

# Create an App for Azure (part 4)

Cloud, CSS, Docker, HTML, PHP

🔑 Language ★ Skills : 5

The digital transition has pushed software companies and enterprises to migrate their applications to the web. Azure cloud services have provided the ideal platform, the right services, and the tools to go digital while keeping full control over the data. This publication proposes the creation of a simple application by discovering some of these services and tools.

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## Creating Azure infrastructure

Once the container is created, we can start dealing with the Azure infrastructure that will host our application.

This publication is composed of several parts. This being the 4th part.

## The naming of services

Microsoft recommends naming services in a structured manner.

- An acronym or abbreviation for the service.
- The type of resource or information specifying its function.
- The name of the application if the one is dedicated to it.
- The region of the service.
- The instance of the service.

Example:

Sigle	Resource Type	Application	Region	Instance	Description
pe	sqlsrv	imagesgallery	westeu	001	The SQL server endpoint for the Images Gallery application
st		imagesgallery	westeu	001	Storage for the Images Gallery application
snet	backend	imagesgallery	westeu	001	The application's private subnet

*Example service naming*

## Azure Container Registry

The first task is going to be creating an **"ACR"** or **"Azure Container Registry"**.

- Create a resource group for the network elements.
- Create an **"ACR"** in Azure of type basic.
- Copy its name to the clipboard from the **"Overview"** tab.
- Go back to VSCode and enter the command below.

```
az login
```

This will open a login window to connect to your Azure account.

- Close the window
- Enter the command below

```
az acr login --name [ACR name]
```

This will connect you with the ACR.

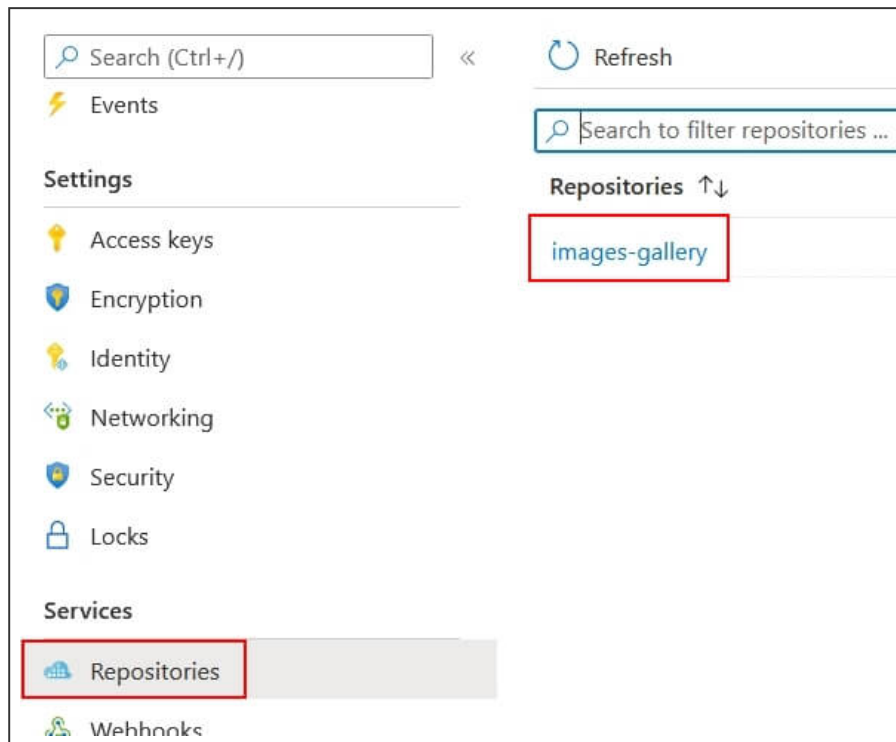
- Create a tag of your docker image. A tag is a version of the image, here 1.0

```
docker tag [docker image name] [ACR name].azurecr.io/images-gallery:1.0
```

