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Azure Developer Series

Migrating a dotnetcore 2-tier application to Azure,
using different architectures and DevOps best practices

Hands-On-Labs step-by-step guides

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Migrating a dotnetcore 2-tiered application to Azure using different architectures and DevOps best practices

- Hands-On-Labs step-by-step

You are part of an organization that is running a dotnetcore e-commerce platform application, using Windows Server infrastructure on-premises today, comprising a WebVM running Windows Server 2012 R2 with Internet Information Server (IIS) and a 2nd SQLVM running Windows Server 2012 R2 and SQL Server 2014.

The business has approved a migration of this business-critical workload to Azure, and you are nominated as the cloud solution architect for this project. No decision has been made yet on what the final architecture should or will look like. Your first task is building a Proof-of-Concept in your Azure environment, to test out the different architectures possible:

- Infrastructure as a Service (IAAS)
- Platform as a Service (PAAS)
- Containers as a Service (CaaS)

At the same time, your CIO wants to make use of this project to switch from a more traditional mode of operations, with barriers between IT sysadmin teams and Developer teams, to a DevOps way of working. Therefore, you are tasked to explore Azure DevOps and determine where CI/CD Pipelines can assist in optimizing the deployment and running operations of this e-commerce platform, especially when deploying updates to the application.

As you are new to the continuous changes in Azure, you want to make sure this process goes as smooth as possible, starting from the assessment to migration to day-to-day operations.

Abstract and Learning Objectives

This workshop enables anyone to learn, understand and build a Proof of Concept, in performing a multi-tiered .Net Core web application using Microsoft SQL Server database, platform migration to Azure public cloud, leveraging on different Azure Infrastructure as a Service, Azure Platform as a Service (PaaS) and Azure Container offerings like Azure Container Instance (ACI) and Azure Kubernetes Services (AKS).

After an introductory module on cloud app migration strategies and patterns, students get introduced to the basics of automating Azure resources deployments using Visual Studio and Azure Resource Manager (ARM) templates. Next, attendees learn about the importance of performing proper assessments, and what tools Microsoft offers to help in this migration preparation phase. Once the application has been deployed on Azure Virtual Machines, students learn about Microsoft SQL database migration to SQL Azure PaaS, as well as deploying and migrating web applications to Azure Web Apps.

After these foundational platform components, the workshop will totally focus on the core concepts and advantages of using containers for running business workloads, based on Docker, Azure Container Registry (ACR), Azure Container Instance (ACI) and WebApps for Containers, as well as how to enable container orchestration and cloud-scale using Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS).

In the last part of the workshop, students get introduced to Azure DevOps, the new Microsoft Application Lifecycle environment, helping in building a CI/CD Pipeline to publish workloads using the DevOps principals and concepts, showing the integration with the rest of the already touched on Azure services like Azure Web Apps and Azure Kubernetes Services (AKS), closing the workshop with a module on overall Azure monitoring and operations and what tools Azure has available to assist your IT teams in this challenge.

The focus of the workshop is having a Hands-On-Labs experience, by going through the following exercises and tasks:

- Deploying a 2-tier Azure Virtual Machine (Webserver and SQL database Server) using ARM-template automation with Visual Studio 2019;
- Publishing a .NET Core e-commerce application to an Azure Web Virtual Machine and SQL DB Virtual Machine;
- Performing a proper assessment of the as-is Web and SQL infrastructure using Microsoft Assessment Tools;
- Migrating a SQL 2014 database to Azure SQL PaaS (Lift & Shift);
- Migrating a .NET Core web application to Azure Web Apps (Lift & Shift);
- Containerizing a .NET Core web application using Docker, and pushing to Azure Container Registry (ACR);
- Running Azure Container Instance (ACI) and WebApp for Containers;
- Deploy and run Azure Azure Kubernetes Services (AKS);

- Deploying Azure DevOps and building a CI/CD Pipeline for the subject e-commerce application;
- Managing and Monitoring Azure Kubernetes Services (AKS);

Requirements

Naming Conventions:

IMPORTANT: Most Azure resources require unique names. Throughout these steps you will see the word “[SUFFIX]” as part of resource names. You should replace this with your initials, guaranteeing those resources get uniquely named.

Azure Subscription:

Participants need a “pay-as-you-go”, MSDN or other paid Azure subscription

- a) In one of the Azure Container Services tasks, you are required to create an Azure AD Service Principal, which typically requires an Azure subscription owner to log in to create this object. If you don't have the owner right in your Azure subscription, you could ask another person to execute this step for you.
- b) The Azure subscription must allow you to run enough cores, used by the baseline Virtual Machines, but also later on in the tasks when deploying the Azure Container Services, where ACS agent and master machines are getting set up. If you follow the instructions as written out in the lab guide, you need 12 cores.
- c) If you run this lab setup in your personal or corporate Azure payable subscription, using the configuration as described in the lab guide, the estimated Azure consumption costs for running the setups during the 2 days of the workshop is \$20.

Other requirements:

Participants need a local client machine, running a recent Operating System, allowing them to:

- browse to <https://portal.azure.com> from a most-recent browser;
- establish a secured Remote Desktop (RDP) session to a lab-jumpVM running Windows Server 2016;

Alternative Approach:

Where the lab scenario assumes all exercises will be performed from within the lab-jumpVM, (since several tools will be installed on the lab-jumpVM or are already installed by default), participants could also execute (most, if not all...) steps from their local client machine.

The following tools are being used throughout the lab exercises:

- Visual Studio 2017 community edition (updated to latest version); this could also be Visual Studio 2019 community edition - latest version
- Docker for Windows (updated to latest version)
- Azure CLI 2.0 (updated to latest version)
- Kubernetes CLI (updated to latest version)
- SimplCommerce Open Source e-commerce platform example
(<http://www.simplcommerce.com>)

Make sure you have these tools installed prior to the workshop, if you are not using the lab-jumpVM. You should also have full administrator rights on your machine to execute certain steps within using these tools.

