Microsoft

Book of NEWS

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foreword

We love a good book here at Microsoft. Some of our friends, like Marc, prefer magazines, while some, like Jeff, prefer newspapers. Don't get me wrong, we love both mediums, but we're especially fond of books. And, since there's so much news at this year's Ignite event, we decided to make a book to collect it all in one place.

This Microsoft Ignite 2018 Book of News is your guide to ALL the announcements we're making on Sept. 24, with summaries of the news and links to more information.

The first three chapters cover our three key themes of news: Security; AI and Data; and IoT and Edge Computing. These are critical areas to the future of IT and areas that we're working closely in with our customers.

On Security, every single place in the world where technology intersects with our lives there is a potential security risk. Really, think about that. We're surrounded by vulnerabilities. Ensuring every user, sensor, end point and everything in between is kept secure is our goal. We've got products and programs that span across all this work backed by decades of security focus and experience that no other company has. Continuing this work, at Ignite we've got security news across the company that includes global security operations, enterprise class technology, and new cybersecurity partnerships to make everyone safer.

On AI and Data, there's an extremely intricate connection that you're all aware of when it comes to the two. Taken together the question to ask is how all this data and powerful intelligence is going to shape our world. Not just how we'll interact with technology tomorrow, but what will this stuff be capable of in the immediate future. At Microsoft, we have a practical view and approach with the idea that AI can be used for good, which is also the guiding principle we've used in creating all the new AI and data products and initiatives you'll hear about at the event.

On IoT and Edge Computing, we cover everything from smart spaces making employees more efficient to intelligent data appliances at the far reaches of the earth. At Ignite, we've got news about new IoT and edge computing products that are making these concepts real for organizations today.

That's not everything, though. In addition to these key themes of news, this Book contains a wealth of other announcements that will be important to you in your own way. This includes things like new SQL Server features, the launch of Windows Server 2019, a wealth of Azure updates, LinkedIn integration with Office apps, and the upcoming arrival of Surface Hub 2, just to name a few.

We've been on a journey in how we communicate news from our flagship events, and we're hearing that you continue to want more information. I hope you enjoy this new resource for your reporting.

Let us know what you think!

– fxs

Frank X. Shaw

CVP Communications
Microsoft

security 1

1.1 Microsoft Threat Protection

Building on our experience running security operations, Microsoft is announcing Microsoft Threat Protection. Working with unparalleled access to data across our services, it brings together threat protection solutions across email, PCs, documents, identities and infrastructure into a single integrated experience in Microsoft 365, saving thousands of hours for overstretched security teams and protecting customers from the evolving nature of attackers from organized crime to nation-states.

Microsoft Threat Protection is a new end-to-end solution that detects cyberthreats, remediates their effects and protects organizations from new and changing threats. It is Microsoft's most comprehensive security solution and combines the intelligence of Microsoft's security products.

Go to Microsoft Secure Blog and contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

1.2 Password-free sign-in for thousands of apps

Nearly all data loss starts with compromised passwords, and so today we are declaring an end to the era of passwords. We are delivering new support for password-less login via the Microsoft Authenticator app for the hundreds of thousands of Azure Active Directory connected apps that businesses use every day. No company lets enterprises eliminate more passwords than Microsoft.

The app eliminates the need for passwords — the number one security liability for enterprises — by combining your phone and fingerprint, face, or PIN for a more secure, multifactor sign-in.

Go to Microsoft Secure Blog and contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

1.3 Microsoft Secure Score

Microsoft Secure Score is the only enterprise-class dynamic enterprise report card for cybersecurity. By using it, organizations get assessments and recommendations that typically reduce their chance of a breach by up to thirtyfold with steps like securing admin accounts with MFA and end-user accounts with MFA and turning off client-side email forwarding rules.

Microsoft Secure Score is now available to help IT professionals understand their all-up security position with additional controls from Microsoft Cloud App Security, Azure Active Directory and Azure Security Center to harden defenses even more to protect networks and information, secure against threats, and assist in overall systems management.

Go to Microsoft Secure Blog and contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

1.4 Azure confidential computing public preview

Azure confidential computing — the first solution for protecting data while it's processed in the public cloud — will be coming in early October in public preview on new Azure virtual machine family called DC series. The new VM series backed by Intel SGX technology was available last year in private preview.

Data breaches often stem from cybercriminals accessing data in use for computation, analysis and other functions, deterring many organizations from putting sensitive data into cloud workloads.

But Azure is the first cloud service to provide a secure platform for protecting the confidentiality and integrity of customer data and code while in use.

Go to Microsoft Secure Blog and contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

1.5 Modern Compliance enhancements

New enhancements in Microsoft 365 compliance solutions are now available to support an organization's compliance journey beyond the General Data Protection Regulation with more intelligent capabilities.

