Software Defined Networking: PaaS-only

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When you implement a platform as a service (PaaS) resource, the deployment process automatically creates an assumed underlying network with a limited number of controls over that network, including load balancing, port blocking, and connections to other PaaS services.

In Azure, several PaaS resource types can be <u>deployed into</u> or <u>connected to</u> a virtual network, allowing these resources to integrate with your existing virtual networking infrastructure. Other services, such as App Service Environments, Azure Kubernetes Services, and Service Fabric must be deployed within virtual network. However, in many cases a PaaS only networking architecture, relying only on the default native networking capabilities provided by PaaS resources, is sufficient to meet a workload's connectivity and traffic management requirements.

If you are considering a PaaS only networking architecture, be sure you validate that the required assumptions align with your requirements.

PaaS-only assumptions

Deploying a PaaS-only networking architecture assumes the following:

- The application being deployed is a standalone application or depends only on other PaaS resources that do not require a virtual network.
- Your IT operations teams can update their tools, training, and processes to support management, configuration, and deployment of standalone PaaS applications.
- The PaaS application is not part of a broader cloud migration effort that will include laaS resources.

These assumptions are minimum qualifiers aligned to deploying a PaaS-only network. While this approach may align with the requirements of a single application deployment, each cloud adoption team should consider these long-term questions:

- Will this deployment expand in scope or scale to require access to other non-PaaS resources?
- Are other PaaS deployments planned beyond the current solution?
- Does the organization have plans for other future cloud migrations?

The answers to these questions would not preclude a team from choosing a PaaS only option but should be considered before making a final decision.