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Choosing the best Azure subscription service mo

By Andr

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When starting on your journey to Azure, you need to get your subscription model in plac cloud infrastructure. Its important to get this right before you do anything else.

I've put together 2 options to choose from that is most common in large enterprises.

Option 1- Multiple Subscription Model

In Azure Active Directory (Azure AD), a tenant is representative of an organization. It is a AD service that an organization receives and owns when it signs up for a Microsoft clou Microsoft Intune, or Office 365. Each Azure AD tenant is distinct and separate from othe

- An Azure tenant can have multiple subscriptions

Host Active Directory IaaS DCs / DNS / ADFS and Any Management Servers

2) **Subscription for Testing / UAT environment**

Use for any testing, preview of Azure features in a test environment

3) **Subscription for Production**

All production servers and applications will be hosted here

4) **Subscription for Development**

Use for application development work

Pros

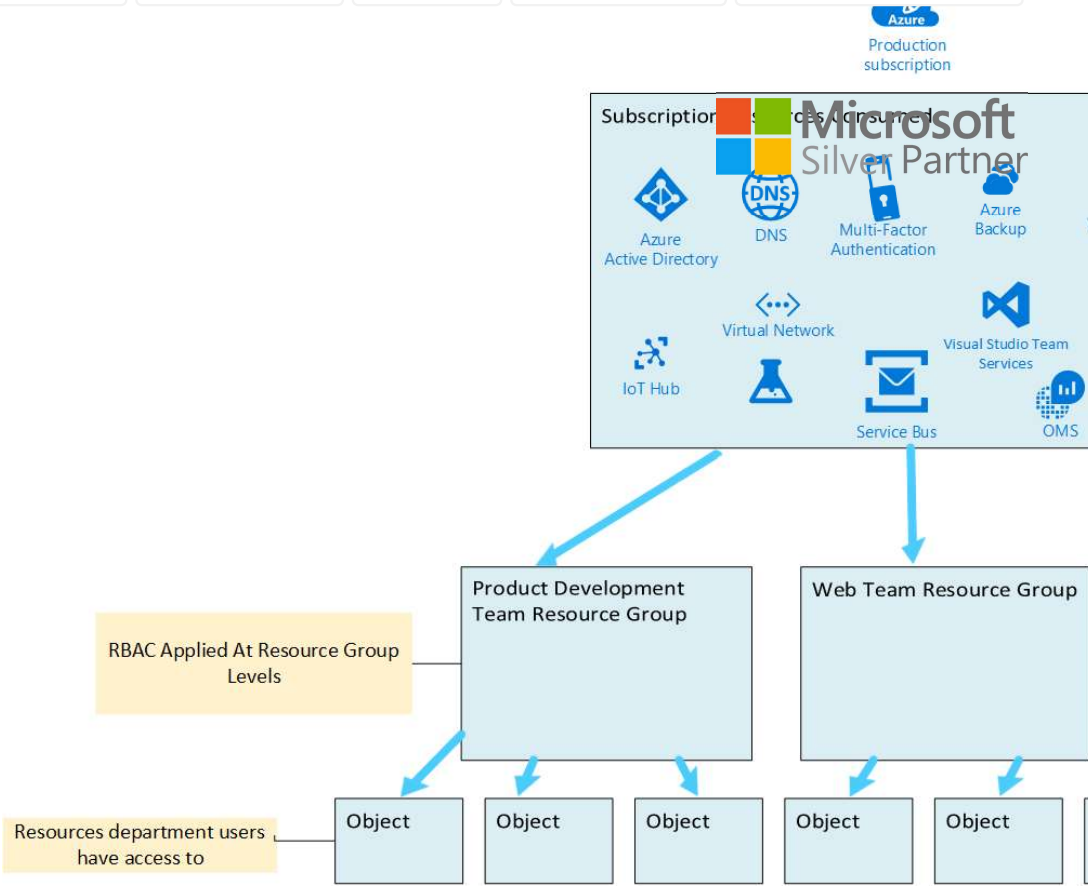
- Multiple Subscriptions allow a company to easy view billing for each Subscription an Microsoft Azure services associated with that subscription
- Overcome any Azure limits and constraints
- Development and project team agility

Cons

- Complex
- Increased Management and costs
  - Network circuits
  - Edge gateway devices
  - IP Address space
  - Routing and firewall configurations
  - Monitoring, patching and anti-virus for VMs
  - Storage / Backup vaults

Option 2 – Single Subscription Model

Single subscription under 1 Azure AD Tenant. You can segregate all servers and resourc Firewalls, RBAC on Resource Groups.



