

# Azure: Getting Started With SoftNAS Cloud®

## Creating a Highly Available SoftNAS Cloud® POC on Microsoft Azure

As a first-time user, the primary goals are simply to see the product in action, to determine its capabilities, and then to determine the requirements. This document will focus on providing you a functional pair of instances, sharing a CIFS volume, and configured for high availability. This basic setup will allow you to test the key features of SoftNAS, while providing a baseline for your production requirements.

**Note:** The guidance in the following document applies equally to all editions of SoftNAS Cloud® (Enterprise and Essentials), however, bear in mind the limitations of Essentials, notably that Essentials is object storage only, and currently does not provide high availability. However, the process of creating your instance, configuring disks, pools and volumes are the same.

## Planning Your Instance

There are numerous considerations when creating any storage solution, and SoftNAS Cloud® is no exception. Dependent on the use case, the expected performance levels, the platform you select, and much more, one configuration of SoftNAS Cloud® will look much different from the rest. For the purposes of a basic proof of concept (POC), many of these elements might seem irrelevant, but they are not. For a POC to be of value, it must provide insight into not only the product but also what you intend to use it for. If your POC is not designed to provide you a baseline of the functionality you expect in a production environment, then it may be a wasted exercise.

To ensure your instance meets your needs, the following considerations are key:

- **Size** – What performance characteristics do you require? A great deal of RAM to handle large-scale data storage? Processing power (vCPU) to handle encryption or compression?
- **Storage** – What performance characteristics do you require from your storage? Is it an infrequently accessed archive? Is it a database serving a demanding application?
- **Network/Throughput** – do you require a great deal of throughput? Does your use case require constant and immediate access to the data in question?
- **Security** – Should data be encrypted? Do you wish to restrict access to a specific IP or IP range? What traffic do you wish to allow?
- **Type of High Availability** – Will you be leveraging SoftNAS' standard SNAP HA functionality, or is this an object storage configuration for which **Dual Controller HA** is the best option? See [AWS Getting Started: Choosing your HA Solution](#) for more information.

In order to assist you during the creation of the POC, we will be linking to information on the key considerations listed above as they arise in the creation process.

- [Azure Getting Started - Creating your Accounts in Microsoft Azure](#)
- [Azure Getting Started - Launching Your Virtual Machines](#)

- [Azure Getting Started - Configuring SoftNAS Cloud®](#)
- [Azure Getting Started - Configuring High Availability](#)
- [Azure Getting Started - Project Planning](#)