

Get started with business continuity for Microsoft Azure

Analyzing the need for hybrid cloud automation

A report outlining the state of cloud in today's business world¹ found:

- 80% of organizations have a hybrid cloud strategy.
- 77% of organizations identify managing multiple clouds as a challenge.
- Only 25% of organizations currently use a multicloud management tool.

Solve hybrid cloud management complexity with automation

Using an automation platform designed for hybrid cloud management—such as Red Hat® Ansible® Automation Platform—allows your organization to orchestrate, operationalize, and govern its IT environments under a single set of processes, policies, and tools and helps improve your consistency, scalability, and speed and reduce human error.

This is abundantly less complex with Ansible Automation Platform, which is now available to purchase from the [Microsoft Azure Marketplace](#) and ready to deploy directly within your Azure infrastructure.

Before moving into entry-level use cases, it is important that you first learn the basics of Ansible Automation Platform and how to operate important functions of the platform—such as the automation controller—through [Red Hat's self-paced labs](#).

Bolster business continuity with Ansible Automation Platform

Business continuity is one of the vital pillars of managing a hybrid cloud, and understanding how to use automation can help ensure that your operations stay running at all times and your resources are always available when needed.

With Ansible Automation Platform serving as a centralized and customizable management dashboard, your organization can perform a number of simple-to-use, read-only automation use cases to bolster your business continuity efforts—all without the risk of production changes.

These use cases will help ensure the availability, performance, and stability of your IT environment, and the resources and assets within it, even during a major disruption.

Where to start with business continuity use cases

Red Hat recommends all new Ansible Automation Platform users adhere to a “crawl, walk, run” strategy. You should start with simpler, less risky automation use cases that are capable of delivering immediate value, before later moving into more complex use cases that provide longer-term value once you have built your automation skills.

Many read-only business continuity use cases exist that are suitable for an organization looking to get started on its automation journey, including:

- ▶ **Schedule automated backups.** Set up simple, automated backups on a schedule to ensure the stability of your IT environment and the assets within it. This can also be done in a more granular fashion—for example, having daily snapshots taken of virtual machines active within your hybrid cloud environment. Learn how to automate backups with Ansible Automation Platform for [Microsoft Azure](#).

- ▶ **Sync resources across clouds.** Ensure the availability of your resources across all regions and IT environments at all times—including public cloud, private cloud, and on prem—by setting up automated syncs of your resources. This helps mitigate the impact of a cloud outage or other disruptions to a cloud provider. Learn more about [how to approach infrastructure with a configuration management and GitOps mindset](#).
- ▶ **Automate disaster recovery.** Integrate Ansible Automation Platform with the disaster recovery services and tools provided by Azure to automatically trigger disaster recovery protocol when the time comes. This helps ensure the availability of your resources in case of an emergency. Read more about disaster recovery services and tools from [Microsoft Azure](#).
- ▶ **Automate disruption management.** Use Ansible Automation Platform to predict when disruptions or failures could occur and then trigger automatic disruption management protocols to those areas to ensure the issue is properly handled and not further exacerbated. Do this by automatically shifting traffic from a resource that is identified as close to failing—such as infrastructure that is degrading, an application that is breaking, or another resource with a security vulnerability being taken advantage of—to a healthier resource and then opening an automated ServiceNow ticket to start remediation steps. You can also redeploy virtual machine instances and backup snapshots to different regions to handle disruptions using Ansible Playbooks, as long as you ensure the “source_image” is set to an existing snapshot. Learn more about redeploying virtual machine instances and backup snapshots on [Microsoft Azure](#).
- ▶ **Tap into an automation mesh.** Unlike many other automation tools, Ansible Automation Platform uses an automation mesh, which allows you to deploy automation across multiple datacenters, clouds, and regions from a centralized dashboard. Automation is becoming increasingly critical for organizations, and automation mesh facilitates many business continuity processes—such as backups and resource syncs across cloud and regions—and allows automation infrastructure to be built in a redundant manner, so that it never goes down fully. Read more about [automation mesh on Ansible Automation Platform](#).

These use cases are a good place for your organization to start its automation journey, but you can discover many more entry-level use cases in these [interactive labs](#).

Learn where to start with business continuity on Ansible Automation Platform

Try [Red Hat’s self-paced lab](#) at no cost to learn more.



About Red Hat

Red Hat helps customers standardize across environments, develop cloud-native applications, and integrate, automate, secure, and manage complex environments with [award-winning](#) support, training, and consulting services.

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