Enhancements include a new unified labeling experience for creating and configuring data sensitivity labels at the same time for Office 365 and Azure Information Protection. With this new experience in Office 365 Security and Compliance Center, organizations have a more integrated approach to configure and automatically apply protection and retention labels and policies.

The Compliance Manager solution also now has new risk assessment templates that help customers strengthen their data protection controls.

Go to Microsoft Secure Blog and contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

1.6 Expansion of work to bring the entire tech sector together through the Cybersecurity Tech Accord

Since participating in the establishment of the Cybersecurity Tech Accord, an agreement to bring the entire technology sector together in defending all customers everywhere from malicious attacks by cybercriminal enterprises and nation-states, the group has nearly doubled in size. With 27 new organizations joining from around the globe since its launch, including Panasonic, Swisscom and Rockwell Automation, to name a few, the total number of signatories is now 61 companies strengthening the broad ecosystem needed to keep the world secure.

Go to Cybersecurity Tech Accord and contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

artificial intelligence and data

2

2.1 Artificial intelligence

2.1.1 AI for Humanitarian Action

Microsoft is launching AI for Humanitarian Action, a new $40 million, five-year program that will harness the power of artificial intelligence for disaster recovery, helping children, protecting refugees and displaced people, and promoting respect for human rights. The company will partner with nongovernmental organizations through grants and investments of technology and expertise.

AI for Humanitarian Action is part of Microsoft's AI for Good initiative, a $115 million commitment to empowering people and organizations to solve global challenges with access to game-changing AI technology and educational opportunities, launched in July 2017.

Go to Microsoft on the Issues Blog and contact Microsoft Philanthropies team to learn more.

2.1.2 Cortana Skills Kit for Enterprise

Microsoft is bringing customizable Cortana experiences and skills with the new Cortana Skills Kit for Enterprise.

The end-to-end solution allows enterprises to build custom skills and agents, test them with users and fully manage deployment to their organization.

Developed with the Microsoft Bot Framework and Azure Cognitive Services Language Understanding service, the platform will help enterprises effectively use Cortana to improve workforce productivity. This is currently available by invite only and more broadly in the near future where companies and developers will be able to request an invitation.

Go to Microsoft AI Blog and contact WE Data+AI team to learn more.

2.1.3 New Azure Machine Learning capabilities

Azure Machine Learning helps data scientists and developers build and train AI models faster, then easily deploy to the cloud or the edge. Significant new updates to the service include automated machine learning to identify the most efficient algorithms and optimize model performance, additional hardware-accelerated models for FPGAs, and a Python SDK that makes Azure Machine Learning services accessible from popular IDEs and notebooks.

Go to Microsoft AI Blog and contact WE Data+AI team to learn more.

2.1.4 Azure Cognitive Services update — Speech Service general availability

Microsoft's new Speech Service, which combines several AI speech capabilities into a single service, is now generally available.

The solution bundles improved models for speech recognition, capabilities for speech translation and the ability to customize models to create a unique voice. Part of Azure Cognitive Services, it was launched in public preview in May at Build 2018.

Also, a preview is now available for Human Parity Text to Speech. This uses Natural Text to Speech to make the machines sound more natural.

Go to Microsoft AI Blog and contact WE Data+AI PR team to learn more.

2.1.5 Microsoft Bot Framework v4 general availability

The Microsoft Bot Framework v4 SDK is now generally available with rich, multilanguage tools for building and connecting intelligent bots using C#, Java, Python and JavaScript.

The latest version simplifies your first bot experience, with a modular, extensible architecture that allows you to pick components and services you need and leverage a rich ecosystem of pluggable extensions. It was launched in public preview in May at Build 2018.

Go to Microsoft AI Blog and contact WE Data+AI team to learn more.

2.1.6 Unified search across Microsoft 365

Microsoft Search, a new unified search experience in Microsoft 365, enables you to find, command, navigate and discover items across your organization's network of data, transforming your search bar into a resource for collective knowledge.

An AI-powered insights engine connects content across Windows, Office.com, Office apps, SharePoint, OneDrive and third-party ecosystems to surface relevant, personalized results, whether it's a recent chat or a document a co-worker created. With Microsoft Search you can harness the power of your company's collective brain securely and safely to get the information you need and get back to work.

Building on personalized search introduced at Microsoft Ignite 2017, the new Microsoft Search capability pulls together the power of the Microsoft Graph and AI technology from Bing for the first time. A preview of the capability is now rolling out to Office.com, including start pages and Bing.com.

Go to Microsoft 365 Blog and contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

2.1.7 New AI-powered meeting features in Microsoft 365

Advancing the company's vision for intelligent communications, new AI-powered features for video meetings are now available in Microsoft Teams. Background blur uses facial detection to blur your background during video calls, so people can focus on you and not what's behind you, and intelligent meeting recording automatically generates captions and a searchable, time-coded transcript. Background blur and meeting recording are now rolling out to Office 365 commercial customers. General availability of new live event capabilities will begin to roll out worldwide in Microsoft 365 later this year. These new tools allow customers to create and stream live and on-demand events in Teams, Yammer and Microsoft Stream to inform and engage customers and employees, wherever they are. Users can stream directly from their desktop or a professional studio.

