

# Get Started with Azure SQL

Azure SQL provides flexible options for application modernization, migration, and development in a consistent, unified experience across your entire SQL portfolio. Get up and running with Azure SQL in minutes with these three simple steps.

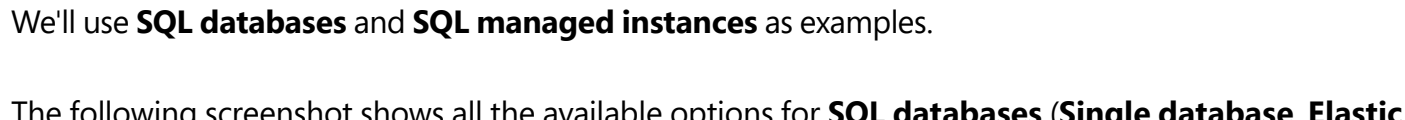
Before starting, you should register for an [Azure free account](#) to get instant access and \$200 credit.

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## Create an Azure SQL Database or Azure SQL Managed Instance using the Azure portal

In **Azure Marketplace**, search for Azure SQL. From the search results, select **Azure SQL**.

Select **Create**, and it will redirect you to the Azure SQL deployment page, which shows all the available options. You can get more details by clicking on individual options to choose the right service for your workload requirements.

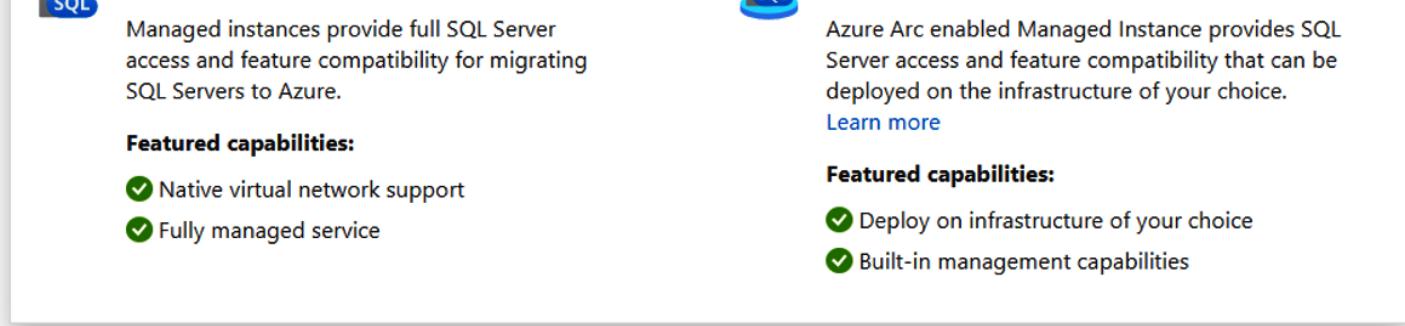


We'll use **SQL databases** and **SQL managed instances** as examples.

The following screenshot shows all the available options for **SQL databases** (**Single database**, **Elastic pool**, and **Database server**):

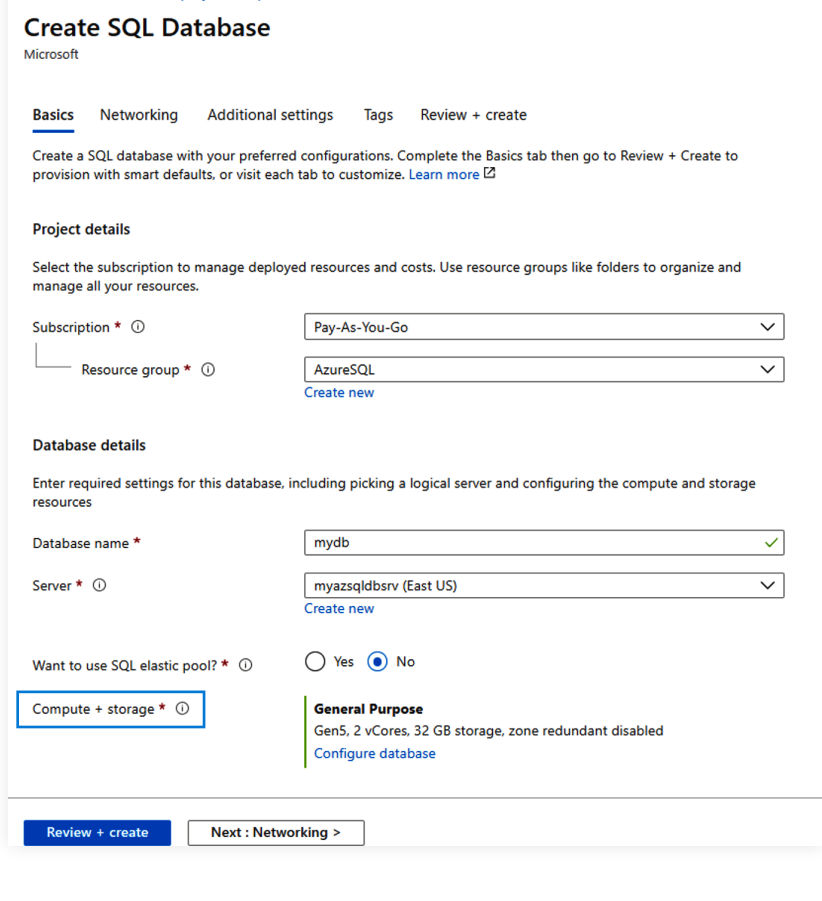


Here are the SQL Managed Instance deployment options (**Single instance** and **Single instance - Azure Arc**):

