

Hands-on Labs Virtual Hard Drive Guidelines

The process for generating a new VHD for use in Hands-on Labs can be summarized with the following three steps.

1. Run sysprep.
2. Set the VM state to “generalized”.
3. Tell Azure to create an image.

However, we do have some additional recommendations to consider that will make the VHD image ideal for work within the HOL Platform. The guidelines listed below will ensure you create the most effective image for deploying with your content package.

DO:

- Limit VHD size to 40GB. If required, VHD size can be up to 64GB.
- Please leave at least 4GB to 8GB of free space on the VHD image.
- Generalize the VHD (sysprep) before submitting it to Valorem for replication in the Platform Storage service.
- Use the property: "createOption": "FromImage", in your ARM template virtual machine resource definition.
- Use parameters to provide the VHD URI path to the resource. (Example provided below)
- Use the command "[split(parameters('JumpHostOSDiskVhdUri'), '?')[0]]" to extract the jump host path from the parameter and remove the SAS token.

DO NOT:

- The jump host image cannot be in a folder inside the storage container. It must be in the root.
- Do not install the Azure VM Agent on a generalized VHD, Azure will inject this on deployment.

Example VM Resource Definition

```
{  
  
  "apiVersion": "2015-05-01-preview",  
  "type": "Microsoft.Compute/virtualMachines",  
  "dependsOn": [  
    "[concat('Microsoft.Network/networkInterfaces/', variables('NicName'))]"  
  ],  
  "location": "[resourceGroup().location]",  
  "name": "[parameters('vmName')]",  
  "properties": {  
    "hardwareProfile": {  
      "vmSize": "[variables('vmSize')]"  
    },  
    "osProfile": {  
      "computerName": "[parameters('vmName')]",  
      "adminUsername": "[parameters('vmAdminUsername')]"  
    }  
  }  
}
```

```
    "adminPassword": "[parameters('vmAdminPassword')]"
  },
  "storageProfile": {
    "osDisk": {
      "name": "[concat(parameters('vmName'),'OSDisk')]",
      "osType": "Windows",
      "caching": "ReadWrite",
      "createOption": "FromImage",
      "image": {
        "uri": "[variables('vmVhd')]"
      },
      "vhd": {
        "uri": "[concat('https://', parameters('storageName'),
'.blob.core.windows.net/', variables('vmStorageAccountContainerName'), '/',
variables('vmOSDiskName'))]"
      }
    }
  },
}
```

Additional resource property definitions: e.g. network profile, custom script extension for Immersion Guide installation, etc.

```
}
```
