**Azure Files**

[Azure Files](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/storage/files/storage-files-introduction) enables you to set up highly available network file shares that can be accessed by using the standard Server Message Block (SMB) protocol. That means that multiple VMs can share the same files with both read and write access. You can also read the files using the REST interface or the storage client libraries.

One thing that distinguishes Azure Files from files on a corporate file share is that you can access the files from anywhere in the world using a URL that points to the file and includes a shared access signature (SAS) token. You can generate SAS tokens; they allow specific access to a private asset for a specific amount of time.

File shares can be used for many common scenarios:

* Many on-premises applications use file shares. This feature makes it easier to migrate those applications that share data to Azure. If you mount the file share to the same drive letter that the on-premises application uses, the part of your application that accesses the file share should work with minimal, if any, changes.
* Configuration files can be stored on a file share and accessed from multiple VMs. Tools and utilities used by multiple developers in a group can be stored on a file share, ensuring that everybody can find them, and that they use the same version.
* Resource logs, metrics, and crash dumps are just three examples of data that can be written to a file share and processed or analyzed later.

For more information about Azure Files, see [Introduction to Azure Files](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/storage/files/storage-files-introduction).

Some SMB features are not applicable to the cloud. For more information, see [Features not supported by the Azure File service](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/rest/api/storageservices/features-not-supported-by-the-azure-file-service).