Exam Design

Audience Profile

THIS EXAM IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THOSE CANDIDATES WHO HAVE TAKEN EXAM 535: ARCHITECTING MICROSOFT AZURE SOLUTIONS. IF YOU HAVE NOT TAKEN EXAM 535, YOU WILL NOT EARN A CERTIFICATION BY TAKING THIS EXAM. THIS EXAM IS AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY AND IS SCHEDULED FOR RETIREMENT ON JUNE 30, 2019.

The transition exam is intended for people who have already demonstrated skills in the content domain by passing the existing exam(s) that the new role-based certification exams will be replacing. They cover the delta between the current certification and what we expect people who earn the new certification to be able to do. We don’t want to retest people on the same content where they have already demonstrated competence by passing the existing exam.

Transition exams cover net new content, content that wasn’t covered in enough depth, and content on aspects of the technology that have likely changed since someone took the exam. As a result, the
transition exam is not shorter than a typical exam but more focused on the key tasks and skills that were not assessed in the existing exam or certification that is being replaced.

Candidates for this exam are Azure Solution Architects who advise stakeholders and translates business requirements into secure, scalable, and reliable solutions.

Candidates should have advanced experience and knowledge across various aspects of IT operations, including networking, virtualization, identity, security, business continuity, disaster recovery, data management, budgeting, and governance. This role requires managing how decisions in each area affects an overall solution.

Candidates must be proficient in Azure administration, Azure development, and DevOps, and have expert-level skills in at least one of those domains.

Skills Measured

**Note:** This document shows tracked changes that are effective as of December 28, 2018.

**Determine Workload Requirements (15-20%)**

**Determine Feasibility and Refine Requirements**

*May include but not limited to:* Recommend changes during project execution (ongoing); create proof of concept (PoC); determine whether a pilot is needed; evaluate products and services to align with solution; create testing scenarios; refine user stories

**Optimize Consumption Strategy**

*May include but not limited to:* Optimize app service, compute, identity, network, and storage costs

**Design for Identity and Security (5-10%)**

**Design Authorization**

*May include but not limited to:* Choose an authorization approach; define access permissions and privileges; design secure delegated access (e.g., OAuth, OpenID, etc.); recommend when and how to use API Keys.

**Design a Business Continuity Strategy (15-20%)**

**Design a Site Recovery Strategy**

*May include but not limited to:* Design a recovery solution; design a site recovery replication policy; design for site recovery capacity and for storage replication; design site failover and failback (planned/unplanned); design the site recovery network; recommend recovery objectives (e.g., Azure, on-prem, hybrid, Recovery Time Objective (RTO), Recovery Level Objective (RLO), Recovery Point Objective (RPO)); identify resources that require site recovery; identify supported and unsupported workloads; recommend a geographical distribution strategy
Design for High Availability

May include but not limited to: Design for application redundancy, autoscaling, data center and fault domain redundancy, and network redundancy; identify resources that require high availability; identify storage types for high availability

Implement Workloads and Security (5-10%)

Configure serverless computing

May include but not limited to: Create and manage objects; manage a Logic App resource; manage Azure Function app settings; manage Event Grid; manage Service Bus

Implement Authentication and Secure Data (5-10%)

Implement secure data solutions

May include but not limited to: Encrypt and decrypt data at rest; encrypt data with Always Encrypted; implement Azure Confidential Compute and SSL/TLS communications; create, read, update, and delete keys, secrets, and certificates by using the KeyVault API; manage cryptographic keys in the Azure Key Vault

Develop for the Cloud (25-30%)

Configure a message-based integration architecture

May include but not limited to: Configure an app or service to send emails, Event Grid, and the Azure Relay Service; create and configure a Notification Hub, an Event Hub, and a Service Bus; configure queries across multiple products; configure an app or service with Microsoft Graph

Develop for autoscaling

May include but not limited to: Implement autoscaling rules and patterns (schedule, operational/system metrics, code that addresses singleton application instances, and code that addresses transient state

Implement distributed transactions

May include but not limited to: Identify tools to implement distributed transactions (e.g., ADO.NET, elastic transactions, multi-database transactions); manage transaction scope; manage transactions across multiple databases and servers