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# Introduction

This migration guide is designed to provide snackable and actionable information for Redis customers seeking to migrate on-premises or non-Azure hosted Redis workloads to [Azure Cache for Redis](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-overview). This guide will provide realistic guidance planning for executing the migration of a majority of Redis configurations to Azure.

Workload functionality and existing application connectivity can present challenges when migrating existing Redis instances to the cloud. This guide offers helpful links and recommendations focusing on migrating the cache, ensuring performance, and functional application operational parity.

The information provided will center on a customer journey using the Microsoft [Cloud Adoption Framework](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/get-started/) to perform assessment, migration, and post-optimization activities for an Azure Cache for Redis environment.

## Redis

Redis has a rich history in the open source community and is heavily used in corporate websites and critical applications. This guide will assist administrators who have been asked to scope, plan, and execute the migration. Administrators new to Redis can also review the [Redis Documentation](https://redis.io/documentation) for deeper information of the internal workings on Redis. Additionally, each document section contains links to helpful reference articles and tutorials.

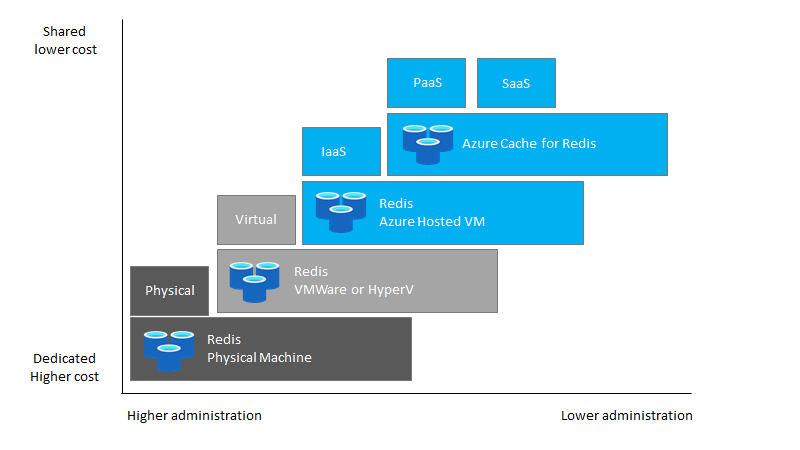
### Common Usage of Redis

Any application that has infrequently changing data (aka deterministic within a set timeframe) such as from a database or method call with high costs (network latency, processing time, etc) are appropriate uses of caching technology like Redis. There are many features of .NET and other technologies that can address this locally (in application memory), but in many cases you have applications that are distributed to increase performance. In these cases, you also need a distributed cache (such as Redis, NCache or Memchached) that allow all the workers to access it. Because of the frequently changing features and support of these products, it is best to design your applications with layers of abstraction such that if you ever decide to change your caching layer, it is seamless to your applications.

## Azure Cache for Redis

Microsoft offers a fully managed Redis cache environment to support your data cache, content cache, session store and many other applications as a Platform as a Service (PaaS) offering. In this fully managed environment, the operating system and software updates are automatically applied, as well as the implementation of high availability and protection of the data. For more overview about the Redis cache offering in Azure, reference the [About Azure Cache for Redis](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-overview) documentation page.

Although we will solely focus on the managed service, Redis can also run in Azure Virtual machines..



Comparison of Redis environments.

This guide will focus entirely on migrating the on-premises Redis workloads to the Platform as a Service (PaaS) Azure Cache for Redis offering due to its various advantages over Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) such as scale-up and scale-out, pay-as-you-go, high availability, security and manageability features.

# Use Case

## Overview

World Wide Importers (WWI) is a San Francisco, California-based manufacturer and wholesale distributor of novelty goods. They began operations in 2002 and developed an effective business-to-business (B2B) model, selling the items they produce directly to retail customers throughout the United States. Its customers include specialty stores, supermarkets, computing stores, tourist attraction shops, and some individuals. This B2B model enables a streamlined distribution system of their products, allowing them to reduce costs and offer more competitive pricing on the items they manufacture. They also sell to other wholesalers via a network of agents who promote their products on WWI’s behalf.

Before launching into new areas, WWI wants to ensure its IT infrastructure can handle the expected growth. WWI currently hosts all its IT infrastructure on-premises at its corporate headquarters and believes moving these resources to the cloud enables future growth. They have tasked their CIO with overseeing the migration of their customer portal and the associated data workloads to the cloud.

WWI would like to continue to take advantage of the many advanced capabilities available in the cloud, and they are interested in migrating their instances and associated workloads into Azure. They want to do this quickly and without having to make any changes to their applications or instances. Initially, they plan on migrating their java-based customer portal web application and the associated Redis instances and workloads to the cloud.

### Migration Goals

The primary goals for migrating their Redis instances and associated workloads to the cloud include:

* Improve their overall security posture by encrypting data at rest and in-transit.
* Enhance the high availability and disaster recovery (HA/DR) capabilities.
* Take advantage of administrative and performance optimizations features of Azure Cache for Redis.
* Create a scalable platform that they can use to expand their business into more geographic regions.
* Allow for enhanced compliance with various legal requirements where PII information is stored.

WWI used the [Cloud Adoption Framework (CAF)](https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/) to educate their team on following best practices guidelines for cloud migration. Using CAF as a higher-level migration guide, WWI customized their migration into three main stages. Within each stage, they defined activities that needed to be addressed to ensure a successful lift and shift cloud migration.

These stages include:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Stage | Name | Activities |
| 1 | Pre-migration | Assessment, Planning, Migration Method Evaluation, Application Implications, Test Plans, Performance Baselines |
| 2 | Migration | Execute Migration, Execute Test Plans |
| 3 | Post-migration | Business Continuity, Disaster Recovery, Management, Security, Performance Optimization, Platform modernization |

WWI has several instances of Redis running with varying versions ranging from 3.0 to 6.0. They would like to move their older instances to the latest Redis version as soon as possible, but there are some concerns regarding applications functioning without issues. A decision has been made to migrate to the cloud first and upgrade the Redis version later knowing that Redis 3.0 and 4.0 are coming to end of support.

They would also like to ensure that their data workloads are safe and available across multiple geographic regions in case of failure and are looking at the available configuration options.

WWI wants to start off with a simple application for the first migration, and then move to more business-critical applications in a later phase. This will provide the team with the knowledge and experience they need to prepare and plan for those future migrations.

# Assessment

Before jumping right into migrating a Redis workload, there is a fair amount of due diligence that must be performed. This includes analyzing the data, hosting environment, and application workloads to validate the Azure landing zone is properly configured and prepared to host the soon-to-be migrated workloads.

## Redis Versions

Remote Dictionary Server (Redis) has a rich history starting in late 2000s. Since then, it has evolved into a widely used memory based key value data management system. Azure Cache for Redis started with the support of Redis version 4.0 and has continued to 6.0 (as of 8/2021). For a listing of all Redis versions, reference [this detailed page](https://bucardo.org/postgres_all_versions.html).

For the latest on Azure Cache for Redis version support, reference [Supported Azure Cache for Redis server versions](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/Redis/concepts-supported-versions). In the Post Migration Management section, we will review how upgrades (such as 4.0 to 6.0) are applied to the Redis instances in Azure.

**Note** Redis OSS Support is based on the release of the latest stable release and only the latest stable version, and the last two versions will receive maintenance from Redis OSS. As of 4/2021, anything prior to 4.0 is end of life. Microsoft Cache for Redis may not exactly match to these same support windows.

Knowing the source Redis version is important as many features have been introduced through the major versions. The applications using the system may be expecting behavior and features that are specific to that version. Although Redis has been great at keeping breaking changes at a minimum and keeping compatibility between versions, there are a small handful of cases that may influence the migration path and version:

* Support for Redis Modules (RedisSearch, RedisBloom, RedisTimeSeries)
* RDB format change (5.0 not backwards compatible, 4.0 is not backwards compatible)
* Change in INFO fields (4.0)
* Usage of REDIS ACL (6.0+)
* RESP3 mode (6.0+)
* Redis streams (5.0+)
* LRU Cache changes (4.0+)
* Any Lua Language changes (EVAL, EVALSHA)
* Extensive use of TTL
* Number of databases

To check the Redis server version run the following command against the Redis instance:

redis-server --version

For a list of changes between versions, reference the latest release documentation:

* [Redis 6.x](https://raw.githubusercontent.com/redis/redis/6.0/00-RELEASENOTES)
* [Redis 5.x](https://raw.githubusercontent.com/redis/redis/5.0/00-RELEASENOTES)
* [Redis 4.x](https://raw.githubusercontent.com/redis/redis/4.0/00-RELEASENOTES)
* [Redis 3.x](https://raw.githubusercontent.com/redis/redis/3.0/00-RELEASENOTES)

## Architecture and Objects

Data (keys and the values) is only one component of instance migration. The instance supporting configuration may also need to be migrated and validated to ensure the applications will continue to run reliably. As part of the assessment, it is important to understand what features of the system are being used other than data storage.

Here is a list of inventory items that should be inventoried before and after the migration:

* Users
* Configuration settings

After reviewing the above items, notice there is much more than just data that may be required to migrate a Redis workload. The following sections below address more specific details about several of the above.

**Note** Even though you may be able to get these configuration values out of your source system, it is unlikely that you will be able to import them using the same commands as many configurations must be done via the Azure Portal, PowerShell or Azure Cli using Azure specific syntax. For example, the config command is not exposed in Azure Cache for Redis.

## Limitations

Azure Cache for Redis is a fully supported version of Redis running as a platform as a service. However, there are some common limitations to become familiar with when doing an initial assessment for selected your landing zone. Many of these limitations are driven by the tier selected as shown in the online [supported features document](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-overview#feature-comparison)

Many of the other items are simply operational aspects that administrators should become familiar with as part of the operational data workload lifecycle management. This guide will explore many of these operational aspects in the [Post Migration Management](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\04_PostMigration\01_Management.md) section.

* Each tier supports a maximum number of databases (when not in cluster mode). If you have more than the default of 16, be sure that you pick a tier to migrate too that has support for all source databases.
* Although you can cluster enable the premium tier, in doing so, you will only be able to support the db0 database. If you are using a tool that supports migrating databases, you will need to ensure that you move all source databases to the db0 database in the target.
* You cannot cluster enable Basic or Standard tiers so migrating via cluster failover is not an option. You can cluster enable a premium instance but it will become part of its own cluster and you cannot use it to cluster failover.
* Once you cluster enabled the premium instance, it will communication over the Redis cluster protocol.

### Redis Modules

You can extend the features of Redis by implemented custom Redis modules. Look for any loadmodule directives in the redis.conf file that are not part of the default installation. You can also get a list of all modules by running:

redis-cli MODULE LIST

## Databases

When performing a migration, consider the Redis instance may have more than one database. Databases in Redis were not designed for scaling but rather for namespaces. For example a SaaS Application may run one code base but hundreds of clients each with their own namespace / redis database. Databases allow you to flush a client without affecting others and minimize administrative overhead.

The tool you select will need to be able to support migrating keys in all databases and ensuring they are moved to the target appropriately versus just moving the default 0 database. You can find the number of databases by running the following:

redis-cli INFO keyspace

OR

redis-cli config get databases

## Source Systems

The amount of migration preparation can vary depending on the source system and its location. In addition to the instance objects, consider how to get the data from the source system to the target system. Migrating data can become challenging when there are firewalls and other networking components in between the source and target.

Internet migration speed is an important factor. Moving data over the Internet can be slower than using dedicated circuits to Azure. Consider setting up an [ExpressRoute](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/expressroute/expressroute-introduction) connection between the source network and the Azure network when moving many gigabytes, terabytes, and petabytes of data.

Do not overwhelm existing network infrastructure. If ExpressRoute is already present, the connection is likely being used by other applications. Performing a migration over an existing route can cause strain on the network throughput and potentially cause considerable performance degradation for both the migration and other applications using the network.

Lastly, disk space must be evaluated. When exporting a very large instance, consider the size of the data. Ensure the system where the tool is running and the export location have enough disk space to perform the export operation.

### Clusters

If the source system is running in a cluster, you will need to ensure that the target instance is also running in a similarly configured cluster with the same performance metrics as the source.

### Hashing layers

When not using clusters, you can place a hashing layer in front of a set of Redis servers. In this case, you will need to ensure that you have the same technology sitting in front of the Azure Cache for Redis instances. The path or tool you use to migrate will need to be tested with whatever hashing layer you are using to ensure that all keys are discovered and migrated to the target.

For instance, the default source code for the tool twemproxy will require all the target servers to have the same password or no password. You cannot change the Azure Cache for Redis password/keys to a custom value. This means you would need to setup Redis cache servers in Virtual Machines in a private network and place the twemproxy in front of them.

During the migration from the hashing layer, you will need to export keys from each of the source servers and then add the values through the new hashing layer setup with the same configuration on the target side.

### Cloud Providers

Migrating instances from cloud services providers, such as Google Cloud (GCP) and Amazon Web Services (AWS), may require extra networking configuration steps to access the cloud-hosted Redis instances or they may prevent Redis migration commands. Any first party or third party migration tools will require access from outside IP ranges and may be blocked by default.

### On-premises

Like cloud provider-hosted environments, if the Redis data environment is behind corporate firewalls or other network security layers, a path will need to be created between the on-premises instance and Azure Cache for Redis.

## Performance Analysis Tools

Many tools and methods can be used to assess the Redis data workloads and environments. Each tool will provide a different set of assessment and migration features and functionality. As part of this guide, we will review the most commonly used tools for assessing Redis data workloads.

## Azure Cache for Redis - Service Tiers

Equipped with the assessment information (CPU, memory, storage, etc.), the migration user’s next choice is to decide which Azure Cache for Redis service and pricing tier to start with.

There are currently five potential options:

* **Azure Cache for Redis (Basic)** : An OSS Redis cache running on a single VM. This tier has no service-level agreement (SLA) and is ideal for development/test and non-critical workloads.
* **Azure Cache for Redis (Standard)** : An OSS Redis cache running on two VMs in a replicated configuration.
* **Azure Cache for Redis (Premium)** : High-performance OSS Redis caches. This tier offers higher throughput, lower latency, better availability, and more features. Premium caches are deployed on more powerful VMs compared to the VMs for Basic or Standard caches.
* **Azure Cache for Redis (Enterprise)** : High-performance caches powered by Redis Labs’ Redis Enterprise software. This tier supports Redis modules including RediSearch, RedisBloom, and RedisTimeSeries. Also, it offers even higher availability than the Premium tier.
* **Azure Cache for Redis (Enterprise Flash)** : Cost-effective large caches powered by Redis Labs’ Redis Enterprise software. This tier extends Redis data storage to non-volatile memory, which is cheaper than DRAM, on a VM. It reduces the overall per-GB memory cost.