Go to Microsoft 365 Blog and contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

2.1.8 Ideas in Office

Ideas is a new feature in Office that consolidates powerful AI features into a simplified experience across Office 365. A single click launches Ideas, which follows along as you create a document and makes intelligent suggestions tailored to what you're doing. For instance, in PowerPoint, Ideas recommends designs, layouts and images. And in Excel, it recognizes trends, suggests charts and identifies outliers in your data. Ideas is generally available in Excel today and will begin rolling out in preview soon to the other apps starting with PowerPoint Online.

Go to Microsoft 365 Blog and contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

2.1.9 Intelligent enhancements in Excel

Data Types in Excel is now generally available. Launched in public preview in March 2018, this AI-powered tool turns references to stocks and geographies into rich entities that can be used to build powerful, interactive spreadsheets, making it easy to get updated stock prices, company information, population, area and more.

In addition, a new image recognition capability in Excel lets you quickly convert a picture of a data table into an Excel file that can be edited, analyzed and shared. That capability — called Insert Data from Picture — is now available in public preview. Other Excel improvements include faster lookup-type functions, which now take seconds, instead of minutes.

Go to Microsoft 365 Blog and contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

2.2 Data

2.2.1 SQL Server 2019 public preview

SQL Server 2019, now launching in preview, is bringing big data capabilities with this new release. You can ingest, store and analyze vast amounts of data with a built-in Spark and Hadoop distributed file system. And new connectors let you query databases like Oracle, Teradata and MongoDB directly from SQL Server, breaking down data silos for faster insights.

Go to SQL Server Blog and contact WE Commercial Data team to learn more.

2.2.2 Azure SQL Database Hyperscale and Managed Instance

Azure SQL Database is introducing two new features to cost-effectively migrate workloads to the cloud. SQL Database Hyperscale for single databases, available in preview on Oct. 1, is a highly scalable service tier that adapts on demand to workload needs. It auto-scales up to 100 TB per database to significantly expand potential for app growth.

Azure SQL Database Managed Instance will also be generally available on Oct. 1. The solution provides near-full compatibility with SQL Server, allowing you to migrate on-premises workloads to the cloud with minimal changes.

Go to SQL Server Blog and contact WE Commercial Data team to learn more.

2.2.3 Azure Data Explorer public preview

Azure Data Explorer, a lightning-fast indexing and querying service, is now available in public preview. Optimized for ad-hoc data exploration, the solution helps you discover insights from large volumes of event data, which typically originate from apps, servers and edge devices. Customers have different options to interactively explore near-real-time data to quickly analyze performance and diagnose issues.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Commercial Data team to learn more.

2.2.4 Azure Cosmos DB Multi-master general availability

Three updates to Azure Cosmos DB are now generally available to help customers build mission-critical, globally distributed apps.

Multi-master support, launched in preview at Build 2018, provides high levels of availability and single-digit millisecond latency with built-in flexible conflict resolution. The Cassandra API, launched in preview in 2017, expands Cosmos DB into a multimodel, multi-API database. And the Reserved Capacity feature reduces cost barriers to entry.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Commercial Data team to learn more.

2.2.5 Azure Databricks Delta preview

Azure Databricks Delta is a new solution available in preview as part of the premium pricing tier in Azure Databricks. Delta increases data reliability, improves performance for jobs and queries, and simplifies data pipelines.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Commercial Data team to learn more.

2.2.6 Azure SQL Database intelligent features

Optimizing query performance is easy with the latest additions to our intelligent query processing feature family. We are announcing three new preview offerings: row mode memory grant feedback, approximate query processing and table variable deferred compilation. With minimal effort, these features can collectively optimize your memory usage and improve overall query performance.

Go to SQL Server Blog and contact WE Commercial Data team to learn more.

2.2.7 New Azure SQL Data Warehouse pricing tier

Azure SQL Data Warehouse, a fast, flexible and secure analytics platform, now offers a lower entry point to help customers get started with powerful analytics and elastic scalability. Now available in 23 Azure regions, the lower pricing tier decouples storage and compute.

Go to SQL Server Blog and contact WE Commercial Data team to learn more.

internet of things and edge computing 3

3.1 Internet of things

3.1.1 Azure Digital Twins

Azure Digital Twins is a new IoT platform to build comprehensive digital models of any physical environment. Available in public preview on Oct. 15, the platform will provide a way to virtually represent the physical world and enable partners to build custom solutions that address people's needs who occupy and manage these spaces by bringing together the full picture — people, places and devices.

Go to Microsoft IoT Blog and contact WE Azure IoT team to learn more.

