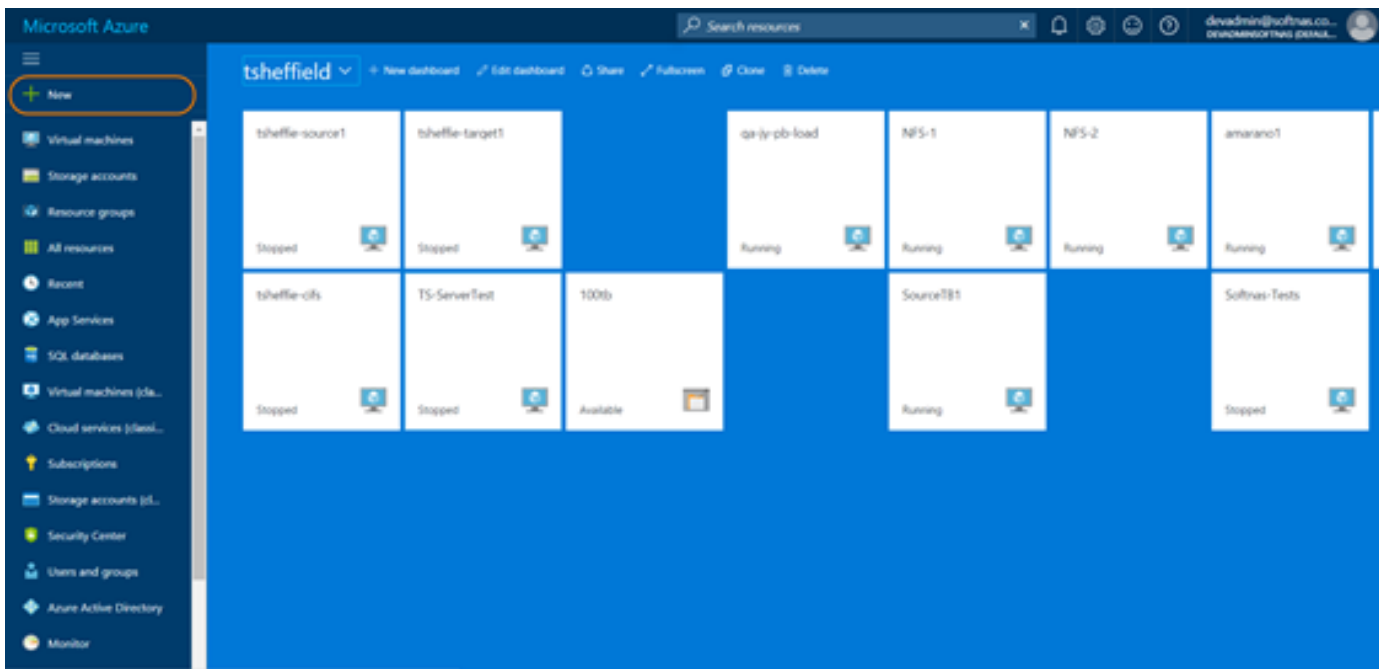


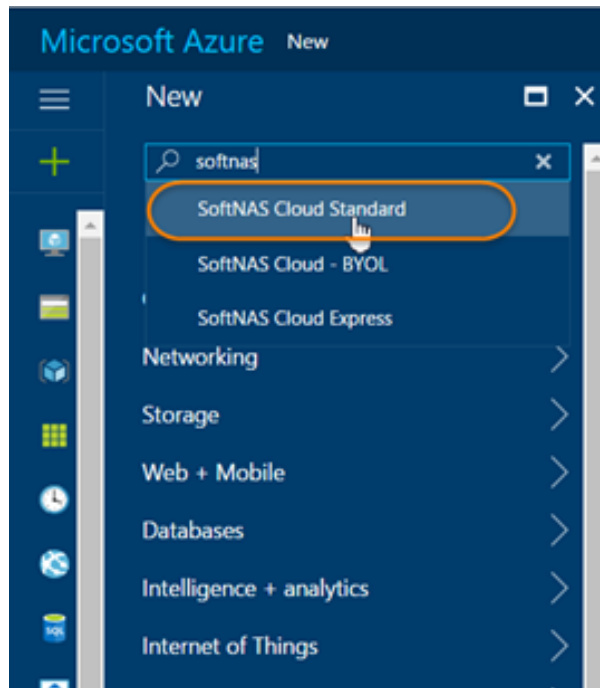
# Azure Getting Started - Launching Your Virtual Machines

## Launching your 1st Instance from the Azure Portal

Once logged into the azure portal, you will see the dashboard. This dashboard is configurable, so it may appear with different tiles, particularly if other users have access to the same account. To create a new SoftNAS instance, simply click **New** from the left-hand menu.