- Push image into Azure

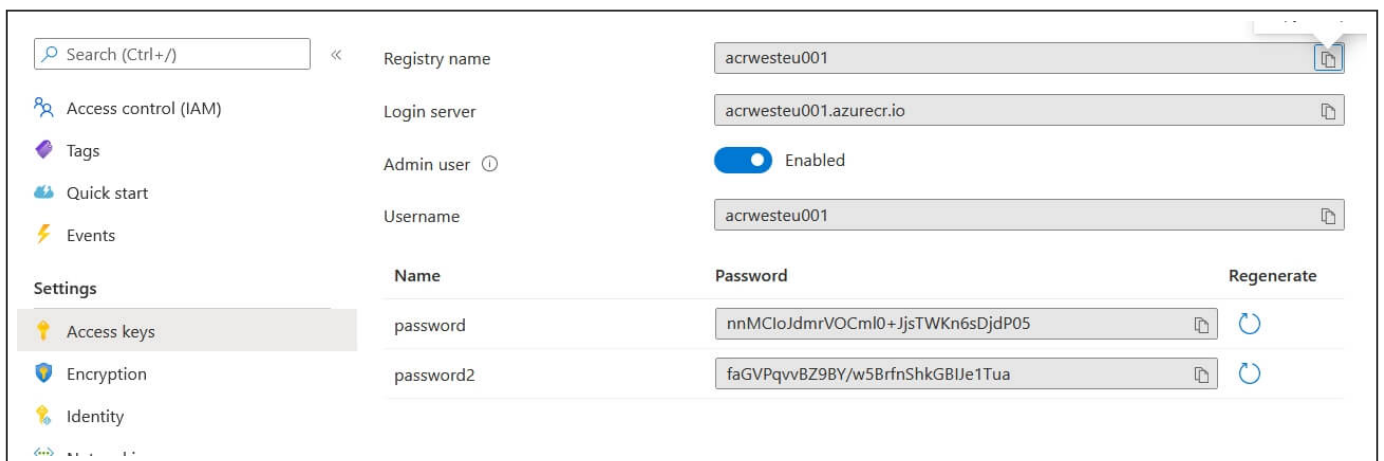
```
docker push [ACR name].azurecr.io/images-gallery:1.0
```

- Click on **“Repositories”** in the ACR and verify that the container is present.



The ACR Directory

- Enable the **“Admin”** option.



Enable the “Admin user”

## App services

Microsoft Azure offers the ability to create applications without worrying about its maintenance. The service can be linked to a GitHub account or a container. One can also program a **CI/CD** to create a continuous development environment. The service also has the ability to adapt to demand (auto-scaling).

- Create a resource group for the application.
- Create an **"App service plans"** of type B1. The free version does not allow you to create SSL certificates.

### Create App Service Plan

Subscription \*

Fuyens Subscription

Resource Group \*

rg-app-imagesgallery-westeu-001

Create new

#### App Service Plan details

Name \*

app-plan-B1-westeu-001

Operating System \*

☒ Linux ☐ Windows

Region \*

West Europe

#### Pricing Tier

App Service plan pricing tier determines the location, features, cost and compute resources associated with your app.  
[Learn more](#)

Sku and size \*

Basic B1

100 total ACU, 1.75 GB memory

[Change size](#)

*The rate plan for the app service*

- Create an application
- Enter a name for the application. This one doesn't really matter. It is the SSL certificate and DNS that will give the real name of the application to be used in the URL.
- Select **"Docker Container"**.
- Select **"Linux"**.

- Select the rate plan created above.
- Select the container from the **ACR**.

The first screenshot shows the 'Project Details' step of the 'Create Web App' wizard. It includes fields for 'Subscription' (Fuyens Subscription) and 'Resource Group' (rg-app-imagesgallery-westeu-001). The 'Instance Details' section shows 'Name' as 'app-imagesgallery-westeu-001' and 'Publish' as 'Code'. The second screenshot shows the 'App Service Plan' step. It includes 'Region' (West Europe), 'App Service Plan' (app-plan-B1-westeu-001 (B1)), and 'Sku and size' (Basic B1). The third screenshot shows the 'Options' step. It includes 'Options' (Single Container), 'Image Source' (Azure Container Registry), 'Azure container registry options' (acrwesnu001), 'Image' (images-gallery), and 'Tag' (1.0).

*Creating the app*

- Leave the **“Enable Network injection”** option set to **Off**. Application security will be addressed later.
- Leave the other options.

Here we go, the app is created and should already respond to the URL **“https://[app name].azurewebsites.net/”**. It may take a good minute for the app to start up for the first time, so be patient!

At this point, the app should return an error of type **“Failed to connect”**. This is normal. We need to take care of creating the database and storage.

## Error

cURL error 7: Failed to connect to 169.254.169.254 port 80: Connection refused (see https://curl.haxx.se/libcurl/c/libcurl-errors.html) for http://169.254.169.254/metadata/identity/oauth2/token?resource=https%3A%2F%2Fvault.azure.net&api-version=2019-08-01

[Retour](#)

*The error screen and a message*

## The SQL server

Microsoft Azure offers its own database engine called **"Azure SQL Server"**. It's a lightweight version of **"Microsoft SQL Server"**. It is a **"PaaS"**, namely a **"Platform as a Service"**. In the same way as **"The App Services"**, the advantage of **"PaaS"** comes that it is administered by Microsoft. We do not take care of the update, nor the maintenance of the server. It is quite possible to make the server redundant through **"replicas"** and elastic mode.

Even if we use a service, we're going to have to create two elements, the server and the database.

- Create a resource group for the server and database.
- Name it **"sqlsrv-imagesgallery-westeu-001"**.
- Enter a location.
- Enter the login **"azadmin"** for the admin.
- Enter a password and confirm it. **Don't forget to write it down**
- Create the server.

**Create SQL Database Server**

Microsoft

**Project details**

Select the subscription to manage deployed resources and costs. Use resource groups like folders to organize and manage all your resources.