Briefly, these options were discussed in the [Limitations](#Xef4603c8647a4d6019c31c84ecbbd1d46b17e4e) document.

### Comparison of Services

Which Azure Cache for Redis service should be selected and used? This table outlines some of the advantages and disadvantages of each along with their Redis version support as of 4/2021.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Service | Pros | Cons | Versions Supported |
| Azure VM | Any version, most flexible, full Redis feature support | Customer responsible for updates, security, and administration | Any Version |
| Basic | Sizes up to 53GB, low cost | Lower performance, no data persistence, no replication or failover | 4.x, 6.x |
| Standard | All basic, plus replication and failover support | Lower performance, no data persistence | 4.x, 6.x |
| Premium | All Standard, plus zone redundancy, data persistence and clustering | No support for Redis Modules, no active geo-replication | 4.x, 6.x |
| Enterprise | All Premium, plus Redis Module support | Higher costs | 6.x |
| Enterprise Flash | Flash based memory | No Redis Module support | 6.x |

As displayed above, if the instance is running Redis 3.x or lower and do not plan to upgrade, the workload will need to run in an Azure VM.

### Costs

After evaluating the entire WWI Redis data workloads, WWI determined they would need at least 6GB of cache capacity with data persistence and clustering support so a Premium Sku was selected. WWI intentionally chose to begin its Azure migration journey with a relatively small workload. However, the best practices of instance migration still apply and will be used as a template for future migrations.

To determine the memory usage, they interrogated the redis processes on their source system during a heavy load period:

ps -o pid,user,%mem,command ax | sort -b -k3 -r

They then monitored the network bandwidth to see how much traffic was being used between the clients and the Redis server. They measured about 15% cache usage per hour which equated to 900MB of traffic per hour which equates to 328GB of traffic per year. The current application will not be moved to the same Azure region but will utilize the Azure Redis Cache which means network bandwidth will have to be paid. They had a couple of tools to choose from to monitor the network traffic (iptraf and nethogs):

sudo apt-get install iptraf -y  
  
sudo netstat =tump | grep <port\_number>

sudo apt-get install nethogs  
  
sudo nethogs

Additionally, because they want [data persistence](https://redis.io/topics/persistence) and backups, they will persist this to Azure Storage.

Using the [Azure Cache for Redis pricing calculator](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/pricing/details/cache/) WWI was able to determine the costs for the Azure Cache for Redis instance. As of 8/2021, the total costs of ownership (TCO) is displayed in the following table for the WWI Conference instance:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Resource | Description | Quantity | Cost |
| Compute (Premium) | 6GB Memory (1 primary, 1 replica) | 24 x 365 @ $0.554/hr | $4853.04 / yr |
| Storage (backup) | 6GB | 6 \* 12 @ $0.15 | $10.80 / yr |
| Network | ~27.37GB/month egress | 12 \* 22.37 \* $.08 | $21.4752 / yr |
| Total |  |  | $4885.31 / yr |

After reviewing the initial costs, WWI’s CIO confirmed they will be on Azure for a period much longer than 3 years. They decided to use 3-year [reserve instances](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/Redis/concept-reserved-pricing) to save an extra ~$2.6K/yr:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Resource | Description | Quantity | Cost |
| Compute (Premium) | 6GB Memory (1 primary, 1 replica) | 24 x 365 @ $0.249/hr | $2190 / yr |
| Storage (backup) | 6GB | 6 \* 12 @ $0.15 | $10.80 / yr |
| Network | ~27.37GB/month egress | 12 \* 22.37 \* $.08 | $21.4752 / yr |
| Total |  |  | $2222.27 / yr (~45% savings) |

As the table above shows, backups, network egress, and any extra nodes must be considered in the total cost of ownership (TCO). As more instances are added, the storage and network traffic generated would be the only extra cost-based factor to consider.

**Note:** The estimates above do not include any [ExpressRoute](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/expressroute/expressroute-introduction), [Azure App Gateway](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/application-gateway/overview), [Azure Load Balancer](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/load-balancer/load-balancer-overview), or [App Service](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/app-service/overview) costs for the application layers.

The above pricing can change at any time and will vary based on region. The region used above was West US 2.

### Application Implications

When moving to Azure Cache for Redis, the conversion to [secure sockets layer (SSL)](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-remove-tls-10-11#configure-your-application-to-use-tls-12) based communication is likely to be one of the biggest changes for the applications. SSL is enabled by default in Azure Cache for Redis and it is likely the on-premises application and data workload is not set up to connect to Redis using SSL. When enabled, SSL usage will add some additional processing overhead and should be monitored.

**Note** Although SSL is enabled by default, it is possible to disable. This is strongly not recommended.

Lastly, it is likely that the application configuration will need to be modified to point to the new Azure Cache for Redis server, however if you use private endpoints and have a route to the Azure Cache for Redis, you may only need to change your DNS entry to point to the new cloud-based instance.

## WWI Use Case

WWI started the assessment by gathering information about their Redis instances. They were able to compile the following:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Source | Size | Data Persistence | Version | Owner | Downtime |
| Redis (Www) | AWS (PaaS) | 6GB | yes | 3.0 | Information Technology | 4 hr |
| Redis (Database) | On-premises | 12GB | yes | 5.0 | Information Technology | 1 hrs |

Each instance owner was contacted to determine the acceptable downtime period. The planning and migration method selected was based on the acceptable instance downtime.

For the first phase, WWI focused solely on the web site supporting instance. The team needed the migration experience to assist in the proceeding data workload migrations. The www instance was selected because of the simple instance structure and the lenient downtime requirements. Once the instance was migrated, the team focused on migrating the application into the secure Azure landing zone.

## Assessment Checklist

* Test the workload runs successfully on the target system.
* Ensure the right networking components are in place for the migration.
* Understand the data workload resource requirements.
* Estimate the total costs.
* Understand the downtime requirements.
* Be prepared to make application changes.

# Planning

## Landing Zone

An [Azure Landing zone](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/ready/landing-zone/) is the target environment defined as the final resting place of a cloud migration project. In most projects, the landing zone should be scripted via ARM templates for its initial setup. Finally, it should be customized with PowerShell or the Azure Portal to fit the needs of the workload.

Since WWI is based in San Francisco, all resources for the Azure landing zone were created in the US West 2 region. The following resources were created to support the migration:

* [Azure Cache for Redis](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/Redis/quickstart-create-Redis-server-instance-using-azure-portal)
* [Express Route](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/expressroute/expressroute-introduction)
* [Azure Virtual Network](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-network/quick-create-portal) with [hub and spoke design](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/architecture/reference-architectures/hybrid-networking/hub-spoke) with corresponding [virtual network peerings](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-network/virtual-network-peering-overview) establish.
* [App Service](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/app-service/overview)
* [Application Gateway](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/load-balancer/quickstart-load-balancer-standard-internal-portal?tabs=option-1-create-internal-load-balancer-standard)
* [Private endpoints](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/private-link/private-endpoint-overview) for the App Services and Redis instance

**Note:** As part of this guide, two ARM templates (one with private endpoints, one without) were provided to deploy a potential Azure landing zone for a Redis migration project. The private endpoints ARM template provides a more secure, production-ready scenario. Additional manual Azure landing zone configuration may be necessary, depending on the requirements.

**Note** Creating a Redis instance in an Azure Virtual Machine with a default port and no password or on an non-SSL port with a password with no network security group protecting them is highly discouraged. Bots continually monitor the Azure IP address space and will find your Redis instance within a few days. Be very careful creating resources that are exposed to the internet.

## Networking

Getting data from the source system to Azure Cache for Redis in a fast and optimal way is a vital component to consider in a migration project. Small unreliable connections may require administrators to restart the migration several times until a successful result is achieved. Restarting migrations due to network issues can lead to wasted effort, time and money.

Take the time to understand and evaluate the network connectivity between the source, tool, and destination environments. In some cases, it may be appropriate to upgrade the internet connectivity or configure an ExpressRoute connection from the on-premises environment to Azure. Once on-premises to Azure connectivity has been created, the next step is to validate that the selected migration tool can connect from the source to the destination.

The migration tool location will determine the network connectivity requirements. As shown in the table below, the selected migration tool must be able to connect to both the on-premises machine and Azure. Azure should be configured to only accept network traffic from the migration tool location.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Migration Tool | Type | Tool Location | Inbound Network Requirements | Outbound Network Requirements |
| Import/Export (RDB) | Offline | On-premises | None | A path to copy the file to the new instance |
| DUMP/RESTORE | Online | On-premises | None | Open port to the target instance |
| SLAVEOF / REPLICAOF | Online | On-premises | None | Open port to the target instance |
| MIGRATE | Online | On-premises | None | Open port to the target instance |
| 3rd party tools | Offline  Online | On-premises | Based on tool | Based on tool |

**Note** We will discuss these migration methods in more detail in the next section.

Other networking considerations include:

* When using an Azure Virtual Machine to run the migration tools, assign it a public IP address and then only allow it to connect to the on-premises Redis instance.
* Outbound firewalls must ensure outbound connectivity to Azure Cache for Redis.

## Private Link and/or VNet integration

All Azure Cache for Redis services support private links and VNet integration. There are however be sure to review the [FAQs for private endpoints](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-private-link#faq) to understand the behavior of the cache when behind a private endpoint.

You should also be familiar with the communication ports of Redis which are outlined in [Outbound port requirements](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-how-to-premium-vnet#outbound-port-requirements).

When integrating with other Azure services, you must also ensure that [other network connectivity](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-how-to-premium-vnet#additional-virtual-network-connectivity-requirements) is also allowed in a virtual network.

## Networking with Geo-replication

If you plan to use the Geo-replication feature of Azure Cache for Redis, there are several other ports that must be allowed in order for the replication to be successful. See [Geo-replication peer port requirements](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-how-to-premium-vnet#geo-replication-peer-port-requirements) for more information.

## SSL/TLS Connectivity

In addition to the application implications of migrating to SSL-based communication, the SSL/TLS connection types are also something that needs to be considered. After creating the Azure Cache for Redis instance, review the SSL settings, and read the [Configure your application to use TLS 1.2](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-remove-tls-10-11#configure-your-application-to-use-tls-12) article to understand how the TLS settings can affect the security posture of an application.

## WWI Use Case

WWI’s cloud team has created the necessary Azure landing zone resources in a specific resource group for the Azure Cache for Redis. Additional resources will be included to support the applications. To create the landing zone, WWI decided to script the setup and deployment using ARM templates. By using ARM templates, they would be able to quickly tear down and re-setup the environment, if needed.

As part of the ARM template, all connections between virtual networks will be configured with peering in a hub and spoke architecture. The instance and application will be placed into separate virtual networks. An Azure App Gateway will be placed in front of the app service to allow the app service to be isolated from the Internet. The Azure App Service will connect to the Azure Cache for Redis using a private endpoint.

WWI originally wanted to test an online migration, but the lack of replication support made this infeasible as they did not want to deal with complexities of replaying the AOF files. WWI chose to do an offline migration instead. The Redis RDB backup option was used to export the on-premises data and then was used to import the data into the Azure Cache for Redis instance via Azure Storage.

## Planning Checklist

* Prepare the Azure landing zone. Consider using ARM template deployment in case the environment must be torn down and rebuilt quickly.
* Verify the networking setup. Verification should include testing connectivity, bandwidth, latency, and firewall configurations.
* Determine if you are going to use the online or offline data migration strategy.
* Decide on the SSL certificate strategy.

# Migration Methods

Getting the data from the source to target will require using tools or features of Redis to accomplish the migration.

It is important to complete the entire assessment and planning stages before starting the next stages. The decisions and data collected are migration path and tool selection dependencies.

We explore the following commonly used tools in this section:

* Database export/import via RDB file
* Append Only File (AOF)
* Layer of abstraction (Dual write)
* SLAVEOF / REPLICAOF commands
* MIGRATE command
* 3rd Party tools

## Import / Export

### Redis Persistence

Redis is a memory server, designed for high-performance storage and retrieval. If the server or service where to be shutdown, all the items in the cache would be lost. To ensure durability, you can [select a persistence mode](https://redis.io/topics/persistence) to keep the values in the case of failure. These two persistence methods include RDB and AOF.

You can also select the [persistence in Azure Redis instances](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-how-to-premium-persistence).

### RDB File

By default, Redis will keep cache data persisted to disk on a fairly regular basis, this can however be disabled by the administrator to improve performance. However, doing so would cause any data in memory to be lost in the case of a server fault or reboot. In most cases this is enabled, but has [advantages and disadvantages](https://redis.io/topics/persistence).

### Append Only File (AOF)

The append-only file is an alternative to RDB and is a fully-durable strategy for Redis. It first became available in version 1.1. AOF can be enabled in the Redis configuration file:

appendonly yes

Once enabled, every time Redis receives a command that changes the dataset (e.g. SET) it will append it to the AOF. When you restart Redis it will re-play the AOF to rebuild the state. This same file can be used to rebuild / migrate a Redis instance in Azure, however, the replay will need to be done via a tool such as redis-cli as you cannot use automatic import of the AOF file like an RDB file via Azure Storage.

This option is more durable than the RDB file, but comes at some costs in larger files, repeated commands and slower performance when under huge write loads.

### Manual (SET)

The most basic way to migrate an instance is to enumerate all the keys from the source and then SET the values in the destination. This works well with basic key values such as strings and integers, but care has to be taken with more complex objects such that the tool encodes the values correctly in the migrate process.

### Manual (DUMP/RESTORE)

This path is the preferred path as it will export the key in the Redis encoded format. Although it is the preferred method, it presents various challenges when the source and target are not within a compatible version range for the encoding algorithm.

### SLAVEOF / REPLICAOF

Redis includes the ability to create replicas of master nodes. This path is one of the easiest to setup, but unfortunately none of the Azure services support the SLAVEOF or REPLICAOF commands. This means this path is best used for when you are moving from one version to another to support a move to the cloud using the DUMP and RESTORE path.

### MIGRATE

The [MIGRATE](https://redis.io/commands/migrate) Redis command will atomically transfer a key from a source Redis instance to a destination Redis instance. On success the key is deleted from the original instance and is guaranteed to exist in the target instance.