Type SoftNAS into the search bar, and filter for the desired version.



Select the desired Virtual Machine Image.

- **SoftNAS Cloud Essentials** - Low-cost and high performance cloud storage repositories for cloud backup, disaster recovery and archive for secondary data.
- **SoftNAS Cloud Enterprise** - Full-featured, enterprise cloud NAS filer for primary data using either block, object or both types of storage.
- **SoftNAS Cloud Platinum** - Integrated, global cloud data platform with high speed data transfer, Lift & Shift, and storage auto-tiering of aged data.
- **SoftNAS Cloud BYOL** - purchase a license from SoftNAS Sales, unlimited licenses available for large-scale solutions.

The screenshot shows the Azure Marketplace interface. On the left, a search for 'SoftNAS Cloud Standard' yields several results. The 'SoftNAS Cloud - BYOL' option is highlighted. On the right, the product page for 'SoftNAS Cloud - BYOL' is displayed, featuring a 'Create' button circled in red.

NAME	PUBLISHER	CATEGORY
SoftNAS Cloud Standard	SoftNAS	Compute
SoftNAS Cloud Express	SoftNAS	Compute
<b>SoftNAS Cloud - BYOL</b>	SoftNAS	Compute
SoftNAS Cloud Standard (Staged)	SoftNAS	Compute
SoftNAS Cloud Express (Staged)	SoftNAS	Compute
SoftNAS Cloud - BYOL (Staged)	SoftNAS	Compute

**SoftNAS Cloud - BYOL**

Microsoft Azure cloud without re-architecting applications or a physical storage appliance.

**Free Test Drive**

In less than 10 minutes, you can use SoftNAS Cloud for Microsoft Azure without set-up or configuration. Try it yourself and see the easiest cloud file storage on Azure. No credit card or Azure subscription required.

[Launch Free Test Drive](#)

**Free 30-Day Trial**

Go deeper and use all the enterprise-class NAS features of SoftNAS Cloud on Azure in your own pilot environment. No credit card required.

[Start Free Trial Now](#)

**Capacity**

- SoftNAS Cloud Express: Up to 1 terabyte of on-demand storage
- SoftNAS Cloud Standard: Up to 20 terabytes of on-demand storage
- SoftNAS Cloud can scale to Azure Blob Storage from gigabytes to petabytes. For capacity over 20 terabytes, contact SoftNAS sales: [softnas.com/contact](https://softnas.com/contact)

SoftNAS recommends DS1\_v2 or higher for production deployments.

**IMPORTANT:** Prices shown below DO NOT include the SoftNAS Cloud BYOL price. BYOL volume discounts are available. Contact SoftNAS directly for pricing: <https://softnas.com/contact>

Select a deployment model

Resource Manager

**Create**

Want to deploy programmatically? [Get started](#)

Click **Create**.

Upon clicking **Create**, you will be taken to the **Basics** section of the **Create Virtual Machine (VM) Blade**.

The screenshot shows the 'Create virtual machine' wizard in Azure. The 'Basics' step is selected, and the following fields are visible:

- Name:** KaliTest1
- VM disk type:** SSD
- User name:** softnas
- Authentication type:** SSH public key / Password
- Password:** [Redacted]
- Confirm password:** [Redacted]
- Subscription:** Pay-As-You-Go(Converted to EA) (7c17e2)
- Resource group:** Use existing (selected), KaliTest123
- Location:** Canada Central

An 'OK' button is located at the bottom of the form.

1. Provide a name for the virtual machine you are creating.
2. Select the type of storage you wish to provide.
3. The username must be 'softnas'. This account must be provisioned for login to the instance.
4. For a production instance, it is recommended to leverage an SSH public key. However, for this POC, password is the simplest option. Provide a password with at least 12 characters, including at least two of the following: capital letters, special characters and numbers.
5. If you have more than one subscription, select the desired option.
6. As we created a storage account earlier, and in the process created a Resource Group, select **Use Existing**, and type the name of that resource group here.
7. Select the location of the Resource Group (and by extension the SoftNAS Cloud® instance).

Click **OK** when the selections have been made.

## Select Instance Size

Next, choose an instance size. The recommended options are a great starting point, but you can select **View All** to see the full range of options. Bear in mind that SoftNAS recommends a minimum of DS4v2. For more information on Instance sizes, see **Instance Size** in the Project Planning section.

Click the **Size** desired, then click **Select** at the bottom.

The screenshot shows the 'Choose a size' page in the Microsoft Azure portal. The page is titled 'Choose a size' and displays three recommended instance sizes. The 'Select' button at the bottom is highlighted with a red circle.

