Azure/azure-xplat-arm-tooling](https://github.com/Azure/azure-xplat-arm-tooling)
 - VS Code Extension: [Azure Resource Manager Snippets](https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=ms-azuretools.azure-resource-manager-snippets)

Snippets in VS Code

```
{  
  "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deployments.json#"  
  "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",  
  "parameters": {},  
  "variables": {},  
  "resources": [  
    | arm-ip  
  ],  
  "outputs": [  
    | arm-ip-prefix  
    | arm-script-linux  
    | arm-script-windows  
    | arm-dbimp  
    | arm-logic-app  
    | arm-applicaiton-security-group  
    | arm-log-analytics-workspace  
    | arm-vpn-vnet-connection  
  ]  
}
```



```
{  
  "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deployments.json#",  
  "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",  
  "parameters": {},  
  "variables": {},  
  "resources": [  
    {  
      "type": "Microsoft.Network/publicIPAddresses",  
      "apiVersion": "2018-08-01",  
      "name": "IPAddress1",  
      "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",  
      "tags": {  
        "displayName": "IPAddress1"  
      },  
      "properties": {  
        "publicIPAllocationMethod": "Dynamic",  
        "dnsSettings": {  
          "domainNameLabel": "DNS_NAME"  
        }  
      }  
    }  
  ]  
}
```

ARM Template Functions

- Functions are used to dynamically generate values
- Expressions evaluated at time of deployment
- Manipulate string, integer, arrays and objects
- Return values from Azure resources
- Comparison and logical functions to evaluate values

ARM Template Functions - Concat

```
{  
    "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#",  
    "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",  
    "parameters": {  
        "projectName": {  
            "type": "string",  
            "defaultValue": "Contosoweb"  
        }  
    },  
    "variables": {},  
    "resources": [],  
    "outputs": {  
        "concatOutput": {  
            "value": "[concat(parameters('projectName'), '-', resourceGroup().location)]",  
            "type": "string"  
        }  
    }  
}
```



Name	Type	Value
concatOutput	String	Contosoweb-eastus

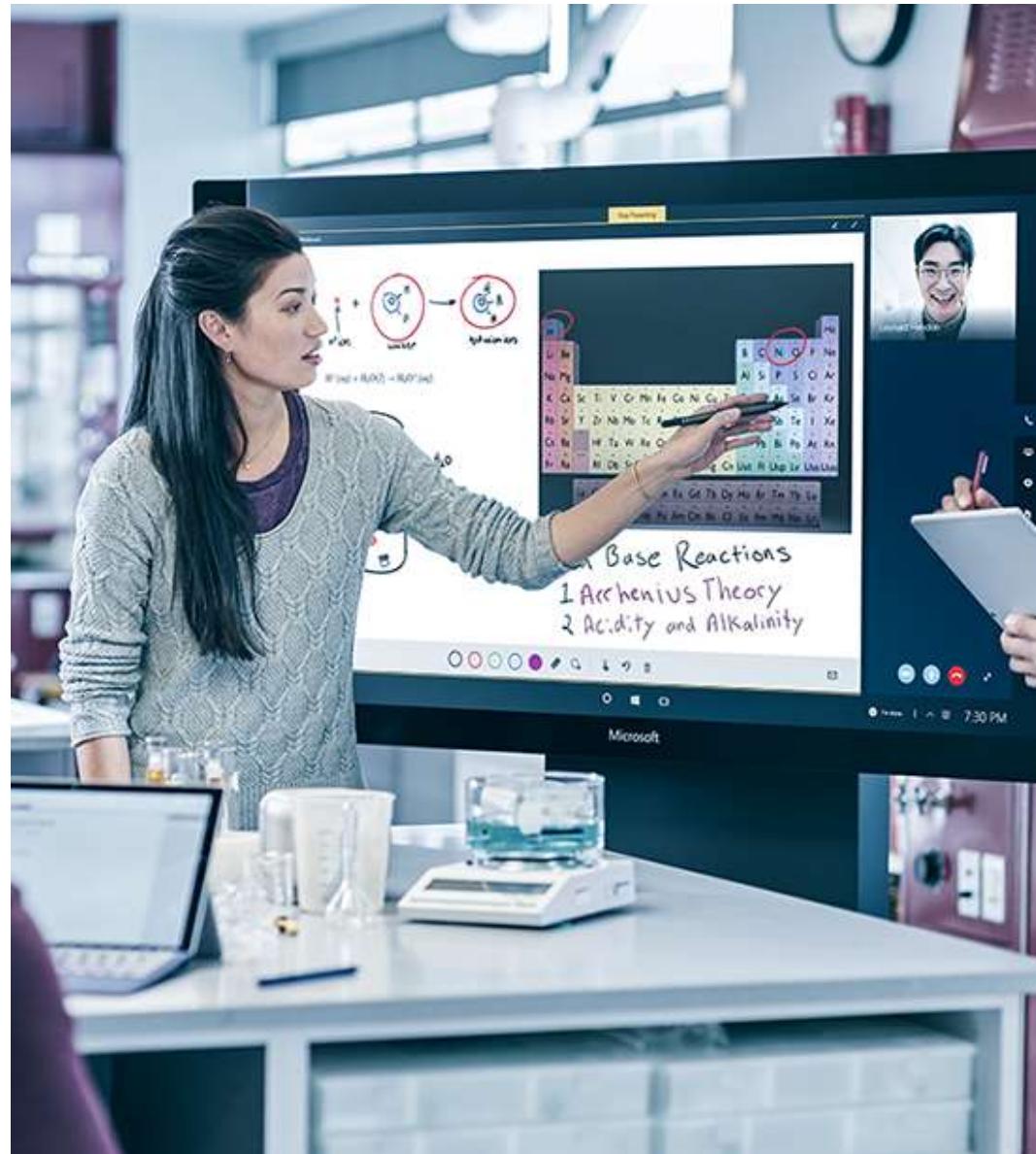
ARM Template Functions - UniqueString

```
{  
    "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#",  
    "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",  
    "parameters": {},  
    "variables": {},  
    "resources": [],  
    "outputs": {  
        "uniqueValue": {  
            "value": "[concat('storage', '-', uniqueString(subscription().subscriptionId))]",  
            "type": "string"  
        }  
    }  
}
```



Name	Type	Value
uniqueValue	String	storage-5wmrk44e5a4p4

Lab: IntelliSense & Template Functions



Knowledge Check

- Does Visual Studio Code offer IntelliSense for ARM templates?
- How do snippets help improve development efficiency?
- What are some options to make ARM templates more dynamic?



Section 3

ARM Templates - Common deployment methods & deployment order

Microsoft Services



Objectives

After completing this learning unit, you will

- Describe mechanisms for providing Parameters
- Understand a parameter template structure
- Comprehend Linking and nesting templates
- Demonstrate deployment order

Templates & Parameters – Being pushed to ARM

- Both Template & Parameter in file, code, or URI links can be pushed to ARM. All achieve the same results.
- The method of push can be different for both Template and Parameter
- Examples:
 - Static template URI + parameters coded as PowerShell arguments
 - Static template URI + unique parameter URI
 - Static template file + unique parameter file

Pushing templates to Azure Resource Manager

- Methods: File, URI, Object/Hashtable
 - `New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -TemplateFile "C:\temp\azureddeploy.json" [...]`
 - `New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -TemplateUri "https://contoso.com/azureddeploy.json" [...]`
 - `New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -TemplateObject $TemplateHashTable`

Pushing parameters to Azure Resource Manager

- Methods: File, URI, Object/Hashtable, Code Arguments
 - `New-AzResourceGroupDeployment`
 - `TemplateParameterUri`
`https://contoso.com/template.parameters.json [...]`
 - `TemplateParameterObject $params [...]`
 - `VMName "MyVM"`
`DataDiskCount "1" [...]`
 - Remember: Parameters are just answers for Templates

Template Parameter Structure – File Example

- Content of parameter file

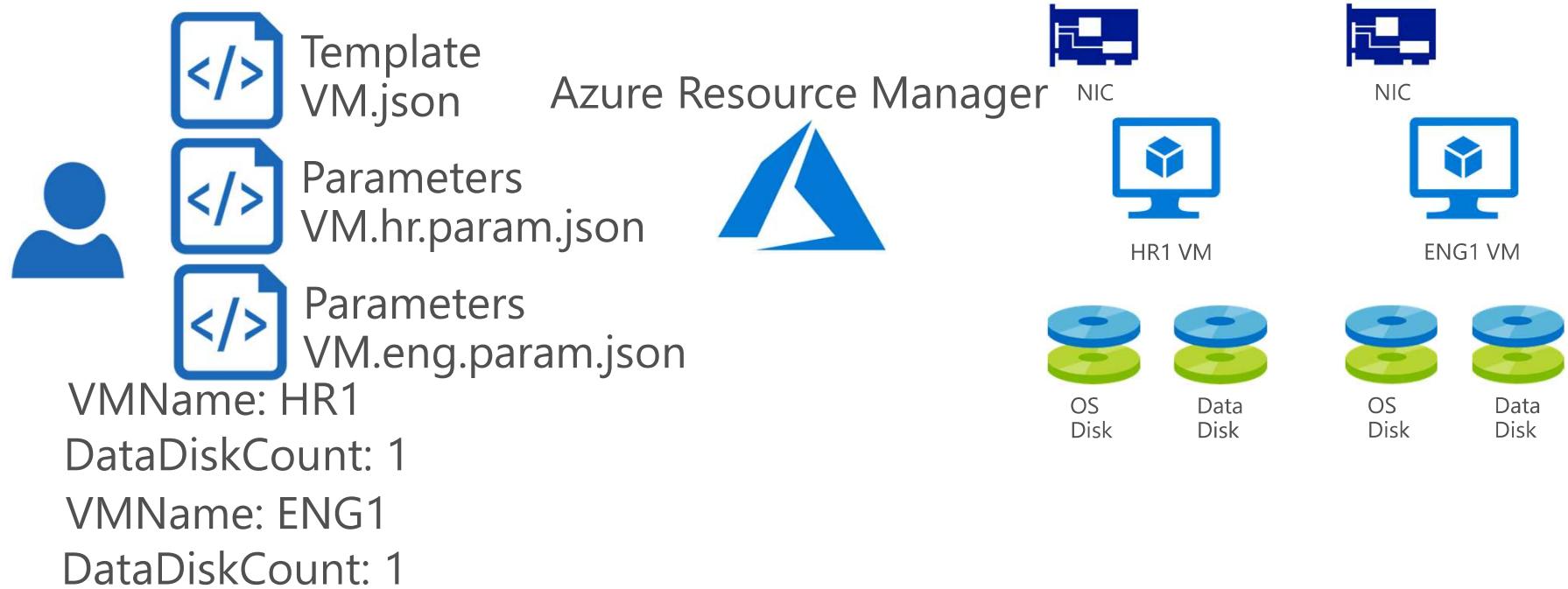
```
{  
  "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentParameters.json#",  
  "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",  
  "parameters": {  
    "VMName": {  
      "value": "HR1"  
    },  
    "DataDiskCount": {  
      "value": "1"  
    }  
  }  
}
```

- PowerShell command to deploy template file with parameter file

```
New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -TemplateFile "C:\temp\template.json"  
-TemplateParameterFile "C:\temp\template.parameters.json" [...]
```

Template reuse – just change parameters!

- 1-time use templates are inefficient, code for reusability!



How many templates are needed?