### Layer of Abstraction (Dual write)

Layer of abstraction means that you can use your applications to migrate your Redis data in real-time and as the data is used. Once you hit 100% key coverage, you can then remove the layer of abstraction and retire the old Redis instances.

### Other open-source tools

There are several 3rd party migration tools that help migrate Redis workloads easily and quickly. In most cases, the time savings and ease of use come with a price and may add extra costs to the migration.

Some of these include:

* [redis-copy](https://github.com/deepakverma/redis-copy)
* [redis-migrate](https://github.com/vipshop/redis-migrate-tool)

## Fastest/Minimum Downtime Migration

As outlined above, there are plenty of paths for migrating cache data. Deciding which path to take is a function of the migration team’s skill set, and the amount of downtime the instance and application owners are willing to accept. Some tools support multi-threaded parallel data migration approaches while other tools were designed for simple migrations of key/value data only.

## Decision Table

There are many paths WWI can take to migrate their Redis workloads. We have provided a table of the potential paths and the advantages and disadvantages of each:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Objective | Description | Tool | Prerequisites | Advantages | Disadvantages |
| Fastest migration possible | Parallel approach | 3rd party tool | Scripted Setup | Highly parallelized | Target throttling |
| Online migration | Keep the source up for as long as possible | Replication | None | Seamless | Extra processing and storage |
| Highly Customized Offline Migration | Selectively export objects | IMPORT/EXPORT | None | Highly customizable | Manual |

In terms of the more specific tools and methods, here is a table of supported features with advantages and disadvantages of each:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Path | Supported in Azure | Multiple Databases | Clusters | Underlying Cmds | Advantages | Disadvantages |
| RDP Backup/Restore | Premium+ | Yes | Yes | N/A | Simple file copy | Requires storage account, Complicated for clusters |
| AOF Backup/Restore | Premium+ | Yes | Yes | N/A | Replay of AOF file via redis-cli | Requires storage account, Complicated for clusters, Not all commands may execute |
| Cluster Failover (Migration) | No | - | - | - | - | - |
| Replication (SLAVEOF/REPLICAOF) | No | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mass Insertion (SET/GET) | Yes | Yes | Yes | SET/GET | Simple to implement | Binary encoding complexities (output and input formatting) |
| Mass Insertion (DUMP/RESTORE) | Yes | Yes | Yes | DUMP/RESTORE | Simple to implement | Binary encoding complexities (versions must match) |
| Mass Insertion (MIGRATE) | Yes | Yes | Yes | MIGRATE | Simple to implement | Binary encoding complexities (versions must match), Data is deleted from source during migration. |
| Layer of Abstraction | Yes | Yes | Yes | SET/GET | Simple to implement | Requires application changes, does not support local SET/GET (outside of application) |

## WWI Use Case

WWI has selected its conference instance as its first migration workload. The workload was selected because it had the least risk and the most available downtime due to the gap in the annual conference schedule. They also assessed the instance to not be using any unsupported features in the target Azure Cache for Redis service. Based on the migration team’s other assessment details, they determined that they will attempt to perform an offline migration using the backup and restore Redis tools.

During their assessment period, they did find that the customer instance does use some languages, extensions, and a custom function that are not available in the target service for the conference instance. They have asked the development team to review replacing those features while they migrate the more simple workloads. If they can be replaced successfully, they will choose an Azure Cache for Redis service, otherwise, they will provision an Azure VM to host the workload.

## Migration Methods Checklist

* Ensure the right method is selected given the target and source environments.
* Ensure the method can meet the business requirements.
* Always verify if the data workload will support the method.

# Test Plans

## Overview

WWI created a test plan that included a set of IT and Business tasks. Successful migrations require all the tests to be executed.

Tests:

* Ensure the migrated instance has consistency (same record counts) with on-premises instance.
* Ensure the performance is acceptable (it should match the same performance as if it were running on-premises).
* Ensure acceptable network connectivity between on-premises and the Azure network.
* Ensure all identified applications and users can connect to the migrated data instance.

WWI has identified a migration weekend and time window that started at 10 pm and ended at 2 am Pacific Time. If the migration did not complete before the 2 am target (the 4hr downtime target) with all tests passing, the rollback procedures were started. Issues were documented for future migration attempts. All migrations windows were pushed forward and rescheduled based on acceptable business timelines.

## Sample Queries

A series of queries were executed on the source and target to verify migration success. The following queries and scripts will help determine if the migration moved all required instance objects from the source to the target.

### Exporting Objects

Use this query to get all the keys:

KEYS \*

**NOTE** Running this command on a production environment can cause performance issues with any applications using the target instance. It is advisable to execute during low traffic/usage periods.

As of Redis 6.x, you can implement [ACL lists](https://redis.io/topics/acl). If your source is 6.x or higher, use this query to get all the users:

ACL LIST

### Rename Commands

RENAME is not supported in Azure Cache for Redis, but if you are moving to Azure Virtual Machines, you will want to export and re-apply any rename commands to the target.

Command renames (for app level)

### Scripts

If you have any scripts or your application makes calls to the [EVAL command](https://redis.io/commands/eval), be sure to test them thoroughly in case your scripts use commands or features that are not available in Azure Cache for Redis.

## Rollback Strategies

The queries above will provide a list of object names and counts that can be used in a rollback decision. Migration users can take the first object verification step by checking the source and target object counts. A failure in counts may not necessarily mean that a rollback is needed. Performing an in-depth evaluation could point out that the discrepancy is small and easily recoverable. Manual migration of a few failed objects may be possible.

For example, if all keys and values were migrated, but only a few users were missed, remediate those failed items and finalize the migration. If the instance is relatively small, it could be possible to clear the Azure Cache for Redis and restart the migration again. However, if the instance is relatively large, there may not be enough time to determine what occurred. The migration will need to stop and rollback.

Identifying missing instance objects needs to occur quickly during a migration window. Every minute counts. One option could be exporting the environment object names to a file and using a data comparison tool to reduce the missing object verification time. Another option could be exporting the source instance object names and importing the data into a target instance environment temp table. Compare the data using a **scripted** and **tested** query statement. Data verification speed and accuracy are critical to the migration process. Do not rely on reading and verifying a long list of instance objects during a migration window. Manage by exception.

### Decision Table

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Discrepancy | Time To Sync | Rollback? | Resolution Path |
| Key Count Mismatch | Less than the remaining window | No | Sync the missing keys |
| Key Value Mismatch | More than the remaining window | Yes | Start the Rollback |

In the [migration](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\03_Migration\01_DataMigration.md) section, we will provide a instance migration inventory script that will provide object counts that can be used to compare source and destination after a migration path has been completed.

## WWI Use Case

The WWI CIO received a confirmation report that all instance objects were migrated from the on-premises instance to the Azure Cache for Redis instance. The infrastructure and dev teams ran the above queries against the instance before the beginning of the migration and saved all the results to a spreadsheet for tracking.

The source instance information was used to verify the target migration object fidelity.

## Checklist

* Have test queries scripted, tested, and ready to execute.
* Know how long test queries take to run and make them a part of the migration timeline.
* Have a mitigation and rollback strategy ready for different potential outcomes.
* Have a well-defined timeline of events for the migration.

# Performance Baselines

Understanding the existing Redis workload is one of the best investments that can be made to ensure a successful migration. Excellent system performance depends on adequate hardware and great application design. Items such as CPU, memory, disk, and networking need to be sized and configured appropriately for the anticipated load. Hardware and configuration are part of the system performance equation. The developer must understand the instance query load and the most expensive queries to execute. Focusing on the most expensive queries can have a big difference in the overall performance metrics.

Creating baselines of query performance is vital to a migration project. The performance baselines can be used to verify the Azure landing zone configuration for the migrated data workloads. Most systems will be run 24/7 and have different peak load times. It is important to capture the peak workloads for the baseline. Later in the document, we will explore the source server parameters and how they are essential to the overall performance baseline picture. The server parameters should not be overlooked during a migration project.

## Tools

Below are tools used to gather server metrics and instance workload information. Use the captured metrics to determine the appropriate Azure Cache for Redis tier and the associated scaling options.

* [redis-benchmark.exe](https://www.percona.com/software/instance-tools/percona-monitoring-and-management): Redis includes the redis-benchmark utility that simulates running commands done by N clients at the same time sending M total queries.

You can find some of the pitfalls and misconceptions of using tools to benchmark Redis [here](https://redis.io/topics/benchmarks).

## redis-benchmark

* Open a terminal to the **PREFIX-redis01** server
* Run the following:
* redis-benchmark -t set -r 100000 -n 1000000
* You should get back something similar to the following:
* output of redis-benchmark tool.
* output of redis-benchmark tool.
* You can also run the tool against the target Azure instance:
* redis-benchmark -h <REDIS\_IP> -p <REDIS\_PORT> -a <REDIS\_PWD> -t set -r 100000 -n 1000000

**Note** You will get errors as various commands are not exposed in Azure Cache for Redis.

## WWI Use Case

WWI reviewed its conference website instance workload and determined it had a very small load. Although a basic tier server would work for them, they did not want to perform work later to migrate to another tier. The server being deployed will eventually host the other Redis data workloads, so they picked the Premium tier which will provide more than enough memory and throughput. They also like the ideal of having geo-replication with the Premium tier.

In reviewing the Redis instance, the Redis 4.0 server is running with the default server configuration set during the initial install so no configuration settings will need to be migrated.

# Option 1 - Data Migration with Backup and Restore (RDB)

## Setup

Follow all the steps in the [Setup](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\05_Appendix\00_Setup.md) guide to create an environment to support the following steps.

## Disable AOF

Follow the Disable AOF in the target steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Data

**NOTE** RDB file format changes between versions may not be backwards compatible.

### Manual Backup (Source)

* Run the following command to find where your RDB file is located:

redis-cli config get dir

* Create a backup

redis-cli bgsave

* To check for errors or the status of the background save, run the following:

sudo tail /var/log/redis/redis-server.log -n 100

* Install Azure CLI (this has already been done for you, but provided for reference)

cd  
  
curl -sL https://aka.ms/InstallAzureCLIDeb | sudo bash

* Run the following commands to save your RDB file to azure storage, be sure to replace the subscription id, resource group and storage account tokens:

**NOTE** It can take a couple of minutes for the Azure RBAC assignment to go into effect.

az login  
  
az account set --subscription "<subscription name>"  
  
az ad signed-in-user show --query objectId -o tsv | az role assignment create --role "Storage Blob Data Contributor" --assignee @- --scope "/subscriptions/<subscription-id>/resourceGroups/<resource-group>/providers/Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts/<storage-account>"  
  
az storage container create --account-name <storage-account> --name <container> --auth-mode login  
  
sudo az storage blob upload --account-name <storage-account> --container-name redis --name database.rdb --file /var/lib/redis/dump.rdb --auth-mode login

### Manual Restore

You can import the data using the Azure Portal or Azure CLI / PowerShell.

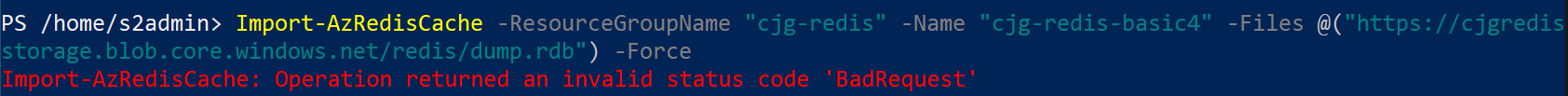
**NOTE** If you attempt to import on a Basic or Standard tier, you will get an error that a Premium tier is required.

**NOTE** Each tier supports a maximum number of databases. If you have more than the default of 16, be sure that you pick a tier to migrate too that has support for all source databases.

**NOTE** Azure Cache for Redis supports RDB import up through RDB version 7.

**NOTE** You can import/export between a clustered cache and a non-clustered cache. Since Redis cluster only supports database 0, any data in databases other than 0 isn’t imported. When clustered cache data is imported, the keys are redistributed among the shards of the cluster.

#### Azure Powershell

* Install Azure Powershell (this has already been done for you, but provided for reference)
* # Update the list of packages  
  sudo apt-get update  
  # Install pre-requisite packages.  
  sudo apt-get install -y wget apt-transport-https software-properties-common  
  # Download the Microsoft repository GPG keys  
  wget -q https://packages.microsoft.com/config/ubuntu/20.04/packages-microsoft-prod.deb  
  # Register the Microsoft repository GPG keys  
  sudo dpkg -i packages-microsoft-prod.deb  
  # Update the list of products  
  sudo apt-get update  
  # Enable the "universe" repositories  
  sudo add-apt-repository universe  
  # Install PowerShell  
  sudo apt-get install -y powershell
* Perform the import:
* # Start PowerShell  
  pwsh  
    
  Install-Module -Name Az -AllowClobber -force  
    
  Connect-AzAccount -UseDeviceAuthentication  
    
  Set-AzContext -Subscription "<SUBSCRIPTION\_NAME>"  
    
  Import-AzRedisCache -ResourceGroupName "resourceGroupName" -Name "cacheName" -Files @("https://<STORAGE\_ACCOUNT\_NAME>.blob.core.windows.net/redis/dump.rdb") -Force  
    
  exit
* Imports are only supported on Premium or higher tiers:
* 
* Import error for Basic and Standard.

#### Azure Cli

* Perform the import:
* az redis import --files "https://<STORAGE\_ACCOUNT\_NAME>.blob.core.windows.net/redis/dump.rdb" --file-format RDB --name "cacheName" --resource-group "resourceGroupName" --subscription "subscriptionName"
* Imports are only supported on Premium or higher tiers:
* Import error for Basic and Standard.

#### Azure Portal

* Browse to the Azure Portal
* Select the redis resource group
* Select the target Redis instance (must be Premium or higher)
* Under **Import**, select **Import**
* Select the storage account
* Select the **redis** container
* Select the **dump.rdb** file
* Select **OK**

## Check success

Depending on the size of the file, it could take a while for the import to finish. Once it is completed, verify that all keys have been migrated.

Follow the Check success steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Enable AOF in Target

Follow the Enable AOF in the target steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Summary - Backup and Restore

Even a simple backup and restore operation can potentially require significant effort to restore to an Azure Cache for Redis instance (such as with clusters).

Practice the above steps and record the time it takes to complete the entire migration. In most cases, you should be able to script the migration process.