DS4_V2 Standard	DS5_V2 Standard	DS15_V2 Standard
8 Cores	16 Cores	20 Cores
28 GB	56 GB	140 GB
16 Data disks	32 Data disks	40 Data disks
21400 Max IOPS	11200 Max IOPS	42100 Max IOPS
56 GB Local SSD	112 GB Local SSD	280 GB Local SSD
Load balancing	Load balancing	Load balancing
Premium disk support	Premium disk support	Premium disk support
435.24 USD/MONTH (ESTIMATE)	870.48 USD/MONTH (ESTIMATE)	1,378.63 USD/MONTH (ESTIMATE)

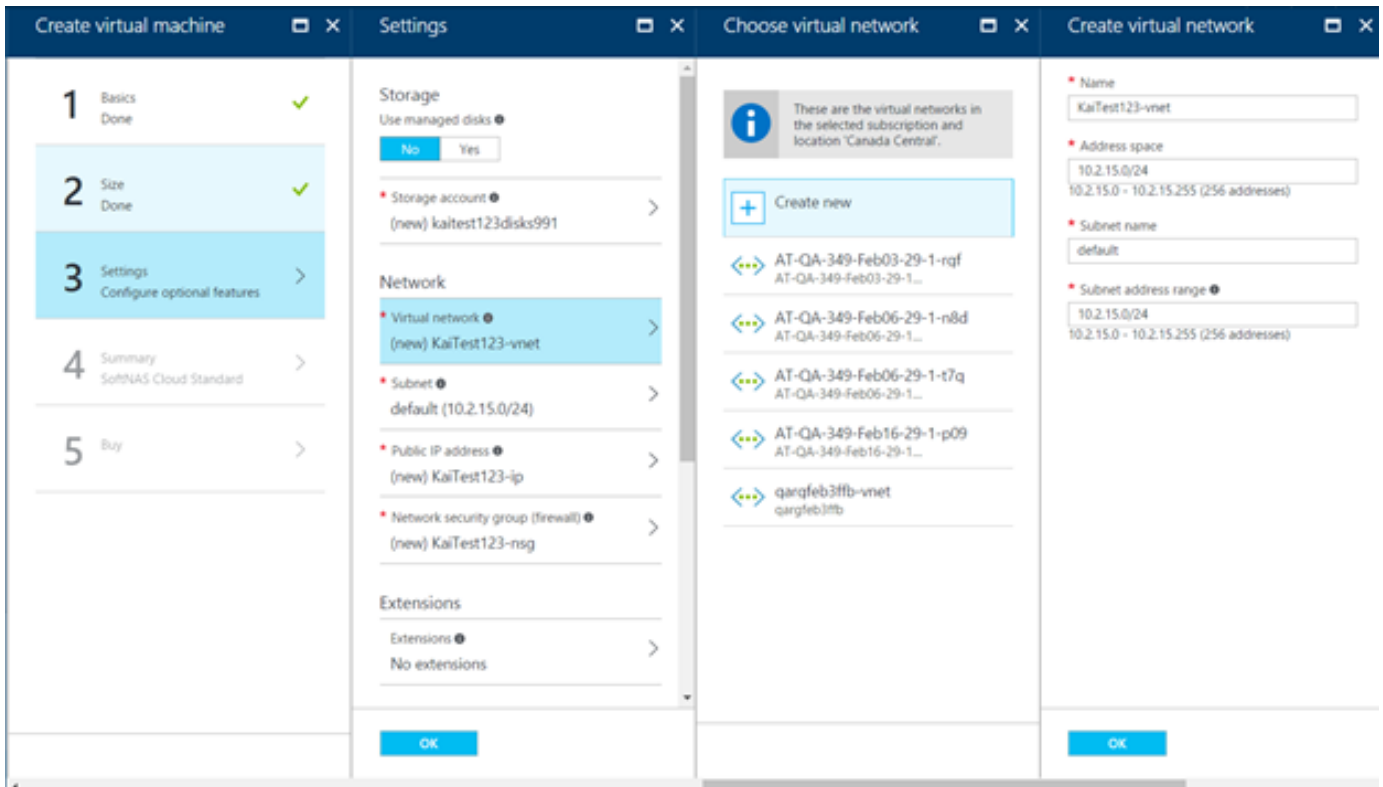
## Configuring Settings

Having selected the size, we can now move on to **Settings**.

From the **Create VM Machine**, click on **Settings**.

You can now apply optional settings, including Disk Type, Storage Account, Network, and more. Here you can associate the SoftNAS Cloud® VM to an existing virtual network or create a new virtual network specifically for the SoftNAS Cloud® VM.

Under Settings, click on **Virtual Network**. The network settings are displayed.