- Single templates
 - Ideal for: Small solutions, testing with resource types, long term minimal changes
 - Example: SCCM instance
- Multiple templates
 - Ideal for: Large solutions, modern enterprises, & compartmentalized teams
 - Examples
 - Need to deploy to multiple resource groups
 - Setting up base environment, like virtual network, log analytics, etc
 - Team responsibility: Database, Cyber Security, System Administrators
 - Conditions – such as, only deploy if statement is true

Nested & Linked Templates

- Nested templates: Template's code is embedded in a parent template as a resource. (A template within a template)
Parameters and variables can only come from the parent template
- Linked templates – A resource in a parent template that kicks off an independent deployment via URI
Parameters and variables can be defined from the parent template OR a separate parameter file URI

Nested and Linked Templates – code example

```
{  
  "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#",  
  "contentVersion": "",  
  "parameters": { },  
  "variables": { },  
  "functions": [ ],  
  "resources": [  
    {  
      "type": "Microsoft.Resources/deployments",  
      "apiVersion": "2018-05-01",  
      "name": "ChildTemplate",  
      "properties": {  
        "mode": "Incremental",  
        [...]  
      }  
    }  
  ],  
  "outputs": { }}
```

Minor code difference to
distinguish nested or linked

Nested Template – code example

```
"resources": [  
{  
  "type": "Microsoft.Resources/deployments",  
  "apiVersion": "2018-05-01",  
  "name": "nestedTemplate",  
  "properties": {  
    "mode": "Incremental",  
    "template": {  
      "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#",  
      "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",  
      "resources": [  
        {  
          "type": "Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts",  
          "apiVersion": "2018-07-01",  
          "name": "[variables('storageName')]",  
          "location": "West US",  
          "properties": {  
            "accountType": "Standard_LRS"  
          }  
        ]  
      ]  
    }  
  }  
}
```

Parent resource indicating a nested or linked template

Indicates a nested template

The same contents of a typical template but without parameters, variables, or outputs

Linked Template – code example

```
"resources": [  
{  
    "type": "Microsoft.Resources/deployments",  
    "apiVersion": "2018-05-01",  
    "name": "linkedTemplate",  
    "properties": {  
        "mode": "Incremental",  
        "templateLink": {  
            "uri": "https://storageacct.blob.core.windows.net/newStorageAccount.json",  
            "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0"  
        },  
        "parametersLink": {  
            "uri": "https://storageacct.blob.core.windows.net/Templates/newStorageAccount.parameters.json",  
            "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0"  
        }  
    [...]
```

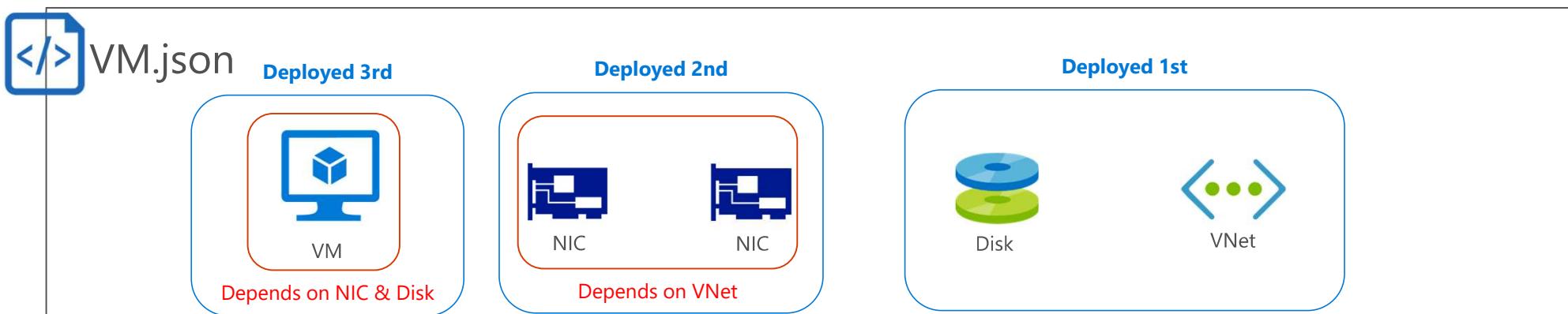
Parent resource indicating a nested or linked template

Indicates a linked template

Links to the template and parameter URIs

Templates – Deployment order / Dependencies

- No need to write deployment order as serial code
PowerShell serial code: **T**op of code-first to deploy; **B**ottom of code-last to deploy
- Code dictates deployment order by stating dependencies
 - Template example: VM depends on the NIC which depends on the Vnet
 - Only resources from the same template should be defined as dependencies
- All Resources are deployed at the same time
Dependencies are deployed first in the “at the same time” parallel manner



Templates – Deployment Order - Code

```
"resources": [  
{  
    "type": "Microsoft.Network/networkInterfaces",  
    "apiVersion": "2018-11-01",  
    "name": "[variables('nicName')]",  
    "location": "[parameters('location')]",  
    "dependsOn": [ ←  
        "[resourceId('Microsoft.Network/publicIPAddresses/', variables('publicIPAddressName'))]",  
        "[variables('virtualNetworkName')]"  
    ], [...]
```

Defines that this resource has dependencies that must be deployed first

↑ The dependency resources must be uniquely identified such as by their name or resourceId. They must also be deployed in the same template

- Linked and nested template resources can also be defined as dependencies
Example: Deploy Virtual Network linked template resource before deploying a VM & NIC

Lab: Deployment Methods

Deploy templates a variety of ways



Knowledge Check

- What is the difference between a nested and linked template?
 - Linked templates are resource deployments whose template and parameters are separate URI files.
 - Nested templates are resource deployments whose entire template contents are in-line as part of the parent template. The parameters must come from the parent template.



Section 4

Copy element & copyIndex() function

Microsoft Services



Objectives

- Learn how to efficiently create multiple instances of a resource, property or variable

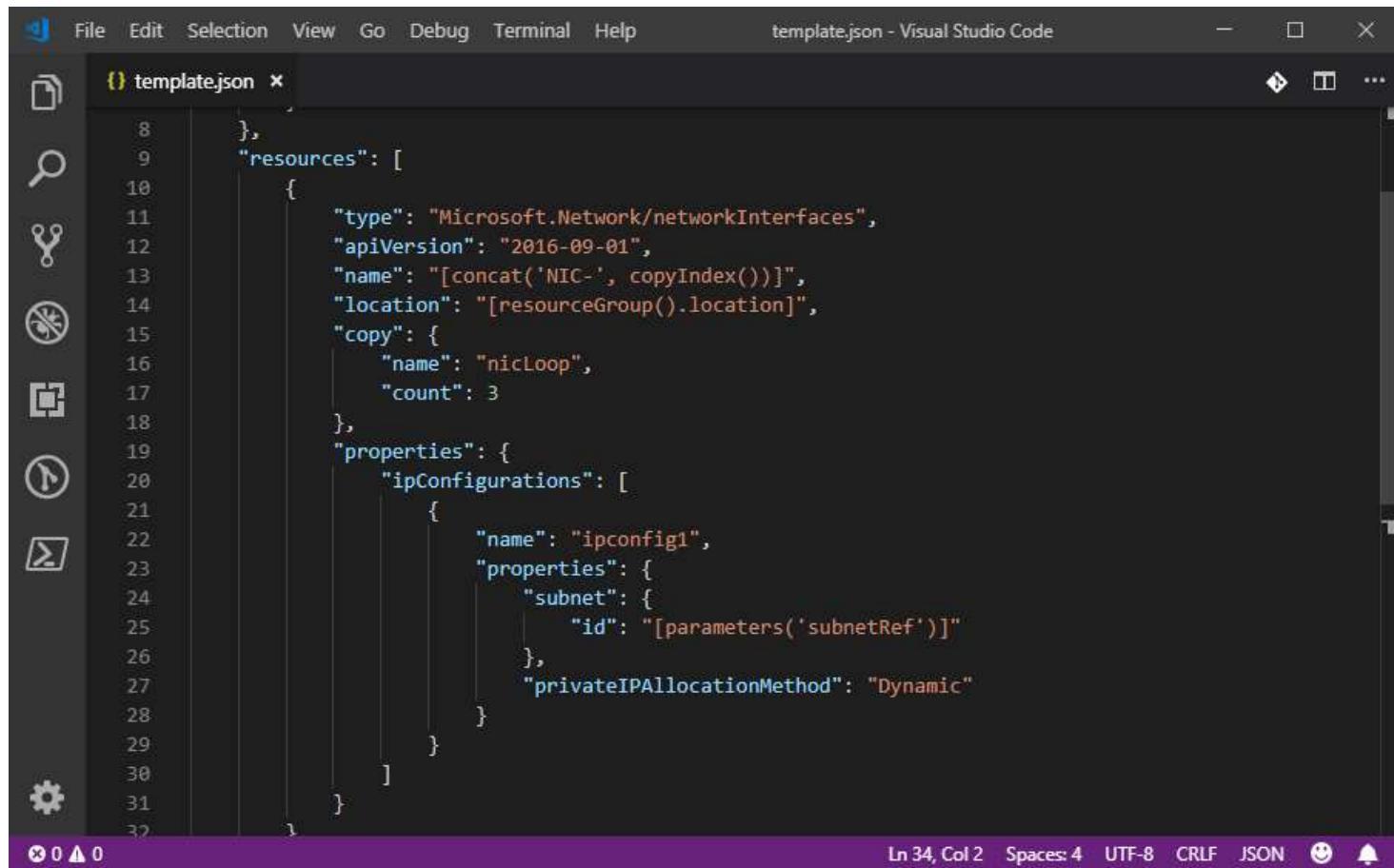
Overview

- Copy loops simplify multiple instance creation
- ARM templates can run a copy loop for:
 - Resources
 - Properties
 - Variables
- Up to 800 copies

copyIndex() function

- Returns the index of an iteration loop
- Can be used to create dynamic name
- Can be used to return values from an array
- Has two optional parameters:
 - loopName - The name of the loop for getting the iteration.
 - offset - The number to add to the zero-based iteration value.

Resource Iteration

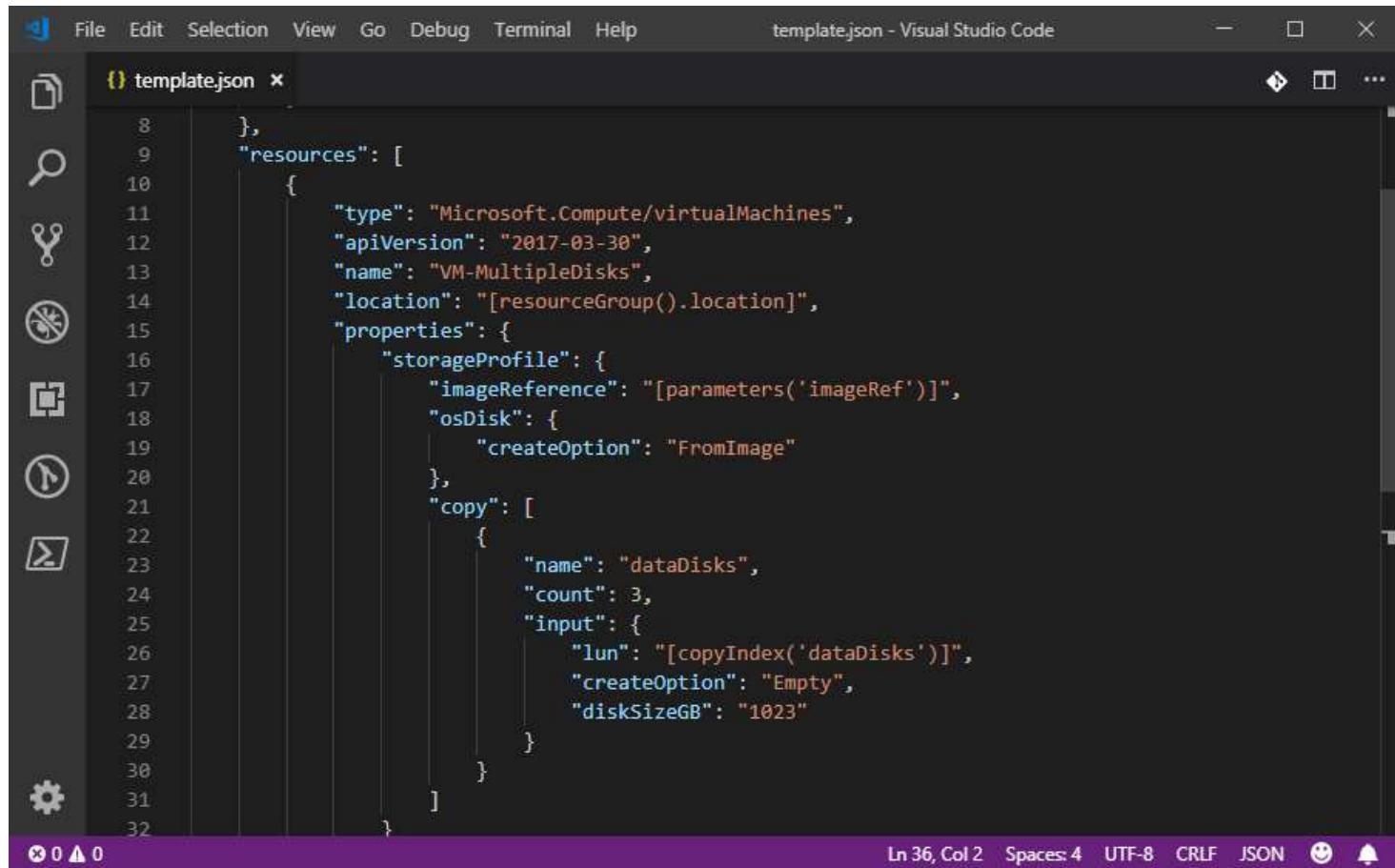


The screenshot shows a Visual Studio Code window with a dark theme. The title bar reads "template.json - Visual Studio Code". The left sidebar contains icons for file operations like Open, Save, Find, Replace, and others. The main editor area displays a JSON template for Azure Resource Manager:

```
8     },
9     "resources": [
10       {
11         "type": "Microsoft.Network/networkInterfaces",
12         "apiVersion": "2016-09-01",
13         "name": "[concat('NIC-', copyIndex())]",
14         "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",
15         "copy": {
16           "name": "nicLoop",
17           "count": 3
18         },
19         "properties": {
20           "ipConfigurations": [
21             {
22               "name": "ipconfig1",
23               "properties": {
24                 "subnet": {
25                   "id": "[parameters('subnetRef')]"
26                 },
27                 "privateIPAllocationMethod": "Dynamic"
28               }
29             }
30           ]
31         }
32       }
    ]
```

The status bar at the bottom shows "Ln 34, Col 2" and other settings like "Spaces: 4", "UTF-8", "CRLF", "JSON", and icons for a smiley face and a bell.