## Resources

* [Import and Export data in Azure Cache for Redis](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-how-to-import-export-data)
* [Redis Persistence](https://redis.io/topics/persistence)
* [Azure PowerShell](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-how-to-manage-redis-cache-powershell)
* [Azure CLI](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cli-samples)

# Option 2 - Data Migration with Redis (Mass Insertion)

## Setup

Follow all the steps in the [Setup](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\05_Appendix\00_Setup.md) guide to create an environment to support the following steps.

## Connectivity Setup

In order to connect to Azure Redis, you must either enable non-SSL port, or you must install a tunneling tool such as [STunnel](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\05_Appendix\03_InstallStunnel.md).

**NOTE** The following approaches move all databases from the target to the source. If you are migrating to a cluster, it has only one database 0 and you’ll need to adjust the scripts accordingly. However, if you have any key overlap between databases, the order of these are from smallest to greatest, so the higher number database will win out.

### Enable Non-SSL Port

* Open the Azure Portal
* Browse to the Azure Cache for Redis
* Select **Non–SSL port (6379) disabled** link
* Select to enable the port
* Select **Save**

## Disable AOF

Follow the Disable AOF in the target steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Mass Insertion (SET)

* Run the following command to export all keys and values to a file
* Start a PowerShell session:
* pwsh
* Run the following to dump all the keys and values:
* $databases = $(redis-cli config get databases)[1];  
    
  for ($i = 0; $i -lt $databases; $i++)  
  {  
   del "set\_$i.txt";  
    
   $keys = redis-cli -n $i keys "\*"  
    
   foreach($key in $keys)  
   {  
   $val = redis-cli get $key  
    
   $line = $key + "`t" + $val;  
   add-content "set\_$i.txt" $line;  
   }  
  }
* Run the following command to import all keys and values
* $databases = $(redis-cli config get databases)[1];  
    
  for ($i = 0; $i -lt $databases; $i++)  
  {  
   $lines = get-content "set\_$i.txt";  
    
   foreach($line in $lines)  
   {  
   $vals = $line.split("`t");  
    
   $key = $vals[0];  
   $val = $vals[1];  
    
   $ret = $val | redis-cli -a <REDIS\_PWD> -h <REDIS\_NAME>.redis.cache.windows.net -n $i set $key $val;  
    
   Write-Host "Setting database $i : $key to $val";  
   }  
  }

**NOTE** This approach will lose important metadata such as Time To Live (TTL) settings that may be set in the source. You should also be sure that all values that are export and then re-imported are encoded in a way that ensures valid values imported into the target instance.

## Mass Insertion (DUMP/RESTORE)

* In the SSH window for the **PREFIX-redis01** virtual machine, run the following:
* sudo nano restore.sh
* Paste the following into the file, be sure to replace the target Azure Cache for Redis details:
* #!/bin/bash  
  dbs=$(redis-cli config get databases)  
  items=$(sed "s/databases//" <<< $dbs)  
    
  for (( count=0; count<items; count++))  
  do  
   OLD="redis-cli -h localhost"  
   NEW="redis-cli -h cjg-redis-basic6.redis.cache.windows.net -a 9g8zuaLGWK0YLxGnzQiVWeR+ba5kz+hPdaHqcPauHC8="  
    
   for KEY in $($OLD -n $count --scan); do  
   $OLD -n $count --raw DUMP "$KEY" | head -c-1 > /tmp/dump  
   TTL=$($OLD -n $count --raw TTL "$KEY")  
   case $TTL in  
   -2)  
   $NEW -n $count DEL "$KEY"  
   ;;  
   -1)  
   $NEW -n $count DEL "$KEY"  
   cat /tmp/dump | $NEW -n $count -x RESTORE "$KEY" 0  
   ;;  
   \*)  
   $NEW -n $count DEL "$KEY"  
   cat /tmp/dump | $NEW -n $count -x RESTORE "$KEY" "$TTL"  
   ;;  
   esac  
   echo "$count $KEY (TTL = $TTL)"  
   done  
  done
* Save the file and exit the editor
* Run the migration:
* sudo bash restore.sh

**NOTE** The target versions should be the same, or have similar encoding of the values in order for the DUMP/RESTORE command to succeed.

## Mass Insertion (MIGRATE)

You can use the MIGRATE command to move key values to a new instance. In terms of the details, this command actually executes a DUMP+DEL in the source instance, and a RESTORE in the target instance. This path is very risky as it will remove the keys from the source as it processes them.

* Create a new script:
* sudo nano migrate.sh
* Paste the following, replace the Redis information:
* #!/bin/bash  
  dbs=$(redis-cli config get databases)  
  items=$(sed "s/databases//" <<< $dbs)  
    
  for (( count=0; count<items; count++))  
  do  
   OLD="redis-cli -h localhost"  
    
   for KEY in $($OLD -n $count --scan); do  
    
   #$($OLD -n $count --scan) | xargs redis-cli MIGRATE cjg-redis-prem.redis.cache.windows.net 6379 "" $cou$  
   RESULT=$($OLD -n $count MIGRATE <REDIS\_NAME>.redis.cache.windows.net <REDIS\_PORT>) $KEY $count 15000 AUTH "<REDIS\_PWD>"  
    
   echo "$count $KEY $RESULT"  
   done  
   echo "$count"  
  done
  + Run the script:
  + sudo bash migrate.sh

**NOTE** The target versions should be the same, or have similar encoding of the values in order for the MIGRATE command to succeed.

## Check success

Depending on the size of the file, it could take a while for the import to finish. Once it is completed, verify that all keys have been migrated.

Follow the Check success steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Enable AOF in Target

Follow the Enable AOF in the target steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Resources

* [SET Command](https://redis.io/commands/set)
* [RESTORE Command](https://redis.io/commands/restore)
* [DUMP Command](https://redis.io/commands/dump)
* [MIGRATE Command](https://redis.io/commands/migrate)

# Option 3 - Data Migration with Redis Replication

Using the SLAVEOF or the MIGRATEOF is for migrating from one version to another to support a move to Azure.

**NOTE** None of the Azure services (basic, standard, premimum, or enterprise support the SLAVEOF or REPLICAOF commands).

Taking this path is an intermediate step for when a migration tool has been selected that uses the DUMP and RESTORE commands. These commands will not work if the two instances are different because the encoding of the key value does not port properly.

## Setup

Follow all the steps in the [Setup](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\05_Appendix\00_Setup.md) guide to create an environment to support the following steps.

**Note** If the server is not enabled for SSL and is running 6.0 or higher, it is highly recommended that it is configured. See [Configure Redis for SSL connectivity](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\05_Appendix\04_ConfigureRedisSSL.md) to enable SSL for the instance.

## Option 1 : Set to Read Only

* Run the following to set the source Redis server to read only:
* redis-cli config set min-replicas-to-write 3  
    
  sudo service redis-server restart
* If you have an errors, run the following:
* journalctl -u redis-server

## Option 2 : Rename Commands

This can also be accomplished by rename-ing all write commands.

* Open the redis.conf file, add the following lines:
* rename-command FLUSHDB ""  
  rename-command FLUSHALL ""  
  rename-command DEBUG ""  
  rename-command SET ""  
  rename-command DEL ""  
  rename-command RENAME ""  
  rename-command RPUSH ""  
  rename-command SADD ""  
  rename-command ZADD ""  
  rename-command HMSET ""  
  rename-command EXPIRE ""
* Exit the editor, then run:
* sudo service redis-server restart

**NOTE** This is not all write commands, add what you need to prevent any changes to your Redis instance during the migration.

## Replication (SLAVEOF) : Pre Redis 5.0

* Browse to the Azure Portal
* Select the **PREFIX-redis01** Redis instance
* Open a PowerShell window, login using SSH
* Run the following commands:
* redis-cli  
    
  slaveof source\_hostname\_or\_ip source\_port
* Once replication has completed, run the following on the target:
* slaveof no one

## Replication (REPLICAOF) : 5.x or higher

* Browse to the Azure Portal
* Select the **PREFIX-redis02** Redis instance
* Open a PowerShell window, login using SSH
* Run the following commands:
* redis-cli  
    
  replicaof source\_hostname\_or\_ip source\_port
* Once replication has completed, run the following on the target:
* replicaof no one

## Check success

Depending on the size of the file, it could take a while for the import to finish. Once it is completed, verify that all keys have been migrated.

Follow the Check success steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Resources

* [Rename commands](https://redis.io/topics/security)
* [SLAVEOF](https://redis.io/commands/SLAVEOF)
* [REPLICAOF](https://redis.io/commands/REPLICAOF)

# Option 4 - Data Migration with 3rd Party Tools

## Setup

Follow all the steps in the [Setup](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\05_Appendix\00_Setup.md) guide to create an environment to support the following steps.

**Note** If the source server is not enabled for SSL and is running 6.0 or higher, it is highly recommended that it is enabled and configured. See [Configure Redis for SSL connectivity](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\05_Appendix\04_ConfigureRedisSSL.md) to enable SSL for the instance.

**NOTE** Tools that use the SLAVEOF and REPLICAOF commands will not work with Azure Cache for Redis instances.

## Install STunnel

If you have not done so already, setup [STunnel](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\05_Appendix\03_InstallStunnel.md) if you are not running redis-cli 6.x or higher.

## Disable AOF

Follow the Disable AOF in the target steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## redis-copy (deepakverma)

This is a .NET based tool that uses the StackExchange.Redis library to move keys from the source to the destination. It uses the DUMP and RESTORE commands to make the move, which means the source and the destination should support the same encoding of the DUMP value. Although the tools has not had any changes made to it in quite a while, the source is a great starting point for building your own version.

* Switch to the **PREFIX-win10** virtual machine
* Open a PowerShell window, run the following:
* cd c:/labfiles  
    
  git clone https://github.com/deepakverma/redis-copy
* Open the redis-copy.sln solution file
* Right-click the project file, select **Manage Nuget Packages**
* Select the **Installed** tab, then select **StackExchange.Redis**
* Update the package to be the latest version
* Press **Ctrl-B** to build the solution
* If the source system is running SSL, run the following,
* cd /redis-copy/bin/debug  
    
  redis-copy.exe --se localhost --sa "" --sp 6380 --sssl --db 0 --de <REDIS\_NAME>.redis.cache.windows.net --da <REDIS\_PWD> --dp 6380 --dssl --flushdest
* If the source system is not running SSL, run the following:
* cd /redis-copy/bin/debug  
    
  redis-copy.exe --se localhost --sa "" --sp 6379 --db 0 --de <REDIS\_NAME>.redis.cache.windows.net --da <REDIS\_PWD> --dp 6380 --dssl --flushdest

**NOTE** You may need to make changes to the source to handle error such as DUMP/RESTORE encoding issues, this can be done by adding a method to check the version of the source and target Redis instances before you start the key migration. Also notice that you will need to loop through all the source Redis databases.

## redis-dump (Ruby)

Redis-dump is a ruby based tool that also uses the DUMP and RESTORE commands to migrate from a source to a destination instance.

**NOTE** This tool does not work on clusters.

* On the source server, run the following to install the tool:
* sudo apt-get remove ruby ruby-dev  
  sudo apt-get install ruby ruby-dev  
  sudo apt-get install make pkg-config libssl-dev -y  
    
  sudo chmod -R a+w /var/lib/gems  
  sudo chmod -R a+w /usr/local/bin  
    
  gem install redis-dump -V
* Run the following to run the tool and dump the Redis cache to file:
* redis-dump -u localhost:6379 > localhost.json
* Run the following to import the cache data:
* cat localhost.json | redis-load -u redis://<REDIS\_NAME>.redis.cache.windows.net:6379 -a <REDIS\_PWD>

## redis-dump (NPM)

* Setup NPM
* sudo apt-get install npm -y
* Install redis-dump
* sudo npm install redis-dump -g
* Create the migration script
* sudo nano dump.sh
* Copy the following into the script, be sure to replace the redis tokens:
* #!/bin/bash  
  dbs=$(redis-cli config get databases)  
  items=$(sed "s/databases//" <<< $dbs)  
    
  for (( count=0; count<items; count++))  
  do  
   $(redis-dump -d $count > dump.txt)  
    
   $(cat dump.txt | redis-cli -n $count -h <REDIS\_NAME>.redis.cache.windows.net -p 6380 -a <REDIS\_PWD>)  
    
   echo "$count"  
  done
* Run the following to dump out the contents of the Redis cache
* sudo bash dump.sh

## Check success

Depending on the size of the file, it could take a while for the import to finish. Once it is completed, verify that all keys have been migrated.

Follow the Check success steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Enable AOF in Target

Follow the Enable AOF in the target steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Resources

* [Redis migrate](https://github.com/vipshop/redis-migrate-tool)
* [Redis Copy](https://github.com/deepakverma/redis-copy)

# Option 5 - Data Migration with Layer of Abstraction (Dual Write)

If migrating an entire Redis instance is not feasible or worth the extra effort, you can add a layer of abstraction in your application code that can be enabled or disabled via configuration.

This extra layer of code will be responsible for retrieving the cache value from the source instance, and adding it to the destination instance. You can set a threshold for the number of key coverage (such as 90%) you are targeting and once that is hit, you can change the application to start pulling values from the new instance.

## Example

In the following .NET code, you will modify your application to add code that still returns the cache value from the source, but also does the extra work to save the value to the new instance.

* Open the RedisWeb project
* Open the CacheHelper.cs file
* In the public static void SetData<T>(string key, T data) method, add the following code:
* if (mode == "Migrate")  
  {  
   //send the value to the target  
   SetData<T>(key, data, destDb);  
  }
* In the public static T GetData<T>(string key) method, add the following code:
* if (mode == "Migrate")  
  {  
   //send the value to the target  
   SetData<T>(key, data, destDb);  
  }
* Modify the appsettings.json to set the REDIS\_CONNECTION and REDIS\_TARGET\_CONNECTION values
* Set the REDIS\_MODE value to Migrate
* Compile the project
* Press **F5** to run the project

**NOTE** It is important to ensure that the save operation to the new instance is async to prevent any application performance issues.

# Option 6 - Data Migration with Append Only File (AOF)

## Setup

Follow all the steps in the [Setup](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\05_Appendix\00_Setup.md) guide to create an environment to support the following steps.

