# Microsoft Azure: The Big Picture

This is a survey course.

## Compute

This pertains to virtual machines and App Services. AppServices is a framework for running web applications.

## Storing and Processing Data in Azure

The description sounds somewhat repetitious of data mentioned above (in **Compute**). However, here the instructor mentions two paths (especially with regard to databases): Self-Managed and Service-Based. Self-Managed places the responsibility (and freedom) of the client (Current Pixel) doing backups and patching. Service-Based removes a great deal of the work, which becomes Azure’s responsibility. I am confident that Current Pixel will want to take advantage of the Services-Based path.

It’s no surprise that Azure offers a variety of relational databases. The same applies to No-SQL database flavors.

Other services are available for large data – storage and processing.

## Analyzing Data in Azure

The subtopics are **Analyzing Data** and **Machine Learning and Visualization**. In each of these Azure provides several services.

## Integrating Applications in Azure

By “integrating” the instructor means combining multiple applications owned by an Azure user (or owned by multiple Azure users), so that they operate cooperatively. The Azure user has at his disposal various services for sending/receiving messages and for responding to events.

## Networking in Azure

Load balancing in Azure is handled automatically in Azure. But if the Azure client wants (needs) to dive into details, virtual networks are available. Services also make it possible to connect on-premises facilities to ports in the Azure cloud.

## Managing and Monitoring Azure Resources

Azure’s portal provides cost data – what the Azure client is going to be billed for various Azure services. There are other ways to obtain the same information that the portal provides – command-line interface running on-premises, a Cloud Shell service, and an app that runs on mobile phones. Other management tools include backups, recovery, scheduling, and other repeatable actions.

## Developing for Azure

This section introduces services for developers. The instructor makes it clear that Azure will be able to provide what is needed – deployment to the Cloud, source control Services (GIT), testing, pre-release deployment, etc. It is clear that Azure will work well with Visual Studio.

## Using Identity and Security in Azure

The instructor touts some very powerful tools for identifying and authenticating users. One gets the impression that these tools are external to the web application. If this is true, then this is possibly an explanation why Microsoft is no longer providing a built-in tool for identification/authentication in Visual Studio; some users will be happy to manage these via Azure. On the other hand, it makes it more difficult to drop Azure and start using a competitor (e.g. AWS).

## Additional Services

I did not encounter anything in this section that I thought would be pertinent to Current Pixel.

## Other Azure Pluralsight Courses

* Developing with .NET on Microsoft Azure – Getting Started
* Microsoft Azure for Developers: What to Use When
* Introduction to Azure App Services