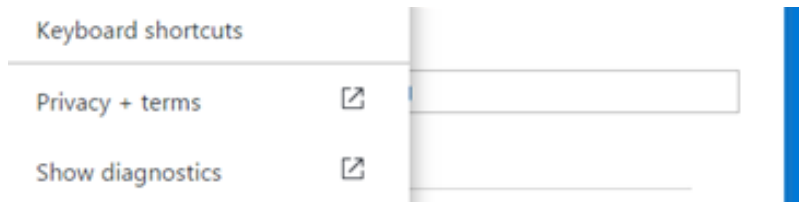


As you can see, a new virtual network is automatically set up by the Create VM wizard. However, you can associate your instance to an existing network, or modify the settings as you see fit.

**Note:** If creating a new network, simply provide a name for the virtual network. It is feasible to use the default CIDR block and to use the default Microsoft Azure DNS server.

In addition to naming your Virtual Network and assigning a CIDR block, you can also modify or create a subnet, a public IP Address, a security group, etc. The menus are very similar in layout, and highly intuitive to use. Configure your instance as required, using Azure Help Menu if you have any problems or questions.





Most of the default settings are typically fine, particularly for a POC deployment. We strongly recommend that you set the assigned IP address as a static IP, or the IP address of your instance may change whenever it is shut down/restarted. SoftNAS also recommends modifying your security group to restrict access, but this can wait until after your two virtual machines are configured. To configure your security group, see **Configuring a Security Group**.

You will however, want to create and configure an **Availability Set**, as this cannot be done later.

## Creating an Availability Set

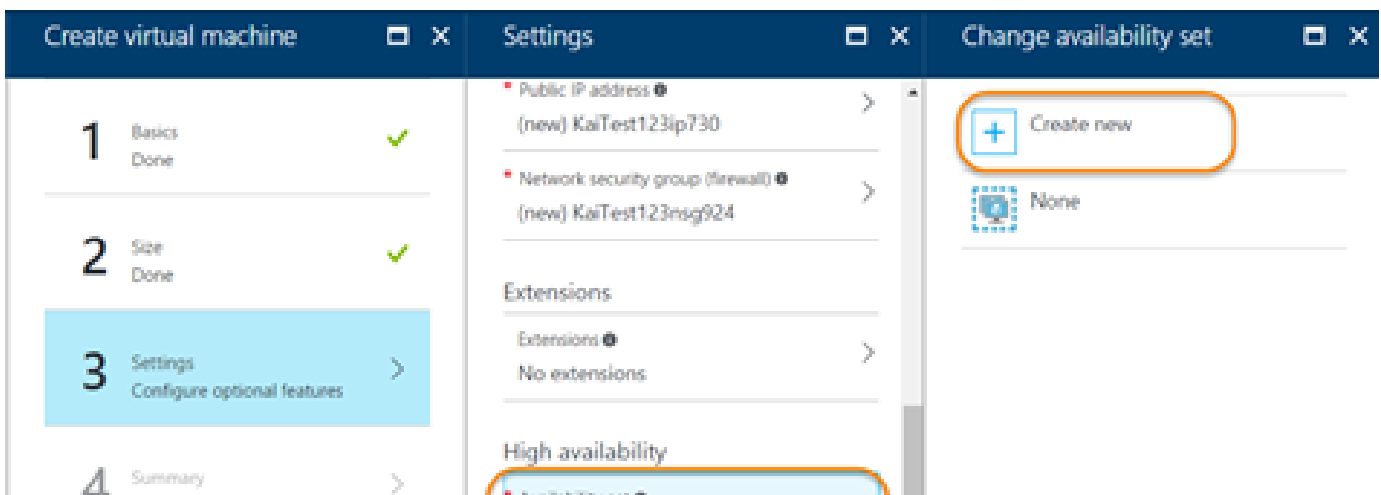
An Availability Set is designed to logically separate workloads for redundancy, eliminating single points of failure. Availability Sets make use of two key concepts - Fault Domains, and Update Domains.