## Disable AOF

Follow the Disable AOF in the target steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Data Setup

* Check the contents of the AOF file, you should see an empty file:
* sudo nano /var/lib/redis/appendonly.aof
* Add some cache values:
* redis-cli set Key1 "Key1"
* Run the following command to enable AOF on the source, you also need to disable the aof-use-rdb-preamble:
* redis-cli config set aof-use-rdb-preamble no  
    
  redis-cli config set appendonly yes
* Make some changes:
* redis-cli set Key2 "Key2"  
  redis-cli set Key3 "Key3"
* Check the contents of the AOF file, you should now see the Key2 and Key3 changes, but notice no Key1 item:
* sudo nano /var/lib/redis/appendonly.aof
* Tell Redis to regenerate the AOF File:
* redis-cli BGREWRITEAOF
* To check for errors or the status of the background save, run the following:
* sudo tail /var/log/redis/redis-server.log -n 100
* Once you have a fresh AOF file, flush the target to start from scratch
* redis-cli -h <REDIS\_IP> -p <REDIS\_PORT> -a <REDIS\_PWD> flushall
* Import the AOF file from the source
* sudo cat /var/lib/redis/appendonly.aof | sudo redis-cli -h <REDIS\_IP> -p <REDIS\_PORT> -a <REDIS\_PWD> --pipe

## Check success

Depending on the size of the file, it could take a while for the import to finish. Once it is completed, verify that all keys have been migrated.

Follow the Check success steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Enable AOF in Target

Follow the Enable AOF in the target steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Summary - Backup and Restore

Even a simple backup and restore operation can potentially require significant effort to restore to an Azure Cache for Redis instance.

Practice the above steps and record the time it takes to complete the entire migration.

## Resources

* [Import and Export data in Azure Cache for Redis](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-how-to-import-export-data)
* [Redis Persistence](https://redis.io/topics/persistence)

# Data Migration (Non-cluster to cluster)

## Setup

Follow all the steps in the [Setup](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\05_Appendix\00_Setup.md) guide to create an environment to support the following steps.

## Disable AOF

Follow the Disable AOF in the target steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Enable clustering on Target

* Open the Azure Portal
* Browse to your lab resource group
* Select the **PREFIX-redis-prem** instance
* Under **Settings**, select **Cluster size**
* For **Clustering**, select **Enable**
* Select **Save**

## Data Migration

In many cases you may be moving from a single instance Redis server to an Azure Cache for Redis cluster. When doing this, you will need to migrate any source databases to the 0 database. This could break applications if the keys overlap.

* In the SSH window for the **PREFIX-redis01** virtual machine, run the following:
* sudo nano restore.sh
* Paste the following into the file, be sure to replace the target Azure Cache for Redis details:
* #!/bin/bash  
  dbs=$(redis-cli config get databases)  
  items=$(sed "s/databases//" <<< $dbs)  
    
  for (( count=0; count<items; count++))  
  do  
   OLD="redis-cli -h localhost"  
   NEW="redis-cli -h <REDIS\_NAME>.redis.cache.windows.net -a <REDIS\_PWD>"  
    
   for KEY in $($OLD -n $count --scan); do  
   $OLD -n $count --raw DUMP "$KEY" | head -c-1 > /tmp/dump  
   TTL=$($OLD -n $count --raw TTL "$KEY")  
   case $TTL in  
   -2)  
   $NEW DEL "$KEY"  
   ;;  
   -1)  
   $NEW DEL "$KEY"  
   cat /tmp/dump | $NEW -x RESTORE "$KEY" 0  
   ;;  
   \*)  
   $NEW DEL "$KEY"  
   cat /tmp/dump | $NEW -x RESTORE "$KEY" "$TTL"  
   ;;  
   esac  
   echo "$KEY (TTL = $TTL)"  
   done  
  done
* Save the file and exit the editor
* Run the migration:
* sudo bash restore.sh

**NOTE** The target versions should be the same, or have similar encoding of the values in order for the DUMP/RESTORE command to succeed.

## Check success

Depending on the size of the file, it could take a while for the import to finish. Once it is completed, verify that all keys have been migrated.

Follow the Check success steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Enable AOF in Target

Follow the Enable AOF in the target steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Summary - Backup and Restore

Even a simple backup and restore operation can potentially require significant effort to restore to an Azure Cache for Redis instance (such as with clusters).

Practice the above steps and record the time it takes to complete the entire migration. In most cases, you should be able to script the migration process.

## Resources

* [Redis Clustering](https://redis.io/topics/cluster-tutorial)

# Data Migration (Non-cluster to cluster)

## Setup

Follow all the steps in the [Setup](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\05_Appendix\00_Setup.md) guide to create an environment to support the following steps.

## Disable AOF

Follow the Disable AOF in the target steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Data

In many cases you may be moving from a clustered Redis server to an Azure Cache for Redis cluster. This is similar to executing a single instance to single instance migration. The setup scripts for the images will create basic Redis instances, but also create a cluster running on ports 30001-30007 (three mains, three replicas).

* Run the following to get all the keys in a cluster:
* redis-cli --cluster call localhost:30001 KEYS "\*"
* To migrate the keys in a cluster instance to an Azure cluster, run the following script:
* sudo nano cluster-migrate.sh
* Copy the following into it:
* #!/bin/bash  
  dbs=$(redis-cli -h localhost -p 30001 config get databases)  
  items=$(sed "s/databases//" <<< $dbs)  
    
  for (( count=0; count<1; count++))  
  do  
   OLD="redis-cli --cluster call localhost:30001 KEYS \"\*\""  
    
   NEW="redis-cli -h <REDIS\_NAME>.redis.cache.windows.net -a <REDIS\_KEY>"  
    
   RAW=$($OLD)  
    
   #get all the server names  
   echo $RAW  
    
   COUNT=0  
    
   #loop all the servers  
   for TMP in $RAW; do  
    
   ((COUNT++))  
    
   if [[ $COUNT < 5 ]]  
   then  
   continue  
   fi  
    
   #echo $TMP  
    
   IFS=':' read -ra VALS <<< "$TMP"  
    
   HOST=${VALS[0]}  
   PORT=${VALS[1]}  
    
   #echo $HOST  
   #echo $PORT  
    
   #get the keys in each cluster host  
   KEYS=$(redis-cli -h $HOST -p $PORT --scan)  
    
   for KEY in $KEYS; do  
    
   redis-cli -h $HOST -p $PORT --raw DUMP "$KEY" | head -c-1 > /tmp/dump  
   TTL=$(redis-cli -h $HOST -p $PORT --raw TTL "$KEY")  
    
   #skip items that are moved - on replica nodes  
   if [[ $TTL == \*"MOVED"\* ]]; then  
   continue;  
   fi  
    
   case $TTL in  
   -2)  
   $NEW DEL "$KEY"  
   ;;  
   -1)  
   $NEW DEL "$KEY"  
   cat /tmp/dump | $NEW -x RESTORE "$KEY" 0  
   ;;  
   \*)  
   $NEW DEL "$KEY"  
   cat /tmp/dump | $NEW -x RESTORE "$KEY" "$TTL"  
   ;;  
   esac  
    
   echo "$HOST $PORT $KEY (TTL = $TTL)"  
   done  
   done  
  done
* Save the script, run it:
* sudo bash cluster-migrate.sh

## Check success

Depending on the size of the file, it could take a while for the import to finish. Once it is completed, verify that all keys have been migrated.

Follow the Check success steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Enable AOF in Target

Follow the Enable AOF in the target steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Summary - Backup and Restore

Even a simple backup and restore operation can potentially require significant effort to restore to an Azure Cache for Redis instance (such as with clusters).

Practice the above steps and record the time it takes to complete the entire migration. In most cases, you should be able to script the migration process.

## Resources

* [Redis Clustering](https://redis.io/topics/cluster-tutorial)

# Data Migration (Hash to Hash)

## Setup

Follow all the steps in the [Setup](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\05_Appendix\00_Setup.md) guide to create an environment to support the following steps.

## Disable AOF

Follow the Disable AOF in the target steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Data

### Install twemproxy

* Run the following:
* sudo apt-get install automake libtool autoconf bzip2 -y  
    
  git clone https://github.com/twitter/twemproxy  
  cd twemproxy  
  autoreconf -fvi  
  ./configure --enable-debug=full  
  make  
  src/nutcracker -h
* Configure twemproxy:
* sudo rm nutcracker.yml  
  sudo nano nutcracker.yml
* Update the configuration to the following:
* alpha:  
   listen: 127.0.0.1:22121  
   hash: fnv1a\_64  
   distribution: ketama  
   auto\_eject\_hosts: true  
   redis: true  
   server\_retry\_timeout: 2000  
   server\_failure\_limit: 1  
   servers:  
   - <REDIS\_IP1>:6379:0  
   - <REDIS\_IP2>:6379:0
* Run nutcracker
* cd  
  ./twemproxy/src/nutcracker -c ~/twemproxy/conf/nutcracker.yml

### Run a migration

* For each of the hosts in the source twemproxy configuration, export the keys to the target twemproxy instance
* Install the Redis dump tool
* sudo apt-get remove ruby ruby-dev  
  sudo apt-get install ruby ruby-dev  
  sudo apt-get install make pkg-config libssl-dev -y  
    
  sudo chmod -R a+w /var/lib/gems  
  sudo chmod -R a+w /usr/local/bin  
    
  gem install redis-dump -V
* Create a new migration file:
* sudo nano hash.sh
* Copy the following into it;
* #array of source hosts from twemproxy configuration file  
  declare -a arr=("localhost:6379" "localhost:6379" "localhost:6379")  
    
  for i in "${arr[@]}"  
  do  
   $(redis-dump -u $i > localhost.json)  
    
   $(cat localhost.json | redis-load -u redis://<TWEMPROXY\_IP>:<TWEMPROXY\_PORT>)  
  done
* Start the migration
* sudo bash hash.sh

## Check success

Depending on the size of the file, it could take a while for the import to finish. Once it is completed, verify that all keys have been migrated.

Follow the Check success steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Enable AOF in Target

Follow the Enable AOF in the target steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## Summary - Backup and Restore

Even a simple backup and restore operation can potentially require significant effort to restore to an Azure Cache for Redis instance (such as with clusters).

Practice the above steps and record the time it takes to complete the entire migration. In most cases, you should be able to script the migration process.

## Resources

* [twemproxy](https://github.com/twitter/twemproxy)

# Data Migration

## Back up the instance

Lower risk and back up the instance before upgrading or migrating data. Use the Redis save or bgsave command to backup the Redis data to disk.

## Offline vs. Online

Before selecting a migration tool, decide if the migration should be online or offline.

* **Offline migrations** require the system to be down while the migration takes place. Users will not be able to modify data. This option ensures that the state of the data will be exactly what is expected when restored in Azure.
* **Online migrations** will migrate the data in near real-time. This option is appropriate when there is little downtime for the users or application consuming the data workload. The costs are too high for the corporation to wait for complete migration. The process involves replicating the data using some type of replication method.

**Case Study:** In the case of WWI, their environment has some complex networking and security requirements that will not allow for the appropriate changes to be applied for inbound and outbound connectivity in the target migration time frame. These complexities and requirements essentially eliminate the online approach from consideration.

**Note:** Review the Planning and Assessment sections for more details on Offline vs Online migration.

## Data Drift

Offline migration strategies have the potential for data drift. Data drift occurs when newly modified source data becomes out of sync with migrated data. When this happens, a full export or a delta export is necessary. To mitigate this problem, stop all write traffic to the instance and then perform the export. If stopping all data modification traffic is not possible, it will be necessary to account for the data drift as part of the migration effort.

Determining the changes can be complicated if you do not have a tracking mechanism. Luckily, Redis has the AppendOnly feature that will generate a log file of all key changes. This could be used as the diff of the instance from a particular point (such as the start of the migration).

## Performance recommendations

### Source Tool Network

When running the migration tool on a virtual machine, it is possible to change the TCP\_NODELAY setting. By default, TCP uses Nagle’s algorithm, which optimizes by batching up outgoing packets. This means fewer sends and this works well if the application sends packets frequently and latency is not the highest priority. Realize latency improvements by sending on sockets created with the TCP\_NODELAY option enabled. This results in lower latency but more sends. Consider this client-side setting for the Virtual Machine (VM). Applications that benefit from the TCP\_NODELAY option typically tend to do smaller, infrequent writes and are particularly sensitive to latency. As an example, alter this setting to reduce latency from 15-40 ms to 2-3 ms.

To change this setting on Windows machines, do the following:

* Open the REGEDIT tool
* Under the subtree HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE, find the SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\services\Tcpip\Parameters\Interfaces key
* Find the correct network interface
* In the space, right-click and select **New** for creating a DWORD Value
* For the value name, type **TcpNoDelay**
* For the Dword value, type **1**
  + In the empty space right-click, and select **New** for creating a DWORD Value
* For the value name, type **TcpAckFrequency**
* For the Dword value, type **1**
* Close the REGEDIT tool

### Exporting

When exporting your data, you can do it in a serialized fashion (where you export each key one by one), or you can utilize a tool to break apart the key space and export the data in a multi-threaded fashion. If you have a large cache and a small time-frame to do the migration, explore a multi-threaded approach.

Alternatively, we will look at some online approaches to migrating that will simulate real-time migration activity.

### Importing

When you select a path for migration, you will want the import to run as fast as possible. You can disable the AOF feature to get faster imports, then re-enable it when you are done with the migration.

## Performing the Migration

* Back up the instance
* Create and verify the Azure Landing zone
* Export and configure Source Server configuration
* Export and configure Target Server configuration
* Export the instance objects (Users, etc.)
* Export the data (if possible disable writing)
* Import the instance objects
* Import the data
* Validation
* Migrate the Application(s)

## Common Steps

Despite what path is taken, there are common steps in the process:

* Upgrade to a supported Azure Redis version that matches the target and migration tool support
* Inventory instance objects
* Export users and permissions (ACLS)
* Export and configuration settings

### Post Import

* Setup Compliance and Security features
* Configure monitoring of the instance
* Optimize applications

## Instance Objects

As outlined in the [Test Plans](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\02_PreMigration\04_TestPlans.md) section, take an inventory of instance objects before and after the migration.

Migration teams should develop and test helpful inventory scripts before beginning the migration phase.

Instance object inventory script:

TBD

## Execute migration

With the basic migration components in place, it is now possible to proceed with the data migration. WWI will utilize the Redis backup and restore option to export the data and then import it into Azure Cache for Redis.

