

AZ-900 Service Map

Quick service-to-purpose map across compute, storage, networking, data, identity, and management.

BEST FOR

Matching Azure service names to real use cases

FOCUS

Service category → main purpose

USE WITH

Cheat Sheet + Quick Summary

1. Compute

Virtual Machines — Full OS control for legacy apps or custom setups.

Virtual Machine Scale Sets — Autoscaling fleet of similar VMs.

App Service — Managed hosting for web apps and APIs.

Functions — Event-driven serverless execution.

Azure Virtual Desktop — Desktop and app virtualization.

2. Storage

Blob Storage — Object storage for unstructured data.

Azure Files — Managed file shares using SMB/NFS.

Disk Storage — Persistent disks for VMs.

Storage tiers — Hot, Cool, and Archive based on access pattern.

Redundancy — LRS, ZRS, GRS options for resilience.

3. Networking

Virtual Network — Private network foundation.

Subnet — Segmentation inside a VNet.

VPN Gateway — Encrypted connection over the internet.

ExpressRoute — Private enterprise-grade connectivity.

Azure DNS — Domain name resolution services.

4. Databases

Azure SQL Database — Managed relational database.

Azure Database for PostgreSQL — Managed PostgreSQL service.

Azure Cosmos DB — Globally distributed NoSQL database.

Azure SQL Managed Instance — PaaS option closer to full SQL Server compatibility.

5. Identity and security

Microsoft Entra ID — Identity, SSO, groups, app access.

RBAC — Authorize actions on Azure resources.

Conditional Access — Adaptive access rules.

Defender for Cloud — Posture management and threat protection guidance.

MFA — Extra verification step.

6. Management and observability

Azure Portal — Browser-based management interface.

Cloud Shell — CLI/PowerShell in browser.

ARM — Deployment and management control plane.

Azure Policy — Governance guardrails.

Azure Monitor — Metrics, logs, alerts, insights.