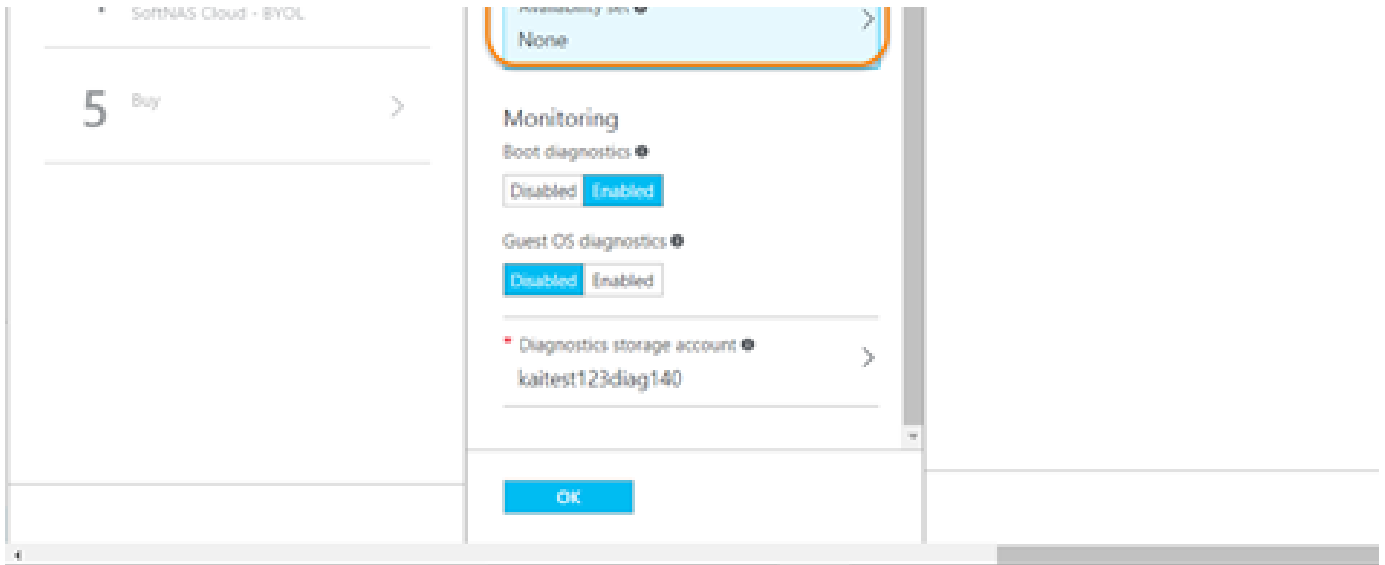
**Fault Domains** – Eliminates single points of failure, by preventing your virtual machines from being placed on a single 'rack'.

**Update Domains** – determines how many of your workloads can be down for maintenance (ie; updates) at any given time. A priority order can be set, and the number of update domains determines how many machines will be shut-down at once. (i.e., 2 update domains, half the VMs, 3 update domains, a third of the machines.)

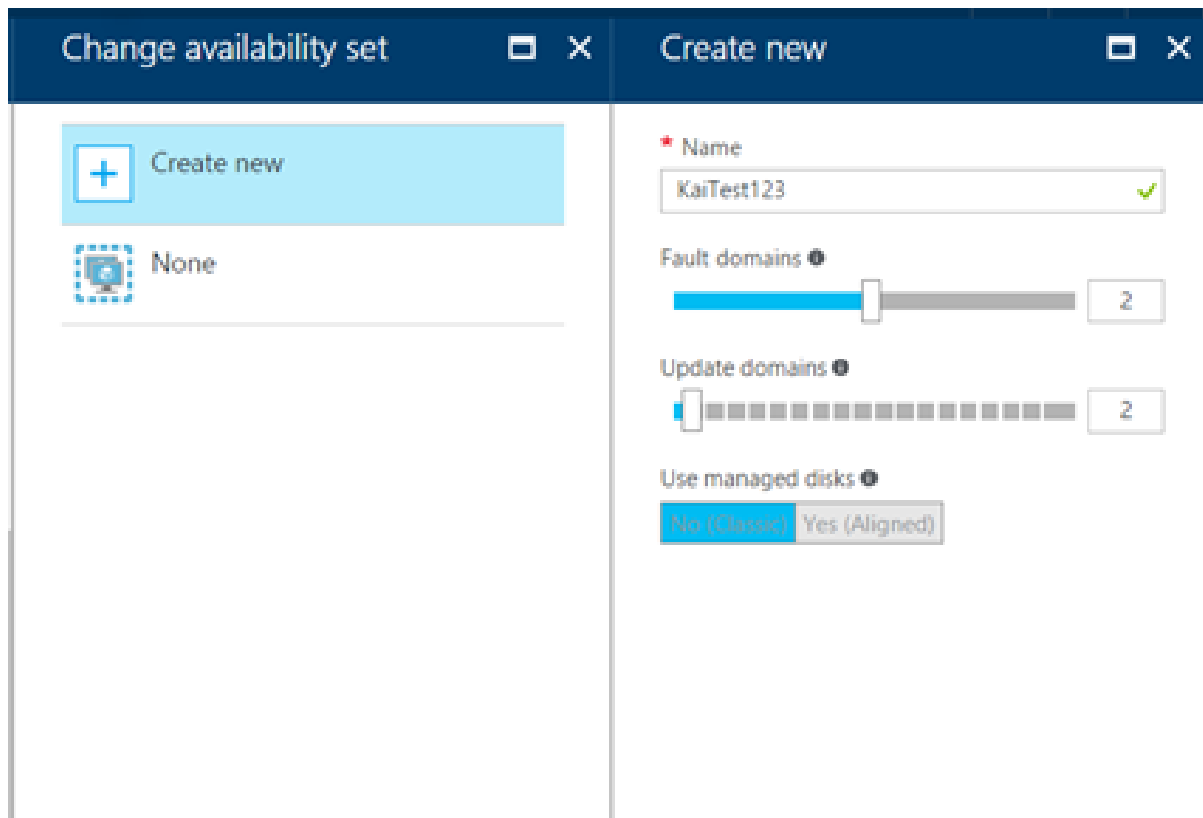
The availability set of a VM cannot be changed after configuration.