Final Remarks:

VERY IMPORTANT: You should be typing all of the commands as they appear in the guide, except where explicitly stated in this document. Do not try to copy and paste from Word to your command windows or other documents where you are instructed to enter information shown in this document. There can be issues with Copy and Paste from Word or PDF that result in errors, execution of instructions, or creation of file content.

IMPORTANT: Most Azure resources require unique names. Throughout these steps you will see the word “[SUFFIX]” as part of resource names. You should replace this with your initials, guaranteeing those resources get uniquely named.

Lab 3: Deploying an Azure SQL database and migrating from SQL VM

What you will learn

In this lab, you perform a migration from a SQL 2014 database running on the SQLVM, to SQL Azure PaaS, using SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS):

- Deploy a new SQL Azure server instance;
- Authenticate to SSMS on the SQLVM Virtual Machine;
- Run the database migration wizard from within SSMS;
- Verify the successful migration of the SQL database from the VM to Azure;
- Update the connection strings on the WebVM web application to point to the SQL Azure database instead of the on-premises one on SQLVM;
- Optional: migrate the database using Azure Database Migration Assistant

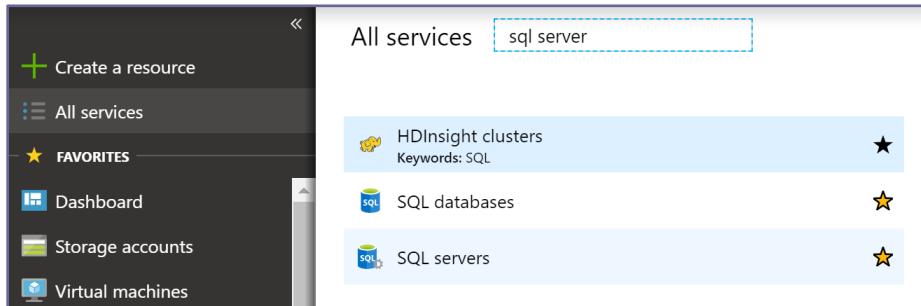
Time estimate

This lab is estimated to take **60min**, assuming your Azure subscription is already available.

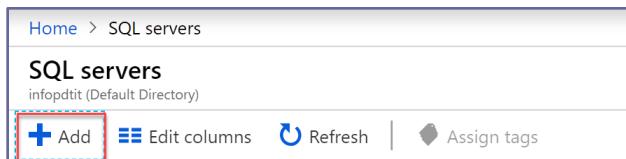
Task 1: Deploying a new SQL Azure Server instance

In this task, you start from deploying a new SQL Azure Server instance from within the Azure Portal, allowing you to migrate a database to it in the next task.

1. From within the **Azure Portal**, Go to “**All Services**”, and enter “**SQL Server**” in the search field. From the list of results, select **SQL Servers**.



2. Click “Create a new SQL Server”, or Click the “+Add” button in the top menu. This launches the SQL Server (logical server) deployment blade.



3. Complete the different deployment settings as follows:

- Server Name: [suffix]sqlazure[date] e.g. adssqlazure0923 (capitals are not allowed)
- Server admin login: labadmin
- Password: [L@BadminPa55w.rd](#) / confirm password: [L@BadminPa55w.rd](#)
- Subscription: your Azure subscription
- Resource Group: Create New / [suffix]SQLRG
- Location: Azure location close to you
- Allow Azure Services to access server: checked
- Advanced Threat Protection: Not Now

Home > SQL servers > SQL Server (logical server only)

SQL servers infopdit (Default Directory)

SQL Server (logical server ...

* Server name
adssqlazure0923 .database.windows.net

* Server admin login
labadmin

* Password

* Confirm password

* Subscription
Microsoft Azure Sponsorship

* Resource group
(New) ADSSQLRG

* Location
East US 2

Allow Azure services to access server

Advanced Threat Protection

[Start FREE Trial](#) [Not now](#)

FREE trial period of 60 days, and then 12.6495 EUR/server/month.

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Create **Automation options**

4. Confirm the creation of the SQL Azure Server by pressing the **Create** button.

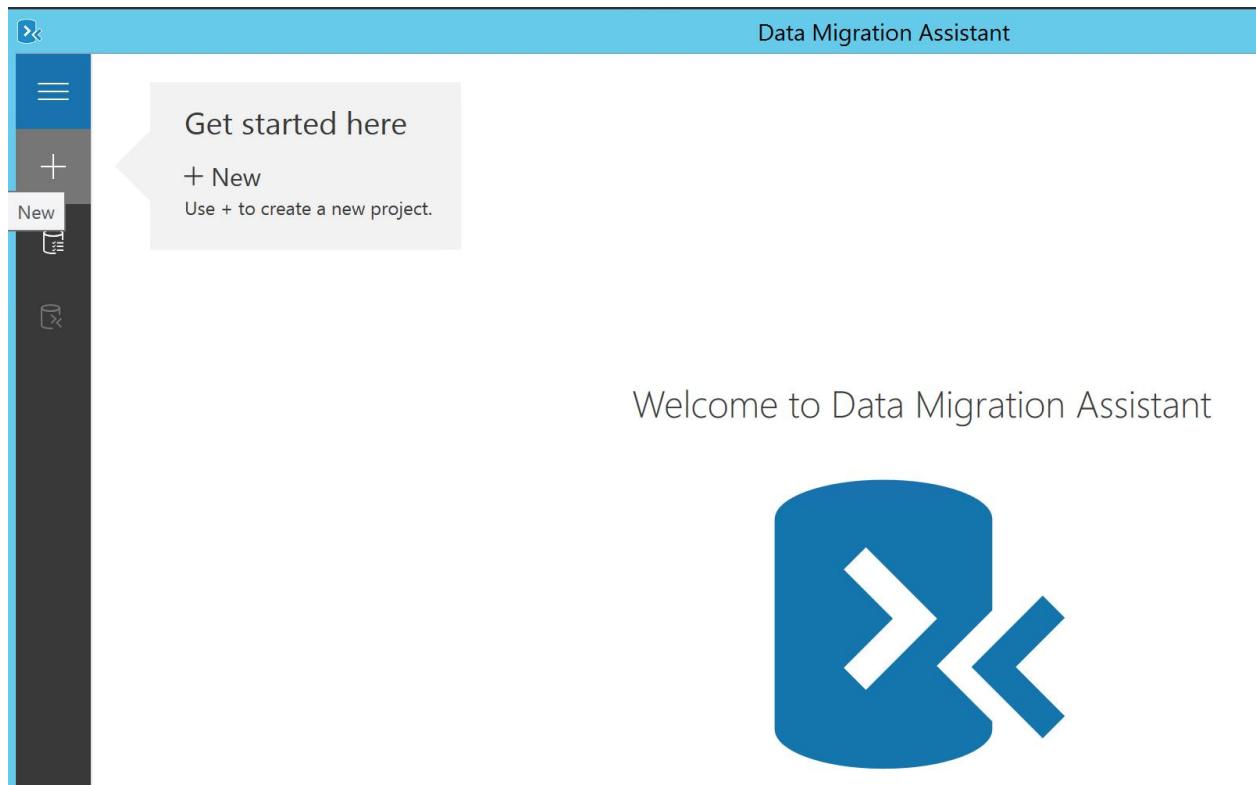
5. Wait for the deployment to complete.