Property Iteration

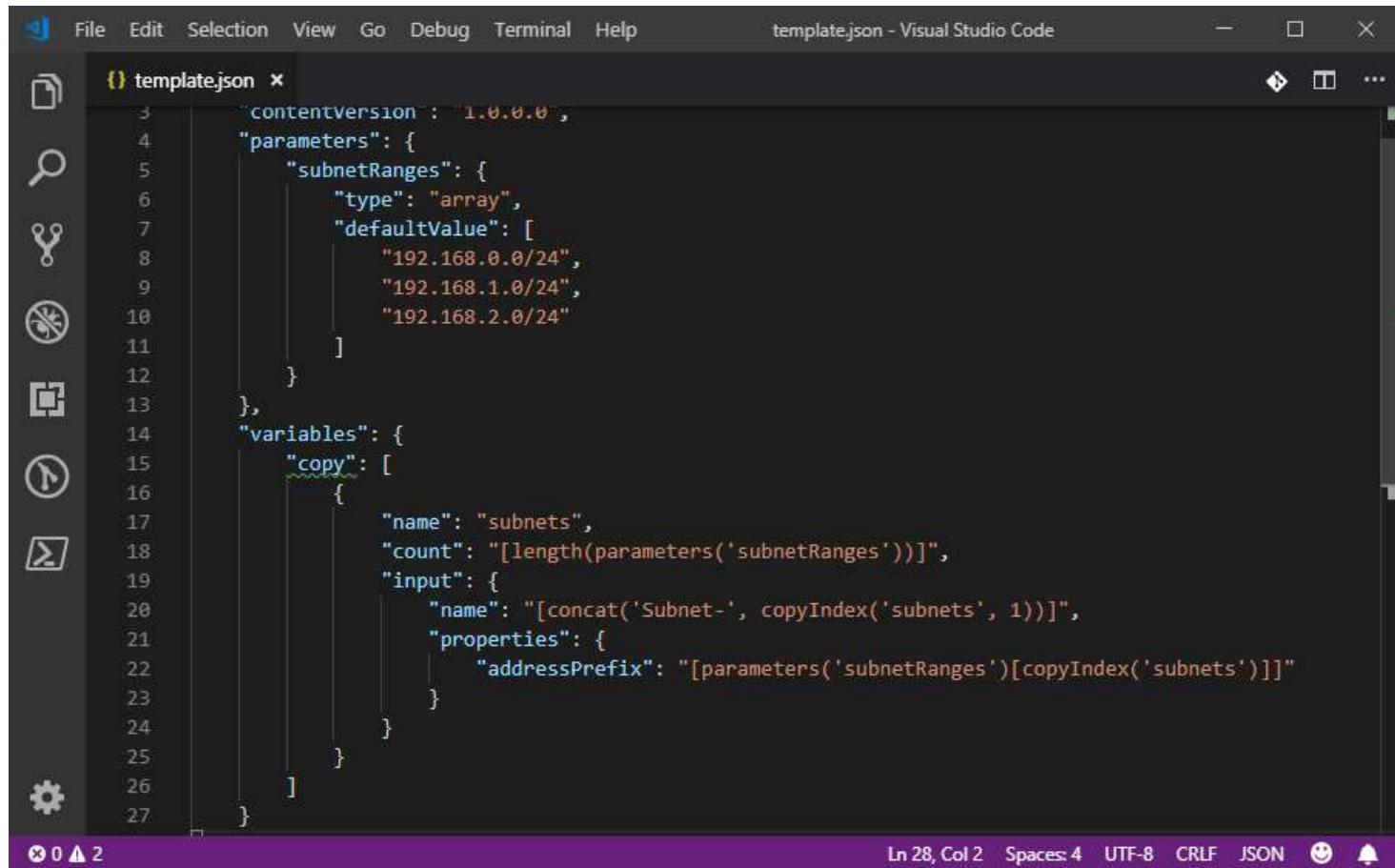


The screenshot shows a Visual Studio Code window with a dark theme. The title bar reads "template.json - Visual Studio Code". The left sidebar contains icons for file operations like Open, Save, Find, and Copy/Paste. The main editor area displays a JSON template for Azure Resource Manager:

```
8     },
9     "resources": [
10    {
11      "type": "Microsoft.Compute/virtualMachines",
12      "apiVersion": "2017-03-30",
13      "name": "VM-MultipleDisks",
14      "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",
15      "properties": {
16        "storageProfile": {
17          "imageReference": "[parameters('imageRef')]",
18          "osDisk": {
19            "createOption": "FromImage"
20          },
21          "copy": [
22            {
23              "name": "dataDisks",
24              "count": 3,
25              "input": {
26                "lun": "[copyIndex('dataDisks')]",
27                "createOption": "Empty",
28                "diskSizeGB": "1023"
29              }
30            }
31          ]
32        }
33      }
34    }
35  ]
36 }
```

The status bar at the bottom shows "Ln 36, Col 2" and "Spaces: 4" along with other file information.

Variable Iteration

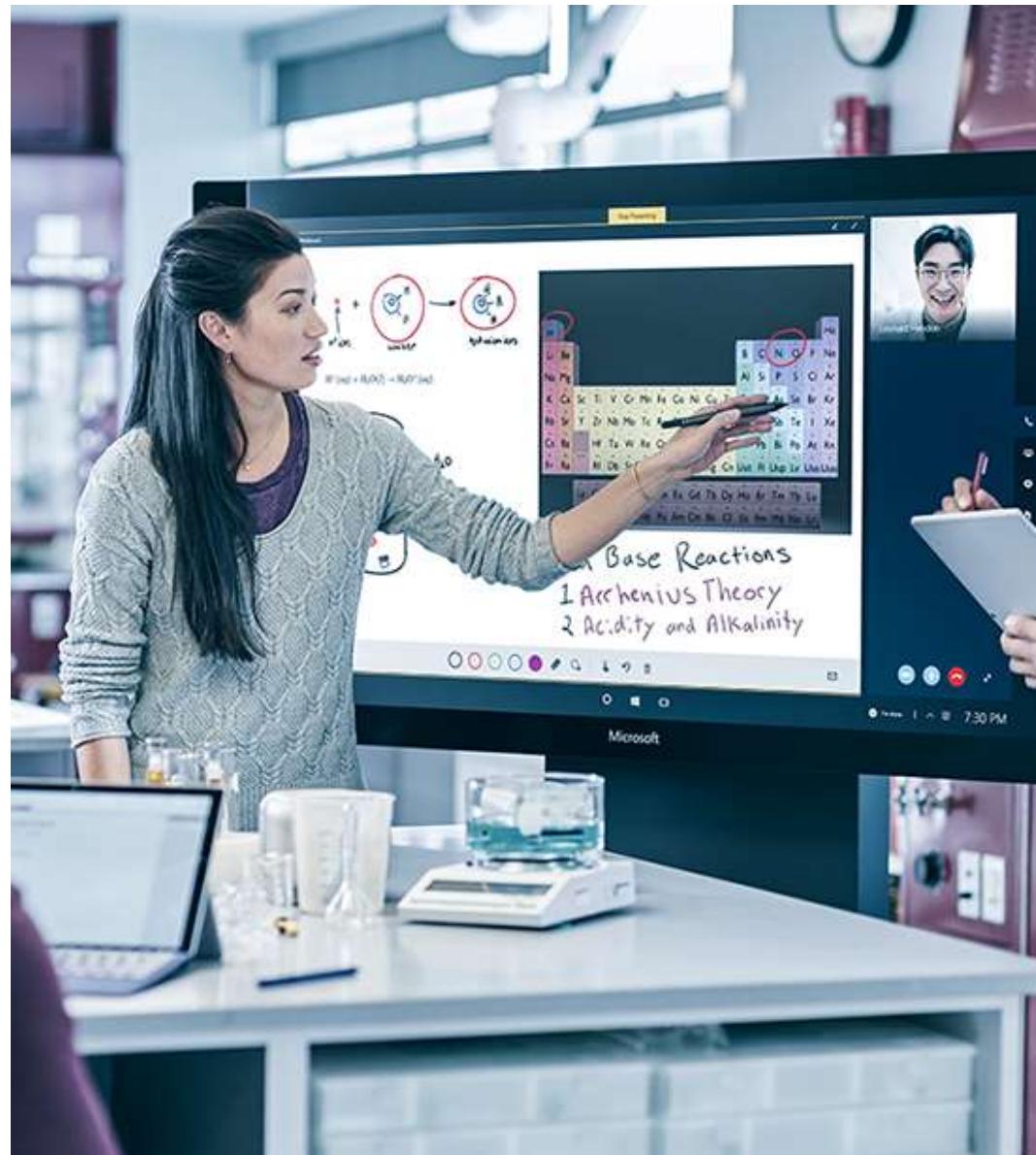


The screenshot shows a Visual Studio Code window with a dark theme. The title bar reads "template.json - Visual Studio Code". The left sidebar contains icons for file operations like Open, Save, Find, and Delete. The main editor area displays the following JSON code:

```
template.json
{
  "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",
  "parameters": {
    "subnetRanges": {
      "type": "array",
      "defaultValue": [
        "192.168.0.0/24",
        "192.168.1.0/24",
        "192.168.2.0/24"
      ]
    }
  },
  "variables": {
    "copy": [
      {
        "name": "subnets",
        "count": "[length(parameters('subnetRanges'))]",
        "input": {
          "name": "[concat('Subnet-', copyIndex('subnets', 1))]",
          "properties": {
            "addressPrefix": "[parameters('subnetRanges')[copyIndex('subnets')]]"
          }
        }
      }
    ]
  }
}
```

The status bar at the bottom shows "Ln 28, Col 2" and other settings like "Spaces: 4", "UTF-8", "CRLF", "JSON", and icons for file save and notifications.

Lab: Copy element & copyIndex() function





Section 5

ARM Templates – Advanced Template Architecting

Microsoft Services



Objectives

After completing this learning unit, you will

- Understand reusability capabilities with Variables
- Recognize methods for storing reusable values
- Constraining parameters to specific values
- How to use Conditions/IF statements for resource deployment eligibility

Governance... Governance... Governance...

- Governance strategies ideally should occur before any buildouts
- Resource names usually incorporate purpose, region/location, environment classification, etc.
 - Example:
 - ADFS-P-EUS-1-vm
Identifies this resource as the 1st ADFS production VM in East US
 - Engineering-P-EUS-vnet
Identifies this resource as the production vnet in East US for engineering
- Resource name is derived as opposed to a parameter
 - Example: By knowing a production VM will belong to 'Engineering', the name of the dependent Vnet can be generated by a governance formula

Governance... Governance... Governance...

- Always use derivable names, never randomization
- Randomization means the name must be provided as explicit parameter input

Governance on resource name - example

- Environment: Production; Type: Vnet; Purpose: Engineering
- The Variables section of a template can concatenate the values to form the proper name

```
{  
  "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#",  
  "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",  
  "parameters": {  
    "Environment": {  
      "type": "string"},  
    "Purpose": {  
      "type": "string"},  
  "variables": {  
    "VNetName": "[concat(parameters('Environment'), '-', parameters('Purpose'), '-vnet'))]"},[...]
```

Vnet name: Production-Engineering-vnet

Reusability of a variable vs manual entry

- By referencing a Variable, its formula may change but your reference never needs to. A manual entry must be corrected everywhere

```
"variables": {  
    "Network": "[concat(parameters('Environment'), '-', parameters('Purpose'))]", ← Ex: Prod-DMZ  
    "VNetName": "[concat(variables('Network'), '-vnet')]", ← Ex: Prod-DMZ-vnet  
    "VNetID": "[resourceId('Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks', variables('VNetName'))]",  
    "NIC1Name": "[concat(variables('Network'), '-nic1')]", }, ← Ex: Prod-DMZ-nic1  
"resources": [  
    {  
        "name": "[variables('NIC1Name')]", ← Derived name adjusts if variable formula changes  
        "type": "Microsoft.Network/networkInterfaces",  
        "apiVersion": "2018-08-01",  
        "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",  
        "dependsOn": [  
            "[variables('VNetName')]" ], ← Manual entry, must be changed everywhere  
            in template if formula changes  
        {  
            "name": "[concat(parameters('Environment'), '-', parameters('Purpose'), '-nic2')]", ←  
            "type": "Microsoft.Network/networkInterfaces",  
            "apiVersion": "2018-08-01",  
            "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",  
            "dependsOn": [  
                "[concat(parameters('Environment'), '-', parameters('Purpose'), '-vnet')]" ]], [...]
```

Passing secure values to ARM for Deployments

- Secrets, like Passwords, can be securely passed to ARM as SecureString or pulled from Azure Key Vault
- For templates, the parameter must be type: SecureString
Values are not included in historical deployment logs or template downloads

Storing & retrieving Secrets in Azure Key Vault

- Azure Key Vault can store secret values that are injected by the ARM service at time of deployment. Ex: OS Admin PW
 - As a key value regularly changes (like all passwords should) the reference doesn't
 - The value can be versioned (latest and previous values can be retrieved)



Admin



OS Root PW

Azure Key Vault



User



VM.json

VM.parameters.json

Azure Resource Manager



New VM!

