Azure Spring Cloud Enterprise Tier (with VMware Tanzu® Technology)

Fall 2021

Key Details

Q. What is Azure Spring Cloud Enterprise Tier?

A. Azure Spring Cloud Enterprise Tier (with VMware Tanzu® Technology) is a Microsoft managed service for Spring that offers enterprise-grade support, configurability, flexibility and portability for enterprise developers.

Q. What are some typical use cases of Azure Spring Cloud Enterprise Tier?

A. With the proposed design, Azure Spring Cloud Enterprise Tier could be best applicable for:

- Customers seeking an upgrade from the Standard Tier of Azure Spring Cloud

- Customers that are net new to Tanzu, all-in on Azure, and don't have an ops team

- Customers that want an Azure native experience and want to transition their Tanzu Application Service (TAS) workloads

Q. When does Azure Spring Cloud Enterprise Tier launch?

A. Azure Spring Cloud Enterprise Tier launched in private preview for select customers on September 1, 2021 as part of the SpringOne conference. The public preview is expected to launch at the end of 2021, and the product is expected to go to GA by early 2022.

Introduction

Q. What is Spring?

A. Spring is the most popular application development framework for Java, utilized by 58% of all Java developers[1]. In 2020 alone, about 20 million projects were generated on start.spring.io, the initializer website used to start Spring projects.

Spring is an open-source framework that is curated and maintained by VMware. The framework was originally developed by Pivotal Software, which was *acquired* by VMware in 2019.

Q. What makes Spring so popular?

A. Spring is highly popular among developers for three core reasons:

- **Productive:** Spring is usable for practically any Java development task, and is simple, fully comprehensive, and modular. Moreover, it is known for its ability to

be deployable, testable, and portable, and is supported by clear and well-documented resources.

- **Community-Focused:** Spring utilizes the permissive Apache 2.0 open-source license. Moreover, it is supported by a vibrant, passionate and committed community of Spring developers.

- **Trusted:** Spring is the premier dependency injection framework utilized by developers all around the world. It has been proven in production environments since 2004.

Q. What led to the creation of Azure Spring Cloud?

A. Azure Spring Cloud is a fully managed service for microservices, powered by Spring Cloud and Azure Kubernetes Service. The service solves some common challenges with Spring in an enterprise setting, such as managing application lifecycles and expending effort to manage cloud infrastructure for Spring Boot applications.

Q. What does the Azure Spring Cloud offering look like?

A. Currently, there are two Tiers of Azure Spring Cloud on the market: Azure Spring Cloud Basic Tier and Azure Spring Cloud Standard Tier.

The Basic Tier is primarily utilized for "tire-kicking", i.e. individual dev / test scenarios. It includes a base unit capacity of 2 vCPU and 5 GB for processing and memory respectively. The Basic Tier includes open-source Spring functionality around configuration management and service discovery & registry.

The Standard Tier is primarily utilized for general purpose workloads for integration test, pre-production and production environments. It includes a base unit capacity of 8 vCPU and 16 GB for processing and memory respectively. The Standard Tier includes open-source Spring functionality around items such as build service, configuration server and service registry.

Q. Why was the Enterprise Tier created?

A. The current Basic and Standard Tiers of Azure Spring Cloud can be utilized in environments ranging from dev to production. However, they do not solve for core market dynamics in today's software development processes:

- Developers are **expecting managed services** that help put the pieces together in increasingly complex software dev processes

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[1] JVM Ecosystem Report 2021, Snyk (*link*)

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- Developers need a way to know **what they can and cannot use** – especially with increasing shift to public cloud and balance with on-prem environments

- IT teams are not always able to **manage deployments in the public cloud**

These dynamics may lead to customer pain points around managing dependencies, not having enough insights into the Spring roadmap and a disjointed experience in building hybrid applications.

To address these reasons, VMware and Microsoft have collaborated to launch an Enterprise Tier of the Azure Spring Cloud.

Azure Spring Cloud Enterprise Tier

Q. What can customers get out of Azure Spring Cloud Enterprise Tier?

A. With the Enterprise Tier, customers can enjoy:

- **Commercial VMware Tanzu® products as a managed service:** Including VMware Tanzu® Build Service™, Application Configuration Service for VMware Tanzu® and VMware Tanzu® Service Registry and many more on the roadmap.

- **Advanced configuration and integration:** Fully customizable Buildpack configurations and ISV integrations, and native integration with Azure services.

- **Ultra-portability and flexibility:** Running the same VMware Tanzu® configurations across Tiers, lifting and shifting Spring workloads directly to Azure Spring Cloud, limitless scaling and more.

- **Advanced support:** Access to world-class 24x7 VMware Spring Runtime support & Spring experts, and ability to open support tickets for bugs or CVEs encountered in Spring libraries

Azure Spring Cloud Enterprise Tier is a Microsoft managed service for Spring that is optimized for the needs of enterprise Spring developers.

Q. What is the roadmap of commercial VMware Tanzu® components in the Enterprise Tier?

A. In private preview, Azure Spring Cloud Enterprise Tier will include VMware Tanzu® Build Service™, Application Configuration Service for VMware Tanzu® and VMware Tanzu® Service Registry. Moving forward, the Enterprise Tier is planned to include components such as VMware Tanzu® Spring Cloud Gateway, VMware Tanzu® Spring Cloud Data Flow and more.

Q. What kind of buildpack configurability does Azure Spring Cloud Enterprise Tier offer?

A. With the Enterprise Tier, developers can fully customize their buildpack configurations by controlling the build dependencies used to create images and configuring buildpacks to match existing build environments. Moreover, developers are able to access the wider VMware Tanzu® buildpacks ecosystem, and even utilize proprietary offline buildpacks along with partner integrations. Examples include: Dynatrace APM agent and Java specific partner functionality such as jprofiler or jrebel.

Q. Will I be able to lift-and-shift my workloads into Azure Spring Cloud Enterprise Tier directly?

A. Yes! With the Enterprise Tier, users are able to easily move existing Spring Boot and .NET Core workloads to Azure with zero reconfiguration.

Pricing & Next Steps

Q. How does the Enterprise Tier differ from the Basic and Standard Tiers?

A. The Enterprise Tier differs from the Basic and Standard Tiers along the following key areas:

- Target scenario: The Enterprise Tier is intended for general purpose workloads for Integration test, pre-production, and production with VMware Tanzu® components. The Standard Tier does not include VMware Tanzu® components, while the Basic Tier is intended to be used for individual dev / test scenarios.

- Spring value differentiation: The Enterprise Tier includes Tanzu® Build Service™, Application Configuration Service for VMware Tanzu®, VMware Tanzu® Service Registry and many more proprietary VMware Tanzu® / Spring components on the roadmap. Conversely, both Standard and Basic Tiers only include open-source Spring components.

- Base unit capacity: The Enterprise Tier offers 16 vCPU and 32 GB of base unit capacity, unlike the Standard Tier (8 vCPU, 16 GB) and Basic Tier (2 vCPU, 5 GB).

- Enterprise support: The Enterprise Tier includes VMware Spring Runtime, a 24x7 support service that is not included in the other Tiers. Moreover, with the Enterprise Tier, customers are able to open tickets for bugs and CVEs encountered in Spring libraries.

Q. How do I learn more about the Enterprise Tier?

A. To learn more about and get started with the Enterprise Tier, please contact us via the Azure Marketplace listing: *https://aka.ms/spring-cloud-enterprise*