6. Once the SQL Azure server has been deployed successfully, continue to Task 2.

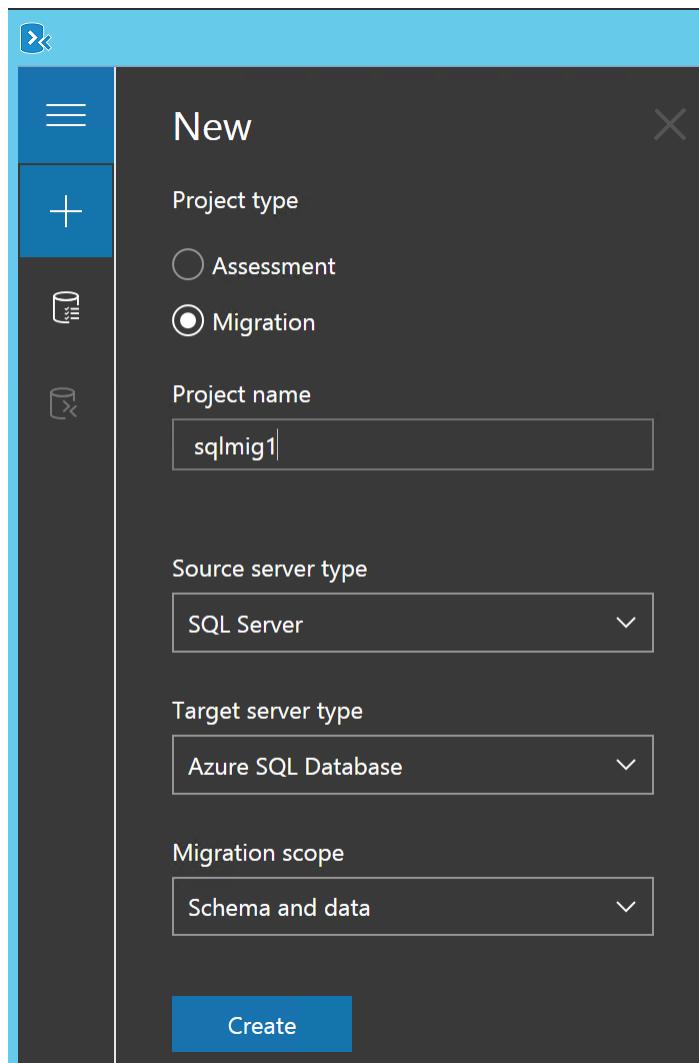
Task 2: Performing a SQL database migration from a SQL Virtual Machine to SQL Azure, using SQL Data Migration Assistant.

In this task, you perform a SQL database migration from within a SQL Virtual Machine to SQL Azure. This approach is known as a lift & shift database migration, since no structure or data will be changed during the actual migration. Continuing on the path of the Azure migration tools available, you will use the Azure Data Migration Assistant you used earlier in the assessment phase, to perform the actual migration.

1. Open an RDP session to the **WebVM Virtual Machine** (using the same steps as described in the previous lab).
2. Once you are logged on to the WebVM RDP session, **launch Database Migration Assistant** (from a shortcut on the desktop or Start Menu).



