Backup your ubuntu server image to Azure (on Windows host)

Login to Azure portal

Head to Storage Accounts > Create

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Resource group: select existing/create new

Storage account name: up to you

Region: select closest

Performance: standard

Redundancy: LRS

Then click on Review + Create

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If you want can change the store settings to retain your image longer but if not can click on create

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Let it load for about 1-3 minutes

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Click on go to resource once the pop up notification is out

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Go to Data storage on the left panel and select Containers > then create new container

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Name it then ensure it is set to private then create

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Go to Security + networking on the left panel and select Access Keys

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Copy the key for key 1 and storage account name

A screenshot of a login box

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Download and install Azure cli

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Run the msi installer and go with default options. Once completed, to verify if finished you can use cmd to run az --version

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Now install Azcopy, which for windows may need use an older version

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Head to sysdm.cpl > Advanced > Environment Variables

Select Path > Edit > New > browse to your Azcopy executable

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Shutdown your VM first

Then under file > tools > virtual media manager

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Right click your VM and select properties

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You should see where the vdi is now stored below



Zip your vdi image so as to compress it

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There are 2 options to now do it:

1. Using azcopy
2. Using azure cli

Let’s explore 1 by 1

Using azcopy (v8):

Navigate to the container you want to store the image in and proceed to settings > Shared access tokens > tick the read and write

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You can set an expiry time so that this key will not be unknowingly reused in future. You can also set allowed ip address to your public ip as well

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Ensure HTTPS only is checked then click on generate. Azcopy use https by default.

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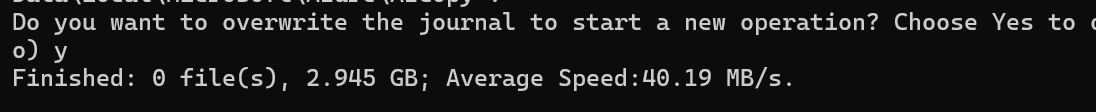
Description automatically generated

Copy the SAS URL generated and run

AzCopy /Source:"C:\Path\To\VM " /Dest:"<SAS URL>" /Pattern:”ubuserver.zip”

Replace SAS URL with the URL copied and the path\to\xxx with the actual path to your VM zipped file(do not include the zip file inside) then the /Pattern: “ubuserver.zip” replace it with your VM zipped image name

If you ran the wrong command the transfer was unsuccessful you can run the correct command and then when this prompt appears select Y and then it should start transferring to your blob container



Once done:

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Now you should see it in your container

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As you can see it’s in Hot tier, so to save cost and if you do not need it usually, can change to Cool or Archive.

You can click on the 3 dots on the right side to change the access tier

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Using Azure CLI

From cmd type in az login then select the account you want to use when signing in and they will prompt for authenticator code.

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However should you prefer to use browser based method, can run the following commands

az account clear

az config set core.enable\_broker\_on\_windows=false

az login

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Login to the browser with the account that have your blob container

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Once authenticated, just type enter if you see the \* is already pointed to the subscription with your blob container



Run the following command

az storage blob upload --account-name <StorageAccountName> --container-name <vm-backups> --name <ubuntu-server.zip> --file <"C:\Path\To\ubuntu-server.zip"> --account-key <StorageAccountKey>

Replace **<StorageAccountName>** with your storage account name

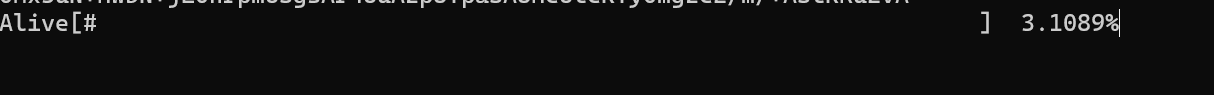
Replace **<vm-backups>** with your actual container name to store the image

Replace **<ubuntu-server.zip>** with the name of your zip file

Replace **<"C:\Path\To\ubuntu-server.zip">** with the path to your image zipped file including the file name and extension inside

Replace **<StorageAccountKey>** with Key 1 of your storage account

Once it start running it will show this



Once completed:



Then you can head to Azure portal to check in your blob container

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Can also run this command at cmd to show blob uploads in your storage account

az storage blob list --account-name <StorageAccountName> --container-name vm-backups --output table --account-key <StorageAccountKey>

To copy back the image and restore to your virtual box:

Remember to enable “List” permission also in case you need to download multiple files and then generate the new SAS URL.

AzCopy /Source:”SAS URL generated” /Dest:”path in local drive you want restore to” /Pattern:”type in the file name you want to download including the file extension”

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Now I can see the zip file downloaded from blob storage (for me I load it to my C:\Drivers folder). You can unzip and load back the image to your virtualbox VM

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