Subscription \* Fuyens Subscription

Resource group \* (New) rg-databases-westeu-001 [Create new](#)

**Server details**

Enter required settings for this server, including providing a name and location.

Server name \* sqlsrv-imagesgallery-westeu-001 .database.windows.net

Location \* (Europe) West Europe

**Authentication**

Select your preferred authentication methods for accessing this server. Create a server admin login and password to access your server with SQL authentication, select only Azure AD authentication [Learn more](#) using an existing Azure AD user, group, or application as Azure AD admin [Learn more](#), or select both SQL and Azure AD authentication.

Authentication method

☒ Use SQL authentication

☐ Use only Azure Active Directory (Azure AD) authentication

☐ Use both SQL and Azure AD authentication

Server admin login \* azadmin ✓

Password \* ..... ✓

Confirm password \* ..... ✓

[Review + create](#) [Next: Networking >](#)

*Creating the database server*

## The database

Step two, creating the database. We will choose the most basic options

- Select the same resource pool as the SQL server.
- Name it **"sqlldb-imagesgallery-westeu-001"**.
- Select **"No"** for the **"elastic pool"** option.
- Select **"Production"**.
- Select the cheapest server, i.e. the **"Basic"** option.
- Select **"LRS"** for redundancy.

**Create SQL Database** ...

Microsoft

**Project details**

Select the subscription to manage deployed resources and costs. Use resource groups like folders to organize and manage all your resources.

Subscription \* ⓘ Fuyens Subscription

Resource group \* ⓘ rg-databases-westeu-001  
[Create new](#)

**Database details**

Enter required settings for this database, including picking a logical server and configuring the compute and storage resources

Database name \* sqlldb-imagesgallery-westeu-001

Server \* ⓘ sqlsrv-imagesgallery-westeu-001 (West Europe)  
[Create new](#)

Want to use SQL elastic pool? ⓘ ☐ Yes ☒ No

Workload environment ☐ Development ☒ Production

**Compute + storage** \* ⓘ

**Basic**  
2 GB storage  
[Configure database](#)

**Backup storage redundancy**

Choose how your PITR and LTR backups are replicated. Geo restore or ability to recover from regional outage is only available when geo-redundant storage is selected.

Backup storage redundancy ⓘ ☒ Locally-redundant backup storage  
☐ Zone-redundant backup storage  
☐ Geo-redundant backup storage

[Review + create](#) [Next: Networking >](#)

*Creating the database*

## Connecting to the database

We'll have to set up the server so we can access it.

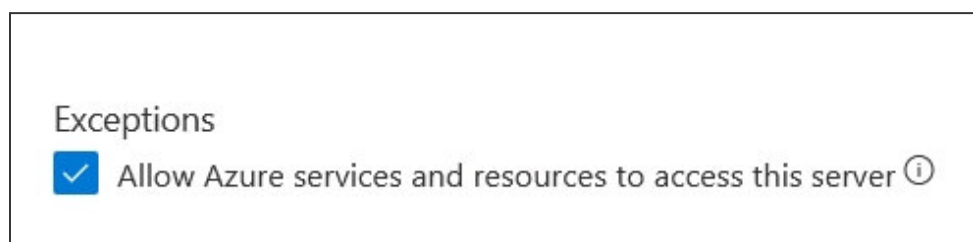
- Start by clicking on the **"Networking"** tab and make sure the **"Selected networks"** option is enabled.
- Add your public IP address in the section about the firewall.

The screenshot shows the 'Networking' tab for an SQL server named 'sqlsrv-imagesgallery-westeu-001'. The left sidebar contains navigation links for SQL databases, SQL elastic pools, DTU quota, Properties, Locks, Data management (Backups, Deleted databases, Failover groups, Import/Export history), Security (Networking, Microsoft Defender for Cloud, Transparent data encryption, Identity, Auditing), and Auditing. The main content area is divided into three sections: 'Virtual networks' with a link to 'Learn more' and an 'Add a virtual network rule' button; 'Firewall rules' with a link to 'Learn more' and two 'Add' buttons for client IPv4 address and firewall rule; and a table of existing firewall rules. The table has columns for Rule name, Start IPv4 address, and End IPv4 address. One rule is listed: 'ClientIPAddress\_2022-6-14\_15-47-9' with start and end addresses of 156.25.4.248. At the bottom are 'Save' and 'Discard' buttons.

Rule	Virtual network	Subnet	Address range	Endpoint status	Resource group
ClientIPAddress_2022-6-14_15-47-9			156.25.4.248		

The "Networking" tab of SQL Server

- Check the option the exception **"Allow Azure services and resources to access this server"**.