3.1.2 Azure IoT Central general availability

Azure IoT Central, a new solution for getting started quickly with IoT, is now generally available. Launched in public preview in December 2017, the solution simplifies the journey to IoT with the security and global scale of Azure, allowing organizations to build enterprise-grade, secured IoT applications without having to manage back-end infrastructure.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Azure IoT team to learn more.

3.1.3 Azure Maps: Map Control update

An improved Map Control API in Azure Maps is now available, with new features for intuitive, insightful data layering and visualizations. The experience has new layers for different forms for different entities, such as tiles, symbols, polygons and lines.

It also supports HTML-based icons on the map and provides new functions for data-driven styling. And it has a new spatial math library for easy developer access, equipped with commonly used spatial math calculations for global geometry.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Azure IoT team to learn more.

3.1.4 New Azure IoT Edge features and capabilities

Microsoft partners can now submit third-party IoT Edge modules for certification and showcase in the Azure Marketplace. In July, Microsoft announced that the marketplace will showcase third-party modules to help customers discover prebuilt edge solutions and reduce development time. Partners showcasing modules will also have monetization capabilities in the future.

Also new this week is a public preview launch of IoT Edge extended offline.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Azure IoT team to learn more.

3.1.5 Azure IoT Hub Device Provisioning Service updates

New capabilities in the Azure IoT Hub Device Provisioning Service will be available by the end of September to help customers more easily provision, register and scale millions of IoT devices. The capabilities will include support for registering and re-provisioning devices from one IoT solution to another, and enrollment-level allocation rules that give customers more control.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Azure IoT team to learn more.

3.1.6 Azure IoT Hub message routing update

Azure IoT Hub Message Routing simplifies IoT solution development, by enabling you to send messages from your devices to cloud services in an automated, scalable and reliable way. The service now has a new capability that allows customers to query on device twin tags and properties, in addition to previously available capabilities to query on message properties and message body. Only standard-tier IoT Hubs can utilize queries on device twin.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Azure IoT team to learn more.

3.1.7 Azure IoT platform support for Android and Android Things

We are announcing that Azure IoT Hub will support Android and the Android Things platform via the Java SDK. Customers can use the Java SDK to turn Android and Android Things devices into IoT devices. All features in Java SDK will be available, including the Azure IoT Hub features we support and SDK-specific features such as retry policy for network reliability. This continues our commitment to enabling greater choice and flexibility in IoT deployments.

Contact WE Azure IoT team to learn more.

3.1.8 Azure Sphere public preview

Azure Sphere, a holistic solution to create secured, connected, microcontroller devices, is now available in public preview. The solution provides security that starts with secured microcontrollers and extends to a turnkey cloud service that guards every Azure Sphere device. Development kits are now universally available.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Azure IoT team to learn more.

3.1.9 New Dynamics 365 connected field service offering

Available Oct. 1, a new Dynamics 365 connected field service offering integrates Dynamics 365 for Field Service with Azure IoT Central to help customers become proactive, predictive and most cost-effective with their connected devices. The SaaS solution supports bi-directional flows of alerts and commands between devices and Dynamics 365 for Field Service.

Go to Microsoft Dynamics 365 and contact WE Business Applications PR team to learn more.

3.2 Edge

3.2.1 Azure Data Box Edge preview

Azure Data Box Edge, a new product to transport data in and out of Azure, is now available in public preview. The solution is a physical network appliance equipped with AI-enabled edge computing capabilities to help you analyze, process and transform on-premises data before uploading it to the cloud. It's shipped by Microsoft and part of the Azure Data Box family.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

3.2.2 Azure Data Box Gateway preview

Azure Data Box Gateway, a new product for easy deployment of a data transfer gateway, is now available in public preview.

Part of the Azure Data Box family, the solution is a virtual appliance that runs on Hyper-V and VMWare, enabling customers to quickly deploy a data transfer gateway for moving data to Azure Storage.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

3.2.3 Azure Data Box general availability

Azure Data Box, a rugged, tamper-resistant, nearly 50-pound device to transport customer data to an Azure Data Center, is now generally available.

Launched in preview during Ignite 2017, the appliance contains 100 terabytes of storage for secure, offline transfer of large data sets to Azure.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

3.2.4 Azure Data Box Heavy preview

Azure Data Box Heavy, a larger version of Azure Data Box, is now available in preview. The rugged, secure, tamper-resistant appliance contains 1 petabyte of storage for transporting customer data to an Azure Data Center.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

3.2.5 Azure Event Hubs on Azure Stack in development

Microsoft is developing Azure Event Hubs for Azure Stack to enable cloud-style telemetry ingestion from websites, apps and other streams of data. The work will empower modern app development, IoT on-premises and scenarios that are disconnected from public internet.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

3.2.6 Consistent blockchain deployment for Azure and Azure Stack preview

A consistent blockchain deployment that works across Azure and Azure Stack is now available in preview.