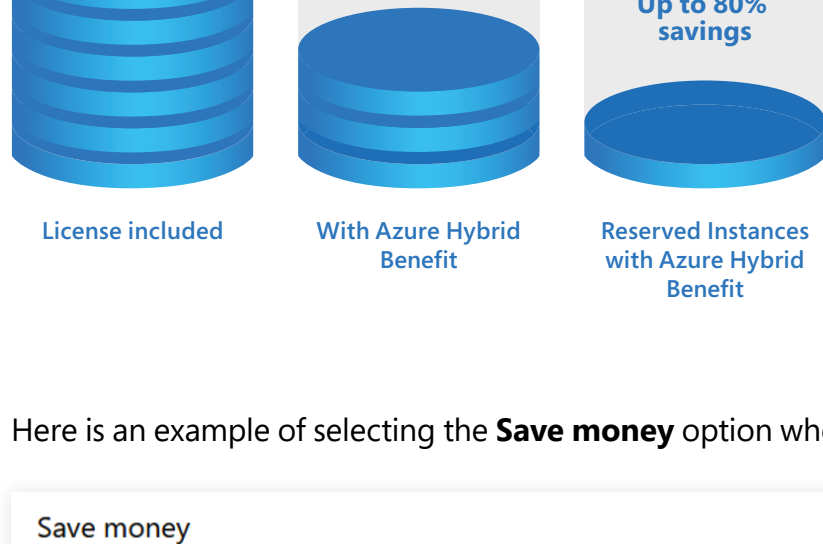


The Azure portal allows you to create a SQL database and SQL managed instance simply by filling out basic details.

Here is an example screenshot taken from the **Create SQL Database** form:

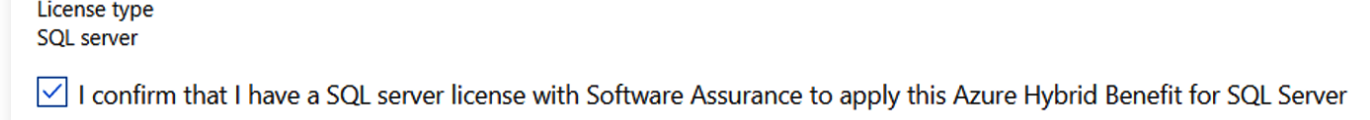


While selecting **Compute + storage**, you have the option to save money by choosing Azure Hybrid Benefit.



[Azure Hybrid Benefit](#) is a cost-saving benefit that lets you use your existing on-premises SQL Server licenses with active Software Assurance on Azure. You can save up to 80% compared to standard pay-as-you-go rates and achieve the lowest-cost of ownership when you combine Azure Hybrid Benefit with Reserved Instances pricing.

Here is an example of selecting the **Save money** option when provisioning an Azure SQL database:



Once you complete the form, click on the **Review + create** button to review the details and start the deployment. It will take few minutes to complete.

**Note:** You may follow different steps, and the provisioning duration may vary, if you want to deploy Azure SQL Managed Instance or SQL Server in an Azure VM. The steps and the provisioning duration provided here are only applicable to Azure SQL Database.

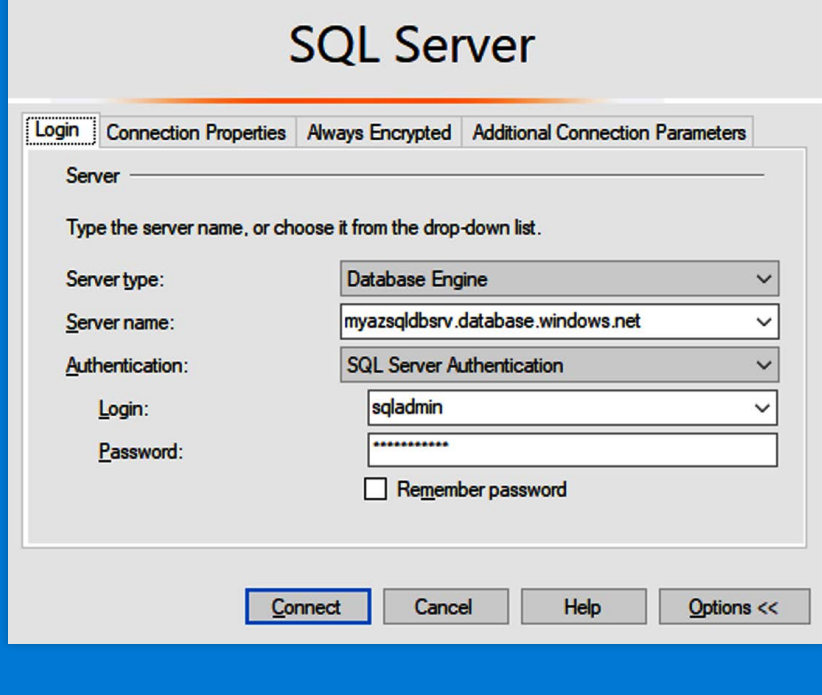
After the deployment, the next step is to connect and create database objects. Before connecting, you must add the client IP address (or the IP address range) to the server or database firewall rules to enable external connectivity to your database.