To begin the process, scroll to the bottom of the Settings blade during instance creation, and select **Availability Sets**. As this is the first instance, we will be creating the Availability Set this time around. Click **Create New**.





Provide a name for the **Availability Set**, and determine how many fault domains and update domains to provide. In this case, as we are creating an HA pair (2 machines), anything above 2 fault and update domains is excessive.



Click **OK** at the bottom, and the Availability Set is created.

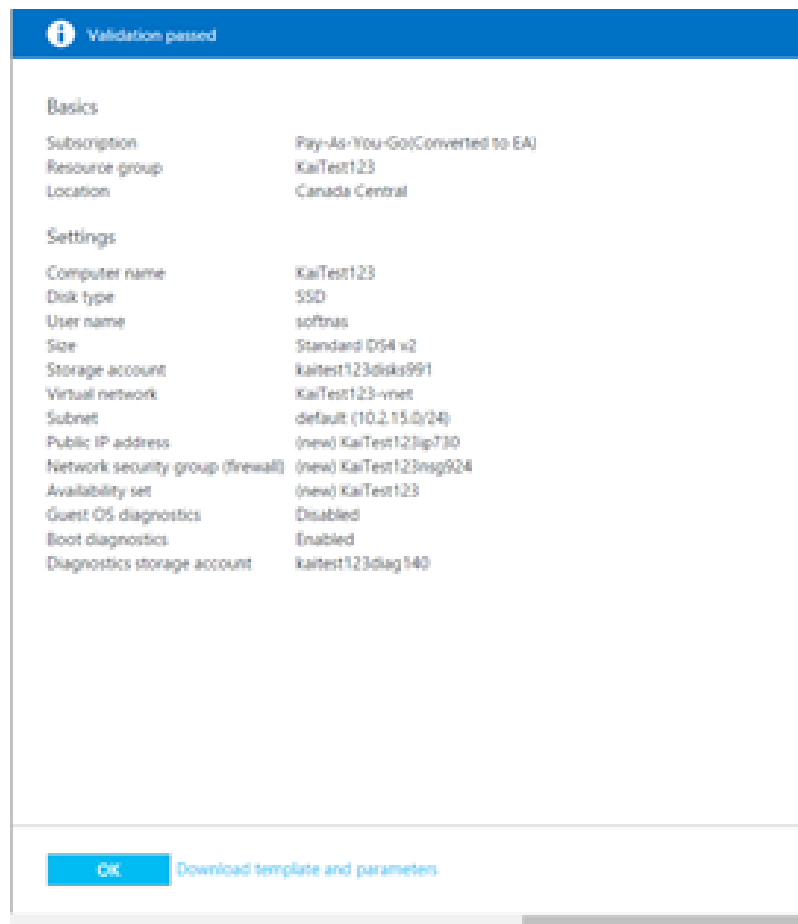


**Note:** An Availability Set must be configured for your HA pairing to be covered by SoftNAS' **No Downtime Guarantee**.

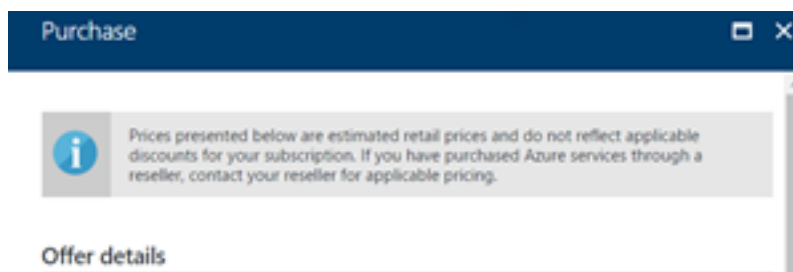
## Validate and Purchase

After performing optional configuration, validate and purchase the VM.