Consistent deployment means customers will get the same outcome and be able to use the same tools they're familiar with for running blockchain, whether they're running in Azure or Azure Stack.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

3.2.7 Expanded capacity for Azure Stack

The ability to expand a single Azure Stack to 16 nodes will be available in the coming weeks via integrated systems from these hardware partners: Avanade, Cisco, Dell, HPE, Huawei and Lenovo. The capability ensures that customers can increase the capacity of an Azure Stack integrated system to meet their business needs.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

more Azure news 4

4.1 Azure infrastructure

4.1.1 Windows Server 2019 and Windows Server, version 1809 availability

Windows Server 2019 will be generally available in October 2018. Windows Server 2019 is the latest Long-Term Servicing Channel release, which means it will be supported for five years with additional five years of extended support and will accrue the value from the previous Semi-Annual Channel releases (version 1709 and 1803). Windows Server, version 1809 is the latest Semi-Annual Channel release and will be available with Windows Server 2019, focusing on customers who want to innovate with containers and micro-services.

Windows Server 2019 bridges on-premises environments with Azure services for hybrid scenarios, has built-in layers of protection for increased security, and provides hyper-converged infrastructure for greater efficiency and scale. Windows Admin Center (version 1809) will also be generally available to light up these and other platform features.

Go to Windows Server Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.1.2 Azure Ultra SSD Managed Disks public preview

Ultra Solid State Drives (SSDs), a new Azure Managed Disks offering for latency-sensitive workloads, is now available in public preview.

This new offering enables organizations to transition additional data-intensive and business-critical workloads to Azure without impacting their customers' experience. It delivers unprecedented and extremely scalable performance with sub-millisecond latency and is ideal for next-gen, data-driven applications.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Azure IoT team to learn more.

4.1.3 Azure Standard SSD Managed Disks general availability

Azure Standard SSD Managed Disks — an offering for workloads with low input/output operations per second (IOPS) and that need consistent performance — is now generally available.

Launched in preview in June 2018, Azure Standard SSDs (Solid State Drives) deliver better availability, consistency, reliability and latency than Hard Disk Drive Disks. The service is suited for web servers, low-IOPS application servers, lightly used enterprise applications and dev/test workloads.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.1.4 Azure Premium Files public preview

Azure Premium Files, a high-performance, SSD-backed storage tier for Azure Files, is now available in public preview. The service provides a high-throughput, low-latency option for SMB Cloud file sharing.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.1.5 Larger Azure Managed Disks sizes

New tiers for Azure Managed Disks that significantly expand storage capacity are now available in public preview in specific regions.

The offerings for Premium SSD, Standard SSD and Standard HDD will now feature 8, 16 and 32TB storage capacity to enable better performance and simpler management.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.1.6 New GPU-enabled Azure Virtual Machines

Microsoft is announcing two new N-series Azure Virtual Machines with GPU capabilities. GPUs are ideal for compute and graphics-intensive workloads in innovative scenarios like high-end remote visualization, machine learning, high-performance computing simulations and predictive analytics.

The first offering is part of the NV-series, available in public preview and architected for powerful remote visualization workloads and other graphics-intensive applications. The second offering is part of the ND-series focused on machine learning, high-performance computing and inference scenarios. The public preview is planned for later this year.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.1.7 Azure Serial Console general availability

Now generally available, Azure Serial Console allows you to access and interact with your virtual machines (VMs) independently of the VM's network or operating system state, so you can easily debug an unreachable VM. Built for developers and system administrators, the self-service diagnosis and troubleshooting tool launched in public preview in March 2018.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.1.8 Azure Virtual WAN general availability

Azure Virtual WAN, launched in public preview in July 2018, is now generally available. It provides a simple, unified and global distributed connectivity-and-security platform for deploying large-scale branch office infrastructure to help customers with massive modernization efforts. The service works with existing on-premises routers and firewalls as well as newer SD WAN systems from a growing list of partners.

Azure ExpressRoute now also connects to Azure Virtual WAN, allowing customers to access corporate resources, such as an on-premises datacenter, that are connected to an Azure ExpressRoute circuit.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.1.9 Azure Front Door Service preview

Azure Front Door Service (AFD), Microsoft's application acceleration platform used internally by services including Bing, Office 365 and Xbox, is now available to customers in public preview. It is a scalable, secure entry point for fast delivery of global, microservice-based web applications, with dashboard tools for controlling and monitoring service traffic and global backends from dozens of edge locations around the world.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.1.10 Azure Firewall general availability

Azure Firewall, a new firewall-as-a-service offering, is now generally available. Launched in public preview in July, it offers a managed, cloud-native network security service to protect application resources with built-in high availability and unrestricted cloud scalability. Customers can centrally create, enforce and log policies for application and network connectivity across subscriptions and virtual networks. The service now also supports inbound and outbound connectivity, hybrid networks (ExpressRoute/VPN), deeper platform integration with Azure Monitor, Azure Security Center, Azure Application Services, Network Watcher and more.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.1.11 Azure ExpressRoute Direct public preview