Pros

- Easier Cost Control. Project based billing via Tags and Resource groups
- Centralized Operations
- Reuse of Shared infrastructure (Networking)

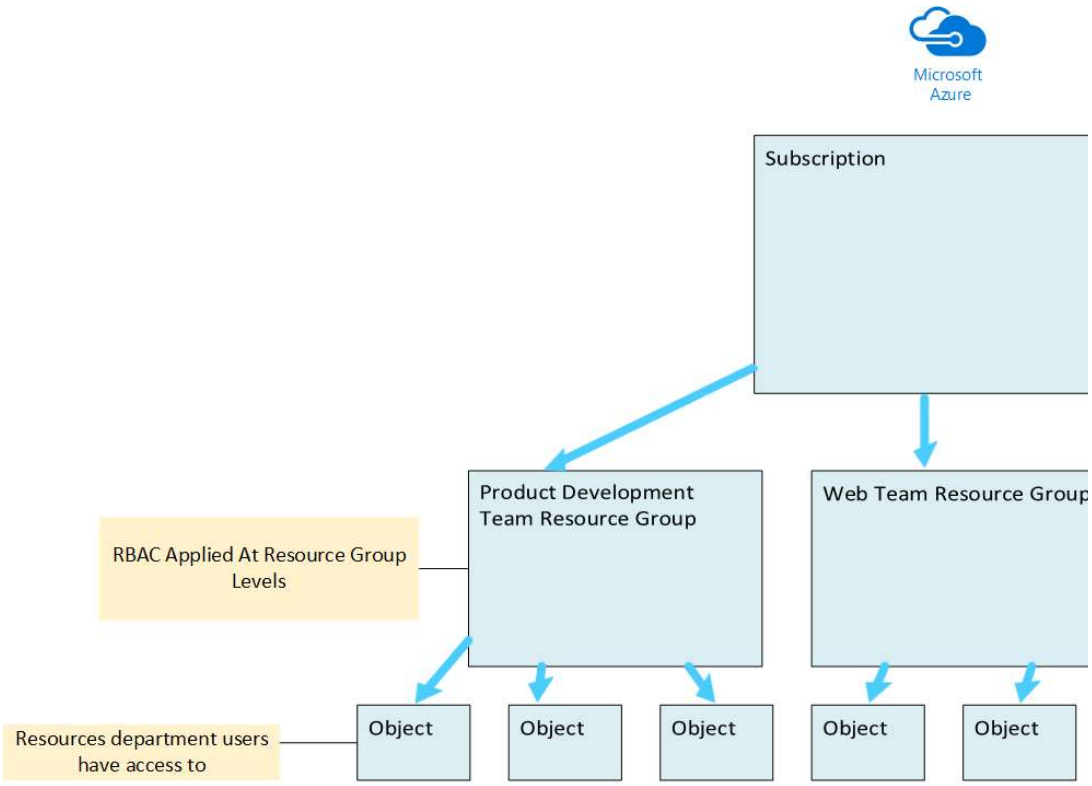
Cons

- Azure Limits and constraints (e.g 250 storage accounts per subscription)
- Less agility for development & project teams
- Requires more granular permission model (RBAC)