3. Click on "+", to create a new project.



4. Provide the following parameters:

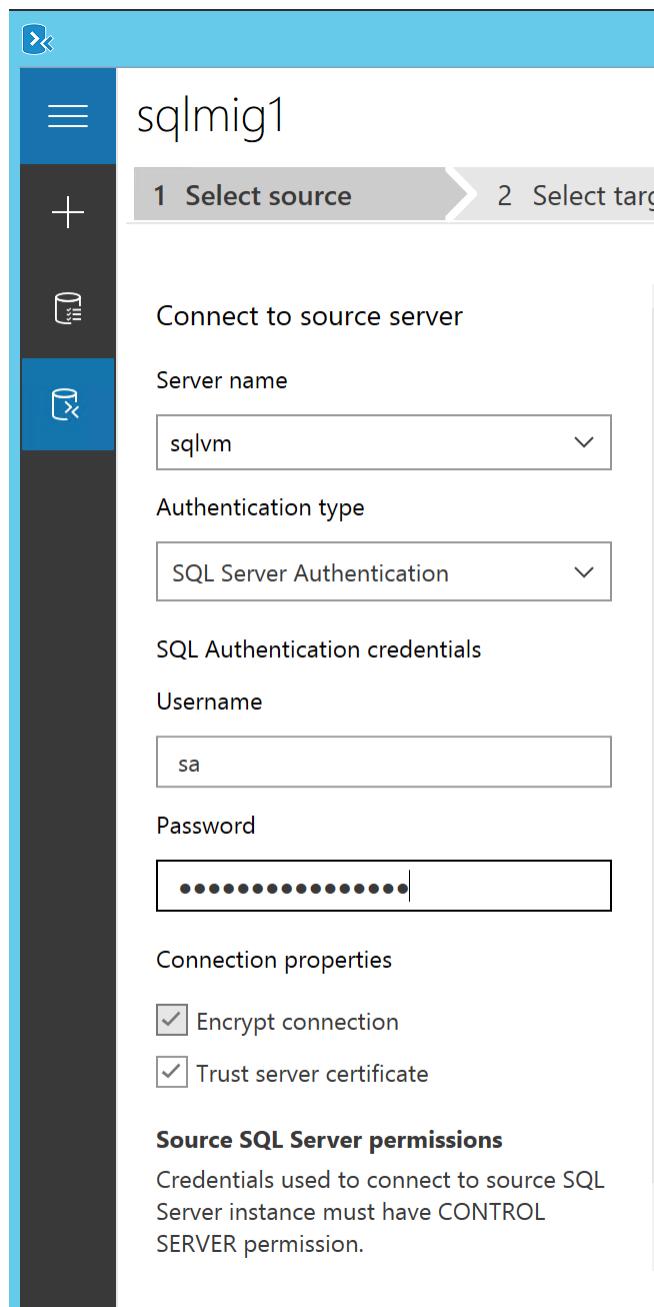
- Project Type	Migration
- Project Name	SQLMig1
- Source Server	SQL Server
- Target Server	Azure SQL Database
- Migration Scope	Schema and Data

5. Press the **Create** button to start this project.

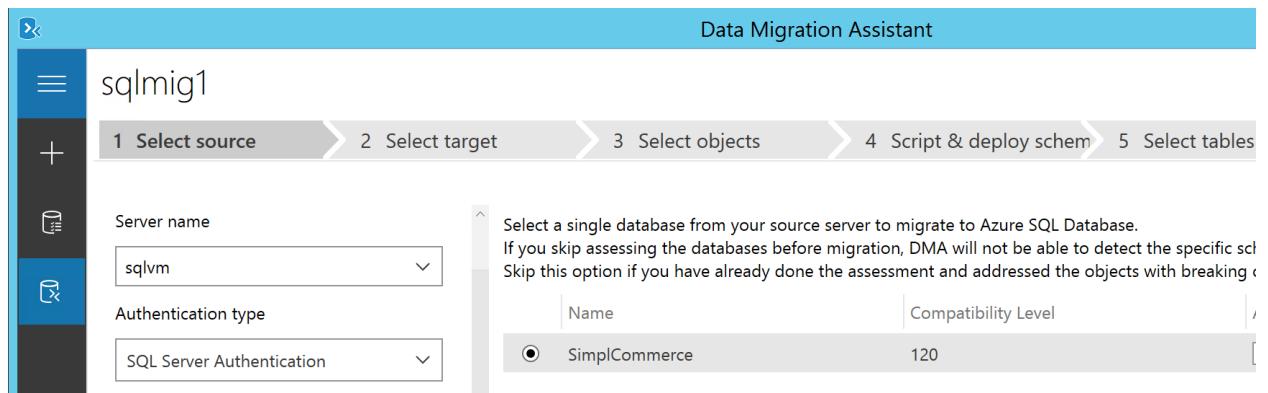
6. This opens the SQL Migration dashboard; in Step 1, complete the following parameters to connect to the source server:

- Server Name sqlvm

- Authentication type SQL Server Authentication
- username sa
- Password L@BadminPa55w.rd
- Encrypt Connection yes
- trust certificate yes