Azure ExpressRoute Direct, the world's fastest private edge connectivity with 100Gbps capacity, is now available in public preview. The feature adds to the existing ExpressRoute service and enables connectivity to Microsoft's global backbone for such scenarios as massive data ingestion to storage, physical isolation, dedicated capacity and burst capacity, all with access to Azure regions at tremendous scale.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.1.12 Azure ExpressRoute Global Reach public preview

Now in public preview, Azure ExpressRoute Global Reach connects ExpressRoute circuits together so that on-premises locations can communicate with each other using Microsoft's global network. For example, if you have a private datacenter in California connected to ExpressRoute in Silicon Valley, and another private datacenter in the United Kingdom connected to ExpressRoute in London, ExpressRoute Global Reach can connect the datacenters together using the two ExpressRoute connections. The cross-datacenter traffic traverses through Microsoft's network backbone. ExpressRoute Global Reach is a unique solution not available from other cloud providers.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.1.13 New Azure DDoS Protection Standard features

New features in Azure DDoS Protection Standard are now generally available, providing attack insights and visualization for customers protecting their virtual network against DDoS attacks. The services include detailed attack-mitigation reports and flow logs, via diagnostic settings in Azure Monitor.

Azure Security Center also now provides recommendations to protect virtual networks against DDoS attacks.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.1.14 H-series Virtual Machines for High-Performance Computing public preview

Two new H-series Virtual Machines for High-Performance Computing, the HB and HC, have been architected to handle high-end computational needs. These new VMs are performance and cost-optimized for large scale HPC workloads such as fluid dynamics, structural mechanics, energy exploration, weather forecasting, risk analysis, and more.

The new H-series will be available broadly with a public preview later this year.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.1.15 Microsoft Learn and role-based Microsoft Certifications

Microsoft Learn is a new, free, interactive web-based training with step-by-step bite-size tutorials to quickly learn Azure and Business Applications. Sign-in to track progress, earn achievements with knowledge checks and use free Azure resources for hands-on learning.

New role-based Microsoft Certifications — validate skills and be recognized as a leader with industry recognized Microsoft certifications now aligned to job roles. Learning content across modalities, including from Microsoft Learning Partners, will align to the new role-based certifications.

Go to Microsoft Docs and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.2 Governance and management

4.2.1 Azure Blueprints public preview

Azure Blueprints, now in public preview, provides a one-click solution for setting up governed subscriptions with preconfigured resources, policies, management, security and user access controls.

Customers evaluating public clouds want modern governance capabilities to deploy resources faster and with more control. Azure recognizes the needs by including industry-leading governance capabilities — like Azure Blueprints — in the platform for no additional cost.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.2.2 Azure Resource Graph public preview

Azure Resource Graph, now in public preview, enables customers to explore their Azure resources at scale for more efficient inventory management. Used through the Azure Portal, PowerShell or CLI, it provides powerful querying and parsing capabilities to gather insights on environment resources.

The service is included in the Azure platform for no additional charge.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.2.3 Azure Policy for DevOps public preview

Azure Policy is now in public preview to Azure and Azure DevOps customers. The service enables development teams to ship more quickly while ensuring compliance and auditability for workloads using Azure cloud resources.

Paired with Azure App Insights and Azure Monitoring, Azure Policy provides visibility and tooling across the infrastructure, network and application, all backed by the same data pipelines and analytics engines. Building on the recent launch of Azure DevOps, Azure Policy is a key step to unifying Cloud and DevOps governance.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.2.4 Azure Cost Management within Azure Portal public preview

Azure Cost Management is now in public preview directly inside the Azure Portal for Enterprise Agreement customers, providing real-time cost analysis and budgets in an improved experience.

The capabilities were launched in 2017 via Cloudyn, a different platform that requires customer opt-in. Providing the service directly in the Azure Portal greatly enhances the experience.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.2.5 Azure Monitor general availability

Azure Monitor now brings all end-to-end monitoring experiences together for customer applications and infrastructure. This provides rich analytics and insights into issues for customers to keep up with the growing complexity of modern applications.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.3 Developer

4.3.1 Azure SignalR Service general availability

The Azure SignalR Service is now generally available to all Azure customers. The service, launched in public preview in May, enables developers to build apps that support real-time experiences such as chat, stock tickers and live dashboards without worrying about capacity provisioning, scaling or persistent connections.

With about 3 million downloads to date, SignalR is a popular ASP.NET library that makes it simple to add real-time functionality to web applications.

Contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.3.2 Intune MAM Wrappers for line of business apps

The Intune MAM Wrapper for line of business apps is now available for iOS in beta. It provides IT administrators with an enterprise compliance capability through a simple plug-in with Visual Studio App Center, enabling them to enforce automatic “MAM wrapping” of applications during the development process and easily apply company policies via the Intune blade on the Azure portal.