Authorize the application to access the database

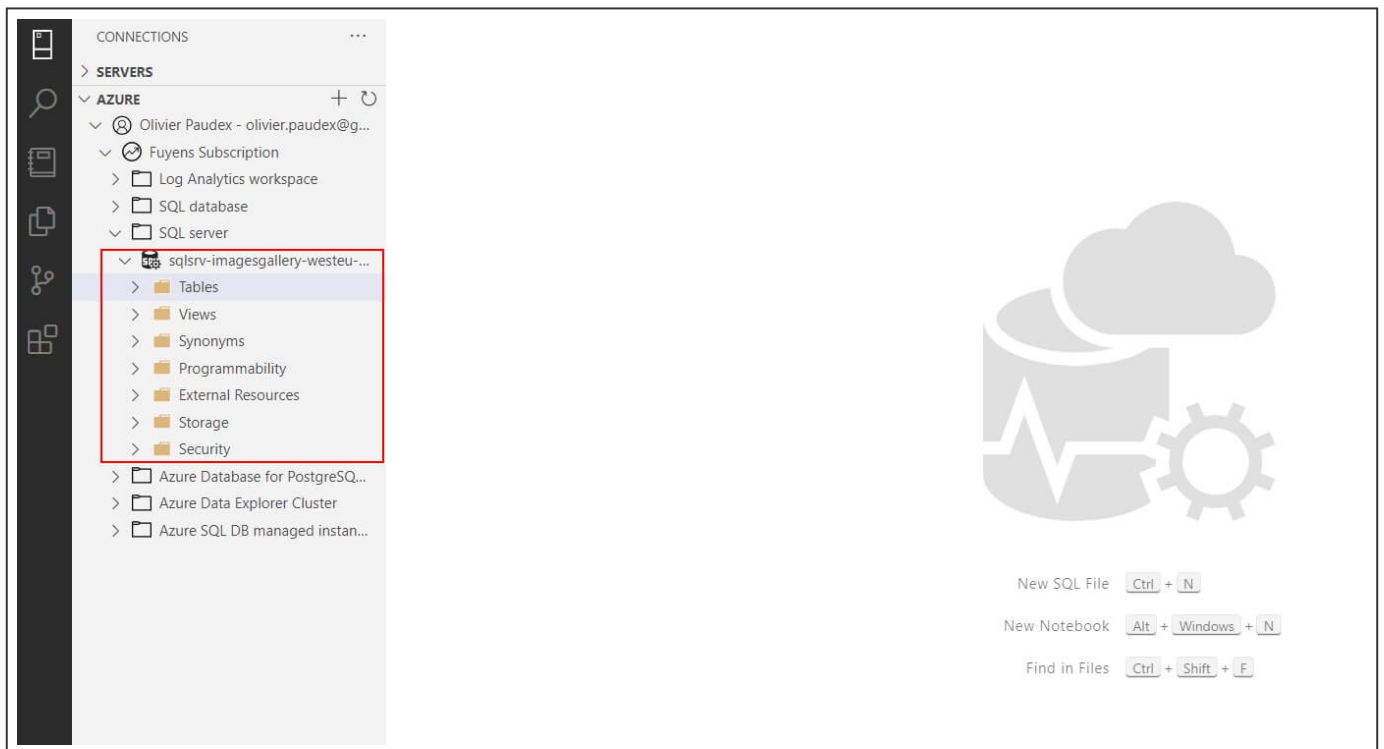
- Download [Azure Data Studio](#) and install it on your PC.
- Click on the **"Overview"** tab of the SQL Server.
- Find its name by clicking on the note.

Server admin : azadmin  
Networking : [Show networking settings](#)  
Active Directory admin : [Not configured](#)  
Server name : sqlsrv-imagesgallery-westeu-001.database.windows.net

Copy to clipboard

*The "Overview" tab and the server name*

- Enter the connection information into **Azure Data Studio** and connect.
- Once the connection is active, we can see the server name and the folders attached to it.