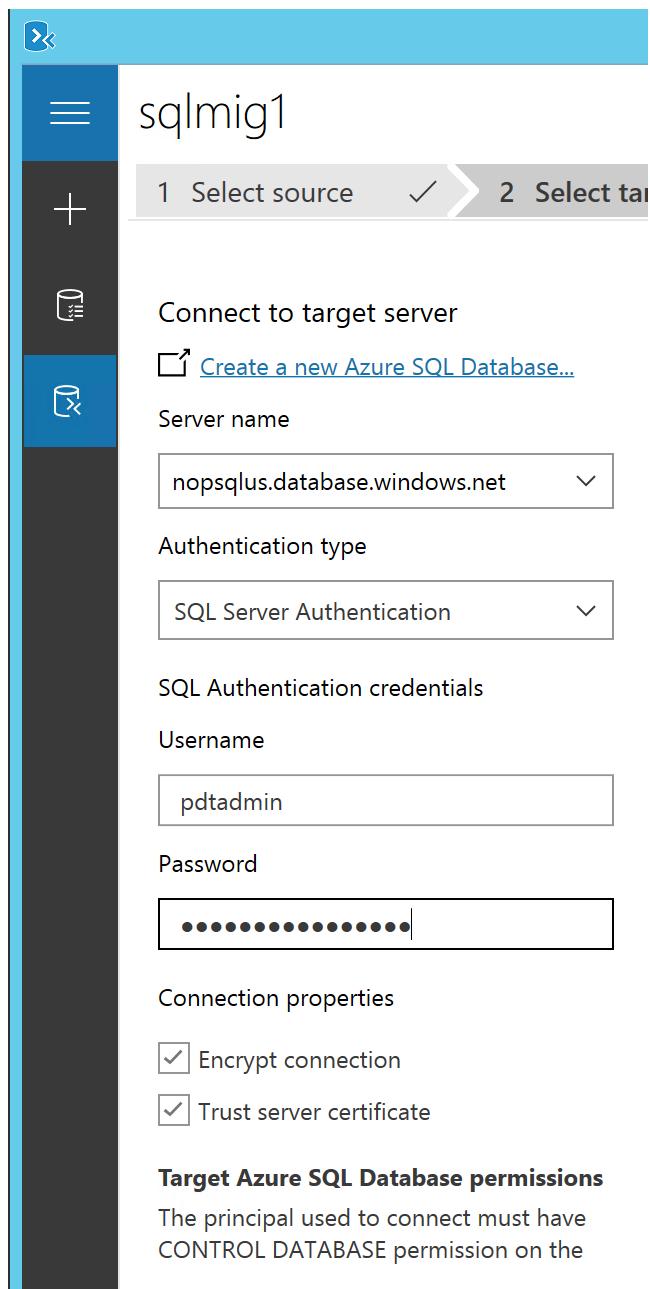


7. This will detect the SimplCommerce SQL database running on the SQL VM. Select it and press Next.

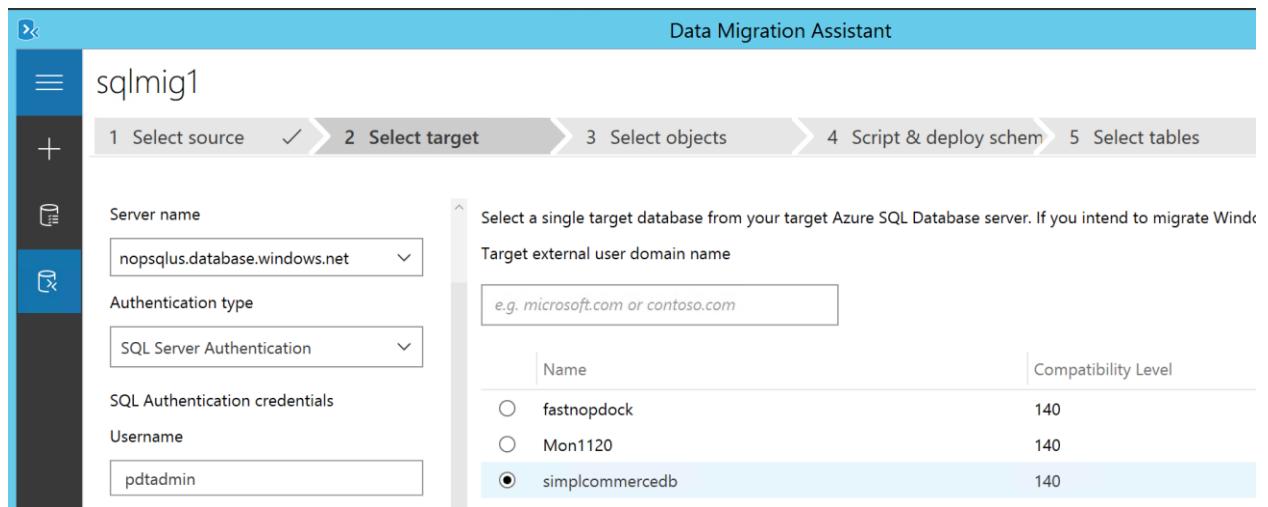


8. In the "Select Target" step, complete the following parameters:

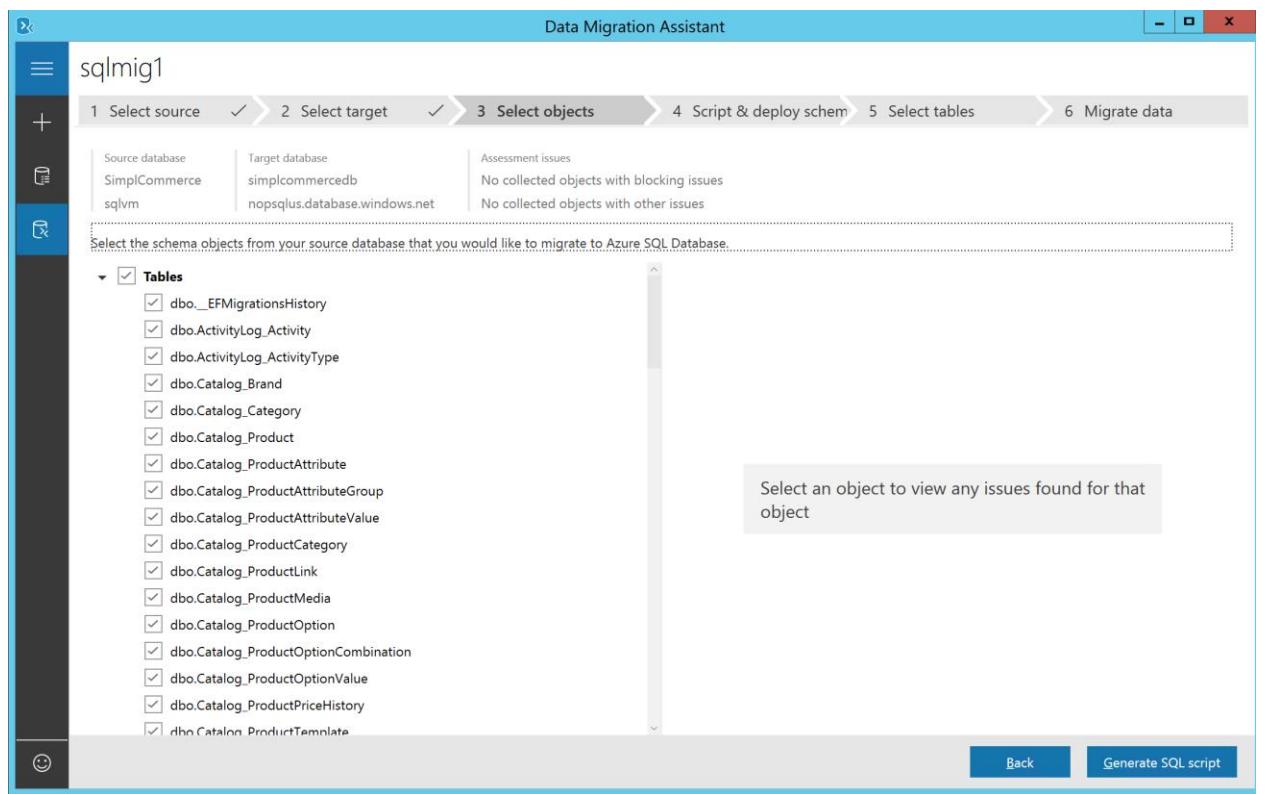
- Server Name	servername of the SQL Azure server [suffix]db.database.windows.net
- Authentication	SQL Server Authentication
- Username	labadmin
- Password	L@BadminPa55w.rd
- Encrypt connection	yes
- Trust certificate	yes