Resource Group Model

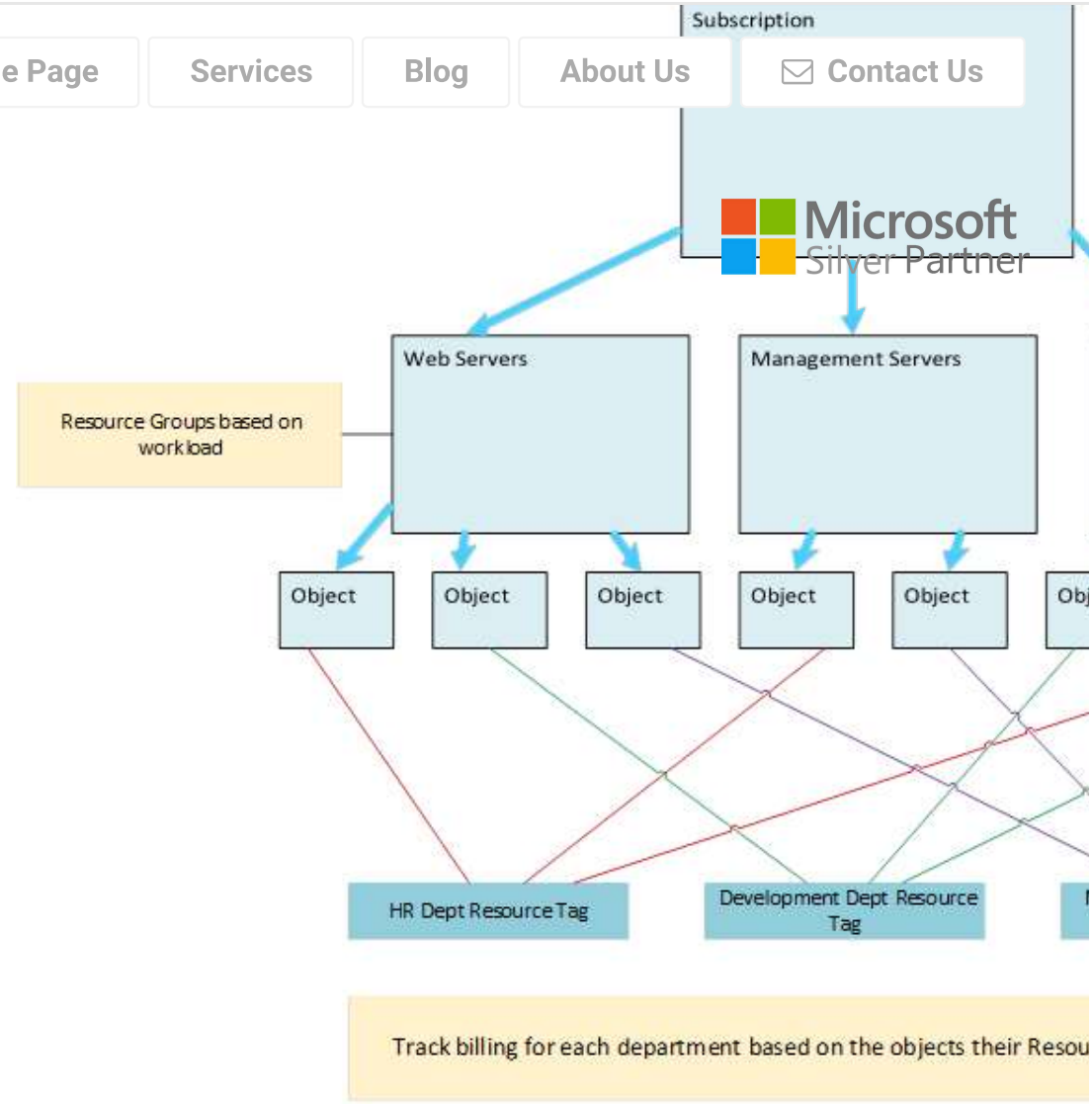
Once you have decided on which subscription model to choose from, the next step is de
utilise resource groups within your subscriptions. Within each subscription resources c
resource groups and role based access controls can be applied to users for their respec
access to. At the moment resource groups can't be nested but this may change in the f

By separating each department into their own resource group and putting all their resou
resource group (e.g Virtual Servers), you can apply role ba cess controls of the res
only have permission to view and access only the resourc their respective departm
departments resources. You will also be able to track their billing at the resource group l



2) Segregate resources by workload deployment

Another option is to segregate your resources into types of workloads, for example – W
Management, Database Tier, etc
You can then apply RBAC to Active Directory groups and assign the AD Group to the Res
You then apply the Resource TAGs to resources that are being used by each department
based on resources using the associated TAG as shown in the following image:



Role Based Access Control

Role based access control (RBAC) allows you to control who has access to what resour subscriptions.

- You'll need to connect your corporate identity store (E.g Active Directory) to Azure Ac

connect tool.

- Control the Admin/Co-Admin of a subscription using a managed identity. Don't assig

subscription owner. Instead, use RBAC roles to provide Owner rights to a group or indivi

- Add Azure users to a group (for example, Application X Owners) in Active Directory. U

group members the appropriate rights to manage the resource group containing the app

- Follow the principle of granting the least privilege required to do the expected work. F
  - Deployment Group: A group that is only able to deploy resources.
  - Virtual Machine Management: A group that is able to restart VMs (for operations)

Naming Standards

Well-designed naming standards enable you to identify resources in the portal, on a bill, you already have naming standards for your on-premises infrastructure. When adding A should extend those naming standards to your Azure resources. Naming standard facili of the environment at all levels.

Recommendations on how you should name your resources in Azure are to use camelC **ProductDevteamResourceGroup** and **vnetProduction**

Consider using Azure Resource Manager polices to enforce naming standards

2 Comments

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Deepak Gurejani

Posted at 10:48 pm, 22nd May 2019

awesome amalgamation

Andrew Fitzgerald

Posted at 12:24 pm, 23rd May 2019

Thanks Deepak 🙂

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