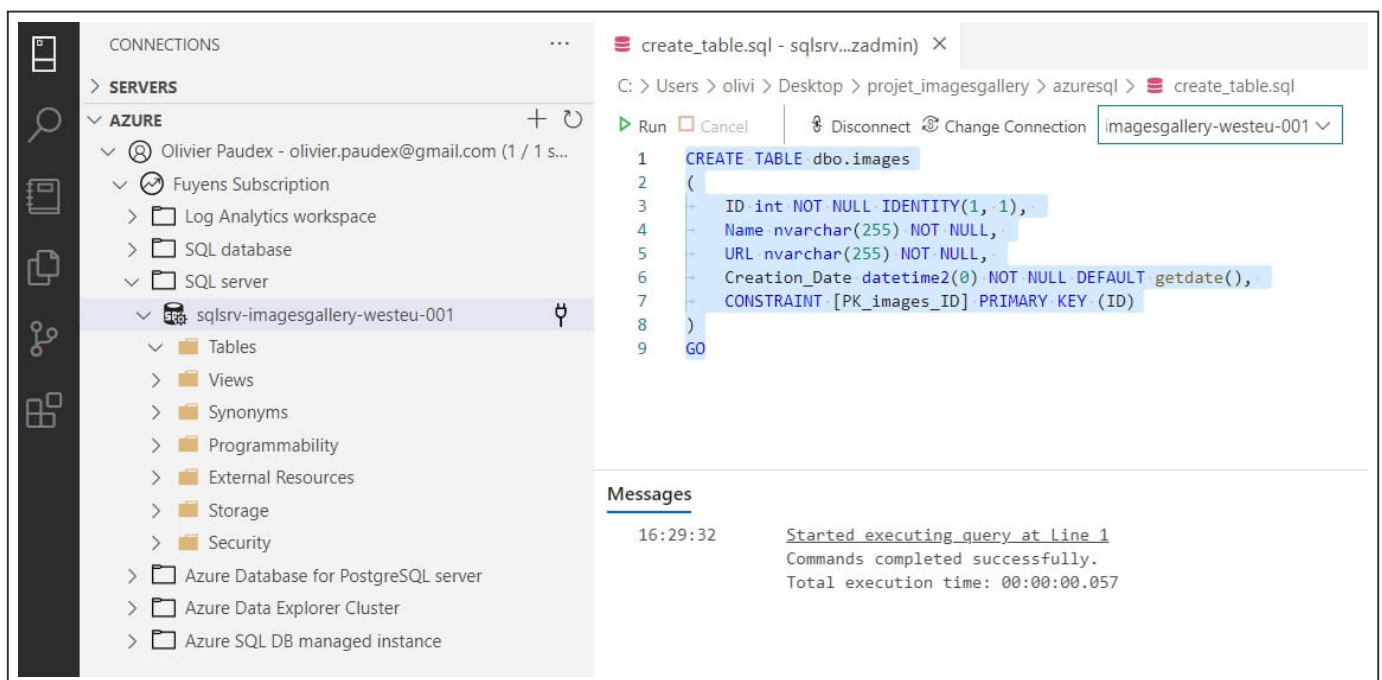
*Azure Data Studio*

## Creating the database

- Copy and paste the small script below.

```
CREATE TABLE dbo.images
(
  ID int NOT NULL IDENTITY(1, 1),
  Name nvarchar(255) NOT NULL,
  URL nvarchar(255) NOT NULL,
  Creation_Date datetime2(0) NOT NULL DEFAULT getdate(),
  CONSTRAINT [PK_images_ID] PRIMARY KEY (ID)
)GO
```

- Save it to a file **"azure.sql"**.
- Return to Azure Data Studio and open the file.
- Accept the security caveats.
- Click **"Run"**.



*The database creation with Azure Data Studio*

## Storage

One of the first functions of the cloud is data storage. Again, storage in Azure is a service. No need to install a file server.

- Create a resource group for the storage.
- Create a storage account.
- Enter a name for the storage. The name must be **UNIQUE** to the world, with no capital letters and symbols.
- Select the **"Standard"** option.
- Select the **"LRS (Local Redundancy Storage)"** option.
- Accept all other options.
- Create the storage account.

The image displays two side-by-side screenshots of the Azure portal's 'Create a storage account' wizard. The left screenshot shows the 'Project details' tab, where the 'Subscription' is set to 'Fuyens Subscription' and the 'Resource group' is 'rg-storages-westeu-001'. The right screenshot shows the 'Instance details' tab, where the 'Storage account name' is 'stimagesgallerywesteu001', the 'Region' is '(Europe) West Europe', the 'Performance' is set to 'Standard' (Recommended for most scenarios), and the 'Redundancy' is 'Locally-redundant storage (LRS)'. Both screenshots include a 'Review > create' button at the bottom.

Storage account creation

## The vault (keyvault)

The next service is the vault. This is the one that will hold the certificate and login passwords for the database and storage.

- Create a **"Key Vault"**.
- Select the network resource group.
- Name it **"key-westeu-001"**.
- Create the keyvault

## Create a key vault ...

Select the subscription to manage deployed resources and costs. Use resource groups like folders to organize and manage all your resources.

Subscription \*

Resource group \*  [Create new](#)

### Instance details

Key vault name \* ⓘ

Region \*

Pricing tier \* ⓘ

### Recovery options

Soft delete protection will automatically be enabled on this key vault. This feature allows you to recover or permanently delete a key vault and secrets for the duration of the retention period. This protection applies to the key vault and the secrets stored within the key vault.

To enforce a mandatory retention period and prevent the permanent deletion of key vaults or secrets prior to the retention period elapsing, you can turn on purge protection. When purge protection is enabled, secrets cannot be purged by users or by Microsoft.

[Previous](#)[Next](#)[Review + create](#)

*Vault creation*

## Configuring the keyvault

To access the keyvault, the various services must be registered in Azure AD.

- Return to the application (App Services).
- Click on the **"Identity"** tab.
- Create a **"managed identity"** of type **"system assigned"** for the application.
- Enable the service by dragging the button to **"On"**.
- Copy the object ID.