Go to Visual Studio App Center Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.3.3 Azure Functions 2.0 runtime availability and other updates

Azure Functions 2.0 runtime, which brings the power of functions-based computing to more developers, is now generally available. Runtime and other platform improvements allow you to now use your cross-platform .NET Core assets within your Functions apps. Updates also include support for Python development and a consumption plan for Functions built on top of Linux OS. Azure Functions also now shows HTTP dependencies on the Application Insights App Map, enabling support for Function triggers and any HTTP connections for richer monitoring experience.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.3.4 Azure Event Grid updates

New features in Azure Event Grid will be available in the coming weeks. They include the new Event Domains concept, which allows customers to become their own event publishers, and advanced filtering based on fields on the data payload attribute, and a preview of a Time-To-Live setting for Event Subscriptions to set up a maximum time of retention for events.

Contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.3.5 Azure Container Registry: ACR tasks general availability

ACR tasks, previously also known as ACR build, enables inner-loop development in the cloud with on-demand container image builds. You can trigger container image builds automatically when code is committed to a Git repository or when a container's base image is updated. With base image update triggers, you can also automate your OS and application framework patching workflow, only available with Azure, to maintain secure environments.

Go to Azure Container Registry and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.3.6 Azure Container Registry: ACR tasks multistep capability, public preview

Using ACR tasks, you can define a series of steps to build, test and validate your containers before they are deployed.

Go to Azure Container Registry and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.3.7 Azure Container Registry: Docker content trust model support, public preview

Content trust in ACR provides you with the ability to verify both the integrity and the publisher of all the data that goes into a container image. Authorized users or services can push signed images to ACR and validate them at the point of deployment.

Go to Azure Container Registry and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.3.8 Azure Container Registry: Helm repositories, public preview

As customers deploy multicontainer applications, Helm has evolved as the de facto standard to describe Kubernetes-based applications. With Helm repositories, customers can push their Helm Charts to ACR, providing a single source of truth for their images and deployment definitions running in Kubernetes.

Go to Azure Container Registry and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.3.9 Azure Container Registry: Open Container Initiative (OCI) support, public preview

Using projects like BuildKit, customers can build and push OCI-formatted container images.

Go to Azure Container Registry and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.3.10 New features for Azure LogicApps

Two new enhancements for Azure LogicApps are now in public preview. They include support for an Azure Logic Apps SAP Connector for bi-directional integration between Logic Apps and SAP.

A new Logic Apps extension for Visual Studio Code is also in preview, enabling developers to do more with partners and first-party tools.

Contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.3.11 Azure Service Fabric updates

New updates to Azure Service Fabric are now available in preview. They include Simplified configuration of service-to-service communication, a Runtime independent Reliable Collections library and new Service Fabric Volume Disks.

Other updates include open sourcing of Service Fabric Windows Builds and general availability of a new backup restore service.

Contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.3.12 Kubernetes on Azure Stack public preview

We now support Kubernetes clusters deployment on Azure Stack, a certified Kubernetes Cloud Provider. You can install Kubernetes using Azure Resource Manager templates generated by the ACS-Engine on Azure Stack.

Contact the WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.4 Quantum

4.4.1 Microsoft Quantum to add chemical simulation library for tackling real-world challenges

The Microsoft Quantum Development Kit will release an update this fall that adds a new chemical simulation library in collaboration with computational chemistry leader Pacific Northwest National Labs. The library will enable developers and organizations to create quantum-inspired solutions that can be simulated on classical computers today and quantum computers in the future — helping them tackle big chemistry challenges in such fields as agriculture and climate.

Go to Microsoft Quantum Blog on Tuesday, Sept. 25 starting at 9 a.m. ET and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.5 Migration

4.5.1 Hyper-V assessments in Azure Migrate

Hyper-V assessments will be available in Azure Migrate in a few weeks, enabling customers to discover and assess Hyper-V environments for Azure migration.

Many Windows Server customers use Hyper-V as their virtualization platform. Hyper-V assessments will allow them to plan migrations of Hyper-V virtualized workloads to Azure.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

4.5.2 Azure VM Image Builder private preview

Azure VM Image Builder, now available in private preview, allows you to submit a template describing your VM source image, customizations and where to distribute a bootable image. The feature enables organizations to migrate their image-building pipeline to Azure and use their existing OS licenses and customizations, without needing to configure infrastructure.

Go to Azure Blog and contact WE Cloud Infra & Apps team to learn more.

more Microsoft 365 news 5

5.1 Microsoft Teams expands to empower workers in all roles, and across industries

Microsoft is extending the power of Teams with new experiences tailored to industry-specific and role-based workflows. New capabilities in Teams help empower Firstline Workers to do their best work. With new schedule management tools, managers can now create and share schedules, and employees can easily swap shifts, request time off, and see who else is working as well as important announcements. These new features will be available in October.

