Azure

A weekly email where you'll find recent announcements related to the Azure platform.

AT A GLANCE

AZURE DEFENDER FOR APP SERVICE INTRODUCES DANGLING DNS PROTECTION

Resources hosted on [Azure App Service](#) are at the forefront as attackers are constantly on the lookout for vulnerabilities in web applications. Dormant domains are a permanent resident on the checklist of both opportunistic and target-oriented attackers. To reduce potential attack surface, [Azure App Service enforces domain verification when binding custom domain](#) to an App service resource.

In this blog, we discuss how Azure Defender for App Service identifies any Domain Name System (DNS) entries remaining in your DNS registrar when an App Service website is decommissioned—these are known as dangling DNS entries. When you remove a website and don't remove its custom domain from your DNS registrar, the DNS entry is pointing at a non-existent resource and your subdomain is vulnerable to a takeover. We recommend that you implement processes to prevent dangling DNS entries and prevent subdomain takeovers.
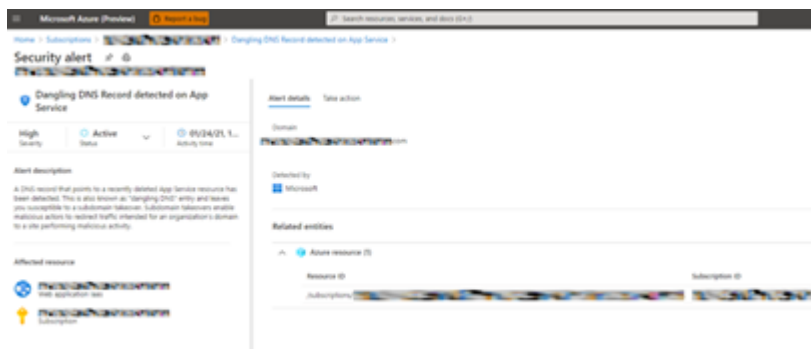
ICERTIS BOOSTS PERFORMANCE OVER 80 PERCENT AND LOWERS COSTS ON AZURE SQL

As customers grow their mission critical workloads, scaling up to manage spiky workloads in house can become an expensive proposition. Icertis, a leading provider of contract lifecycle management in the cloud, had one such workload managing over 7.5 million contracts spanning over a trillion dollars. The Icertis Contract Intelligence (ICI) platform is hosted entirely on Azure, providing their customers with new flexibility and scale to suit any size organization. Managing the growing number of customers and the volatility of daily spikes in database workload demand required manual interventions through an in-house solution that soon proved costly to maintain. Icertis needed an automated solution that could instantly scale when they needed it and chose Azure SQL Database serverless, improving their client query response times by over 80 percent while managing costs better.

[Azure SQL Database serverless](#) is a compute tier that optimizes price-performance and simplifies performance management for databases with intermittent, unpredictable usage. Serverless automatically scales compute when needed and pauses during inactive periods. With per-second billing, customers only pay for the compute resources used, potentially saving significant money in the process.

KLAS Research is a healthcare IT data and insights company providing the industry with accurate, honest, and impartial research on the software and services used by providers and payers worldwide.

AZURE DDOS PROTECTION—2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

This blog post was co-authored by Anupam Vij, Principal PM Manager & Syed Pasha, Principal Network Engineer, Azure Networking.

2020 was a year unlike any other. It brought major disruptions to both the physical and digital worlds, and these changes are also evident in the cyberthreat landscape. The prevalence of Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks in 2020 has grown more than 50 percent with increasing complexity and a significant increase in the volume of DDoS traffic.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, billions of people across the world have been confined to their home environments, working, learning, and even socializing remotely, and internet traffic has exploded. Now, DDoS attacks are one of the largest security concerns: the surges in internet traffic make it easier for attackers to launch DDoS attacks since they don't have to generate as much traffic to bring down services. Cybercriminals can exploit huge traffic streams to launch DDoS attacks, which makes it harder to distinguish between legitimate and malicious traffic.

Number of DDoS attacks during COVID-19 outbreak

INNOVATIONS FOR A MORE SECURE U.S. MICROELECTRONICS SUPPLY CHAIN

Keeping up with the rapid pace of technology innovation today requires equal advances in the pace of development of new microelectronics. At the same time, customers are increasingly focused on securing the technology supply chain all the way to the silicon. To sustain U.S. strength and leadership in the microelectronics field, we and our partners are committed to enabling a microelectronics supply chain that meets stringent security, protection, and compliance requirements.

