Deployment Acceleration tools in Azure

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Deployment Acceleration is one of the Five Disciplines of Cloud Governance. This discipline focuses on ways of establishing policies to govern asset configuration or deployment. Within the Five Disciplines of Cloud Governance, the Deployment Acceleration discipline involves deployment and configuration alignment. This could be through manual activities or fully automated DevOps activities. In either case, the policies involved would remain largely the same.

Cloud custodians, cloud guardians, and cloud architects with an interest in governance are each likely to invest a lot of time in the Deployment Acceleration discipline, which codifies policies and requirements across multiple cloud adoption efforts. The tools in this toolchain are important to the Cloud Governance team and should be a high priority on the learning path for the team.

The following is a list of Azure tools that can help mature the policies and processes that support this governance discipline.

Tool	Azure Policy	Azure Management Groups	Azure Resource Manager	Azure Blueprints	Azure Resource Graph	Azure Cost Management
Implement Corporate Policies	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Apply Policies across subscriptions	Required	Yes	No	No	No	No
Deploy defined resources	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Create fully compliant environments	Required	Required	Required	Yes	No	No
Audit Policies	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Query Azure resources	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Report on cost of resources	No	No	No	No	No	Yes

The following are additional tools that may be required to accomplish specific Deployment Acceleration objectives. Often these tools are used outside of the governance team, but are still considered an aspect of Deployment Acceleration as a discipline.

Tool	Azure portal	Azure Resource Manager	Azure Policy	Azure DevOps	Azure Backup	Azure Site Recovery
Manual deployment (single asset)	Yes	Yes	No	Not efficiently	No	Yes
Manual deployment (full environment)	Not efficiently	Yes	No	Not efficiently	No	Yes

Tool	Azure portal	Azure Resource Manager	Azure Policy	Azure DevOps	Azure Backup	Azure Site Recovery
Automated deployment (full environment)	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Update configuration of a single asset	Yes	Yes	Not efficiently	Not efficiently	No	Yes - during replication
Update configuration of a full environment	Not efficiently	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes - during replication
Manage configuration drift	Not efficiently	Not efficiently	Yes	Yes	No	Yes - during replication
Create an automated pipeline to deploy code and configure assets (DevOps)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No

Aside from the Azure native tools mentioned above, it is common for customers to use third-party tools to facilitate Deployment Acceleration and DevOps deployments.