**app-imagesgallery-westeu-001 | Identity** ...

App Service

Search (Ctrl+/) <<

**System assigned** User assigned

A system assigned managed identity is restricted to one per resource and is tied identity by using Azure role-based access control (Azure RBAC). The managed id credentials in code. [Learn more about Managed identities.](#)

Save Discard Refresh Got feedback?

**Settings**

- Configuration
- Authentication
- Application Insights
- Identity**
- Backups
- Custom domains

Status ⓘ

Off On

Object (principal) ID ⓘ

0217642c-c987-460b-975d-dc159878d586

Permissions ⓘ

Azure role assignments

Application registration

- Go back to the keyvault.
- Click on the **"Access Policies"** tab.
- Click on **"Add Access policy"**.
- Select **"Get"** for the **"Secret permissions"**.
- Select **"Select Principal"**.
- Paste the application ID.
- Save.

**Add access policy** ...

Add access policy

Configure from template (optional) ▼

Key permissions 0 selected ▼

Secret permissions Get ▼

Certificate permissions 0 selected ▼

Select principal \*

app-imagesgallery-westeu-001  
Object ID: 0217642c-c987-460b-975d-dc159878d586

Authorized application ○ None selected

**Add**

**Principal**

Select a principal

0217642c-c987-460b-975d-dc159878d586

AP app-imagesgallery-westeu-001  
b7055907-1ad5-41fe-be00-9d4158113674  
Selected

**Selected items**

AP app-imagesgallery-westeu-001  
b7055907-1ad5-41fe-be00-9d4158113674 **Remove**

**Select**

**key-westeu-001 | Access policies**

Overview | Keys | Secrets | Index

Overview

Activity log

Access control (IAM)

Key

Properties and other problems

Settings

Key permissions

Secret permissions

Certificate permissions

Actions

Name	Key permissions	Secret permissions	Certificate permissions	Actions
APPLICATION	Get	Get	Get	

*Adding an access font for the application*

## The Secrets

We call **"secrets"**, a string of characters less than 10kb in length used as a password or other confidential items.

- Go back to the storage account.
- Click on the **"Access keys"** tab.
- View the keys by clicking on **"Show keys"** at the very top of the screen.
- Copy key number 1.

The screenshot shows the 'Access keys' page for the storage account 'stimagesgallerywesteu001'. The left sidebar contains a search bar and a navigation menu with categories: 'Storage browser (preview)', 'Data storage' (Containers, File shares, Queues, Tables), and 'Security + networking' (Networking, Azure CDN, Access keys, Shared access signature, Encryption). The 'Access keys' option is selected. The main content area has a title bar with 'stimagesgallerywesteu001 | Access keys', a star icon, and a refresh icon. Below the title bar are links for 'Hide keys', 'Set rotation reminder', and 'Refresh'. A descriptive paragraph explains that access keys authenticate requests and should be rotated often. A link 'Learn more about managing storage account access keys' is provided. The 'Storage account name' is displayed as 'stimagesgallerywesteu001'. Two keys are listed: 'key1' and 'key2', each with a 'Rotate key' button. For 'key1', the 'Last rotated' date is '14.06.2022 (0 days ago)', the 'Key' is '+9T3VZbPosINZIVmDAHZ3Kd7BHBh3N3GpYcey5uX9NFYPMipfks0Txps6FpRAfKA...', and the 'Connection string' is 'DefaultEndpointsProtocol=https;AccountName=stimagesgallerywesteu001;Acco...'. 'key2' has identical information.

*Storage account access keys*

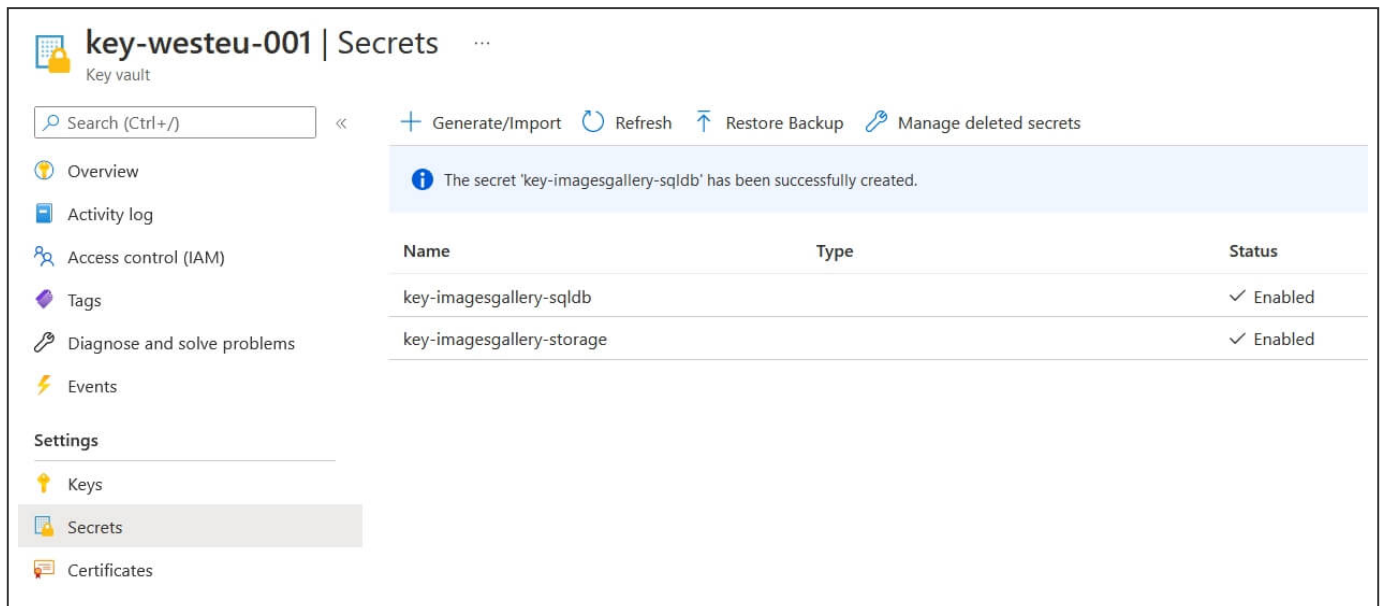
- Return to Keyvault.
- Create a secret for the storage account password.
- Name it **"key-imagesgallery-storage"**.
- Paste in key number 1.

