**Meet Windows Azure**

**Fact Sheet**

**June 2012**

Today, Microsoft Corp. announced a preview of new services and updates to Windows Azure that make it a more flexible, open and powerful platform. Key highlights include new Windows Azure Virtual Machine capabilities, including Windows Server and Linux support; virtual networking between Windows Azure and your on-premises infrastructure; Windows Azure Web Sites for website and Web application development; improved developer productivity with added support for Python and a new Eclipse plugin for Java; improved application services; and a new Windows Azure Management Portal for easier application management and monitoring. New services available in preview today include these:

**Windows Azure Virtual Machines**

* To provide maximum flexibility for customers, Microsoft is expanding Windows Azure to include infrastructure-as-a-service capabilities.
* Windows Azure now provides persistent Virtual Machines, enabling customers to run their existing Windows and Linux-based applications in the cloud.
* Windows Azure Virtual Machines allow customers to build, manage and scale applications using today’s existing application models, while still enabling them to take full advantage of the economics, scalability and functionality of the cloud. Compatible operating systems and images available in the online gallery at the time of Preview include these:
* **Windows Server**
	+ - Windows Server 2008 R2
		- Windows Server 2008 R2 with SQL Server 2012 Eval
		- Windows Server 2012 RC
	+ **Linux**
		- OpenSUSE 12.1
		- CentOS-6.2
		- Ubuntu 12.04
		- SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 SP2

**Windows Azure Virtual Network**

Windows Azure Virtual Network allows customers to provision and manage virtual private networks in Windows Azure as well as help securely link their Windows Azure instances with on-premises IT infrastructure. With Virtual Network, IT administrators can extend on-premises networks into the cloud with control over network topology, including configuration of IP addresses, routing tables and security policies.

**Windows Azure Web Sites**

* Windows Azure Web Sites enable developers to easily build and deploy websites with support for multiple frameworks and popular open source applications, including ASP.NET, PHP and Node.js. With just a few clicks, developers can take advantage of Windows Azure’s global scale without having to worry about operations, servers or infrastructure.
* It is easy to deploy existing sites, if they run on Internet Information Services (IIS) 7, or to build new sites, with a free offer of 10 websites upon signup, with the ability to scale up as needed with reserved instances.
* Windows Azure Web Sites includes support for the following:
	+ Multiple frameworks including ASP.NET, PHP and Node.js
	+ Popular open source software apps including WordPress, Joomla!, Drupal, Umbraco and DotNetNuke
	+ Windows Azure SQL Database and MySQL databases
	+ Multiple types of developer tools and protocols including Visual Studio, Git, FTP, Visual Studio Team Foundation Services and Microsoft WebMatrix

**Windows Azure Management Portal**

* The preview of the new Windows Azure Management Portal provides an integrated management experience across Windows Azure workloads in a single, modern user experience and is accessible from various platforms and devices.
* The Windows Azure Preview Portalincludes new, rich scenario-based user interfaces, real-time monitoring charts, and diagnostics data to manage the health of your application, enabling the easy deployment, configuration, monitoring and troubleshooting of your applications.
* The Windows Azure Preview Portal supports the following services:
	+ Cloud Services
	+ Virtual Machines (Preview)
	+ Web Sites (Preview)
	+ Virtual Network (Preview)
	+ SQL Database (formerly known as SQL Azure)
	+ Storage

Microsoft also made a number of updates to existing Windows Azure services today, including these:

**Support for Python and Java**

Microsoft is making it easier for developers to create and deploy applications on Windows Azure in the languages and on the platforms of their choice by now providing libraries for Java and Python in addition to our existing support of .NET, PHP and Node.js. Updated language libraries are available under open source licenses on <http://GitHub.com>. The full software development kit (SDK) with language libraries can be installed as usual from <http://www.windowsazure.com/en-us/develop/overview>, allowing developers to download all tools and emulators needed in a single click.

**Interoperability Updates**

Microsoft also announced the availability of the Eclipse plugin for Java, MongoDB integration, Memcached using non-.NET languages, and code configuration for hosting Solr/Lucene. Developers can find out more in the new Windows Azure Developer Center, which includes additional information, tutorials, samples and application templates to quickly get started and create differentiated cloud scenarios.

**Improved Developer Productivity and Experience**

* Windows Azure significantly improves developer operations by adding built-in support for continuous deployment with Windows Azure Web Sites. Set up publishing from Visual Studio Team Foundation Server or Git to allow your development teams to build, test and deploy websites in Windows Azure.
* The updated Windows Azure SDK also now includes new command-line tools that work on Mac or Linux operating systems, so you can develop and deploy from your machine of choice.

**Windows Azure SQL Reporting**

Windows Azure SQL Reporting, a secure, flexible and cost-effective cloud-based service, is now generally available. This service provides reporting capabilities that enable the consumption of operational reports inside and outside the organization without requiring incremental investments in hardware, software or system management.

**Updated Application Services**

Windows Azure now includes a number of new and updated application services:

* Available in preview, Windows Azure Media Services, which helps content companies and solution providers reduce complexity, lower costs and increase reach by building comprehensive media workflow applications for the cloud. Media Services provides all the core components needed to build comprehensive media workflow solutions in the cloud, and customers can mix and match from a range of native media services and built-in third-party components.
* Windows Azure Caching is now available in two deployment options: a managed, multitenant cache service or the new caching preview that installs locally on web or worker roles, leveraging “on-node” memory. The new preview adds additional high availability to ensure that your cached data is resilient, and allows for easy scale-out app scenarios. It is also protocol-compliant with Memcached and can be accessed using the .NET, Java, PHP or Node.js SDKs.
* Windows Azure storage now provides two levels of redundancy, based on customer preference. The existing geo-redundant storage (and default option) backs up customers’ storage accounts in two subregions within the same region, giving them the highest level of durability. For customers that do not require this level of durability, Windows Azure now also offers locally redundant storage, which provides backup in a single subregion at a reduced rate.

More information about the recent updates to Windows Azure is available at [http://www.meetwindowsazure.com](http://www.meetwindowsazure.com/) or [http://www.windowsazure.com](http://www.windowsazure.com/).

**For more information, press only:**

Rapid Response Team, Waggener Edstrom Worldwide, (503) 443-7070, rrt@waggeneredstrom.com