Azure Key Vault Example

- Template parameter files designate location of keyvault / secret pair

```
{  
  "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentParameters.json#",  
  "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",  
  "parameters": {  
    "adminPassword": {  
      "reference": {  
        "keyVault": {  
          "id": "/subscriptions/<SubscriptionID>/resourceGroups/<RG>/providers/Microsoft.KeyVault/vaults/<KeyVaultName>"  
          },  
          "secretName": "vmAdminPassword"  
        }  
      },  
    }  
  }  
}  
  
Resource ID of KeyVault resource  
Name of Secret. Latest version is assumed
```

Passing SecureStrings without Key Vault

- Template parameter designates the value requirement by having type SecureString

```
{  
  "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#",  
  "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",  
  "parameters": {  
    "adminPassword": {  
      "type": "securestring"} ← Whether using Key Vault or not, the parameter's type will be SecureString  
  }, [...]
```

```
$adminPassword = Read-Host -AsSecureString  
New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -TemplateFile C:\vm.json  
  -AdminPassword $adminPassword [...]
```

Template Structure - Parameters

```
"parameters": {  
    "<parameter-name>" : {  
        "type" : <string, securestring, int, bool, object, secureObject, array>  
        "defaultValue": "<default-value-of-parameter>",  
        "allowedValues": [ "<array-of-allowed-values>" ],  
        "minValue": <minimum-value-for-int>,  
        "maxValue": <maximum-value-for-int>,  
        "minLength": <minimum-length-for-string-or-array>,  
        "maxLength": <maximum-length-for-string-or-array-parameters>,  
        "metadata": {  
            "description": "<description-of-the parameter>"  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Parameters – Restricting Input – Template Example

```
"parameters": {  
    "AzureRegion": {  
        "type": "string",  
        "defaultValue": "EastUS",  
        "allowedValues": ["EastUS", "WestUS", "CentralUS"],  
        "metadata": {  
            "description": "Azure region to deploy to"  
        }  
    },  
    "VMCount": {  
        "type": "int",  
        "defaultValue": "1",  
        "maxValue": 5,  
        "metadata": {  
            "description": "Number of VMs to deploy"  
        }  
    },  
},
```

Use Objects for Flexibility & Depth

- Objects are hierarchical properties with attribute values
- Coding templates to be driven by objects reduces template complexity by offloading the customizations to the parameter file
- Manipulate Parameter file objects with PowerShell

Use Objects for Flexibility & Depth – Parameter File

```
"vNet": {  
    "value": {  
        "EnableDDoSProtection": false,  
        "AddressSpace": {  
            "AddressPrefixes": [  ← Template: [parameters('vNet').addressSpace.addressPrefixes]  
                "10.1.0.0/16",  
                "10.2.0.0/16"  
            ],  
            "DhcpOptions": {  
                "DnsServers": [  
                    "4.4.4.4", "5.5.5.5"  
                ],  
                "Subnets": [{  
                    "AddressPrefix": "10.1.0.0/24",  
                    "Name": "default"  
                },  
                {  
                    "AddressPrefix": "10.1.255.224/27",  
                    "Name": "GatewaySubnet"  
                },  
                {  
                    "AddressPrefix": "10.1.250.0/23",  
                    "Name": "Management"  
                }]  
            }  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Use Objects for Flexibility & Depth – Template File

```
{  
  "type": "Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks",  
  "name": "[concat(variables('EnvironmentContext'), '-vnet')]",  
  "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",  
  "properties": {  
    "dhcpOptions": {  
      "dnsServers":  
        "[parameters('vNet').dhcoptions.dnsservers]" ← Nested property – array value  
    },  
    "enableDdosProtection": "[parameters('vNet').enableDdosProtection]" ← Nested property – boolean value  
    "addressSpace": {  
      "addressPrefixes":  
        "[parameters('vNet').addressSpace.addressPrefixes]"  
    },  
    "copy": [ ← Loop the Property 'subnets', which is an Array in the parameter file, and output its contents for each loop  
      {  
        "name": "subnets",  
        "count": "[length(parameters('vNet').subnets)]", ← Count the entries of the array for looping  
        "input": {  
          "name": "[parameters('vNet').subnets[copyIndex('subnets')].name]",  
          "properties": {  
            "addressPrefix": "[parameters('vNet').subnets[copyIndex('subnets')].addressPrefix]",  
          } } ] } } [...] ← For a particular array element (the iteration of the loop), use the object's nested values
```

Use Objects for Flexibility & Depth – Compare

```
"Subnets": [ {  
    "AddressPrefix": "10.1.0.0/24",  
    "Name": "default"  
},  
{  
    "AddressPrefix": "10.1.255.224/27",  
    "Name": "GatewaySubnet"  
},  
{  
    "AddressPrefix": "10.1.250.0/23",  
    "Name": "Management"  
}]  
  
-----  
"copy": [  
  {  
    "name": "subnets",  
    "count": "[length(parameters('vNet').subnets)]",  
    "input": {  
      "name": "[parameters('vNet').subnets[copyIndex('subnets')].name]",  
      "properties": {  
        "addressPrefix": "[parameters('vNet').subnets[copyIndex('subnets')].addressPrefix]",  
      }}}]  
  
  

```

Parameter file: 3 entries for subnets

Template file: Loop based on the number of entries

Use Objects for Flexibility & Depth – Compare

```
"vNet": {  
    "value": {  
        "EnableDDoSProtection": false,  
        "AddressSpace": {  
            "AddressPrefixes": [  
                "10.1.0.0/16",  
                "10.2.0.0/16"  
            ],  
            ← Parameter file: Array for AddressPrefixes &  
            ← Boolean for EnableDDoSProtection  
        }  
    },  
    ←-----  
    {  
        "type": "Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks",  
        "name": "[concat(variables('EnvironmentContext'), '-vnet')]",  
        "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",  
        "properties": {  
            "dhcpOptions": {  
                "dnsServers":  
                    "[parameters('vNet').dhcpoptions.dnsservers]"  
            },  
            "enableDdosProtection": "[parameters('vNet').enableDdosProtection]",  
            "addressSpace": {  
                "addressPrefixes":  
                    "[parameters('vNet').addressSpace.addressPrefixes]"  
            },  
            ← Template file: Insertion of whole value from Parameter  
            ←-----  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Lab: Deployment Flexibility

Deploy Template using Key Vault, Variables, & Objects



Knowledge Check

- What are the advantages of establishing governance?
Reduce uncontrolled spend, understand a resource's purpose based on name, follow corporate policy especially security policy
- What Parameter properties can be used to restrict or fence the value input?
Allowed Values, Max and Min, Input type (integer, string, etc.)



Section 6

ARM Templates – Troubleshooting Templates & Deployments

Microsoft Services



Objectives

After completing this learning unit, you will

- Understand how to read error messages
- Comprehend what transient & permanent errors are
- Use intellisense to identify issues prior to deployment

Template deployments may encounter issues

- Templates will fail to deploy for temporary and permanent reasons. These are called Validation & Deployment errors.
- Error messages should state the cause and possibly line # in code issue originates from
- Issues can be caught at time of template creation or may be found at deployment runtime/validation
- The error messages are user-friendly but must be read carefully to understand their meaning
- Words of wisdom: “Every new error message, is progress”
 - - Chase Dafnis

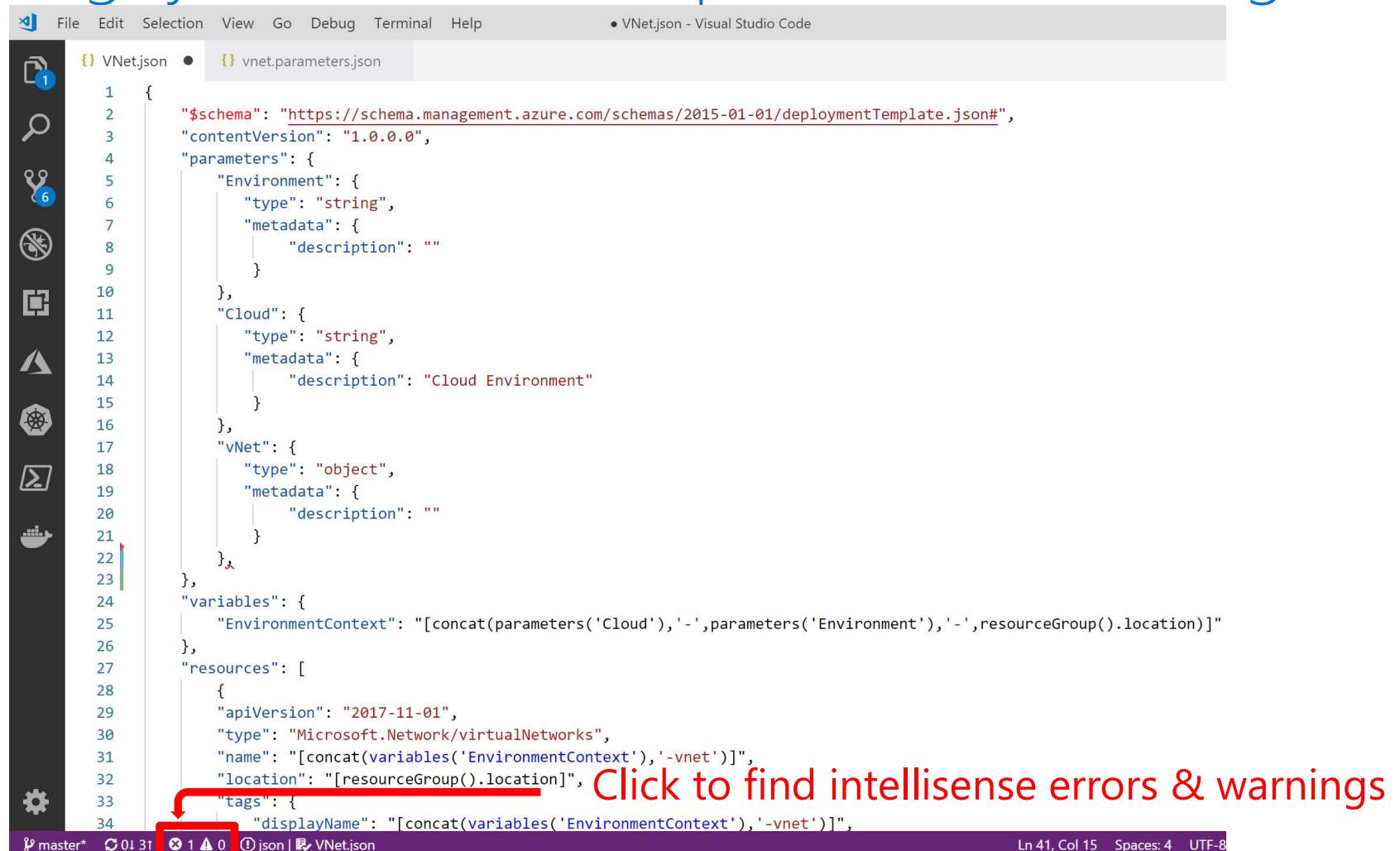
Client side / Validation Errors

- Syntax issues such as a misplaced brackets & quotes will be caught by intellisense
- Intellisense /may/ also catch invalid or missing attribute values based on the Azure schema for the resource type
- Template submissions for deployment go through a validation process prior to actual deployment
- Azure Portal based deployments will include additional validation checks such as exceeding subscription quota

Deployment Errors

- ARM will catch anything not caught by client tooling
- Transient issues such as throttling or an Azure service being unavailable will self-resolve with time
- Resource value violations, such as conflicting Vnet IP space, will be clearly indicated in deployment feedback
- Poor template architecting, such as lack of inputting resource dependencies, may or may not error out
- Azure governance such as Policies & RBAC/Authorizations of the deploying user will always hold true

Decoding syntax errors in Template – What's wrong here?



The screenshot shows an Azure ARM template file (`VNet.json`) open in Visual Studio Code. The code editor displays the following JSON structure:

```
1  {
2      "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#",
3      "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",
4      "parameters": {
5          "Environment": {
6              "type": "string",
7              "metadata": {
8                  "description": ""
9              }
10         },
11         "Cloud": {
12             "type": "string",
13             "metadata": {
14                 "description": "Cloud Environment"
15             }
16         },
17         "vNet": {
18             "type": "object",
19             "metadata": {
20                 "description": ""
21             }
22         }
23     },
24     "variables": {
25         "EnvironmentContext": "[concat(parameters('Cloud'), '-', parameters('Environment'), '-', resourceGroup().location)]"
26     },
27     "resources": [
28         {
29             "apiVersion": "2017-11-01",
30             "type": "Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks",
31             "name": "[concat(variables('EnvironmentContext'), '-vnet')]",
32             "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",
33             "tags": {
34                 "displayName": "[concat(variables('EnvironmentContext'), '-vnet')]"
35             }
36         }
37     ]
38 }
```

A red arrow points from the text "Click to find intellisense errors & warnings" to the status bar at the bottom of the code editor. The status bar also shows the file path (`VNet.json`), line count (Ln 41), column count (Col 15), and encoding (UTF-8).

Click to find intellisense errors & warnings

Ln 41, Col 15 Spaces: 4 UTF-8

Decoding syntax errors in Template – What's wrong here?

The screenshot shows the Visual Studio Code interface with the following details:

- File Explorer:** Shows two files: VNet.json and vnet.parameters.json.
- Editor:** Displays the VNet.json template code. A red box highlights the trailing comma on line 22, column 10, which is causing a syntax error.
- Problems Bar:** Shows a single error: "Trailing comma json(519) [22, 10]".
- Status Bar:** Shows the current branch is "master", the file is "VNet.json", and the encoding is "UTF-8".