Options:

* [Backup and Restore](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\01.01_DataMigration_BackupRestore.md)
* [Copy command](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\01.02_DataMigration_Copy.md)
* [Replication](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\01.03_DataMigration_Replication.md)
* [3rd Party Tools](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\01.04_DataMigration_Tools.md)
* [Layer of abstraction](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\01.05_DataMigration_Abstraction.md)
* [Append Only File](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\01.06_DataMigration_Aof.md)

Once the data is migrated, point the application to the new instance

* [Migrate Application Settings](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\04_DataMigration_AppSettings.md)

Lastly, validate the target instance’s inventory. Below is an example of the INFO results in a target environment. It is relatively easy to identify database key count discrepancies.

Follow the Check success steps in the [common tasks article](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_DataMigration_Common.md).

## WWI Use Case

Worldwide Importers has decided to use a simple backup and restore of their Redis Conference instance. They will backup the RDB file and then copy it to Azure Storage. Once uploaded, they will utilize the Azure PowerShell cmdlets to restore the the RDB file contents to the new Azure Cache for Redis premium instance. Once migrated, they will enable the instance to be cluster enabled and then modify their applications to point to the new instance.

## Data Migration Checklist

* Understand the complexity of the environment and determine if an online approach is feasible.
* Account for data drift. Stopping or denying writes in the source can eliminate potential data drift. Determine acceptable downtime costs.
* Configure source configuration for fast export.
* Configure target configuration for fast import.
* Test any migrations that have a different source version vs the target.
* Migrate any miscellaneous objects, such as user names and privileges.
* Update application settings to point to the new instance.
* Document all tasks. Update task completion to indicate progress.

# Data Migration - Configuration

## Configuration

It is possible that you may want to keep your source instance configuration settings and move them over to Azure Cache for Redis.

### Export the configuration

* Run the following to export any valuable configuration details. Items to consider include:
  + [Persistence type (RDB, AOF)](https://redis.io/topics/persistence)
  + Cache Eviction policy
* To export the RDB configuration:
* redis-cli config get save
* To export the AOF setting:
* redis-cli config get appendonly
* To Export the eviction policy settings:
* redis-cli config get databases  
    
  redis-cli config get maxclients  
    
  redis-cli config get maxmemory-reserved  
    
  redis-cli config get maxfragmentationmemory-reserved  
    
  redis-cli config get maxmemory  
    
  redis-cli config get maxmemory-policy  
    
  redis-cli config get maxmemory-delta

**NOTE** To learn more about eviction policies, see [Using Redis as an LRU Cache](https://redis.io/topics/lru-cache).

* Record the settings so that you can apply them to the target.

### Export Users and Roles (6.x or higher)

If you are using Redis version 6.x or higher, you may have created ACL rules that will need to be migrated.

* Run the following to export all users and ACLs
* $users = redis-cli ACL LIST  
    
  foreach($user in $users)  
  {  
   $vals = $user.split(" ");  
    
   $user = $vals[1];  
    
   foreach($val in $vals)  
   {  
   if ($val.startswith("#"))  
   {  
   $hashPwd = $val;  
   }  
    
   if ($val.startswith("~"))  
   {  
   $keys = $val;  
   }  
    
   if ($val.startswith("&"))  
   {  
   $channels = $val;  
   }  
    
   if ($val.startswith("+"))  
   {  
   $commands = $val;  
   }  
   }  
    
   $line = $user + "`t" + $keys + "`t" + $commands + "`t" + $hashPwd + "`t"  
    
   add-content "users.txt" $user;  
  }
* Import into the target instance
* $lines = get-content "users.txt"  
    
    
  foreach($line in $lines)  
  {  
   $vals = $line.split("`t");  
    
   #parse the values  
   $user = $vals[0];  
   $hashPwd = $vals[3];  
   $keys = $vals[1];  
   $commands = $vals[2];  
    
   redis-cli ACL SETUSER $user on $keys +$commands `#$hashPwd  
  }

After running through the previous series of steps, the migration of the source configuration to the target will be completed.

# Common Tasks

## Disable AOF in Target

To speed up the import, be sure to disable AOF in the target instance.

* Run the following on the target:

Set-AzRedisCache -ResourceGroupName "<RESOURCE\_GROUP\_NAME>" -Name "<REDIS\_NAME>" -RedisConfiguration @{"aof-backup-enabled" = "false", "aof-storage-connection-string-0" = "DefaultEndpointsProtocol=https;BlobEndpoint=https://<STORAGE\_ACCOUNT\_NAME>.blob.core.windows.net/;AccountName=cjgredisstorage;AccountKey=<STORAGE\_ACCOUNT\_KEY1>", "aof-storage-connection-string-1" = "DefaultEndpointsProtocol=https;BlobEndpoint=https://<STORAGE\_ACCOUNT\_NAME>.blob.core.windows.net/;AccountName=cjgredisstorage;AccountKey=<STORAGE\_ACCOUNT\_KEY2>"}

**Note** Azure does not recognize the CONFIG command so all actions must be done through the Azure APIs : redis-cli -h <REDIS\_NAME>.redis.cache.windows.net -a <REDIS\_KEY> config set appendonly no. Only Premium tier or higher supports data persistence.

## Enable AOF in Target

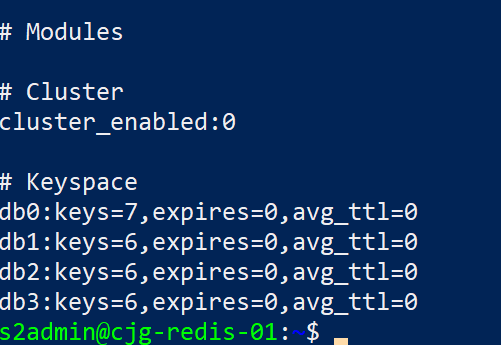
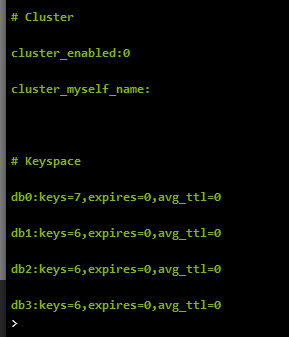
If you disabled AOF in the target, re-enable it:

* Run the following on the target:

Set-AzRedisCache -ResourceGroupName "<RESOURCE\_GROUP\_NAME>" -Name "<REDIS\_NAME>" -RedisConfiguration @{"aof-backup-enabled" = "true", "aof-storage-connection-string-0" = "DefaultEndpointsProtocol=https;BlobEndpoint=https://<STORAGE\_ACCOUNT\_NAME>.blob.core.windows.net/;AccountName=cjgredisstorage;AccountKey=<STORAGE\_ACCOUNT\_KEY1>", "aof-storage-connection-string-1" = "DefaultEndpointsProtocol=https;BlobEndpoint=https://<STORAGE\_ACCOUNT\_NAME>.blob.core.windows.net/;AccountName=cjgredisstorage;AccountKey=<STORAGE\_ACCOUNT\_KEY2>"}

## Check Success

You should now have the redis instance keys and values moved to the new Redis instance, but you should verify the source and destination.

* On the source, run the following:
* redis-cli INFO
* 
* Source INFO.
* On the target, run the following:
* redis-cli -h <REDIS\_NAME>.redis.cache.windows.net -p 6379 -a <REDIS\_PWD> INFO
* Ensure that both have the same values in the keyspaces
* 
* Source INFO.

# Data Migration - Application Settings

Most applications use Redis client libraries to handle communication with their caches. In some cases, you may need to upgrade the client library to get the SSL supported version. Once you have that version, you may also need to make code changes to support SSL. Reference [Configure your application to use TLS 1.2](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-remove-tls-10-11#configure-your-application-to-use-tls-12) for more information.

## Setup

Follow all the steps in the [Setup](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\05_Appendix\00_Setup.md) guide to create an environment to support the following steps.

## Migration

Ensure that you have migrated the data in the source to the target using one of the migration paths:

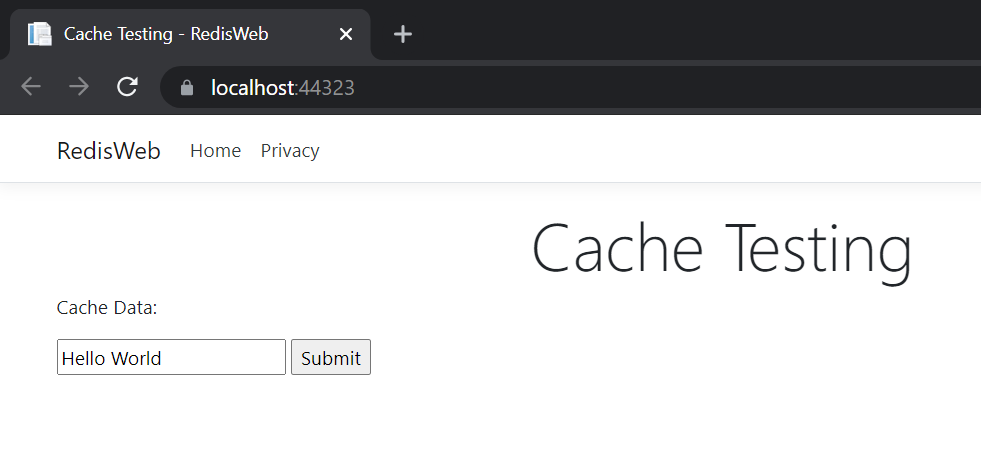
* [Backup and Restore](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\01.01_DataMigration_BackupRestore.md)
* [Copy command](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\01.02_DataMigration_Copy.md)
* [Replication](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\01.03_DataMigration_Replication.md)
* [3rd Party Tools](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\01.04_DataMigration_Tools.md)
* [Layer of abstraction](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\01.05_DataMigration_Abstraction.md)
* [Append Only File](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\01.06_DataMigration_Aof.md)

## Update Applications to support SSL

* Switch to the Azure Portal
* Select the **PREFIX-app01** app service
* Under **Settings**, select **Configuration**
* For the **REDIS\_CONNECTION** application setting, replace it to point to the migrated Azure Cache for Redis instance:
* "REDIS\_CONNECTION": "PREFIX-redis-prem.redis.cache.windows.net:6380,password=<REDIS\_PWD>,ssl=True,abortConnect=False"

**NOTE** Notice the usage of the ssl=True addition to the connection string

**NOTE** If you used the secure template, you would be connecting to the private IP endpoint in the connection string.

* Press **F5** to run the application, you should see the migrated data from the source displayed
* 
* RedisWeb app running with Hello World displayed

You have successfully completed an on-premises to Azure Cache for Redis migration!

# Post Migration Management

## Monitoring and Alerts

Once the migration has been successfully completed, the next phase it to manage the new cloud-based cache workload resources. Management operations include both control plane and data plane activities. Control plane activities are those related to the Azure resources whereas data plane is **inside** the Azure resource (in this case Redis).

Azure Cache for Redis provides for the ability to monitor both of these types of operational activities using Azure-based tools such as [Azure Monitor](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-monitor/overview), [Log Analytics](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-monitor/platform/design-logs-deployment) and [Azure Sentinel](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/sentinel/overview). In addition to the Azure-based tools, security information and event management (SIEM) systems can be configured to consume these logs as well.

Whichever tool is used to monitor the new cloud-based workloads, alerts will need to be created to warn Azure and instance administrators of any suspicious activity. If a particular alert event has a well-defined remediation path, alerts can fire automated [Azure run books](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/automation/automation-quickstart-create-runbook) to address the event.

The first step to creating a fully monitored environment is to enable Redis log data to flow into Azure Monitor. Reference [monitor Azure Cache for Redis](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-how-to-monitor) for more information.

Once log data is flowing, use the [Kusto Query Language (KQL)](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/data-explorer/kusto/query/) query language to query the various log information. Administrators unfamiliar with KQL can find a SQL to KQL cheat sheet [here](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/data-explorer/kusto/query/sqlcheatsheet) or the [Get started with log queries in Azure Monitor](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-monitor/log-query/get-started-queries) page.

For example, to get the memory usage of the Azure Cache for Redis:

AzureMetrics  
| where TimeGenerated > ago(15m)  
| where ResourceProvider == "MICROSOFT.CACHE"  
| where MetricName == "usedmemory"  
| limit 10  
| project TimeGenerated, Total, Maximum, Minimum, TimeGrain, UnitName  
| top 1 by TimeGenerated

To get the CPU usage:

AzureMetrics  
| where TimeGenerated > ago(15m)  
| where ResourceProvider == "MICROSOFT.CACHE"  
| where MetricName == "allpercentprocessortime"  
| limit 10  
| project TimeGenerated, Total, Maximum, Minimum, TimeGrain, UnitName  
| top 1 by TimeGenerated

**Note** for a list of other metrics, reference [Monitor Azure Cache for Redis](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-how-to-monitor).

Once a KQL query has been created, create [log alerts](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-monitor/platform/alerts-unified-log) based off these queries.

## Server Configuration

As part of the migration, it is likely the on-premises server configuration was modified to support a fast egress (such as disabled AOF). Also, modifications were made to the Azure Cache for Redis configuration to support a fast ingress. The Azure Redis instance configuration should be set back to their original on-premises workload optimized values after the migration.

However, be sure to review and make server configuration changes that are appropriate for the workload and the environment. Some values that were great for an on-premises environment, may not be optimal for a cloud-based environment. Additionally, when planning to migrate the current on-premises configuration to Azure, verify that they can in fact be set.

## PowerShell Module

The Azure Portal and Windows PowerShell can be used for managing the Azure Cache for Redis. To get started with PowerShell, install the Azure PowerShell cmdlets for Redis with the following PowerShell command:

Install-Module -Name Az.RedisCache

After the modules are installed, reference tutorials and documentation like the following to learn ways to take advantage of scripting various management activities:

* [Manage Azure Cache for Redis with Azure Powershell](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-how-to-manage-redis-cache-powershell)

## Azure Cache for Redis Upgrade Process

Since Azure Cache for Redis is a PaaS offering, administrators are not responsible for the management of the updates on the operating system or the Redis software. However, it is important to be aware the upgrade process can be random and when being deployed, will stop the Redis server workloads. Plan for these downtimes by rerouting the workloads to a replica in the event the particular instance goes into maintenance mode, or utilize a replication based SKU to ensure uptime.

**Note:** This style of failover architecture may require changes to the applications layer to support this type of failover scenario. If the replica is maintained as a read only replica and is not promoted, the application will only be able to read data and it may fail when any operation attempts to write information to the instance.