## Create a secret

Upload options	Manual
Name *	key-imagesgallery-storage
Value *	.....
Content type (optional)	
Set activation date	<input type="checkbox"/>
Set expiration date	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enabled	Yes No
Tags	0 tags

*The secret of storage*

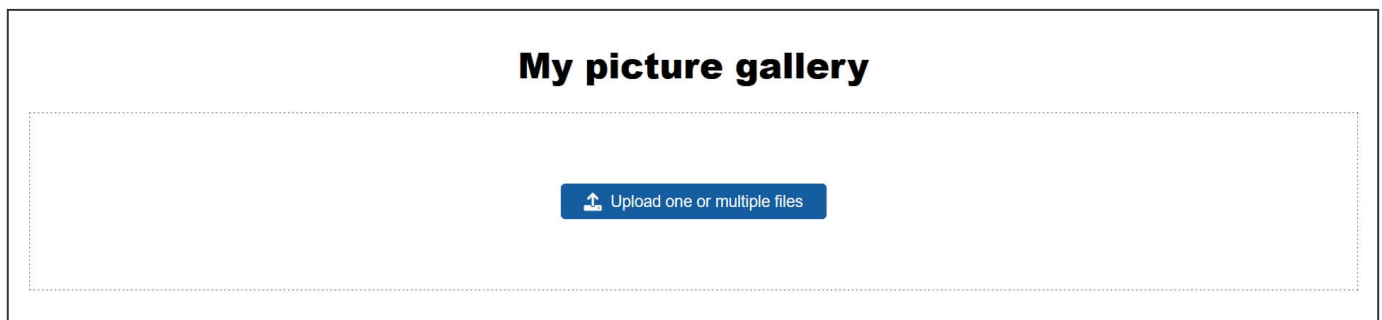
- Start over for the database.
- Name it this time **“key-imagesgallery-sqlldb”**.
- Paste in the SQL server password. If you forgot to write it down, you have the option of doing a password reset.



Name	Type	Status
key-imagesgallery-sqladb		✓ Enabled
key-imagesgallery-storage		✓ Enabled

*The Two Secrets of Infrastructure*

At this point, the application should work with the URL: **"https://[app name].azurewebsites.net/"**.



*The application (without content)*

- Try uploading images.

You should see the result of the upload. It shows the number of images uploaded, the total number of images as well as any errors that occurred.

## Status of the uploaded images

Uploaded images : 11 on 14

The file type of "bigben\_01.tif" is not allowed.

The file "DisplayUploadImageView.php" is not an image.

The file "UploadedView.php" is not an image.

[Retour](#)

*The result of uploading images*

- Click on the **"Go Back"** link and you will see the thumbnails of the images displayed.
- Then it is possible to download or delete the thumbnails by clicking on the trash can and/or download icon.

## My picture gallery

 Upload one or multiple files



*The application (with content)*

## Content verification

The contents of the database can be viewed with **Azure Data Studio**.

- Connect to the database and run the SQL query **"Select \* from images"**.
- Azure Data Studio does display the images contained in the application.

The screenshot shows the Azure Data Studio interface. On the left, the 'CONNECTIONS' pane shows a server named 'sqlsrv-imagesgallery-westeu-001.database.windows...'. The 'Tables' folder is expanded, showing 'dbo.images'. The main pane displays the results of the SQL query 'select \* from images'. The results are shown in a table with columns: ID, Name, URL, and Creation\_Date.