```
1  {
2      "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#",
3      "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",
4      "parameters": {
5          "Environment": {
6              "type": "string",
7              "metadata": {
8                  "description": ""
9              }
10         },
11         "Cloud": {
12             "type": "string",
13             "metadata": {
14                 "description": "Cloud Environment"
15             }
16         },
17         "vNet": {
18             "type": "object",
19             "metadata": {
20                 "description": ""
21             }
22         }
23     },
24     "variables": {
25         "EnvironmentContext": "[concat(parameters('Cloud'), '-', parameters('Environment'), '-', resourceGroup().location)]"
26     },
27     "resources": [
28 
```

The comma indicates the expectation of another parameter and intellisense doesn't see a following parameter. Either remove comma or add parameter

Decoding an error message

Input to create new storage account:

```
New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -name storage -  
ResourceGroupName test -TemplateFile  
c:\temp\storage.json
```

- Multiple generic error messages will be displayed.
- Look for the specific one that details the name of the resource, line number, and/or error code

Decoding an error message - Example

Error #

Outer error message

1. New-AzResourceGroupDeployment : 9:19:17 PM - Error: **Code=InvalidTemplateDeployment**; Message=The template deployment 'storage' is not valid according to the validation procedure. The tracking id is 'c777c21b-d16d-4f3c-afa7-d552cbd4bd1a'. See inner errors for details. Please see <https://aka.ms/arm-deploy> for usage details.
At line:1 char:1
+ New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -name storage -ResourceGroupName test - ...
+ ~~~~~
+ CategoryInfo : NotSpecified: (:) [New-AzResourceGroupDeployment], Exception
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId :
Microsoft.Azure.Commands.ResourceManager.Cmdlets.Implementation.NewAzureResourceGroupDeploymentCmdlet
2. New-AzResourceGroupDeployment : 9:19:17 PM - Error: Code=PreflightValidationCheckFailed; Message=Preflight validation failed. Please refer to the details for the specific errors.
At line:1 char:1
+ New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -name storage -ResourceGroupName test - ...
+ ~~~~~
+ CategoryInfo : NotSpecified: (:) [New-AzResourceGroupDeployment], Exception
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId :
Microsoft.Azure.Commands.ResourceManager.Cmdlets.Implementation.NewAzureResourceGroupDeploymentCmdlet
3. New-AzResourceGroupDeployment : 9:19:17 PM - Error: Code=StorageAccountAlreadyTaken; Message=The storage account named test is already taken.
At line:1 char:1
+ New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -name storage -ResourceGroupName test - ... **Inner error message**
+ ~~~~~
+ CategoryInfo : NotSpecified: (:) [New-AzResourceGroupDeployment], Exception
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId :
Microsoft.Azure.Commands.ResourceManager.Cmdlets.Implementation.NewAzureResourceGroupDeploymentCmdlet
4. New-AzResourceGroupDeployment : The deployment validation failed
At line:1 char:1
+ New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -name storage -ResourceGroupName test - ...
+ ~~~~~
+ CategoryInfo : CloseError: (:) [New-AzResourceGroupDeployment], InvalidOperationException
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId :
Microsoft.Azure.Commands.ResourceManager.Cmdlets.Implementation.NewAzureResourceGroupDeploymentCmdlet

Decoding an error message – Example Template

```
{  
  "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#",  
  "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",  
  "parameters": {},  
  "variables": {},  
  "resources": [  
    {  
      "name": "test",  
      "type": "Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts",  
      "apiVersion": "2015-06-15",  
      "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",  
      "tags": {  
        "displayName": "test"  
      },  
      "properties": {  
        "accountType": "Standard_LRS"  
      }  
    },  
    {}  
  ],  
  "outputs": {}  
}
```

- Storage account names must be globally unique

Unique resource names

- Public facing resource types will share a Microsoft owned shared namespace
- All those resource types must be globally unique amongst all Azure customers
- Incorporate a unique prefix/suffix or UniqueString function
- Example resource types that have a unique requirement:
 - Storage: [Name].service.core.windows.net
 - Traffic Manager profile: [Name].trafficmanager.net
 - Public IP: [Name].region.cloudapp.azure.com
 - Event Hub: [Name].servicebus.windows.net

Decoding dependency errors in Template – 1st Deployment

```
VERBOSE: Performing the operation "Creating Deployment" on target "net".
VERBOSE: 4:18:44 PM - Template is valid.
VERBOSE: 4:18:48 PM - Create template deployment 'net'
VERBOSE: 4:18:48 PM - Checking deployment status in 5 seconds
VERBOSE: 4:18:53 PM - Resource Microsoft.Network/ddosProtectionPlans 'ddosprotectionplan' provisioning status is succeeded
New-AzResourceGroupDeployment : 4:18:53 PM - Resource Microsoft.Network/networkInterfaces 'nic1' failed with message '{ 1. nic1 failed
"error": {
  "code": "InvalidResourceReference",
  "message": "Resource
/subscriptions/d35279cd-7ede-419c-b4f1-bc456ee6d803/resourceGroups/Net/providers/Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks/vnet1/subnets/subnet1
referenced by resource /subscriptions/d35279cd-7ede-419c-b4f1-bc456ee6d803/resourceGroups/net/providers/Microsoft.Network/networkInterfaces/nic1
was not found. Please make sure that the referenced resource exists, and that both resources are in the same region.",
  "details": []
}
}
At line:1 char:1
+ New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -Name net -ResourceGroupName net
+ ~~~~~
+ CategoryInfo          : NotSpecified: () [New-AzResourceGroupDeployment], Exception
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : Microsoft.Azure.Commands.ResourceManager.Cmdlets.Implementation.NewAzureResourceGroupDeploymentCmdlet
VERBOSE: 4:18:53 PM - Checking deployment status in 5 seconds 3. vnet1 was successful later on in deployment
VERBOSE: 4:18:58 PM - Resource Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks 'vnet1' provisioning status is running
VERBOSE: 4:18:58 PM - Checking deployment status in 8 seconds
VERBOSE: 4:19:07 PM - Resource Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks 'vnet1' provisioning status is succeeded
New-AzResourceGroupDeployment : 4:19:07 PM - Template output evaluation skipped: at least one resource deployment operation failed. Please list deployment operations for details. Please see https://aka.ms/arm-debug for usage details.
At line:1 char:1
+ New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -Name net -ResourceGroupName net
+ ~~~~~
+ CategoryInfo          : NotSpecified: () [New-AzResourceGroupDeployment], Exception
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : Microsoft.Azure.Commands.ResourceManager.Cmdlets.Implementation.NewAzureResourceGroupDeploymentCmdlet
```

Decoding dependency errors in Template - 2nd Deployment

```
VERBOSE: Performing the operation "Creating Deployment" on target "net".
VERBOSE: 4:06:23 PM - Template is valid.
VERBOSE: 4:06:26 PM - Create template deployment 'net'
VERBOSE: 4:06:26 PM - Checking deployment status in 5 seconds
VERBOSE: 4:06:32 PM - Resource Microsoft.Network/networkInterfaces 'nic1' provisioning status is running
VERBOSE: 4:06:32 PM - Checking deployment status in 5 seconds
VERBOSE: 4:06:37 PM - Resource Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks 'vnet1' provisioning status is succeeded
VERBOSE: 4:06:37 PM - Checking deployment status in 5 seconds
VERBOSE: 4:06:42 PM - Checking deployment status in 5 seconds
VERBOSE: 4:06:48 PM - Checking deployment status in 5 seconds
VERBOSE: 4:06:53 PM - Checking deployment status in 5 seconds
VERBOSE: 4:06:58 PM - Checking deployment status in 5 seconds
VERBOSE: 4:07:04 PM - Checking deployment status in 5 seconds
VERBOSE: 4:07:09 PM - Checking deployment status in 5 seconds
VERBOSE: 4:07:15 PM - Checking deployment status in 5 seconds
VERBOSE: 4:07:20 PM - Checking deployment status in 5 seconds
VERBOSE: 4:07:25 PM - Checking deployment status in 5 seconds
VERBOSE: 4:07:31 PM - Resource Microsoft.Network/networkInterfaces 'nic1' provisioning status is succeeded
```

```
DeploymentName : net
ResourceGroupName : net
ProvisioningState : Succeeded
Timestamp : 5/1/2019 8:07:26 PM
Mode : Incremental
TemplateLink :
Parameters :
Outputs :
DeploymentLogLevel :
```

1. Nic1 now deploys successfully on 2nd push with no code changes to template. Why?

2. NICs depend on Vnets, which was already created successfully in previous deployment

Decoding dependency errors in Template - Solution

Add “dependsOn” to resource when the dependency is deployed in the same template

```
{  
  "name": "nic1",  
  "type": "Microsoft.Network/networkInterfaces",  
  "apiVersion": "2018-08-01",  
  "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",  
  "dependsOn": [  
    "vnet1"  
  ],  
  "properties": {  
    "ipConfigurations": [  
      {  
        "name": "ipConfig1",  
        "properties": {  
          "privateIPAllocationMethod": "Dynamic",  
          "subnet": {  
            "id": "[resourceId('Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks/subnets', 'vnet1', 'subnet1')]"}}]}},  
  {  
    "name": "vnet1",  
    "type": "Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks",  
    "apiVersion": "2018-08-01",  
    "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",  
    "dependsOn": [  
      "ddosprotectionplan"  
    ], [...]
```

Decoding Circular Dependency errors in Template

```
VERBOSE: Performing the operation "Creating Deployment" on target "net".
New-AzResourceGroupDeployment : 5:57:15 PM - Error: Code=InvalidTemplate; Message=Deployment template validation failed: 'Circular dependency detected on resource: '/subscriptions/d35279cd-7ede-419c-b4f1-bc456ee6d803/resourceGroups/net/providers/Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks/vnet1'. Please see https://aka.ms/arm-template/#resources for usage details.'.
At line:1 char:1
+ New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -Name net -ResourceGroupName net
+ ~~~~~
+ CategoryInfo          : NotSpecified: () [New-AzResourceGroupDeployment], Exception
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : Microsoft.Azure.Commands.ResourceManager.Cmdlets.Implementation.NewAzureResourceGroupDeploymentCmdlet

New-AzResourceGroupDeployment : The deployment validation failed
At line:1 char:1
+ New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -Name net -ResourceGroupName net
+ ~~~~~
+ CategoryInfo          : CloseError: () [New-AzResourceGroupDeployment], InvalidOperationException
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : Microsoft.Azure.Commands.ResourceManager.Cmdlets.Implementation.NewAzureResourceGroupDeploymentCmdlet
```

Decoding Circular dependency errors in Template (Cont.)

- 2 resources claim to depend on eachother which results in neither deploying

```
{  
  "name": "nic1",  
  "type": "Microsoft.Network/networkInterfaces",  
  "apiVersion": "2018-08-01",  
  "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",  
  "dependsOn": [  
    "vnet1"  
  ],  
  "properties": {  
    "ipConfigurations": [  
      {  
        "name": "ipConfig1",  
        "properties": {  
          "privateIPAllocationMethod": "Dynamic",  
          "subnet": {  
            "id": "[resourceId('Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks/subnets', 'vnet1', 'subnet1')]"}}}}]}},  
{  
  "name": "vnet1",  
  "type": "Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks",  
  "apiVersion": "2018-08-01",  
  "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",  
  "dependsOn": [  
    "ddosprotectionplan",  
    "nic1"  
  ],  
  [...]
```

Decoding invalid template errors – Parameter value input

```
New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -Name storage  
-ResourceGroupName storage  
-TemplateFile '.\storage.json'  
-StorageAcctSKU "Premium_LRS" -Verbose
```

```
VERBOSE: Performing the operation "Creating Deployment" on target "storage".  
New-AzResourceGroupDeployment : 9:31:58 PM - Error: Code=InvalidTemplate; Message=Deployment template validation failed:  
[The provided value 'Premium_LRS' for the template parameter 'StorageAcctSKU' at line '7' and column '27' is not valid.  
The parameter value is not part of the allowed value(s): 'Standard_LRS,Standard_GRS,Standard_RAGRS'].  
At line:1 char:1  
+ New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -Name storage -ResourceGroupName storag ...  
+ ~~~~~  
+ CategoryInfo          : NotSpecified: () [New-AzResourceGroupDeployment], Exception  
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : Microsoft.Azure.Commands.ResourceManager.Cmdlets.Implementation.NewAzureResourceGroupDeploymentCmdlet  
  
New-AzResourceGroupDeployment : The deployment validation failed  
At line:1 char:1  
+ New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -Name storage -ResourceGroupName storag ...  
+ ~~~~~  
+ CategoryInfo          : CloseError: () [New-AzResourceGroupDeployment], InvalidOperationException  
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : Microsoft.Azure.Commands.ResourceManager.Cmdlets.Implementation.NewAzureResourceGroupDeploymentCmdlet
```

Decoding invalid template errors – Parameter value input (Cont.)

Parameter value not matching parameter definition

```
{  
  "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#",  
  "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",  
  "parameters": {  
    "StorageAcctSKU": {  
      "type": "string",  
      "allowedValues": ["Standard_LRS", "Standard_GRS", "Standard_RAGRS"]  
    }  
  },  
  "resources": [  
    {  
      "name": "[uniqueString(resourceGroup().id)]",  
      "type": "Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts",  
      "apiVersion": "2018-11-01",  
      "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",  
      "sku":{  
        "name": "[parameters('StorageAcctSKU')]"}}]  
}
```

Our deployment parameter value was "Premium_LRS"

Decoding authorization errors