Commercially, the microelectronics industry uses Azure to accelerate the development of new circuits and chips to improve both the design and the manufacturing process. We work closely with semiconductor design and foundry partners, and electronic design automation (EDA) vendors, to develop finely tuned solutions running on Azure High Performance Computing (HPC), Internet of Things (IoT) and Edge infrastructures, utilizing Azure Artificial Intelligenceand Machine Learning to accelerate the silicon development cycle.

GAIN REAL-TIME INSIGHTS ON SAP ERP DATA WITH AZURE AND QLIK DATA INTEGRATION

For companies worldwide, SAP is at the core of their business applications—housing critical information on sales, manufacturing, and financial processes. Organizations increasingly need granular, real-time visibility about their business by combining SAP ERP data with other data from their different lines of business. To enable everyone in the organization to gain real-time insights from their SAP data and make optimized business decisions, we announced a joint offer with Qlik Data Integration (formerly Attunity) that brings Azure Synapse, Microsoft Power BI, and Qlik Data Integration together for end-to-end supply chain intelligence, finance analytics, and more.

With this new offer, customers can now work with Azure Synapse Analytics, Azure Machine Learning, Power BI, and Qlik Data Integration to easily understand how to enable real-time insights on SAP data through a robust proof of value. For the two week duration of the joint proof-of-value offer, we will provide customers with a free solution architecture workshop, software subscriptions, and hands-on technical expertise from dedicated personnel and resources from both Microsoft and Qlik Data Integration.

Azure Synapse + Qlik Data Integration + Power BI
Free Proof of Value for SAP

	Microsoft	Qlik Data Integration (formerly Attunity)
Free Deep Dive Session	✓ Azure Synapse Expert Support	✓ SAP Real-time Data Integration Expert Support
Free ½ Day Solution Architecture Workshop	✓ Azure Synapse Expert Support	✓ 1:1 Deep-Dive with Qlik Data Integration Team
Free Software Subscriptions	✓ Azure Synapse Analytics (data warehousing) and Power BI (for duration of PoV)	✓ Qlik Data Integration for Data Warehouse Automation (for duration of PoV)
Free Technical and Subject Matter Expertise	✓ Azure Synapse Analytics and Power BI Expertise (for duration of PoV)	✓ Qlik Data Integration and SAP Expertise (for duration of PoV)

Qlik Q   Microsoft Azure

AZURE SERVICE CHANGES ROLL CALL

AZURE AUTOMATION IS NOW AVAILABLE IN JAPAN WEST

Automate tasks across Azure & Non-Azure environment using PowerShell and Python based scripts.

AZURE IoT CENTRAL NEW AND UPDATED FEATURES—JANUARY 2021

January updates include jobs improvements, new API features, new data export features, and documentation enhancements.

GENERAL AVAILABILITY: SOFT DELETE FOR AZURE FILE SHARES IS NOW ON BY DEFAULT FOR NEW STORAGE ACCOUNTS

Soft delete, which protects Azure file shares from accidental deletion, is now on by default for new storage accounts created after January 31st.

GENERAL AVAILABILITY: AZURE MOBILE APP NOW SUPPORTS AZURE GOVERNMENT

You can now manage and monitor you Azure Government subscriptions with the Azure mobile app.

GENERAL AVAILABILITY: INGEST UP TO 10 FILES AND BLOBS WITH THE NEW AZURE DATA EXPLORER INTUITIVE UX

Azure Data Explorer ingestion wizard allows you to automatically create a table and ingest data from up to 10 files or blobs.

ANNOUNCING POWER BI EMBEDDED GENERATION 2 PUBLIC PREVIEW

We are announcing the second generation of Power BI Embedded, referred to as Embedded Gen 2, is available for its Azure subscribers to use during the public preview period. All of the Power BI Embedded Gen 1 capabilities such as pausing and resuming the capacity, are preserved in Gen 2 and the price per SKU remains the same, however the Gen 2 capacity resource provides substantial improvements in performance, scale and much more.