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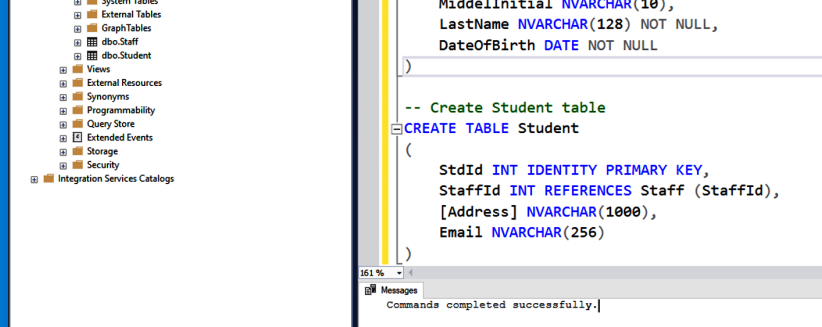
## Connect to Azure SQL Database and SQL Managed Instance

You can connect to Azure SQL Database and SQL Managed Instance using **SQL Server Management Studio** or **Azure Data Studio**.

The following example shows a quick connection to SQL Database using SSMS:



Then, create database tables using the SSMS query window:



**Note:** Above example shows the connectivity steps for SQL Database. If you are connecting to SQL Managed Instance, you may have to deploy the client in the same network in which SQL Managed Instance is deployed or enable a public endpoint on SQL Managed Instance to allow external connectivity.

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## Load or migrate data to Azure SQL Database and SQL Managed Instance

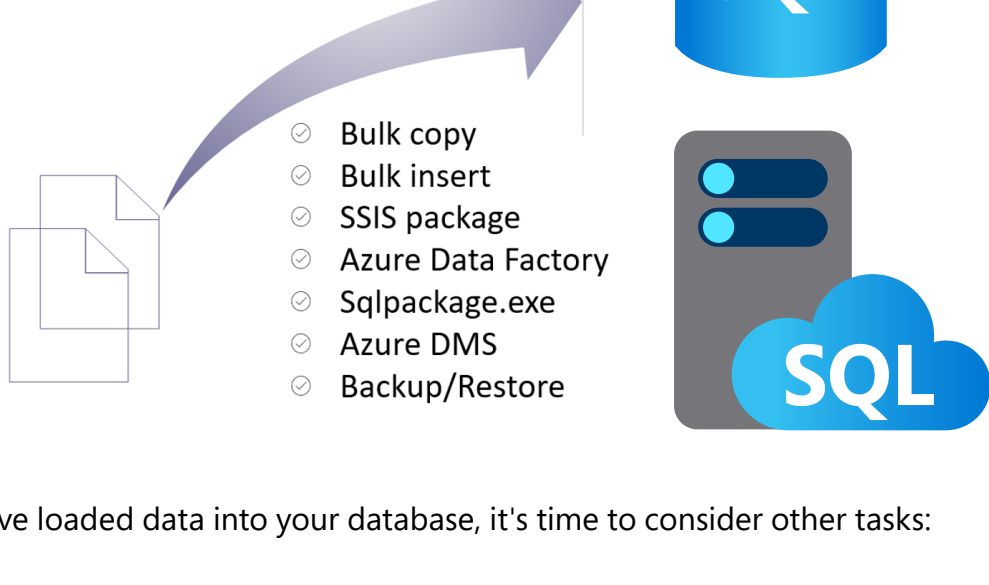
There are multiple ways to import or load data into Azure SQL, and the choice you make depends on your business requirements.

### Offline options:

If you are looking for an offline data migration option, then you can use the familiar BCP commands, SSIS packages, sqlpackage.exe, or native backup/restore (only available for SQL Managed Instance) to load data.

### Online options:

Use [Azure Database Migration Service](#) to migrate data to Azure SQL Database or SQL Managed Instance with minimum downtime.



Now that you've loaded data into your database, it's time to consider other tasks:

- Securing your data
- Establishing business continuity
- Optimizing performance

## Get started with Azure SQL today.

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