```
New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -Name storage  
-ResourceGroupName storage  
-TemplateFile '.\storage.json'  
-StorageAcctSKU "Standard_LRS" -Verbose
```

```
VERBOSE: Performing the operation "Creating Deployment" on target "storage"  
New-AzResourceGroupDeployment : 11:26:08 PM - [Error: Code=InvalidTemplateDeployment] Message=The template deployment failed with error: 'Authorization failed for template resource 'fbtxjx13y6sqy' of type 'Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts'. The client 'chdafni@microsoft.com' with object id 'd30cdb0d-140e-432d-82be-441dacf8d1b4' does not have permission to perform action 'Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts/write' at scope '/subscriptions/90934b9d-9304-4cc2-b376-308dcab7914e/resourceGroups/storage/providers/Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts/fbtxjx13y6sqy'.'.  
At line:1 char:1  
+ New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -Name storage -ResourceGroupName storag ...  
+ ~~~~~  
+ CategoryInfo          : NotSpecified: () [New-AzResourceGroupDeployment], Exception  
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : Microsoft.Azure.Commands.ResourceManager.Cmdlets.Implementation.NewAzureResourceGroupDeploymentCmdlet  
  
New-AzResourceGroupDeployment : The deployment validation failed  
At line:1 char:1  
+ New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -Name storage -ResourceGroupName storag ...  
+ ~~~~~  
+ CategoryInfo          : CloseError: () [New-AzResourceGroupDeployment], InvalidOperationException  
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : Microsoft.Azure.Commands.ResourceManager.Cmdlets.Implementation.NewAzureResourceGroupDeploymentCmdlet
```

Decoding invalid template error – Incorrect Segment Length

- Root resource name length = length of resource type (-) 1
 - A "/" is an indicator of a new segment
 - Ex: Microsoft.Web/sites = length of 2. Therefore Name should be: length 1
- Nested resources name & type must be same length

```
VERBOSE: Performing the operation "Creating Deployment" on target "webapp".
New-AzResourceGroupDeployment : 9:53:14 AM - Error: Code=InvalidTemplate; Message=Deployment template validation failed:
'The template resource 'web' for type 'Microsoft.web/sites/config' at line '34' and column '13' has incorrect segment
lengths. A nested resource type must have identical number of segments as its resource name. A root resource type must
have segment length one greater than its resource name. Please see https://aka.ms/arm-template/#resources for usage
details.'.
At line:1 char:1
+ New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -Name webapp -ResourceGroupName webapp ...
+ ~~~~~
  + CategoryInfo          : NotSpecified: () [New-AzResourceGroupDeployment], Exception
  + FullyQualifiedErrorId : Microsoft.Azure.Commands.ResourceManager.Cmdlets.Implementation.NewAzureResourceGroupDeploym
entCmdlet

New-AzResourceGroupDeployment : The deployment validation failed
At line:1 char:1
+ New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -Name webapp -ResourceGroupName webapp ...
+ ~~~~~
  + CategoryInfo          : CloseError: () [New-AzResourceGroupDeployment], InvalidOperationException
  + FullyQualifiedErrorId : Microsoft.Azure.Commands.ResourceManager.Cmdlets.Implementation.NewAzureResourceGroupDeploym
entCmdlet
```

Decoding invalid template error – Incorrect Segment Length

- Answer: Nested resource name: web | Nested resource type: config
"Microsoft.web/sites/" is implied since it is a nested resource
- Overall, nested resource Name length must match resource type length

```
{  
  "name": "[uniqueString(resourceGroup().id)]", ← Root resource  
  "type": "Microsoft.Web/sites", ← Length: 1 (just a single word name)  
  "apiVersion": "2016-08-01", ← Length: 2 (The "/" is a separator of length)  
  "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",  
  "dependsOn": [  
    "[resourceId('Microsoft.Web/serverfarms', 'AppSvcPlan')]"  
  ],  
  "properties": {  
    "name": "[uniqueString(resourceGroup().id)]",  
    "serverFarmId": "[resourceId('Microsoft.Web/serverfarms', 'AppSvcPlan')]"  
  },  
  "resources": [  
    {  
      "apiVersion": "2016-08-01",  
      "name": "web", ← Length: 1 (just a single word name)  
      "type": "Microsoft.Web/sites/config", ← Length: 3  
      "dependsOn": [  
        "[concat('Microsoft.Web/sites/', uniqueString(resourceGroup().id))]"  
      ],  
      "properties": {  
        "foo": "bar"}]}]}  
}
```

The diagram illustrates the JSON template with annotations. A red arrow points from the text "Root resource" to the top-level "type" field "Microsoft.Web/sites". Another red arrow points from the text "Nested resource" to the nested "type" field "Microsoft.Web/sites/config". Red text highlights the "Microsoft.Web/sites" type in the root and "Microsoft.Web/sites/config" type in the nested resource, both of which are shown as being longer than a single word name.

Decoding ResourceID error – one multi-segmented argument

- ResourceID function should include full resource type length & each namespace is in its own segment

Goal of template: Attach 'nic' to the virtual network 'vnet' & the subnet 'subnet1'

- Incorrect:

```
"[resourceId('Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks', concat('vnet', '/subnets/subnet1'))]"
```

- Correct:

```
"[resourceId('Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks/subnets', 'vnet', 'subnet1')]"
```

The value of "concat" function includes a segment '/' which is not allowed per the error message

```
VERBOSE: Performing the operation "Creating Deployment" on target "net".
VERBOSE: 11:03:53 PM - Template is valid.
VERBOSE: 11:03:54 PM - create template deployment 'nic'
VERBOSE: 11:03:54 PM - Checking deployment status in 5 seconds
New-AzResourceGroupDeployment : 11:04:00 PM - Resource Microsoft.Network/networkInterfaces 'nic' failed with message '{
  "error": {
    "code": "InvalidTemplate",
    "message": "Unable to process template language expressions for resource
'/subscriptions/11504d44-374a-4e45-b714-13fc9ac28c60/resourceGroups/net/providers/Microsoft.Network/networkInterfaces/nic' at line '9' and column '9'. 'Unable
to evaluate template language function 'resourceId': function requires exactly one multi-segmented argument which must be resource type including resource
provider namespace. Current function arguments '[Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks,vnet/subnets/subnet1]'. Please see
https://aka.ms/arm-template-expressions/#resourceid for usage details.'"
  }
}
At line:1 char:1
+ New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -Name nic -ResourceGroupName net
+ ~~~~~
+     + CategoryInfo          : NotSpecified: (:) [New-AzResourceGroupDeployment], Exception
+     + FullyQualifiedErrorId : Microsoft.Azure.Commands.ResourceManager.Cmdlets.Implementation.NewAzureResourceGroupDeploymentCmdlet
```

Decoding invalid template error – Debug Logging

- Using “Copy” or large templates can make it difficult to decipher which resource(s) are erroring and why
- DeploymentDebugLogLevel captures resource provider (RP) request/response operations
Should only be used for troubleshooting as it can log secrets

```
New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -Name PIP  
-ResourceGroupName Net  
-TemplateFile ".\pip.json" -PIPCount 10  
-verbose -DeploymentLogLevel All
```

```
VERBOSE: Performing the operation "Creating Deployment" on target "Net".
```

```
WARNING: The DeploymentDebug setting has been enabled. This can potentially log secrets like passwords used in resource property or listkeys operations when you retrieve the deployment operations through Get-AzResourceGroupDeploymentOperation
```

Decoding invalid template error – Debug Logging (Cont.)

```
VERBOSE: Performing the operation "Creating Deployment" on target "Net".
WARNING: The DeploymentDebug setting has been enabled. This can potentially log secrets like passwords used in resource property or listKeys operations when you retrieve the deployment operations through Get-AzResourceGroupDeploymentOperation
VERBOSE: 3:29:30 PM - Template is valid.
VERBOSE: 3:29:32 PM - Create template deployment 'PIP'
VERBOSE: 3:29:32 PM - Checking deployment status in 5 seconds
VERBOSE: 3:29:38 PM - Resource Microsoft.Network/publicIPAddresses
'pip2' provisioning status is succeeded
'pip6' provisioning status is succeeded
'pip7' provisioning status is succeeded
'pip0' provisioning status is succeeded
'pip4' provisioning status is succeeded
'pip5' provisioning status is succeeded
'pip9' provisioning status is succeeded
'pip3' provisioning status is succeeded
'pip8' provisioning status is succeeded
10 Public IP's deployed, 9 successful
New-AzResourceGroupDeployment : 3:29:38 PM - Resource Microsoft.Network/publicIPAddresses 'pip1' failed with message '{ "error": { "code": "DnsRecordInuse", "message": "DNS record contoso1.eastus2.cloudapp.azure.com is already used by another public IP.", "details": [] } }
Failure for only 1 resource, 'pip1'
At line:1 char:1
+ New-AzResourceGroupDeployment -Name PIP -ResourceGroupName Net
+ ~~~~~
+ CategoryInfo          : NotSpecified: () [New-AzResourceGroupDeployment], Exception
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : Microsoft.Azure.Commands.ResourceManager.Cmdlets.Implementation.NewAzureResourceGroupDeploymentCmdlet
```

Decoding invalid template error – Debug Logging (Cont.)

Home > Resource groups > Net - Deployments > PIP - Overview

PIP - Overview

Deployment

Search (Ctrl+ /)

Overview

Inputs

Outputs

Template

Delete Cancel Redeploy Refresh

DNS record contoso1.eastus2.cloudapp.azure.com is already used by another public IP. Click here for details →

Deployment name: PIP
Subscription: Internal - Main
Resource group: Net

DEPLOYMENT DETAILS (Download)

Start time: 5/13/2019, 3:29:30 PM
Duration: 7 seconds
Correlation ID: ba73e790-d4ba-489a-96de-8a045dff4e7c

RESOURCE	TYPE	STATUS	OPERATION DE...
pip2	Microsoft.Net...	OK	Operation detail
pip6	Microsoft.Net...	OK	Operation detail
pip7	Microsoft.Net...	OK	Operation detail
pip0	Microsoft.Net...	OK	Operation detail
pip4	Microsoft.Net...	OK	Operation detail
pip5	Microsoft.Net...	OK	Operation detail
pip9	Microsoft.Net...	OK	Operation detail
pip3	Microsoft.Net...	OK	Operation detail
pip8	Microsoft.Net...	OK	Operation detail
pip1	Microsoft.Net...	BadRequest	Operation detail

Qu tut Co DB Qu tut We Qu tut SQ Da Qu tut Sto Acc Qu tut

Helpful Links

Get started with Azure ↗
Azure architecture center ↗



We want the template 'Request' of this operation

Decoding invalid template error – Debug Logging (Cont.)

```
$operations = Get-AzResourceGroupDeploymentOperation  
-DeploymentName PIP -ResourceGroupName Net ← Pulls all logged  
content from deployment  
  
foreach($operation in $operations) ← 'foreach' function isn't  
required but simplifies  
everything by outputting  
each operation performed  
by ARM  
  
{ ←  
    Write-Host $operation.id  
    Write-Host "Request:" ← Template code submitted  
    $operation.Properties.Request | ConvertTo-Json -Depth 10  
    Write-Host "Response:" ← Error or Success response  
    $operation.Properties.Response | ConvertTo-Json -Depth 10  
}
```

Decoding invalid template error – Debug Logging (Cont.)

Each operation will list the request and response, below is the entry that threw an error

```
Request:  
{  
  "content": {  
    "location": "eastus2",  
    "properties": {  
      "publicIPAllocationMethod": "Dynamic",  
      "dnsSettings": {  
        "domainNameLabel": "contoso1"  
      }  
    }  
  }  
}  
  
Response:  
{  
  "content": {  
    "error": {  
      "code": "DnsRecordInUse",  
      "message": "DNS record contoso1.eastus2.cloudapp.azure.com is already used by another public IP.",  
      "details": [  
      ]  
    }  
  }  
}
```

The 'requested' properties of the public IP resource. This is our "hint" for where in the template the failure occurred

Decoding invalid template error – Debug Logging - Compare