1. Click **OK** to accept any settings changes, and click **OK** again to validate the settings in Summary.



2. On the next screen, review the purchase details and then click **Purchase**.



SoftNAS Cloud by SoftNAS <a href="#">Terms of use</a>   <a href="#">privacy policy</a>	0.0000 USD/hr	⚠
Standard DS4 v2 by Microsoft <a href="#">Terms of use</a>   <a href="#">privacy policy</a>	0.6110 USD/hr <a href="#">Pricing for other VM sizes</a>	ℹ

⚠ **The highlighted Marketplace purchase(s) are not covered by your Azure credits, and will be billed separately.**  
You cannot use your Azure monetary commitment funds or subscription credits for these purchases. You will be billed separately for marketplace purchases.

ℹ **Azure resource**  
You may use your Azure monetary commitment funds or subscription credits for these purchases. Prices presented are retail prices and may not reflect discounts associated with your subscription.

**Terms of use**

By clicking "Purchase", I (a) agree to the legal terms and privacy statement(s) associated with each Marketplace offering above, (b) authorize Microsoft to charge or bill my current payment method for the fees associated with my use of the offering(s), including applicable taxes, with the same billing frequency as my Azure subscription, until I discontinue use of the offering(s), (c) agree that Microsoft may share my contact information and transaction details with the seller(s) of the offering(s), and (d) give Microsoft permission to share my contact information so that the provider of the offer can contact me regarding this product and related products. Microsoft does not provide rights for third-

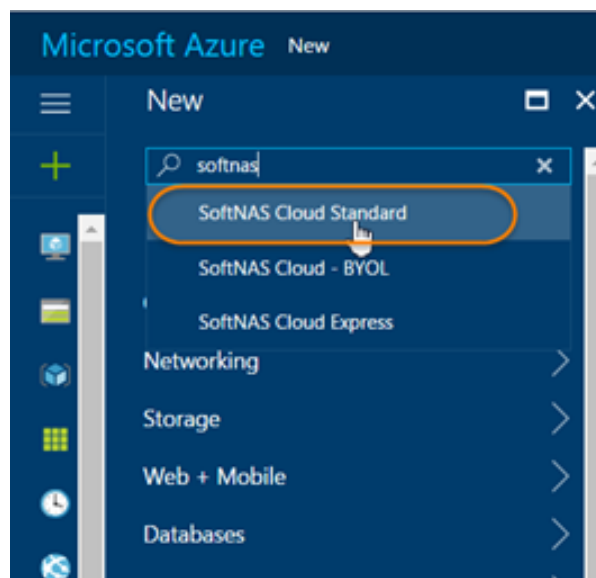
Purchase

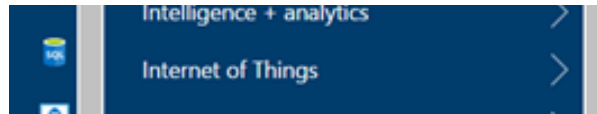
A new SoftNAS Cloud® instance will launch into Microsoft Azure.

## Creating the 2<sup>nd</sup> Instance for High Availability

Your second instance will mirror the first.

1. You will again log into the Azure portal, and click New (or the Plus symbol) from the left-hand menu, and type SoftNAS into the search bar.





2. Then, select the same Virtual Machine Image that you selected for the first instance. Click **Create** after making your selection.

- **SoftNAS Cloud Express** – up to 1 TB of on-demand storage.
- **SoftNAS Cloud Standard** – up to 20TB of on-demand storage.
- **SoftNAS Cloud BYOL** – purchase a license from SoftNAS Sales, unlimited licenses available for large-scale solutions.