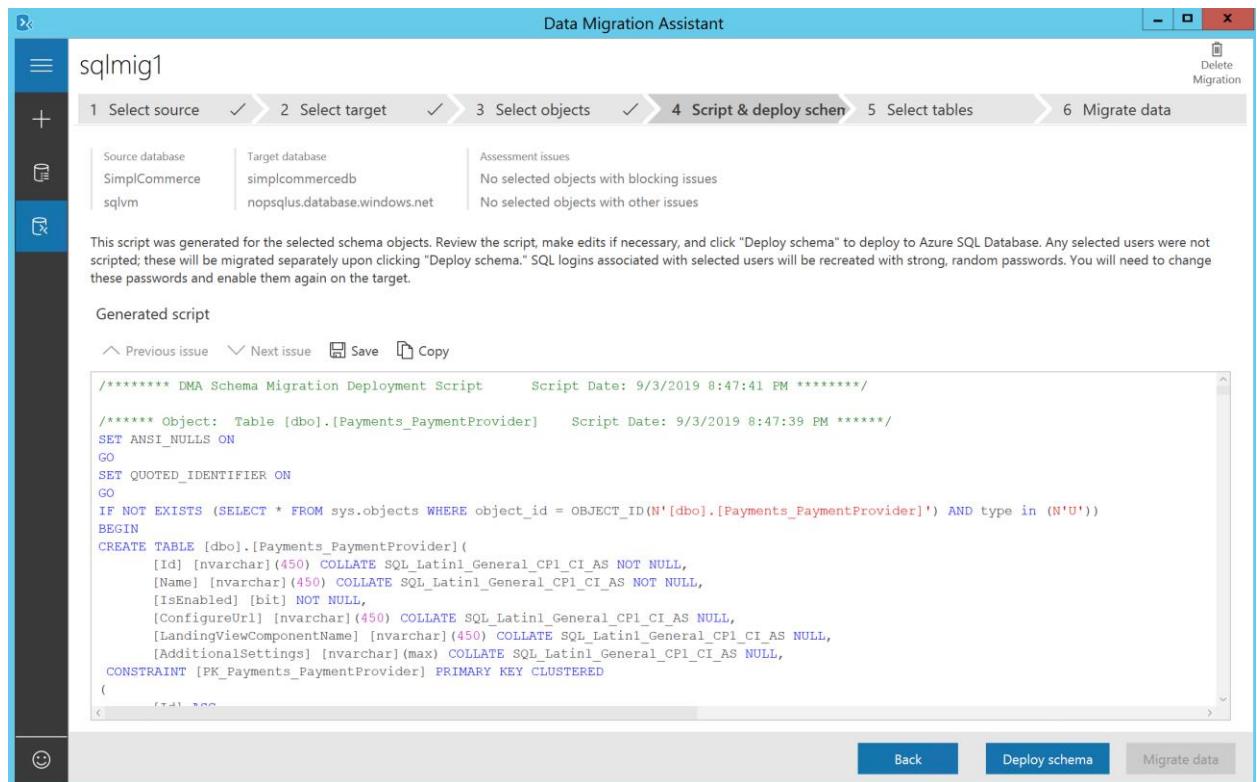
9. This detects the SQL Azure Database instance you created earlier.



10. This moves you to the "Select Objects" step. By default, all tables are selected, which is Ok for our scenario.

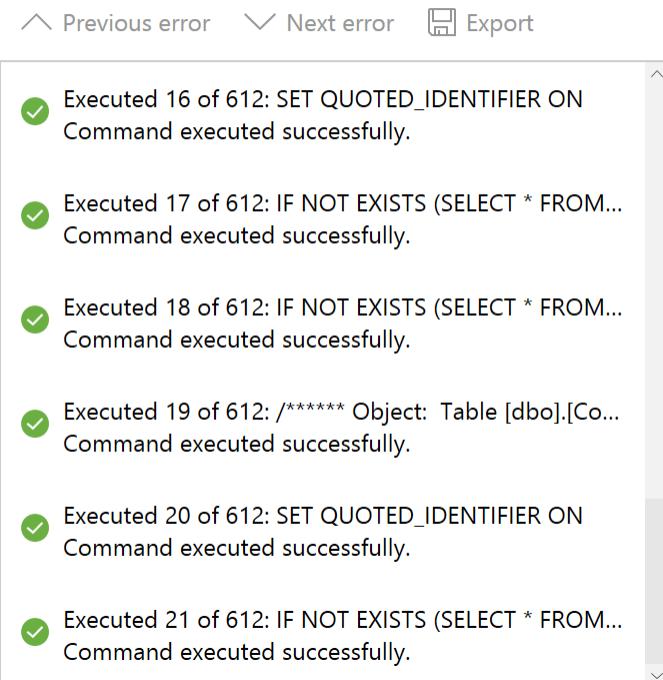


11. Press "Generate SQL Script" button



12. To run the actual migration, starting with the database schema, press "Deploy Schema".

Deployment results (21 commands executed, 0 err...)

