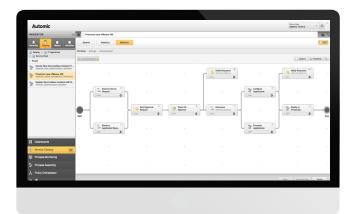# Microsoft Azure Action Pack
Continuous Delivery from Automic

Key Benefits

- Ease the efforts of developers, application engineers, and system administrators to create, deploy, and run applications by automatically utilizing Azure services as part of deployment workflows or pre-approved, self-help runbooks.

- Ship code and container as one coherent deployable package that can be automatically promoted from environment to environment.

- Standardize an Azure best practice for application deployments and avoid expensive cloud sprawl.

- Know what application is where - auto provision and deprovision containers.

Orchestrate all the moving parts – people, process and technology – involved in managing and deploying to Azure services

Business Challenge

Today and in the recent past companies recognized the benefits of centralized management and control for applications and data and moved to a model where data is stored on, and many apps are run from, servers on the local network. One of the challenges with this model is that companies are required to scale up their datacenter to handle volume usage that peaks infrequently or even only happens once a year – as is the case of Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Companies are essentially paying for what they don't use. The transformation in technology is cloud computing where applications and data are stored or hosted in the cloud, everything is residing on remote servers accessed via the Internet. This allows companies to pay for only what they need, when they need it and for their employees to have access to these systems from anywhere, any time during the day or night.

Cloud computing requires that a computing platform exist "out there" in the cloud, on which these remote apps can run. A number of cloud platforms are available from different vendors, including Amazon, Azure, Oracle, IBM, and Google, among others. Azure is Microsoft's cloud-based application platform for developing, managing, and hosting applications in the cloud (Microsoft world wide network of datacenters). Azure consists of several components: the cloud operating system itself; SQL Azure, which provides database services in the cloud; and .NET services.

The Automic Solution

The Azure Package from Automic Release Automation allows you to build visual workflows to fully automate all of your Azure services including managing Cloud Services, Virtual Machines, Storage Containers, Blob (Block) Storage, Deployments and Virtual Network Configurations – giving back a lot of valuable time to developers and/or administrators but also assuring that fewer errors occur.

How It Works

Automic Release Automation combines an integrated application packaging system, smart deployment models and out-of-the-box actions for common deployment tasks with robust workflow design and high volume execution capability. The Automic Azure Package allows users to build, provision, configure and manage Azure services as part of an automated application deployment process or as a pre-approved, self-help process. Optimized for enterprise environments, Automic Release Automation accelerates deployments to Azure, ensures the quality of deployments, and minimizes management overhead to help both development and operations enable business growth. Several key capabilities make Automic Release Automation the most advanced and complete solution on the market.

Package Manager

A unique Package Manager lets users manually or automatically create user application artifact packages that include Azure images as part of the build process, which are ready to deploy as a single unit. Packages are promoted across environments and tracked by the system, so users always know which versions have been deployed where.

Workflows

A workflow editor provides an integrated browser-based canvas with drag-and-drop actions and flow control features. The workflow editor provides workflow versioning and user access management, supporting hundreds of developers in parallel with application and component centric views.

Out-Of-the-Box Azure Actions

Workflows are assembled from a library of built-in actions, which replace manual deployments and scripts. The library consists of hundreds of actions for generic deployment tasks, with specific Azure actions that allow you to:

- Get Subscription Info Action

- Change Virtual Machine State

- Check Request Status Action

- Delete Azure Virtual Machine

- Create Storage Container Action

- Create Virtual Machine Deployment

- Delete Storage Container Action

- Create Cloud Service

- Put Blob Action

- Delete Blob

- Delete Cloud Service

- Set Virtual Network Configuration

- Create Deployment

- Delete Deployment

- Delete File

- Check the Azure Request Status

Deployment Models

Automic Release Automation has a unique deployment model that is integrated into the environment and provides simplicity and consistency for creating deployments. The model is based on polymorphic, inherited and extensible properties that are manageable at every level and stage, adhering to role-based access control. Workflows automatically adapt to current model properties, which make them completely generic and easy to reuse across environments. If Azure is not used in production, Automic's deployment model will intelligently deploy the application artifacts used in Azure to non-Azure, production grade hosting containers or servers. This, of course, assumes that the architecture of the application supports transport between on-prem and cloud based infrastructure.

Snapshot and Compare

A unique 'Snapshot' mechanism lets users compare configurations and file contents between Azure containers. This helps to reduce the Mean Time to Resolution (MTTR) in resolving configuration discrepancies or application behavior between different Azure environments such as between development and QA.

Why Choose Automic?

- Packaging system lets users manually or automatically create user application artifact packages as part of the build process

- Workflows are decoupled from any environment setting, credential or permission data, as well as the content that they execute

- Out-of-the-box actions for generic deployment tasks and application platforms including IIS, .NET, JBoss, Tomcat, WebSphere and WebLogic

- Plug-ins for leading database, middleware, web server, messaging, SaaS and PaaS platforms

- Tight integration with application lifecycle management tools

- 'Snapshot' mechanism lets users compare configurations and file contents between packaged items and existing files

- Automatic rollback lets you recover quickly and safely when things go wrong

For more information or product demonstration please visit www.automic.com

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