ID	Name	URL	Creation_Date
1	09_Dahchour_5.JPG	https://stimagesgallerywesteu001.blob.core.windows.net/images/09_Dahchour_5.JPG	2022-06-14 17:33:49
2	10_Dahchour_5.JPG	https://stimagesgallerywesteu001.blob.core.windows.net/images/10_Dahchour_5.JPG	2022-06-14 17:33:50
3	11_Dahchour_7.JPG	https://stimagesgallerywesteu001.blob.core.windows.net/images/11_Dahchour_7.JPG	2022-06-14 17:33:50
4	12_Dahchour_8.JPG	https://stimagesgallerywesteu001.blob.core.windows.net/images/12_Dahchour_8.JPG	2022-06-14 17:33:51
5	18_Saqqarah_4.JPG	https://stimagesgallerywesteu001.blob.core.windows.net/images/18_Saqqarah_4.JPG	2022-06-14 17:33:52
6	32_Vie_Cairo_1.JPG	https://stimagesgallerywesteu001.blob.core.windows.net/images/32_Vie_Cairo_1.JPG	2022-06-14 17:33:52
7	39_Kheops_2.JPG	https://stimagesgallerywesteu001.blob.core.windows.net/images/39_Kheops_2.JPG	2022-06-14 17:33:52
8	20201127_184206966_IOS.jpg	https://stimagesgallerywesteu001.blob.core.windows.net/images/20201127_184206966_IOS.jpg	2022-06-14 17:33:53
9	20201127_184207068_IOS.jpg	https://stimagesgallerywesteu001.blob.core.windows.net/images/20201127_184207068_IOS.jpg	2022-06-14 17:33:53
10	20201127_184207159_IOS.jpg	https://stimagesgallerywesteu001.blob.core.windows.net/images/20201127_184207159_IOS.jpg	2022-06-14 17:33:54
11	egypt.jpg	https://stimagesgallerywesteu001.blob.core.windows.net/images/egypt.jpg	2022-06-14 17:33:54

The database contents

Also, it is possible to check the content of the storage.

- Download [Azure Storage Explorer](#) and install it on your PC.
- Log in.

The screenshot shows the Azure Storage Explorer interface. The left pane shows the 'EXPLORATEUR' view with the 'Fuyens Subscription (olivier.paudex@gmail.com)' selected. The 'Comptes de stockage' folder is expanded, showing 'stimagesgallerywesteu001'. The 'images' container is selected. The main pane displays the contents of the 'images' container in a table with columns: Nom, Niveau d'accès, Dernière modification du niveau d'accès, Dernière modification, Type d'objet blob, Type de contenu, Taille, État, and Jours.

Nom	Niveau d'accès	Dernière modification du niveau d'accès	Dernière modification	Type d'objet blob	Type de contenu	Taille	État	Jours
09_Dahchour_5.JPG	Élevé (déduit)		14.06.2022 19:33	Objet blob de blocs	image/jpeg	2.9 MB	Actif	
10_Dahchour_5.JPG	Élevé (déduit)		14.06.2022 19:33	Objet blob de blocs	image/jpeg	760.4 KB	Actif	
11_Dahchour_7.JPG	Élevé (déduit)		14.06.2022 19:33	Objet blob de blocs	image/jpeg	1.3 MB	Actif	
12_Dahchour_8.JPG	Élevé (déduit)		14.06.2022 19:33	Objet blob de blocs	image/jpeg	3.8 MB	Actif	
18_Saqqarah_4.JPG	Élevé (déduit)		14.06.2022 19:33	Objet blob de blocs	image/jpeg	753.3 KB	Actif	
20201127_184206966_IOS.jpg	Élevé (déduit)		14.06.2022 19:33	Objet blob de blocs	image/jpeg	405.5 KB	Actif	
20201127_184207068_IOS.jpg	Élevé (déduit)		14.06.2022 19:33	Objet blob de blocs	image/jpeg	457.3 KB	Actif	
20201127_184207159_IOS.jpg	Élevé (déduit)		14.06.2022 19:33	Objet blob de blocs	image/jpeg	445.1 KB	Actif	
32_Vie_Cairo_1.JPG	Élevé (déduit)		14.06.2022 19:33	Objet blob de blocs	image/jpeg	263.6 KB	Actif	
39_Kheops_2.JPG	Élevé (déduit)		14.06.2022 19:33	Objet blob de blocs	image/jpeg	381.9 KB	Actif	
egypt.jpg	Élevé (déduit)		14.06.2022 19:33	Objet blob de blocs	image/jpeg	396.1 KB	Actif	

The contents of the images container

The application will automatically create a **“blob container”** called images. This one contains our images. Here we go, the application works and that’s already not bad. But there is still room for improvement.

## Conclusion

This chapter has covered the registry in which the container was dropped, as well as the various services used for this application such as storage, database, and vault.

Finally, it is also about two of the indispensable tools when it comes to using storage and database services.

- Azure Data Studio
- Azure Storage Explorer

The next chapter will focus on the security of the application and on the Azure cloud in general.