
🧭 Azure Subscriptions and Governance – Refined Overview

✅ 1. Azure Subscriptions – What and Why

An **Azure subscription** is:

- A **logical container** for Azure resources.
- Tied to an **Azure account** (identity and billing).
- The **access and billing boundary** for Azure services.
- An **agreement with Microsoft** to use Azure services under specific terms.

📌 Key Functions of Subscriptions

- Organize resources by **environment**, **department**, or **project** (e.g., Dev, Test, Prod).
- Control **access** and **policy enforcement** at a manageable scope.
- Enable **budgeting**, **cost tracking**, and **quotas**.

🧾 2. Ways to Get an Azure Subscription

Option	Description	Ideal For
Enterprise Agreement (EA)	Commitment-based contract with upfront spend, volume licensing discounts.	Large organizations
Microsoft Reseller (Open Licensing)	Buy Azure through a licensed reseller. Flexible but phased out in favor of CSP.	SMBs (formerly)
Cloud Solution Provider (CSP)	Azure via a Microsoft Partner who manages billing/support.	SMBs and mid-size orgs

Microsoft Partner	Partners also help design, deploy, and manage Azure environments.	Any size org needing help
Free Account	12 months of limited free services + $200 credit (30 days).	New users
Pay-As-You-Go	No upfront commitment. You pay monthly for what you use.	Startups, individuals
Student Subscription	$100 credit, free services for verified students (12 months).	Education use

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📊 3. Identifying Subscription Usage Models

Model	Key Features
Free Tier	$200 credit for 30 days, limited services free for 12 months. Great for experimentation.
Pay-As-You-Go	Charges based on usage; no long-term commitment.
CSP	Purchased via partner, often includes services/support. Possible discounts.
Enterprise Agreement (EA)	Consolidated billing, committed spend, suited for large-scale deployment.
Student	$100 credit, no credit card needed, only educational verification required.

🛡️ 4. Azure Governance – Organizing and Controlling Your Cloud

Governance ensures your Azure environment is **secure, compliant, and efficient**.

🔹 Key Components:

Component	Description
Management Groups	Group subscriptions into a **hierarchical structure**. Apply policies or RBAC at scale.

Azure Policy	Define and enforce **rules** (e.g., allowed VM sizes, resource locations).
RBAC (Role-Based Access Control)	Define **who can do what** at which scope (user, group, or service principal).
Cost Management + Budgets	Monitor usage, analyze costs, set budgets, optimize spending.
Tags	Add metadata (like `CostCenter`, `Owner`, or `Environment`) to resources for filtering, tracking, and reporting.

🔗 How Governance Applies Across the Azure Resource Hierarchy

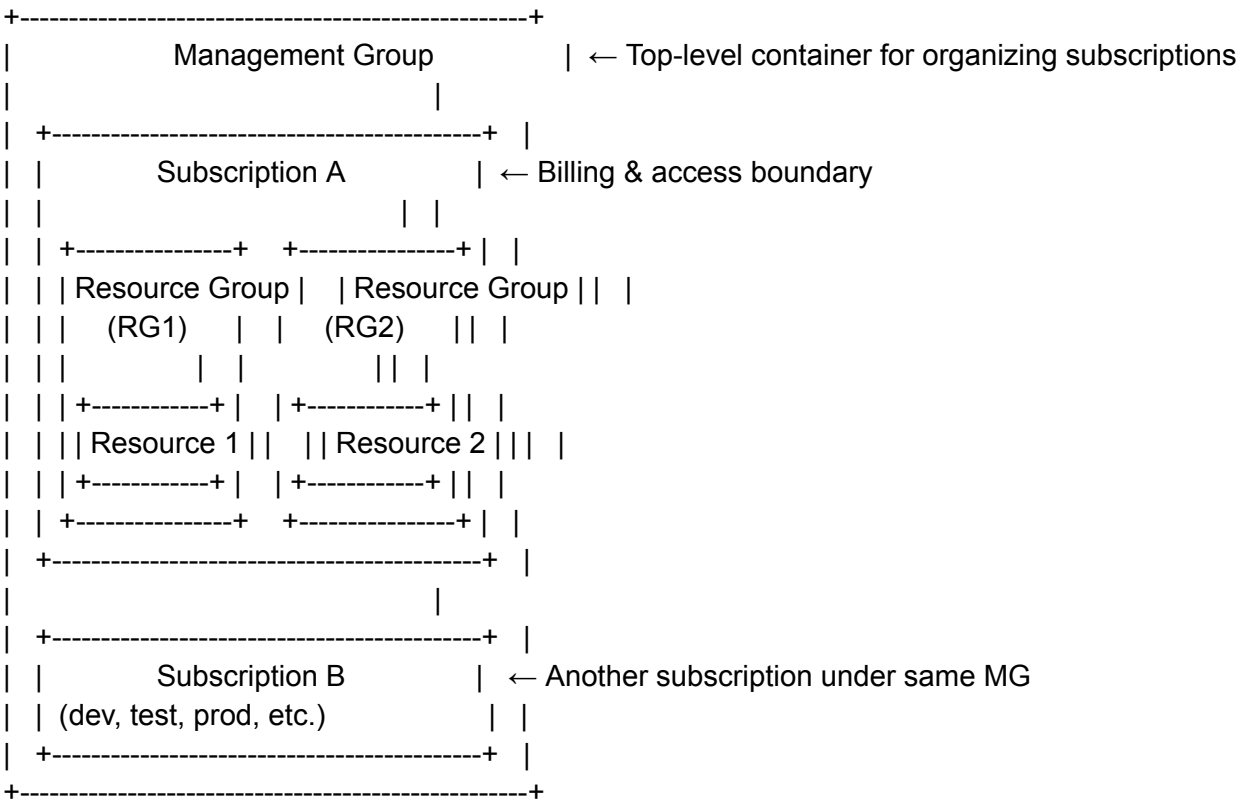
```
Management Group
  └── Subscription
      └── Resource Group
          └── Resource (VM, DB, Storage, etc.)
```

- **Access and policy inheritance** flow **top-down** unless overridden.
- Ideal for **enterprise-scale architecture** with multiple teams or regions.

✅ Final Summary

Concept	Summary
Azure Subscription	Container for Azure resources tied to billing and access.
Ways to Subscribe	EA, CSP, Reseller, Free, PAYG, Student.
Governance Tools	Management Groups, Policies, RBAC, Tags, Cost Management.
Best Practices	Use management groups, enforce policies, assign least privilege access, tag resources consistently, monitor costs.

Azure Resource Hierarchy:



Notes:

- **Management Group**: Groups multiple subscriptions. Policies and RBAC assignments here apply to all underlying subscriptions and resources.
- **Subscription**: Container for resource groups, defines billing and access boundaries.
- **Resource Group**: Logical grouping of related resources (VMs, databases, etc.) for easier management.
- **Resources**: Individual Azure services (virtual machines, storage accounts, web apps, etc.).