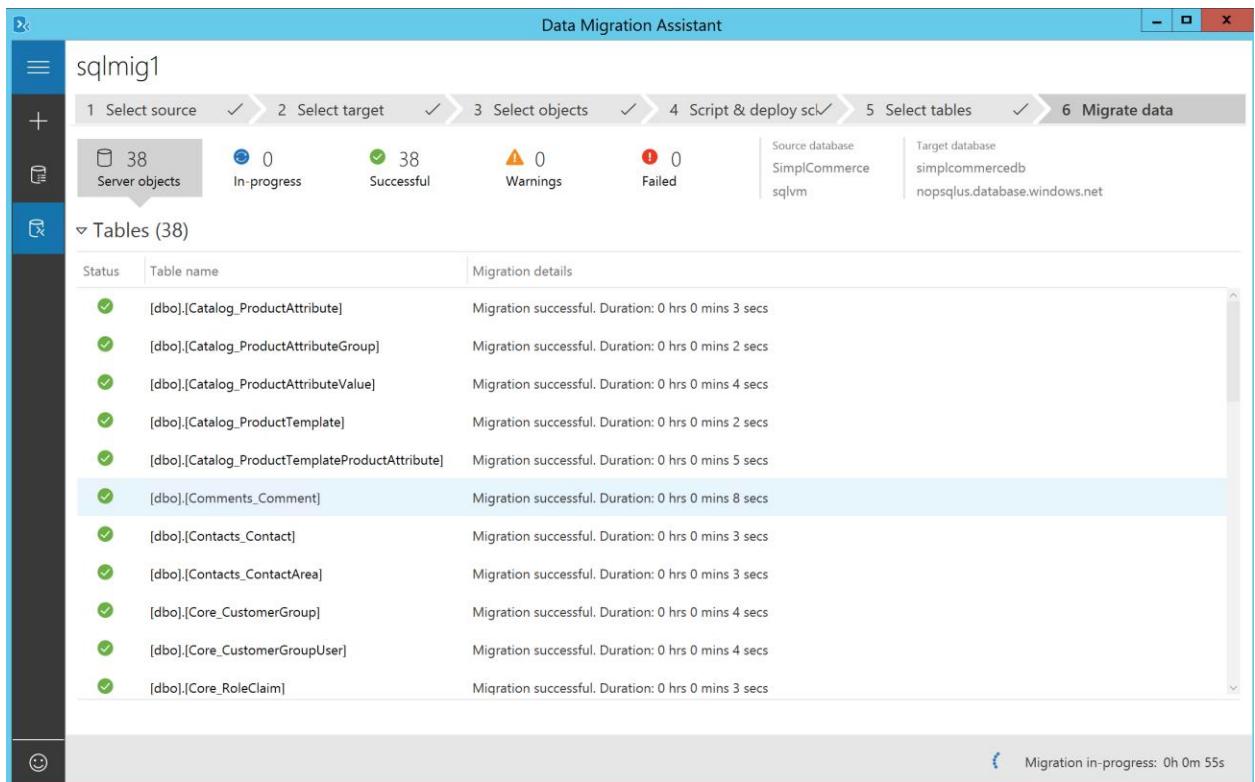


13. Wait for this step to complete successfully. This should take only a few minutes.
14. Lastly, press the “**Migrate Data**” button to start the actual database content migration. This will first show a list of tables; make sure all tables are selected here to not miss any data.

Selected tables (38/84)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Table name	Row count	Ready to move
<input type="checkbox"/>	[dbo].[ActivityLog_Activity]	4	No: Matching table in target database is not empty
<input type="checkbox"/>	[dbo].[ActivityLog_ActivityType]	1	No: Matching table in target database is not empty
<input type="checkbox"/>	[dbo].[Catalog_Brand]	3	No: Matching table in target database is not empty
<input type="checkbox"/>	[dbo].[Catalog_Category]	6	No: Matching table in target database is not empty
<input type="checkbox"/>	[dbo].[Catalog_Product]	26	No: Matching table in target database is not empty
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[dbo].[Catalog_ProductAttribute]	0	OK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[dbo].[Catalog_ProductAttributeGroup]	0	OK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[dbo].[Catalog_ProductAttributeValue]	0	OK

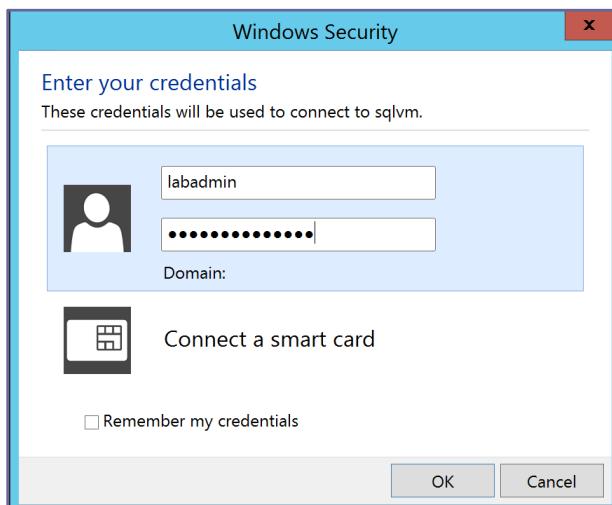
15. And confirm, by pressing the **Start Data Migration** button.



16. Wait for this process to complete successfully; this should take about 10 minutes on average.

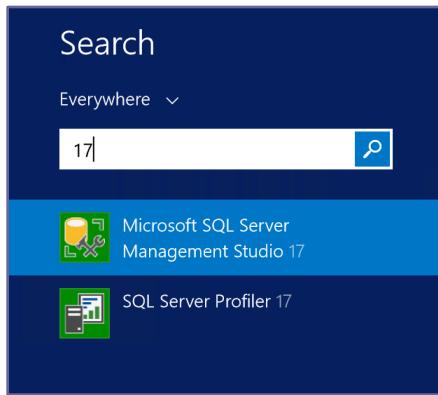
Task 3 (Optional): Using SQL Management Studio to migrate from SQL VM to SQL Azure Instance

1. If your DBA team is familiar with SQL Server Management Studio, know they can keep using this tool to perform the actual SQL database migration as well. To use this method, open an RDP Session to the **WebVM** (labadmin / L@BadminPa55w.rd).
2. Next, from within the RDP session of the WebVM, open a 2nd RDP session to the SQLVM machine (remember, the SQL VM has no public IP address, not making it reachable from the outside).
3. As server name, type “SQLVM”. (Since both Virtual Machines are in the same Azure Virtual Network and subnet, the netbios name resolution works, relying on Azure DNS). **Press connect.**



4. Provide the local admin credentials of the SQLVM Virtual Machine:
 - labadmin
 - [L@BadminPa55w.rd](#)and confirm with **OK**.
5. Once you **are logged on** to the SQL Server Virtual Machine (notice the SQL Getting Started shortcut on the desktop), press the **Start** button. Start typing “17”; this will resolve several

management tools available on the server. Notice Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio 17.