OCR SUPPORT FOR 73 LANGUAGES IN THE COGNITIVE SERVICES COMPUTER VISION PUBLIC PREVIEW

Computer Vision Read 3.2 API for Optical Character Recognition (OCR), part of Cognitive Services, announces its public preview with support for Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, and several Latin languages, with option to use the cloud service or deploy the Docker container on premise.

APPEND BLOB SUPPORT FOR AZURE DATA LAKE STORAGE IS NOW IN LIMITED PUBLIC PREVIEW

Applications can now create append blobs in addition to block blobs in Azure Data Lake Storage accounts and append to them using Append Block operations. Applications that need to add information to existing files efficiently and continuously can leverage append blobs.

172 AZURE OFFERINGS ACHIEVE HITRUST CERTIFICATION

Azure expands its depth of offerings to Azure customers with its latest independent HITRUST assessment.

AZURE ACHIEVES ITS FIRST PCI 3DS CERTIFICATION

Azure's PCI 3DS Attestation of Compliance, PCI 3DS Shared Responsibility Matrix, and PCI 3DS whitepaper are now available.

IT SERVICE MANAGEMENT CONNECTOR (ITSMC) IS NOW CERTIFIED WITH SERVICENOW PARIS VERSION

The ITSM connector provides a bi-directional connection between Azure and ITSM tools to help track and resolve issues faster.

GENERAL AVAILABILITY: APPLICATION INSIGHT IN UAE CENTRAL & JAPAN WEST

Application Insight, a part of Azure Monitor, is now generally available in UAE Central & Japan West regions for customers to collect telemetry and analyze their service health in production environments.

GENERAL AVAILABILITY: CUSTOM NEURAL VOICE, A TEXT-TO-SPEECH CAPABILITY WITHIN SPEECH SERVICE

Improve user experiences responsibly with Custom Neural Voice, a limited access capability within Speech Service. Custom Neural voice allows you to build a custom voice font consistent with your brand and use case.

AZURE EVENT GRID IS NOW IN PUBLIC PREVIEW FOR AZURE CACHE FOR REDIS

Azure Cache for Redis integration with Azure Event Grid is in public preview. This integration allows service manage routing of Redis events like patching, scaling, and import/export(RDB) to any destination.

GENERAL AVAILABILITY: AZURE LOG ANALYTICS IN UAE CENTRAL & JAPAN WEST

Log Analytics, a feature of Azure Monitor, is now generally available for customers to start collecting telemetry and analyzing their services for health and usage in UAE Central & Japan West.

NEW AZURE MONITOR AGENT AVAILABLE ON LATEST LINUX DISTROS AND NEW REGIONS

The new Azure Monitor Agent now supports the latest Linux distros and can be installed on additional new regions using Data Collection Rules.

PUBLIC PREVIEW: AZURE LOG ANALYTICS IN AUSTRALIA CENTRAL 2

Azure Log Analytics is now in public preview for customers to start collecting telemetry and analyzing their services for health and usage in Australia Central 2.

PUBLIC PREVIEW: AZURE MACHINE LEARNING - RESPONSIBLE ML UPDATES

Azure Machine Learning Enhanced Responsible ML Dashboard updates now in public review

GENERAL AVAILABILITY: STOP/START FUNCTIONALITY FOR AZURE DATABASE FOR MYSQL

With stop/start functionality support for Azure Database for MySQL, you can stop a database server when not in use (non-work hours) and start it when it's back online.

SUPPORT FOR SAP APPLICATION (NETWEAVER) AND OPERATING SYSTEM (LINUX) TELEMETRY IN AZURE MONITOR FOR SAP SOLUTIONS

Azure Monitor for SAP Solutions (AMS) now supports SAP Application (NetWeaver) in private preview and Operating System (Linux) provider in Public Preview. Both providers are available in the following Azure regions - West Europe, US East, US East 2 and US West 2.

SUPPORT FOR AZURE API MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATES IN AZURE KEY VAULT HAS REACHED GENERAL AVAILABILITY.

You can now enhance security by storing, managing, and referencing API Management's certificates in Azure Key Vault.