```
{  
  "name": "[concat('pip',copyIndex())]",  
  "type": "Microsoft.Network/publicIPAddresses",  
  "apiVersion": "2018-08-01",  
  "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",  
  "copy": [  
    {  
      "name": "pip",  
      "count": "[parameters('PIPCount')]"  
    },  
    {  
      "properties": {  
        "publicIPAllocationMethod": "Dynamic",  
        "dnsSettings": {  
          "domainNameLabel": "[concat('contoso',copyIndex())]"}  
      }  
    }  
  ]  
}
```

Template code

Ultimately it means the template needs to be re-architected to ensure global uniqueness for this property value

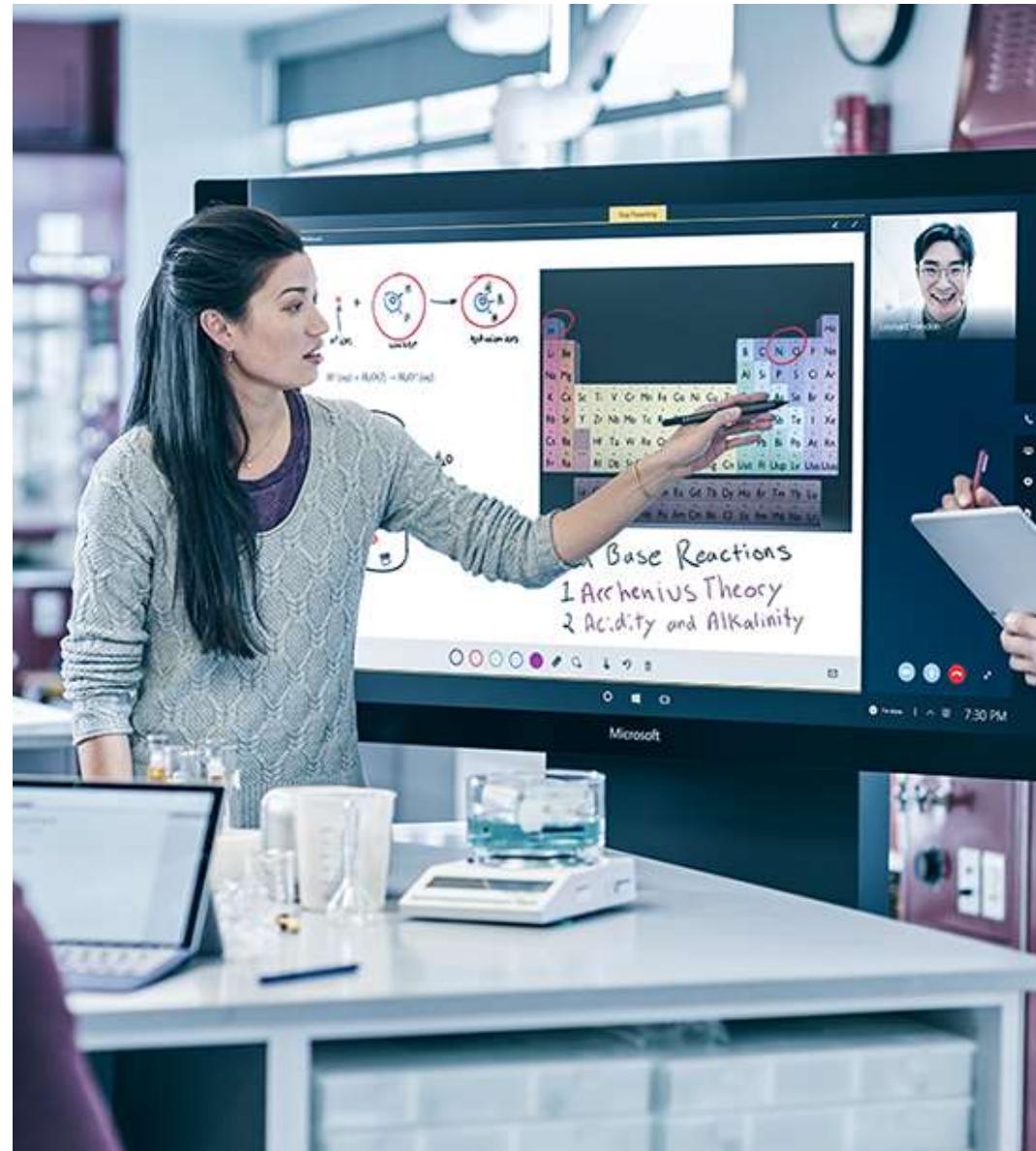
```
Request:  
{  
  "content": {  
    "location": "eastus2",  
    "properties": {  
      "publicIPAllocationMethod": "Dynamic",  
      "dnsSettings": {  
        "domainNameLabel": "contoso1"  
      }  
    }  
  }  
}
```

The deployment operation request / response

```
Response:  
{  
  "content": {  
    "error": {  
      "code": "DnsRecordInUse",  
      "message": "DNS record contoso1.eastus2.cloudapp.azure.com is already used by another public IP."  
      "details": [  
      ]  
    }  
  }  
}
```

Lab: Template & Deployment troubleshooting

Investigate a variety of template failures to bring them into working order



Knowledge Check

- How can you accurately determine where in your template a deployment failure occurred?

With DeploymentDebugLogLevel, the request and response can be found which shows what code section failed



Section 7

ARM Templates – Creating templates from scratch - architecture goals

Microsoft Services



Objectives

After completing this learning unit, you will

- Understand different template architecture strategies
- How to find resource type reference frameworks
- How to declare iterative updates

Choosing a deployment strategy

Different styles of architecting templates

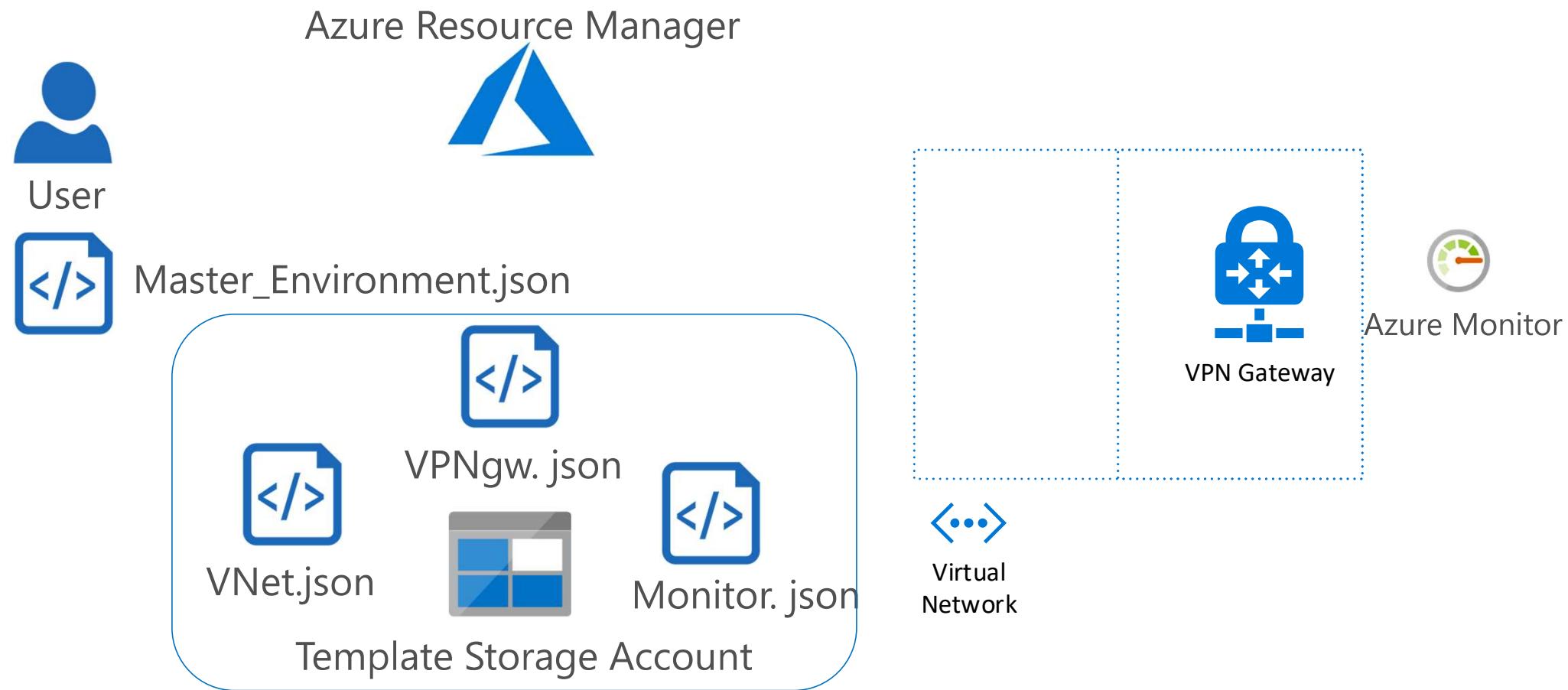
- Modular – purpose specific, slim template, could be linked multiple times
 - Ex: Each resource type is its own template | Ex: Base environment of resources types
- Generic – non hardcoded resource types, parameters determine most settings
 - Ex: Deploy a VM tier & common dependencies like NIC, Availability set, Backup/DR integration
- Full Solution – All components needed to support an application, minimal input
 - Ex: SharePoint farm with all tiers
- Business strategy
 - Skill specific IT departments manage their templates for resource types they manage
 - Ex: Teams – Database, Networking, Security, Monitoring, Analytics
 - A department manages their entire Azure offering
 - Ex: Engineering, Human Resources, Customer Service, Financing
- Hybrid of one or more styles

There's no right answer nor are you locked into that choice

Template Strategy - Module

- “Plug and play” templates - Select what “features” (templates) you want
- Linked templates can provide reference output for use in parent template
 - Ex: Output the dynamically assigned IP as input for other templates
- Can be used as a baseline for initiatives

Choosing a deployment strategy - Modular



Template Strategy - Generic

- Minimal template code, requires more parameter code
- Very flexible since parameters are describing the config
 - Ex: # of disks, dynamic or static public IP, Windows unattended initial start-up
- Minimal template file = minimal upkeep
- Works well with programmatically generating input
 - Ex: PowerShell pulls input from external systems and converts it to the JSON parameter file
- Ensures key components are always included
 - Ex: Company wide VM template used for all VM deployments
- Takes the longest for creating parameter files

Choosing a deployment strategy - Generic



User



Generic_VM.json



Azure Resource Manager



JohnSmith_VM



DetailedConfig.parameters.json

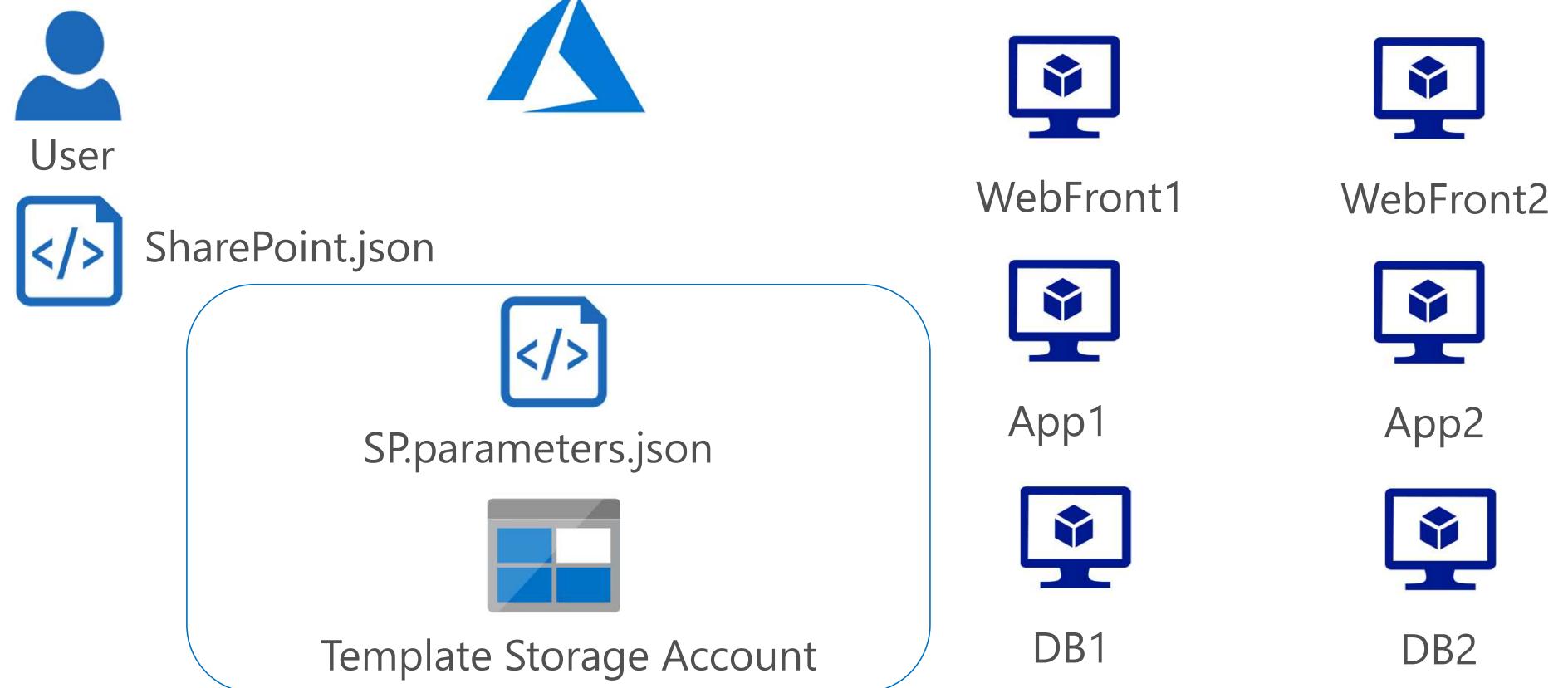


Template Storage Account

Template Strategy – Full Solution

- Minimal input from parameters
- Easier to troubleshoot since the template includes all needed resources
- Difficult to maintain enterprise standards as each full solution template will require changes
- Takes the longest to create initial template file

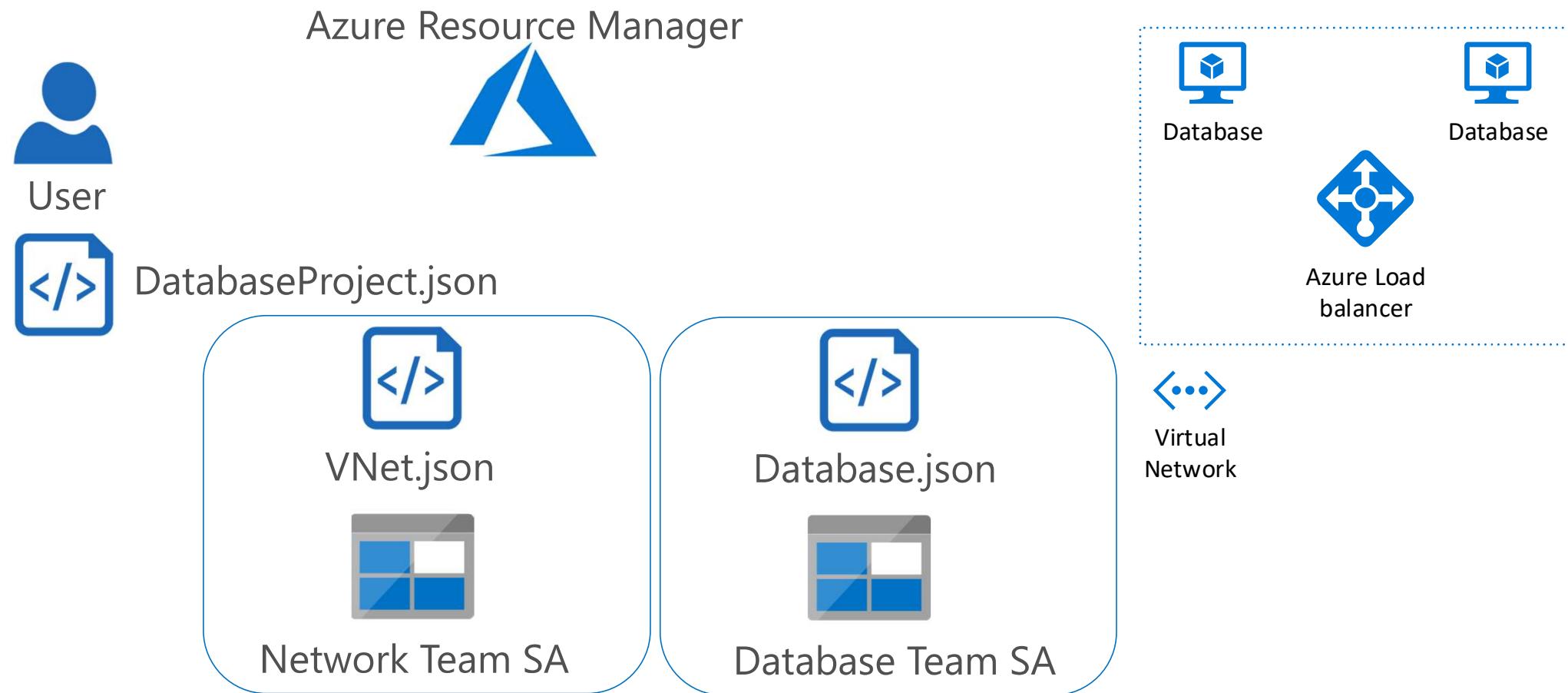
Choosing a deployment strategy – Full Solution



Template Strategy – Business Strategy

- Allows responsibility of Azure resource types & features to be maintained by the right audience
- Departments and teams can focus their skillsets on what matters to their business
- Better governance as each template originated from responsible party
- Users are the consumers of the templates
- Troubleshooting can be harder since others maintain it

Choosing a deployment strategy – Business Specific



Resource Type – Frameworks – How do I?

- Insert a resource type I've never worked with before or insert a new resource feature?
- Azure publishes a 'reference book' of each resource type
- Each resource type's API version contains the schema of all possible properties
- See properties not mentioned in Portal or PowerShell
- More up-to-date than 'user snippets' which are static
- Intellisense usually reads the schema to provide feedback
- Bookmark it: <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/templates/>

Filter by title

- > Data Lake Analytics
- > Data Lake Store
- > Deployment Manager
- > DevTest Labs
- > Domain Registration
- ✓ DNS Resource Provider
- All resources
- ✓ 2018-05-01 API Version
- ✓ Dns Zones Resource Type
- Dns Zones
- A
- AAAA
- CAA
- CNAME
- MX
- NS
- PTR
- SOA
- SRV
- TXT
- > 2017-10-01
- > 2017-09-01
- > 2016-04-01

Microsoft.Network dnsZones template reference

06/26/2019 • 2 minutes to read • API Versions: 2018-05-01 ▾

Template format

To create a Microsoft.Network/dnsZones resource, add the following JSON to the resources section of your template.

JSON

