
What Are Built-in Azure Roles?

Azure provides **over 70 built-in roles** that cover common access scenarios. These roles define what actions a user, group, or service principal can perform at various scopes (management group, subscription, resource group, resource).

Common Built-in Roles:

Role Name	Description
Owner	Full access, including managing access (RBAC).
Contributor	Full access to manage resources, but cannot assign roles .
Reader	View-only access to all resources.
User Access Administrator	Can manage RBAC assignments but not resources themselves.
Virtual Machine Contributor	Manage VMs, but not network or storage.

You **cannot modify** built-in roles, but you can **view** their permissions and **create custom roles** based on them.

How to View Built-in Roles

Azure Portal:

1. Go to **Azure Portal**.
2. Search for **Subscriptions** or any other scope.
3. Click **Access Control (IAM) > Roles**.
4. Filter by **Type = Built-in role**.

5. Click any role to see its **permissions** (**Actions**, **NotActions**, etc.).

✓ **Azure CLI:**

az role definition list --output table

To view a specific role:

az role definition list --name "Contributor"

✓ **PowerShell:**

Get-AzRoleDefinition

To view a specific role:

Get-AzRoleDefinition -Name "Reader"



Key Properties of a Built-in Role

Example: **Reader Role Definition (simplified)**

```
{
  "Name": "Reader",
  "IsCustom": false,
  "Description": "Can view everything, but can't make any changes",
  "Actions": [
    "**read"
  ],
  "NotActions": [],
  "AssignableScopes": [
    "/"
  ]
}
```



Managing Access with Built-in Roles

While you can't change built-in roles directly, you **manage who gets which role at what scope**.

Steps:

1. **Go to Resource/Scope** (Management Group, Subscription, etc.).
 2. **Open Access Control (IAM)**.
 3. Click **+ Add > Add Role Assignment**.
 4. Choose the **built-in role** (e.g., Contributor, Reader).
 5. Assign to a **user, group, or service principal**.
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Create a Custom Role (Based on a Built-in Role)

If a built-in role doesn't meet your needs:

1. Clone a built-in role in the Azure Portal.
2. Remove or add permissions.
3. Assign to users/groups at the needed scope.

Let me know if you want help creating a custom role based on a built-in one!



Summary

Task	Can You Do It?
View built-in roles	Yes
Modify built-in roles	No
Assign built-in roles	Yes

Create custom roles based on
built-in

☒ Yes

