**Step 1: Log in to Azure Portal**

1. Go to the [Azure portal](https://portal.azure.com/).
2. Log in with your Azure account credentials.

**Step 2: Create a Resource Group**

1. In the left-hand navigation pane, select **Resource groups**.
2. Click **+ Create**.
3. Enter the **Resource group name** and select a **Region**.
4. Click **Review + create**, then **Create**.

**Step 3: Create Virtual Network (VNet)**

1. In the left-hand navigation pane, select **Virtual networks**.
2. Click **+ Create**.
3. Select the **Resource group** you created.
4. Enter a **Name** for the VNet.
5. Select a **Region**.
6. In the **IP Addresses** section, configure the **Address space** and **Subnet**.
7. Click **Review + create**, then **Create**.

**Step 4: Create Virtual Machines (VMs)**

1. In the left-hand navigation pane, select **Virtual machines**.
2. Click **+ Create**, then **Azure virtual machine**.
3. Select the **Resource group** you created.
4. Enter the **Virtual machine name**.
5. Choose the **Region** and **Availability options**.
6. Select the **Image** and **Size** for the VM.
7. Configure the **Administrator account**.
8. In the **Networking** section, select the **Virtual network** and **Subnet** you created.
9. Click **Review + create**, then **Create**.
10. Repeat these steps to create additional VMs for load balancing.

**Step 5: Create a Load Balancer**

1. In the left-hand navigation pane, select **Load balancers**.
2. Click **+ Create**.
3. Select the **Resource group** you created.
4. Enter the **Load balancer name**.
5. Select the **Region**.
6. Choose the **Type** (Public or Internal).
7. Configure the **Frontend IP configuration**.
8. Click **Review + create**, then **Create**.

**Step 6: Configure Backend Pool**

1. Go to the **Load balancers** section and select the load balancer you created.
2. In the left-hand menu, select **Backend pools**.
3. Click **+ Add**.
4. Enter the **Name** for the backend pool.
5. Select the **Virtual network** and **Subnet**.
6. Add the **Virtual machines** to the backend pool.
7. Click **Add**.

**Step 7: Configure Health Probe**

1. In the left-hand menu of the load balancer, select **Health probes**.
2. Click **+ Add**.
3. Enter the **Name** for the health probe.
4. Choose the **Protocol** (TCP, HTTP, HTTPS).
5. Set the **Port** and **Interval**.
6. Click **OK**.

**Step 8: Configure Load Balancing Rules**

1. In the left-hand menu of the load balancer, select **Load balancing rules**.
2. Click **+ Add**.
3. Enter the **Name** for the load balancing rule.
4. Select the **Frontend IP address** and **Backend pool**.
5. Choose the **Protocol** (TCP, UDP).
6. Set the **Port** and **Backend port**.
7. Select the **Health probe** you created.
8. Configure the **Session persistence** and **Idle timeout** settings.
9. Click **OK**.

**Step 9: Test the Load Balancer**

1. Obtain the public IP address of the load balancer from the **Overview** section.
2. Use this IP address to access your application in a web browser.
3. Ensure the traffic is distributed across the VMs in the backend pool.