As an example of how Teams can enable secure workflows for regulated industries, we're delivering a new patient care coordination solution that integrates with electronic health records (EHR) systems and leverages two new secure messaging features, image annotation and priority messaging, which are now available to all Teams customers but have particular relevance in healthcare settings. Now, doctors, nurses and other clinicians can coordinate patient care while staying HIPAA-compliant and avoid the privacy risks that arise when healthcare professionals use consumer chat apps. The new healthcare solution is now in private preview.

Go to Microsoft 365 Blog and contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

5.2 LinkedIn integration with Outlook and Office apps

The integration between LinkedIn and Office 365 continues to deepen. Coming soon, when you connect your LinkedIn account to Office 365, you'll be able to coauthor documents with people in your LinkedIn network in Word, Excel and PowerPoint and send emails to them directly from Outlook. This brings your corporate directory and your LinkedIn network together, so you never lose touch with the contacts who can help you succeed, inside or outside your organization.

You'll also see LinkedIn highlights about the people in your meeting invites, providing you with insights about attendees so you can prep for important meetings quickly and easily. These features help you focus on what's important by providing information and connections, directly in your flow of work, and will be coming soon in a staged rollout.

Go to Microsoft 365 Blog and contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

5.3 Microsoft Stream mobile app

The new Microsoft Stream mobile app is coming next month for iOS and Android with support for offline viewing, making it easy to access recordings on the go.

Go to Microsoft SharePoint Blog and contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

5.4 Microsoft Teams integrates new Yammer and SharePoint features

Microsoft Teams is more deeply integrating with Yammer and SharePoint for stronger collaboration with the new Yammer tab in Teams that connects your team to relevant conversations across the organization, and tabs for SharePoint lists and apps coming early next year.

Easily work with and manage files with a new files experience in Microsoft Teams rolling out later this year that supports metadata, custom views and formatting, as well as process automation with Microsoft Flow and syncing files to Windows with OneDrive Files On-Demand.

Go to Microsoft SharePoint Blog and contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

5.5 Bringing OneDrive innovation to Mac

With OneDrive Files On-Demand for Mac, now in public preview for Mac Office Insiders, access all your team and personal files in the cloud without having to download them and use storage space on your device. All files can be seen in Finder and work just like every other file on your Mac.

Go to Microsoft SharePoint Blog and contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

5.6 Surface Hub 2 arrives in 2019

The next-generation Surface Hub 2 will ship in Q2 of calendar year 2019. Unveiled in May 2018, Surface Hub 2 is perfect for dynamic teamwork with a light, sleek and intelligent design that makes the device easier to move and fit in any workspace.

Surface Hub 2 will have a phased introduction with two unique experiences. The first, Surface Hub 2S, is designed to meet the needs of our current Surface Hub customers. Built for an on-premised or hybrid environment, Surface Hub 2S runs the current Hub software experience customers know and love. We designed Surface Hub 2S to be "future-proofed" with a modular design that allows customers to upgrade to a second experience — Surface Hub 2X. Surface Hub 2X will enable features and functionality like dynamic rotation, multiuser authentication, tiling and more, which will be available in 2020. Surface Hub 2S and Surface Hub 2X features a 50.5-inch, 4K+ resolution screen and incorporates the 3:2 aspect ratio that people have come to love and expect from their Surface devices.

Go to Windows Devices Blog and contact WE Devices team to learn more.

5.7 Windows Virtual Desktop

The new Windows Virtual Desktop provides the best virtualized Windows and Office experience, delivered on Azure. Windows Virtual Desktop is the only cloud-based service that delivers a multiuser Windows 10 experience, is optimized for Office 365 ProPlus and includes free Windows 7 Extended Security Updates. With Windows Virtual Desktop, customers can deploy and scale Windows and Office on Azure in minutes, with built-in security and compliance.

We are currently targeting to be in preview by end of 2018.

Go to Microsoft 365 Blog and contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

5.8 Integrated Microsoft 365 admin center

A new Microsoft 365 admin center is now live and available to all Microsoft 365 and Office 365 admins. The center simplifies the admin experience with an integrated location for monitoring and managing applications, services, data, devices and users across Microsoft 365 and Office 365 subscriptions.

Go to Microsoft 365 Blog and contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

5.9 Windows Autopilot extends to existing devices

Three new features in Windows Autopilot will support a smooth upgrade to Windows 10 for existing devices. Available with the Windows 10 October Update, the features will include hybrid Azure AD support for user-driven deployments, so you can join devices to Azure Active Directory or Azure Directory.

They'll also include configuration support for taking existing devices from Windows 7 to Windows 10 with normal Autopilot user-driven deployment. The third feature, a self-deploying mode announced in June, will automate device-provisioning — great for shared devices, kiosks and digital signage devices. Just plug them in, turn them on, and they're automatically provisioned.

Contact WE Modern Work team to learn more.

resources

All materials will be live on the **press microsite** at the Microsoft News Center.