```
{
  "name": "string",
  "type": "Microsoft.Network/dnsZones",
  "apiVersion": "2018-05-01",
  "location": "string",
  "tags": {},
  "properties": {
    "zoneType": "string",
    "registrationVirtualNetworks": [
      {
        "id": "string"
      }
    ],
    "resolutionVirtualNetworks": [
      {
        "id": "string"
      }
    ],
    "resources": []
  }
}
```



Copy / paste into your JSON code editor

Each property in schema is mentioned in detail on the page

JSON for all properties of this resource type's schema version

Property values

The following tables describe the values you need to set in the schema.

Microsoft.Network/dnsZones object

Name	Type	Required	Value
name	string	Yes	
type	enum	Yes	Microsoft.Network/dnsZones
apiVersion	enum	Yes	2018-05-01
location	string	Yes	Resource location.
tags	object	No	Resource tags.
properties	object	Yes	The properties of the zone. - ZoneProperties object
resources	array	No	TXT SRV SOA PTR NS MX CNAME CAA AAAA A

ZoneProperties object

Name	Type	Required	Value
zoneType	enum	No	The type of this DNS zone (Public or Private). - Public or Private
registrationVirtualNetworks	array	No	A list of references to virtual networks that register hostnames in this DNS zone. This is only when ZoneType is Private. - SubResource object
resolutionVirtualNetworks	array	No	A list of references to virtual networks that resolve records in this DNS zone. This is only when ZoneType is Private. - SubResource object

Explanation of
each property



Resource Type – Frameworks – VS Code – copy / paste

Copied from reference page

```
1  {
2      "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#",
3      "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",
4      "parameters": {},
5      "variables": {},
6      "resources": [
7          {
8              "name": "string",
9              "type": "Microsoft.Network/dnsZones",
10             "apiVersion": "2018-05-01",
11             "location": "string",
12             "tags": {},
13             "properties": {
14                 "zoneType": "string",
15                 "registrationVirtualNetworks": [
16                     {
17                         "id": "string"
18                     }
19                 ],
20                 "resolutionVirtualNetworks": [
21                     {
22                         "id": "string"
23                     }
24                 ]
25             },
26             "resources": []
27         }
28     ],
29     "outputs": {}
30 }
```

Let Intellisense do the rest!

Delete what you don't need

Resource Type – Frameworks – VS Code – trimmed code

```
{} DNSZone.json ●
C: > temp > {} DNSZone.json > ...
1  {
2      "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2015-01-01/deploymentTemplate.json#",
3      "contentVersion": "1.0.0.0",
4      "parameters": {},
5      "variables": {},
6      "resources": [
7          {
8              "name": "contoso.com",
9              "type": "Microsoft.Network/dnsZones",
10             "apiVersion": "2018-05-01",
11             "location": "global",
12             "tags": {},
13             "properties": {
14                 "zoneType": "Public"
15             },
16             "resources": []
17         }
18     ],
19     "outputs": {}
20 }
```

Resource Type - Frameworks

- Use the reference site to ensure you're using the latest possible Resource features
- Repeat this process when building from scratch for each resource type
- Create new User Snippets for your common Resources
 - Alternatively, see if the GitHub repo for Azure VSCode snippets has been updated
- Deploying the template is the best way to receive quality feedback as it'll be evaluated by ARM

Iterative Updates

Updating your environment can take many forms:

- Destroy/re-deploy with every new version of code
 - Ensures a clean slate each time while decommissioning previous iterations
- Update a resource in-flight during initial deployment
 - Needed property values aren't known until after initial deployment
 - Ex: Setting a NIC's dynamic IP to static requires acquiring the existing IP first
- Re-configuring already deployed resources
 - Template or Parameter changes that need to roll out to the original resources

Iterative Updates – Declarative – Warning!

The template always defines the declared end state.

Most resource properties are mandatory and therefore their values will be stripped off if not included in each deployment

Iterative Update - Versioning



User



SharePoint_v2.json
- Complete Mode



SP.parameters.json



Template Storage Account



Azure Resource Manager



2019 WebFront1



2019 WebFront2



2019 App1



2019 App2



2019 DB1



2019 DB2

Iterative Update – in-flight re-deployments



Template



Nested Template



VM.json

Azure Resource Manager



OS Disk



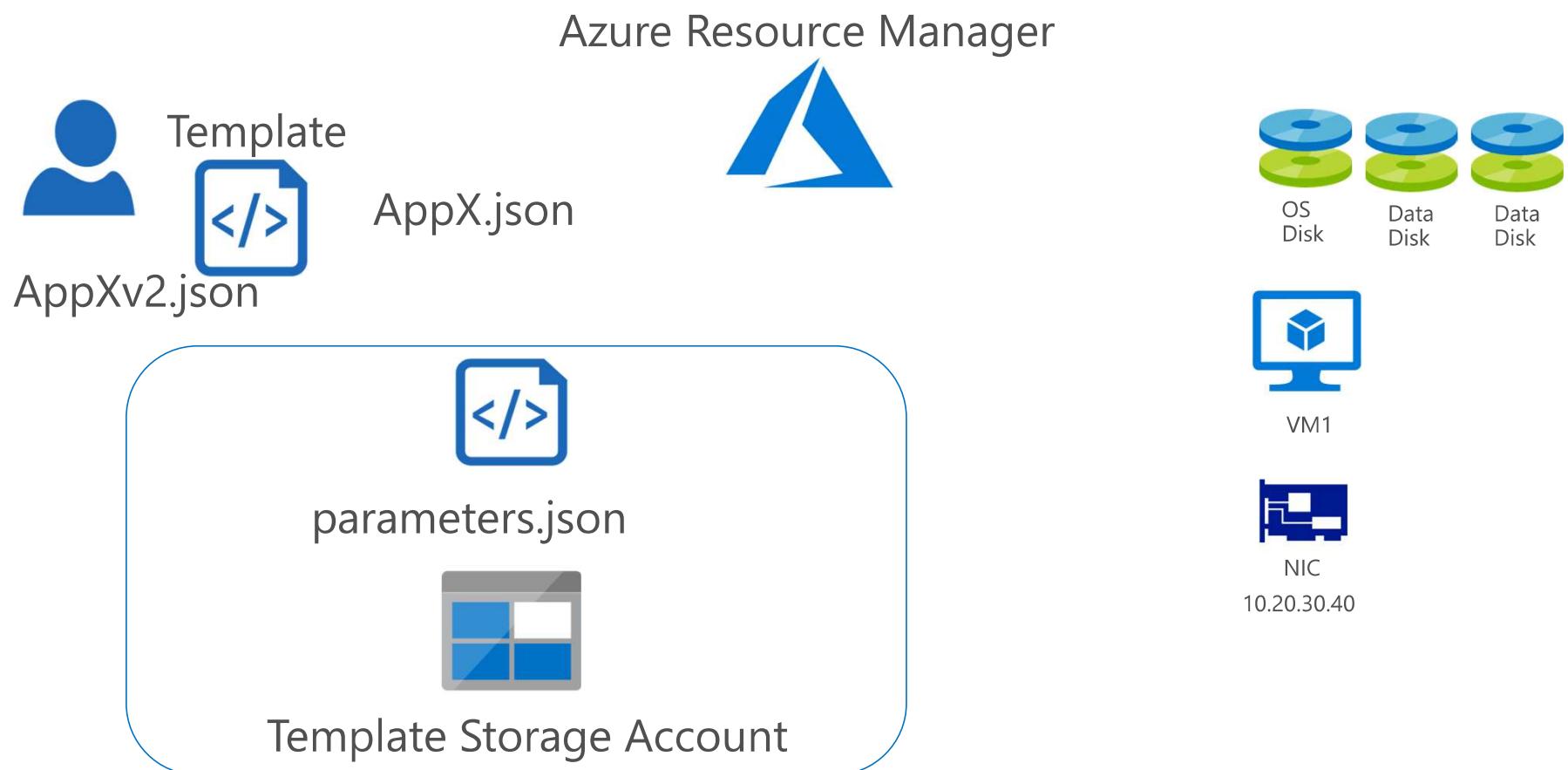
VM



NIC

10.20.30.40
Dynamic
Static

Iterative Update – Re-configuration



Lab: Creating templates from scratch

Implement the various strategies to create templates from scratch to see the differences in their approaches



Knowledge Check

- Why are User Snippets not reliable in the long term?
They are static and therefore not updated with the latest capabilities of a resource
- What is the correct way to write a template from scratch?
There is no correct way, however it should be manageable and scalable to the extent that overhead allows. Picking a strategy is not one size fits all in the Enterprise. Previously established Governance will ensure the template strategies are successful



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