3. You will again be taken to the **Basics** section of the **Create Virtual Machine (VM) Blade**.

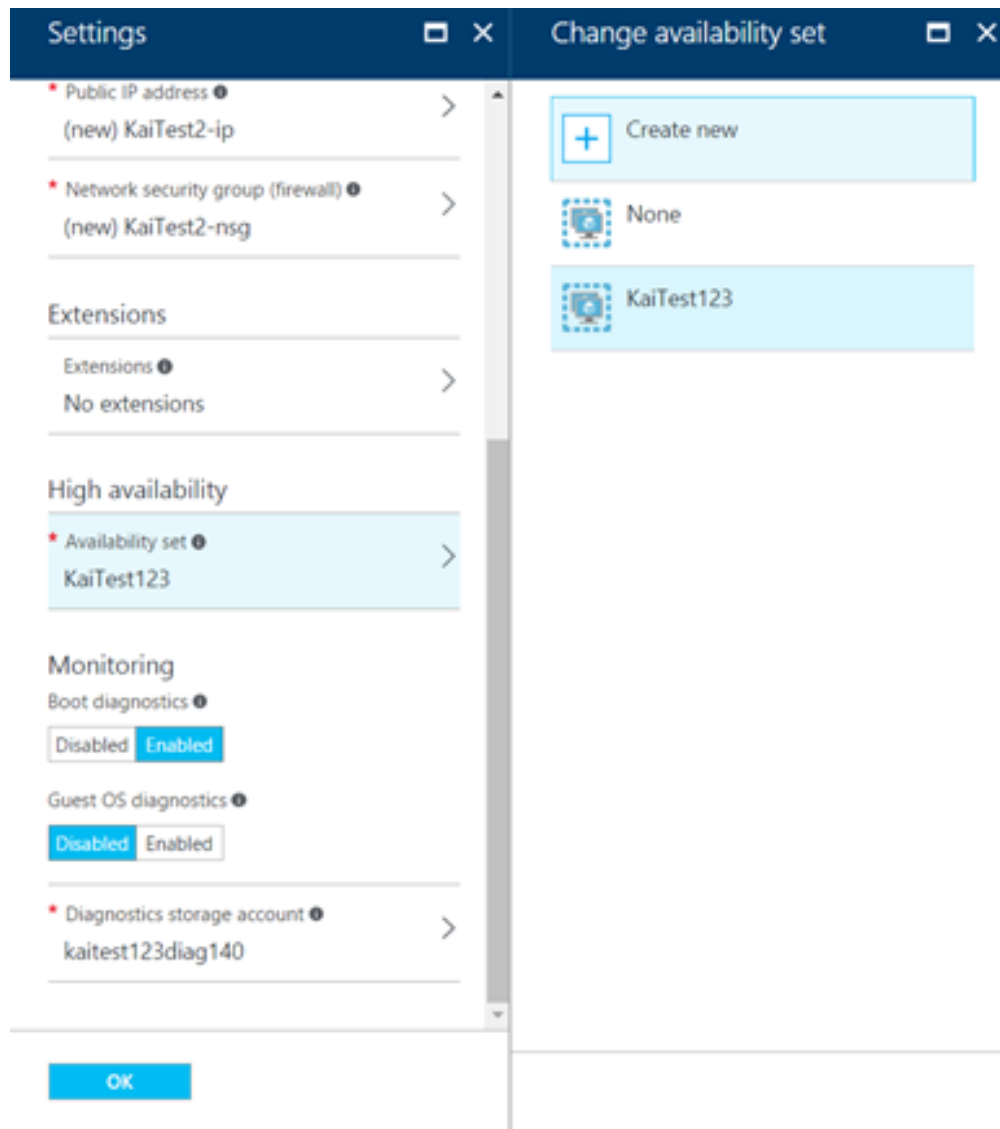
A screenshot of the 'Create virtual machine' blade in the 'Basics' section. The left sidebar shows a progress indicator with five steps: 1. Basics (selected), 2. Size, 3. Settings, 4. Summary, and 5. Buy. The main area contains the following fields: Name (KaiTest2), VM disk type (SSD), User name (softnas), Authentication type (SSH public key / Password), Password (masked), Confirm password (masked), Subscription (Pay-As-You-Go(Converted to EA) (7c37e21)), Resource group (Create new / Use existing), and Location (Canada Central). Each field has a blue lettered callout (a-g) and a green checkmark indicating it is valid. An 'OK' button is at the bottom.

1. Provide a unique name for the second instance.
2. Select the type of disk you wish to use – SSD or HDD.
3. Provide the User name as 'softnas' – again, this user **MUST** be provisioned.
4. Provide a password with at least 12 characters, including at least two of the following: capital letters, special characters and numbers.
5. Choose the same subscription used for the previous instance (if there is more than one).
6. Select **Use Existing** and select the same **Resource Group** as the first instance.

7. The location will auto-populate with the location of the **Resource Group**.

Click **OK** when selections are made.

4. Select your **Instance Size**. This should be the same selection made for your first instance. Bear in mind that SoftNAS recommends a minimum of DS4v2. For more information on Instance sizes, see **Instance Size** in the Project Planning section.
5. Next, choose your optional settings. By default, due to the selection of the same resource group, many of the network settings will use the same defaults as your first instance. If you made any changes to these network settings, they must be changed here as well. Otherwise, the defaults should be fine.
6. Select the Availability Set used for the first instance. Remember, without an Availability Set, SoftNAS' **No Downtime Guarantee** cannot be applied. To select the Availability Set, simply scroll down in **Settings** to the **High Availability** section, and select the Availability Set created earlier. Click **OK**.



7. Next, review your selections, and click **OK**. Click **OK** again to confirm.

8. Finally, click **Purchase**. Your 2<sup>nd</sup> instance is created.