ADDITIONAL IOPS FEATURE FOR MYSQL - FLEXIBLE SERVER IN PUBLIC PREVIEW

MySQL - Flexible Server supports the provisioning of additional IOPS (preview) so you can provision more IOPS above the complimentary IOPS limit and can increase or decrease the number of IOPS based on workload requirements.

MICROSOFT AZURE ATTESTATION IS NOW GENERALLY AVAILABLE

Verify the identity and security posture of a platform before you interact with it.

CHANGES IN AZURE MONITOR LOGS FOR THE AZUREDIAGNOSTICS TABLE IS NOW AVAILABLE

Azure Monitor Logs will now allow more than 500 dimensions to be collected to the AzureDiagnostics table by introducing an "overflow" column.

AUTOMATIC TRACKING OF CLICK EVENTS WITH APPLICATION INSIGHTS IS NOW AVAILABLE

Azure Monitor Application Insights JavaScript SDK Click Analytics Plugin provides automatic tracking of click events on web pages.

PUBLIC PREVIEW OF LINUX DIAGNOSTICS AGENT 4.0

A new major version release of the Linux Diagnostic Extension is now available in public preview.

GENERAL AVAILABILITY: OPTIONAL UPTIME SLA FOR AZURE KUBERNETES SERVICE PRIVATE CLUSTERS

Financially backed uptime SLA for AKS private clusters is now available.

PUBLIC PREVIEW: AZURE KEY VAULT CSI DRIVER SUPPORT IN AZURE KUBERNETES SERVICE

Azure Key Vault provider for Secrets Store CSI driver allows you to get secret contents stored in an Azure Key Vault instance. Azure Key Vault simplifies the task of securing and using cryptographic keys and other secrets with AKS. With this new feature, you can use the Secrets Store CSI driver interface to mount secrets into Kubernetes pods while benefiting from the increased security and control via the Azure Key Vault. AKS customers can use this new capability to mount enterprise grade external secrets stores to AKS pods, thereby simplifying access to secrets, keys, and certificates in a secure manner. You can now mount secrets stored in Azure Key Vault into Kubernetes pods.

PUBLIC PREVIEW: SERVICE BUS SUPPORT FOR LARGE MESSAGE PAYLOADS

Customers can now send data payloads up to 100 MB is Service Bus Premium.

ANNOUNCING GENERAL AVAILABILITY SUPPORT FOR JAVA MESSAGE SERVICE (JMS) 2.0 API ON AZURE SERVICE BUS PREMIUM

Easily migrate your Java and Spring workloads to Azure Service Bus.

AZURE COSMOS DB: MULTIPLE REGION AVAILABILITY ZONES SUPPORT WITH SINGLE-REGION WRITE NOW GENERALLY AVAILABLE

The general availability of Availability Zone support for Azure Cosmos DB accounts configured for two or more regions with single-region writes may lower pricing and includes increased availability SLA.

LIKE KEYWORD SUPPORT NOW GENERALLY AVAILABLE IN AZURE COSMOS DB

Announcing support for LIKE keyword, a popular SQL keyword for doing text search in Azure Cosmos DB.

AZURE COSMOS DB MANAGEMENT WITH POWERSHELL CMDLETS IS NOW GENERALLY AVAILABLE

Manage Azure Cosmos DB resources using PowerShell cmdlets in the Az.CosmosDB Powershell module—providing full support for all features in general availability for Azure Cosmos DB and across all API's.

CONFIDENTIAL COMPUTING USING ALWAYS ENCRYPTED WITH SECURE ENCLAVES NOW IN PUBLIC PREVIEW

Always Encrypted with secure enclaves enables in-place encryption and rich confidential queries on sensitive data by leveraging Intel SGX secure enclaves, available in the new DC-series hardware configuration.

AZURE IOT EDGE FOR LINUX ON WINDOWS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC

PREVIEW

Azure IoT Edge for Linux on Windows provides the ability to run Linux containers on Windows under the Azure IoT Edge context. This allows you to connect your Azure IoT Edge for Linux instance to your Azure IoT Hub subscription and deploy your custom Linux Edge Modules to Windows devices.

PUBLIC PREVIEW: DYNAMIC IP ALLOCATION AND ENHANCED SUBNET SUPPORT IN AKS

AKS users now have more flexible network configuration options via dynamic IP allocation and support for subnets.

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