### Scheduled updates

Schedule updates allows you to choose a maintenance window for your cache instance. A maintenance window allows you to control the day(s) and time(s) of a week during which the VM(s) hosting your cache can be updated. Azure Cache for Redis will make a best effort to start and finish updating Redis server software within the specified time window you define.

The default, and minimum, maintenance window for updates is five hours. This value isn’t configurable from the Azure portal, but you can configure it in PowerShell using the MaintenanceWindow parameter of the [New-AzRedisCacheScheduleEntry](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/powershell/module/az.rediscache/new-azrediscachescheduleentry) cmdlet.

### Application support

The [AzureRedisEvents](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/Redis/concepts-planned-maintenance-notification) feature will inform applications up to 30 seconds in advance of installation of an update or critical security patch.

**Note:** Azure Cache for Redis maintenance notifications are incredibly important. The instance maintenance can take the instance and connected applications down for a random period of time. Nodes are patched one at a time to prevent data loss. Basic caches will have data loss. Clustered caches are patched one shard at a time.

In addition to supporting the Azure REdis Events, you can follow some best practices for application design when using caching technology:

* [Reliability patterns - Cloud Design Patterns](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/architecture/framework/resiliency/reliability-patterns#resiliency)
* [Retry guidance for Azure services - Best practices for cloud applications](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/architecture/best-practices/retry-service-specific)
* [Implement retries with exponential backoff](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/architecture/microservices/implement-resilient-applications/implement-retries-exponential-backoff)

## WWI Use Case

WWI decided to utilize the Azure Activity logs and enable Redis logging to flow to a [Log Analytics workspace](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-monitor/platform/design-logs-deployment). This workspace is configured to be a part of [Azure Sentinel](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/sentinel/) such that any [Threat Analytics](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/Redis/concepts-data-access-and-security-threat-protection) events would be surfaced, and incidents created.

## Management Checklist

* Create resource alerts for common things like CPU and Memory.
* Ensure the server is configured for the target data workload after migration.
* Script common administrative tasks.
* Set up notifications for maintenance events such as upgrades and patches. Notify users as necessary.
* Ensure the application can handle maintenance activities

# Optimization

## Monitoring Hardware and Cache Performance

In addition to the audit and activity logs, cache performance can also be monitored with [Azure Metrics](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-monitor/platform/data-platform-metrics). Azure metrics are provided in a one-minute frequency and alerts can be configured from them. For more information, reference [Monitoring in Azure Cache for Redis](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-how-to-monitor) for specifics on what kind of metrics that can be monitored.

As previously mentioned, monitoring metrics such as the allpercentprocessortime or usedmemory can be important when deciding to upgrade the instance tier. Consistently high values could indicate a tier upgrade is necessary.

Additionally, if cpu and memory do not seem to be the issue, administrators can explore instance-based options such as cache misses.

To find cache misses, run the following:

AzureMetrics  
| where ResourceProvider == "MICROSOFT.CACHE"  
| where MetricName == 'cachemisses'  
| limit 10  
| project TimeGenerated, Total, Maximum, Minimum, TimeGrain, UnitName  
| top 1 by TimeGenerated

## Typical Workloads and Performance Issues

There tends to be two common usage patterns with any instance system, Redis included. These are (but are not limited too):

* An application server exposing a web endpoint on an application server, which connects to the instance.
* A client-server architecture where the client directly connects to the instance.

In consideration of the above patterns, performance issues can crop up in any of the following areas:

* **Resource Contention (Client)** - The machine/server serving as the client could be having a resource constraint which can be identified in the task manager, the Azure portal, or CLI if the client machine is running on Azure.
* **Resource Contention (Application Server)** - The machine/server acting as the application server could cause a resource constraint, which can be identified in the task manager, the Azure portal, or CLI if the application server/service VM is running on Azure. If the application server is an Azure service or virtual machine, then Azure metrics can help with determining the resource contention.
* **Resource Contention (instance Server)** - The instance service could be experiencing performance bottlenecks related to CPU, memory, and storage which can be determined from the Azure Metrics for the instance service instance.
* **Network latency** - A quick check before starting any performance benchmarking run is to determine the network latency between the client and instance using a simple SELECT 1 query. In most Azure regions, watch for less than two milliseconds of latency on SELECT 1 timing when using a remote client hosted on Azure in the same region as the Azure Cache for Redis server.

## Azure Monitor

[Azure Monitor for Azure Cache for Redis](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-monitor/insights/redis-cache-insights-overview) will provide you with common metrics reporting that are specific to Azure Cache for Redis.

## Scale the Server

It is possible to [scale up the tier](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-how-to-scale) at any time, however, once scaled up, you cannot scale the instance down. You would need to re-create a lower tiered instance and then migrate to it.

**Note** In order to scale a Basic to Premium, it must be scaled to Standard first.

## Moving Regions

Moving a instance to a different Azure region depends on the approach and architecture. Depending on the selected approach, it could cause system downtime.

The recommended process is the same as utilizing cluster replicas for maintenance failover. However, compared to the planned maintenance method mentioned above, the speed to failover is much faster when a failover layer has been implemented in the application. The application should only be down for a few moments during the read replica failover process. More details are covered in the [Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\temp\03_BCDR.md) section.

## Partitioning

Partitioning is the process of splitting your data across multiple Redis instances. Partitioning allows for much larger databases and the scaling of compute power and network bandwidth.

### twemproxy

In the absence of a Redis cluster, you can use the [twemproxy tool](https://github.com/twitter/twemproxy). Pronounced “two-em-proxy”, aka nutcracker, it is a fast and lightweight proxy for memcached and redis protocol. It was built primarily to reduce the number of connections to the caching servers on the backend. This, together with protocol pipelining and sharding enables you to horizontally scale your distributed caching architecture.

### Other clients

In addition to running a proxy, you can select a client implementation that will hash the keys and handle the routing of your cache queries. There are multiple Redis clients with support for consistent hashing:

* [Redis-rb](https://github.com/redis/redis-rb) : A Ruby client that tries to match Redis’ API one-to-one, while still providing an idiomatic interface.
* [Predis](https://github.com/nrk/predis) : A flexible and feature-complete Redis client for PHP 7.2 and newer.
* [Jedis](https://github.com/redis/jedis) : Jedis is a blazingly small and sane Redis java client.

## Quick Tips

Use the following to make quick performance changes:

* **Server load** : If your instance can’t handle the request, you may need to scale up or add more shards to the cluster.
* **CPU Usage** : If CPU usage for an Azure Cache for Redis server is saturated at 100%, then select the next higher level of Compute Units to get more CPU.
* **Memory Usage** : If memory usage for an Azure Cache for Redis server is saturated at 100%, then select the next higher level of tier to get more memory.
* **Network** : If the tier runs out of bandwidth to serve the clients, the clients will start received time outs, scale up to a higher tier to get more bandwidth.
* **Regions** : It is recommended having the application server/client machine in the same region in Azure to reduce latency between the client/application server and the instance.

You can also review the [best practices guidance on caching](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/architecture/best-practices/caching) in the Azure Architecture Center.

## WWI Use Case

WWI business and application users expressed a high level of excitement regarding the ability to scale the instance on-demand.

They opted to utilize a read replica server for any potential failover or read-only needed scenarios.

The migration team, working with the Azure engineers, set up KQL queries to monitor for any potential issues with the Redis server performance. The KQY queries were set up with alerts to email event issues to the instance and conference team.

They elected to monitor any potential issues for now and implement Azure Automation run books at a later time, if needed, to improve operational efficiency.

## Optimization Checklist

* Periodically review the Performance and Azure Advisor recommendations.
* Utilize monitoring to drive tier upgrades and scale decisions.
* Consider moving regions if the users or application needs change.

# Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery (BCDR)

## Backup and Restore

As with any mission critical system, having a backup and restore as well as a disaster recovery (BCDR) strategy is an important part of the overall system design. If an unforseen event occurs, it is important to have the ability to restore the data to a point in time (Recovery Point Objective) and in a reasonable amount of time (Recovery Time Objective).

### Backup

Azure Cache for Redis supports automatic backups ([data persistence](https://redis.io/topics/persistence)) based on RDB or AOF features. The backup frequency can be as low as 15 minutes or up to 24 hours. If enabled, the files are stored in Azure Storage, which should be factoring into in the total cost of ownership of your solution.

You can also choose to export your data using the Azure Portal, Azure CLI or Azure PowerShell.

### Restore

As you learned in the migration sections, you can restore a Redis instance from a RDB or AOF backup.

## High Availability (HA)

Azure Cache for Redis has several options for [implementing high availability](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-high-availability) across the various hosting options (IaaS or PaaS) whether you are looking for 99.9 with up to 99.999% uptime. These include using Virtual Machines with Availability Zones and replication, or utilizing the PaaS based Premium and Enterprise SKUs for built-in clustering and geo-replication.

### Clustering

To support high availability you can enabled clustering on the Premium and Enterprise skus. Basic and Standard do not support clustering. You can scale up to 10 shards in Azure Cache for Redis Premium.

### Geo-replication

[Geo-replication](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/architecture/microservices/implement-resilient-applications/implement-retries-exponential-backoff) allows you to created cache replication links to Azure Cache for Redis premium tier instances running in any region in Azure. This provides for the ability to recover from any regional outages that may occur. Secondary instances are read-only and can be accessed from applications.

Geo-replication is not automatic failover, so if any issues do arise, you will need to be ready to unlike the replication to make the secondary instance a primary. You would also need to manage changing the connection settings in any applications, or adding a load balancer to route traffic.

**Note** Geo-replication is not enabled for the Basic or Standard tiers.

### Active geo-replication

The Enterprise tiers support a more advanced form of geo-replication called active geo-replication. Using conflict-free replicated data types, the Redis Enterprise software supports writes to multiple cache instances and takes care of merging of changes and resolving conflicts. You can join two or more Enterprise tier cache instances in different Azure regions to form an active geo-replicated cache.

In this configuration, both instances are active and will accept write requests. Unlike geo-replication, active geo-replication can essentially be used for automatic failover.

#### Cache Replication Links

Once a link has been setup, there are numerous features that are not supported and some restrictions that are placed on your instances. Reference [Configure geo-replication for Premium Azure Cache for Redis instances](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-how-to-geo-replication) for more information. Also part of the document, reference the [Geo-replication FAQ](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-how-to-geo-replication#geo-replication-faq).

## Deleted Servers, Resource Locks

If an administrator or bad actor deletes the instance in the Azure Portal or via automated methods, it is possible that the operations could delete your instance. It is important that [resource locks](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-resource-manager/management/lock-resources) are created on the Azure Cache for Redis resource group to add an extra layer of deletion prevention to the instances.

## Regional Failure

Although rare, if a regional failure occurs geo-redundant backups or cluster nodes can be used to get the data workloads running again. It is best to have both geo-replication and a clustering available for the best protection against unexpected regional failures.

Changing the instance server region also means the endpoint will change and application configurations will need to be updated accordingly or load balancers should be utilized.

### Load Balancers

If the application is made up of many different instances around the world, it may not be feasible to update all of the clients. Utilize an [Azure Load Balancer](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/load-balancer/load-balancer-overview) or [Application Gateway](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/application-gateway/overview) to implement a seamless failover functionality. Although helpful and time-saving, these tools are not required for regional failover capability.

## WWI Use Case

WWI wanted to test the failover capabilities of clusters and geo-replication so they performed the steps outlined below.

### Creating a Cluster

* Open the Azure Portal.
* Browse to the Azure Cache for Redis **PREFIX-redis-basic6** instance.
* Under **Settings**, select **Scale**
* Select C0 Standard, then select **Select**, the instance will start to scale
* Under **Settings**, select **Scale**
* Select P1 Premium, then select **Select**, the instance will start to scale
* Under **Settings**, select **Cluster size**
* Select **Enable** to enable clustering on the instance
* Select **Save**

**Note:** Each cluster node will incur additional charges equal to the main instance.

### Setup Geo-replication

* Browse to the **PREFIX-redis-prem** Azure Cache for Redis instance
* Under **Settings**, select **Geo-replication**
* Select **Add cache replication link**
* Select the **PREFIX-redis-basic6** instance
* Select **Link**, wait for the status to change to **Synced**
* Select **Unlink caches**

### Failover to replica

Once a replica has been created and has completed the replication process, it can be used for failed over. Replication will stop during a failover and make the read replica its own primary instance.

Failover Steps:

* Open the Azure Portal.
* Browse to the **PREFIX-redis-basic6** Azure Cache for Redis instance.
* Under **Settings** select **Geo-replication**
* Select **Unlink caches**, the replication will unlink and the two caches will become read/write.

## BCDR Checklist

* Modify backup frequency to meet requirements.
* Setup clustering for high-availability
* Create resource locks on resource groups.
* Setup geo-replication for regional failure mitigation
* Implement a load balancing strategy for applications for quick failover.

# Security

Moving to a cloud-based service doesn’t mean the entire internet will have access to it at all times. Azure provides best in class security that ensures data workloads are continually protected from bad actors and rouge programs.

## Encryption

Redis does not directly support any form of data encryption, so all encoding must be performed by client applications.

Additionally, Redis OSS does not provide any form of transport security unless a supported version is specifically compiled to support it. When running a default non-SSL enabled instance, if you need to protect data as it flows across the network, it is recommended to implement an SSL proxy.

Azure Cache for Redis supported SSL/TLS encryption and is enabled by default. As covered in the migration assessment, your application may need to be modified to support SSL connectivity as it is not recommended to enable the non-SSL port in Azure Cache for Redis.

## Authentication

Redis is focused purely on providing fast access to data, and is designed to run inside a trusted environment that can be accessed only by trusted clients. Redis supports [a limited security model](https://redis.io/topics/security) based on password authentication. (It is possible to remove authentication completely, although we don’t recommend this.)

All authenticated clients share the same global password and have access to the same resources. If you need more comprehensive sign-in security, you must implement your own security layer in front of the Redis server, and all client requests should pass through this additional layer. Redis should not be directly exposed to untrusted or unauthenticated clients.

Azure Cache for Redis supports the basic authentication mechanisms for Redis user connectivity with two access keys per instance. Azure Cache for Redis does not support Azure Active Directory integration.

## TLS Settings

By default, Azure Cache for Redis disables the non-SSL port 6379 and uses the SSL port of 6380. You can re-enable the non-SSL port if needed, but it is recommended that you upgrade your applications to support SSL rather than open non-SSL access to Azure Cache for Redis. Additionally, you will want to ensure your applications will support TLS 1.2 rather thant he older 1.0 or 1.1.

## Firewall

Azure provides a Firewall layer to limit access to only know IP address spaces. This is a best practice to ensure that only allowed application can connect to your Azure Cache for Redis instances. The migration team should review the network data flows and configure the Firewall accordingly. Azure Cache for Redis provides several mechanisms to secure the networking layers by limiting access to only authorized users, applications and devices.

The first line of defense for protecting the Redis instance is to implement firewall rules. IP addresses can be limited to only valid locations when accessing the instance via internal or external IPs. If the Redis instance is destined to only serve internal applications, then restrict public access.

When moving an application to Azure along with the Redis workload, it is likely there will be multiple virtual networks setup in a hub and spoke pattern that will require [Virtual Network Peering](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-network/virtual-network-peering-overview) to be configured.

## Networking

There are a couple of [network isolation options](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-network-isolation) you can choose from in Azure, each one has some advantages and limitations.

### Private Endpoint (Recommended)

To limit access to the Azure Cache for Redis to internal Azure resources, enable [Private Endpoint](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-network-isolation#azure-private-link). Private Endpoints will ensure that the Redis instance will be assigned a private IP rather than a public IP address.

**Note** Firewall rules can be used with VNet injected caches, but not private endpoints currently.

### Virtual Network Integration

If you do not want any public access to your instance, you can enable [Virtual Network integration](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/cache-network-isolation#azure-virtual-network-injection) such that only VNet resources can access your data.

## Security baseline

Review a set of potential [security baseline](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/security/benchmark/azure/baselines/azure-cache-for-redis-security-baseline?toc=/azure/azure-cache-for-redis/TOC.json) tasks that can be implemented across all Azure resources. Not all of the items described on the reference link will apply to the specific data workloads or Azure resources.

## Security Checklist

* Upgrade applications to use SSL and TLS 1.2
* Enable all auditing features.
* Implement firewall rules.
* Utilize private endpoints for workloads that do not travel over the Internet.
* Ensure you read the security baseline article

# Summary

This document has covered several topics related to migrating an application from on-premises Redis to Azure Cache for Redis. We covered how to begin and assess the project all the way to application cut over.

The migration team will need to review the topics carefully as the choices made can have project timeline effects. The total cost of ownership is very attractive given the many enterprise ready features provided.

The migration project approach is very important. The team will need to assess the application and instance complexity to determine the amount of conversion time. Conversion tools will help make the transition easier, but there will always be an element of manual review and updates required. Scripting out pre-migration tasks and post migration testing is important.

Application architecture and design can provide strong indicators as to the level of effort required. For example, being able to add a layer of abstraction for moving cache data at runtime.

In the end, several tools exist in the marketplace ranging from free to commercial. This document covered the steps required if the team plans a instance migration using one of the more popular open source tool options. Whichever path that is chosen, Microsoft and the Redis community have the tools and expertise to make the instance migration successful.

## Questions and Feedback

For any questions or suggestions about working with Azure Cache for Redis, send an email to the Azure Cache for Redis Team (azurecache@microsoft.com). Please note that this address is for general questions rather than support tickets.

In addition, consider these points of contact as appropriate:

* To contact Azure Support or fix an issue with your account, [file a ticket from the Azure portal](https://portal.azure.com/#blade/Microsoft_Azure_Support/HelpAndSupportBlade/overview).

## Find a partner to assist in migrating

This guide can be overwhelming, but don’t fret! There are many experts in the community with a proven migration track record. [Search for a Microsoft Partner](https://www.microsoft.com/solution-providers/home) or [Microsoft MVP](https://mvp.microsoft.com/MvpSearch) to help with finding the most appropriate migration strategy. You are not alone!

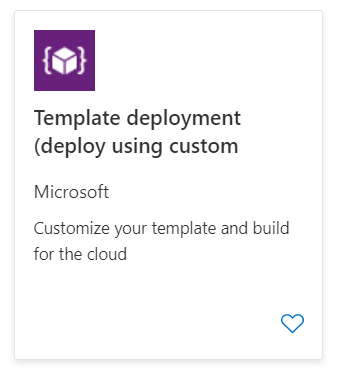
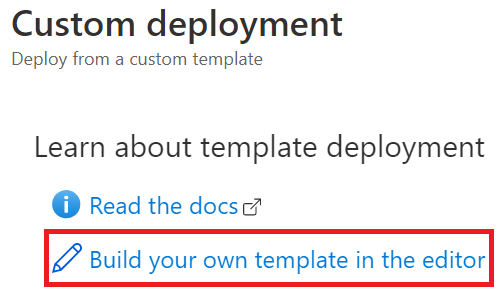
Browse the technical forums and social groups for more detailed real-world information:

* [Microsoft Community Forum](https://social.msdn.microsoft.com/forums/azure/en-US/home?forum=azurecache)
* [Microsoft Q&A Forum](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/answers/search.html?c=&includeChildren=&f=&type=question+OR+idea+OR+kbentry+OR+answer+OR+topic+OR+user&redirect=search%2Fsearch&sort=relevance&q=%5Bazure-cache-redis%5D)
* [StackOverflow for Azure Redis](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/azure-redis-cache)
* [Azure Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/MsftAzure)
* [LinkedIn Azure Group](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2733961/)
* [LinkedIn Azure Developers Group](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1731317/)

# Appendix A: Environment Setup

The following steps will configure an environment to perform the guide’s migration steps.

## Deploy the ARM template

* Open the Azure Portal
* Create a new resource group
* Select **+Add**, type **template**, select the **Template Deployment…**
* 
* Select **Create**
* Select **Build your own template in the editor**
* 
* Choose between the [secure](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\artifacts\template-secure.json) or the [non-secure](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\artifacts\template.json) ARM template. The difference between the two options is the secured option’s resources are hidden behind an App Gateway with private endpoints, whereas the other, resources are directly exposed to the internet.

**Note** The secure template runs at ~$2700 per month. The non-secure template runs at ~$1700 per month.

* Copy the json into the window
* Select **Save**
* 
* Fill in the parameters
  + Be sure to record your prefix and password, they are needed later
* Select **Review + create**
* Select the **I agree…** checkbox
* Select **Create**, after about 20 minutes the landing zone will be deployed
* **NOTE** If anything deploys incorrectly in the redis images via the Azure script extensions, you can check the Azure agent log files using:
* sudo nano /var/lib/waagent/custom-script/download/0/stdout  
  sudo nano /var/lib/waagent/custom-script/download/0/stderr

**NOTE** If you choose the secure template, you will need to perform all the tasks via the Azure Portal or inside the **PREFIX-win10** jump machine in the **PREFIX-vnet-hub** virtual network. You will also need to make sure that DNS records are correct such that you can connect to the resources in the **PREFIX-vnet-redis** virtual network. For simplicity, you should use the non-secure template.

## Ensure Redis is Configured

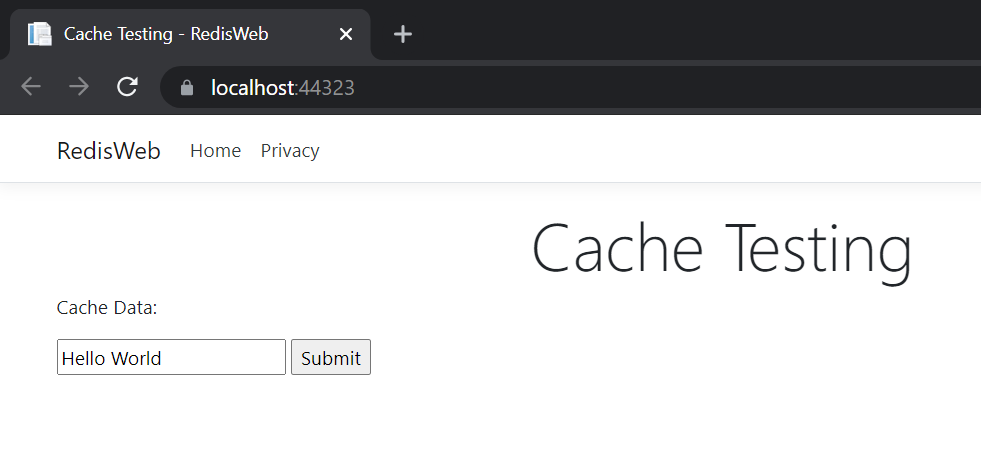
* Browse to the Azure Portal
* Select your lab resource group
* Select the **PREFIX-redis01** virtual machine
* Record the public IP address
* Login to the redis image (**PREFIX-redis01** and **PREFIX-redis02**) by opening a PowerShell window and run the following:
* ssh s2admin@<IP>
* Enter the password S2@dmins2@dmin
* Open the redis.conf file:
* sudo nano /etc/redis/redis.conf
* Check the following bind statement exists:
* bind 0.0.0.0 ::1
* If the setting does not exist or it is an empty file, run all the commands in the .\artifacts\post-install-script01.sh file

## Connect to the Azure VM

* Login to the deployed instance VM.
  + Browse to the Azure Portal.
  + Select the **PREFIX-win10** virtual machine resource
  + Select **Connect->RDP**.
  + Select **Open** in the RDP dialog.
  + Login using s2admin and S2@dmins2@dmin.
  + Select **Accept** in the dialog.

## Configure and Test the Web Application

Perform the following on the **PREFIX-win10** virtual machine resource.

* Open Visual Studio
* Open the **C:-redis-cache-migration.sln** file
* When prompted, login using an account that has a Visual Studio license enabled
* When prompted, select to **Install** the .NET desktop development
* In the **RedisWeb** project, open the .\Properties\launchSettings.json file
* Update the **IISExpress** profile **REDIS\_CONNECTION** environment variable to the Redis Connections string <REDIS01\_VM\_IP>:6379
* Press **F5** to run the application, a browser window should open and display the cache value Hello World:
* 
* RedisWeb app running with Hello World displayed

## Deploy the Application to Azure

* Right-click the **RedisWeb** project, select **Publish**
* Select **Azure**, then select **Next**
* Select **Azure App Server (Linux)**, then select **Next**
* Login if prompted, then select your lab subscription and resource group
* Select the **PREFIX-app01** app service then select **Next**
* Select **Finish**
* Select **Publish**
* Browse to the Azure Portal
* Select the **PREFIX-app01** app service
* Under **Deployment** select **Configuration**
* Select **New application setting**, for the name type **REDIS\_CONNECTION**
* Set the value to <REDIS01\_VM\_IP>:6379
* Select **Save**
* Open the web app url https://PREFIX-app01.azurewebsites.net/

**NOTE** If you used the secure template, you would need to ensure your DNS is setup to point to the private IP address of the app service.

* Congratulations. You have migrated the sample Redis app to Azure, now we need to migrate the Redis instance.

# Install twemproxy

* Run the following:
* sudo apt-get install automake libtool autoconf bzip2 -y  
    
  git clone https://github.com/twitter/twemproxy  
  cd twemproxy  
  autoreconf -fvi  
  ./configure --enable-debug=full  
  make  
  src/nutcracker -h
* Configure twemproxy:
* sudo rm nutcracker.yml  
  sudo nano nutcracker.yml
* Update the configuration to the following:
* alpha:  
   listen: 127.0.0.1:22121  
   hash: fnv1a\_64  
   distribution: ketama  
   auto\_eject\_hosts: true  
   redis: true  
   server\_retry\_timeout: 2000  
   server\_failure\_limit: 1  
   servers:  
   - <REDIS\_IP1>:6379:0  
   - <REDIS\_IP2>:6379:0
* Run nutcracker
* cd  
  ./twemproxy/src/nutcracker -c ~/twemproxy/conf/nutcracker.yml
* Test nutcracker
* redis-cli -h localhost -p 22121 set hashkey1 "key1"  
  redis-cli -h localhost -p 22121 set hashkey2 "key2"  
  redis-cli -h localhost -p 22121 set hashkey3 "key3"  
  redis-cli -h localhost -p 22121 set hashkey4 "key4"  
  redis-cli -h localhost -p 22121 set hashkey5 "key5"

# Appendix B: ARM Templates

## Secured

This template will deploy all resources with private endpoints. This effectively removes any access to the PaaS services from the internet.

[Secured ARM Template](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\artifacts\template-secure.json)

## Non-Secured

This template will deploy resources using standard deployment where all resources are available from the internet.

[Non-secured ARM Template](file:///D:\data\projects\redis-cache\pandoc\artifacts\template.json)

# SSL Connectivity with STunnel

In order to make calls to an SSL enabled version of Redis, you will need the latest redis-cli (6.x or higher) or you will need to enable a proxy to the SSL endpoints.

## Install STunnel

sudo apt-get install stunnel4 -y

* Setup the SSL port for Azure Redis

sudo nano /etc/default/stunnel4

* Set the Enabled value to 1
* Save the file
* Setup the pids directory and create the redis connection:

cd  
  
mkdir pids  
  
sudo chown -R nobody:nogroup pids/  
  
sudo nano /etc/stunnel/redis.conf

* Add the following:

[redis-cli]  
client = yes  
accept = 127.0.0.1:6380  
connect = yourcachename.redis.cache.windows.net:6380

* Restart stunnel

/etc/init.d/stunnel4 restart

* Ensure that stunnel is running:

sudo apt install net-tools  
  
sudo netstat -tlpn | grep 6380

# Configure Redis SSL

SSL/TLS is supported by Redis starting with version 6 as an optional feature that needs to be enabled at compile time.

## Download Redis 6.0

* Run the following to download Redis 6.0

wget https://download.redis.io/releases/redis-6.2.5.tar.gz  
tar xzf redis-6.2.5.tar.gz  
cd redis-6.2.5

## Build with TLS support

* Run the following to build Redis with TLS support:

sudo apt install make pkg-config libssl-dev  
  
make distclean  
  
make BUILD\_TLS=yes MALLOC=libc

## Create Certificates

* Create the self-signed certificates:

./utils/gen-test-certs.sh  
  
sudo apt-get install -y tcl-tls  
  
./runtest --tls

## Start the server

./src/redis-server --tls-port 6380 --port 6379 \  
 --tls-cert-file ./tests/tls/redis.crt \  
 --tls-key-file ./tests/tls/redis.key \  
 --tls-ca-cert-file ./tests/tls/ca.crt &

The Redis instance should be running and now ready to accept SSL connections.

## Test connectivity

./src/redis-cli --tls \  
 --cert ./tests/tls/redis.crt \  
 --key ./tests/tls/redis.key \  
 --cacert ./tests/tls/ca.crt

## Resources

* https://redis.io/topics/encryption