6. Select it to start the **SQL Server Management Studio 17** console.
7. Once opened, you are asked for **server connection information**. This is where you provide the SQL Azure name. You can find this in the **Azure Portal**, by browsing to your **SQL Azure instance**, and selecting its **properties**

Home > SQL servers > nopsqlus - Properties

nopsqlus - Properties

SQL server

Search (Ctrl+ /)

- Overview
- Activity log
- Access control (IAM)
- Tags
- Diagnose and solve problems

Settings

- Quick start
- Failover groups
- Manage Backups
- Active Directory admin
- SQL databases
- SQL elastic pools
- Deleted databases
- Import/Export history
- DTU quota
- Properties
- Locks
- Export template

Status: Available

Server name: nopsqlus.database.windows.net

Location: Central US

Server admin login: pdtadmin

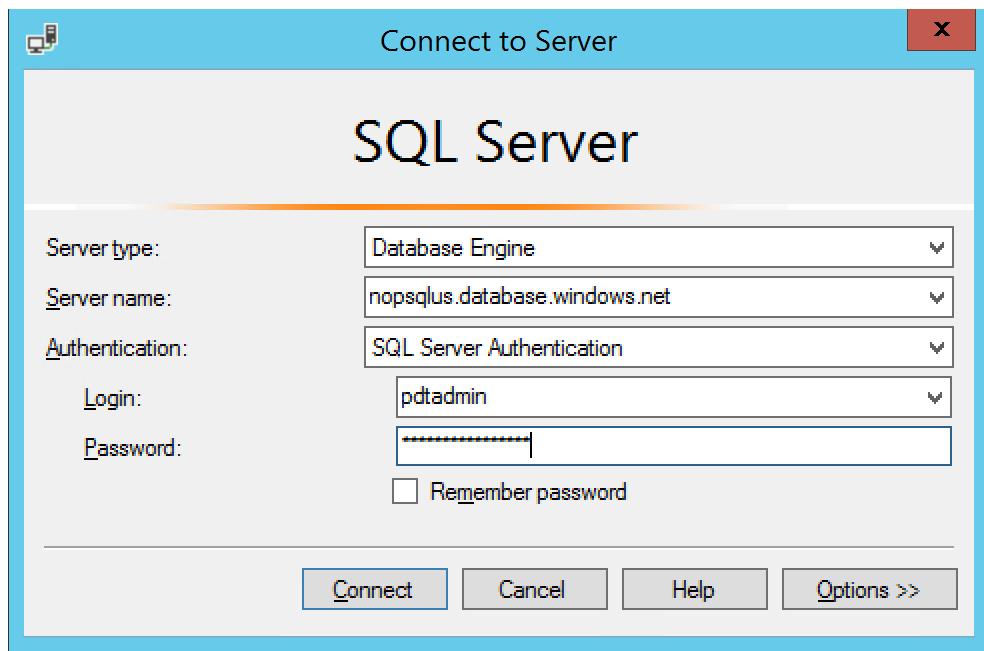
Active Directory admin: Not configured

Resource group: noprgr

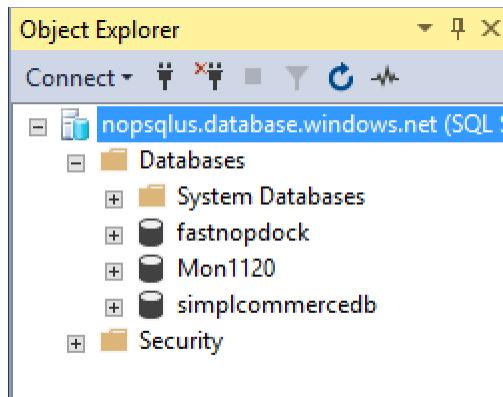
Subscription ID: 0a407898-c077-442d-8e17-71420aa82426

Subscription name: 007FFFLearning Labs

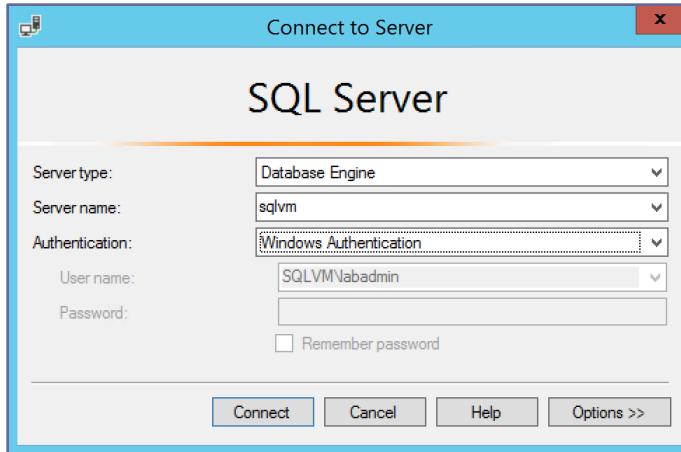
8. Copy the SERVER NAME into the **Server Name** field of the SQL connection popup; in the **Authentication** field, change to **SQL Server Authentication**. Provide the Login and Password of the SQL Azure instance account you provided during the deployment of this resource. (labadmin / L@BadminPa55w.rd would be the instructed ones)



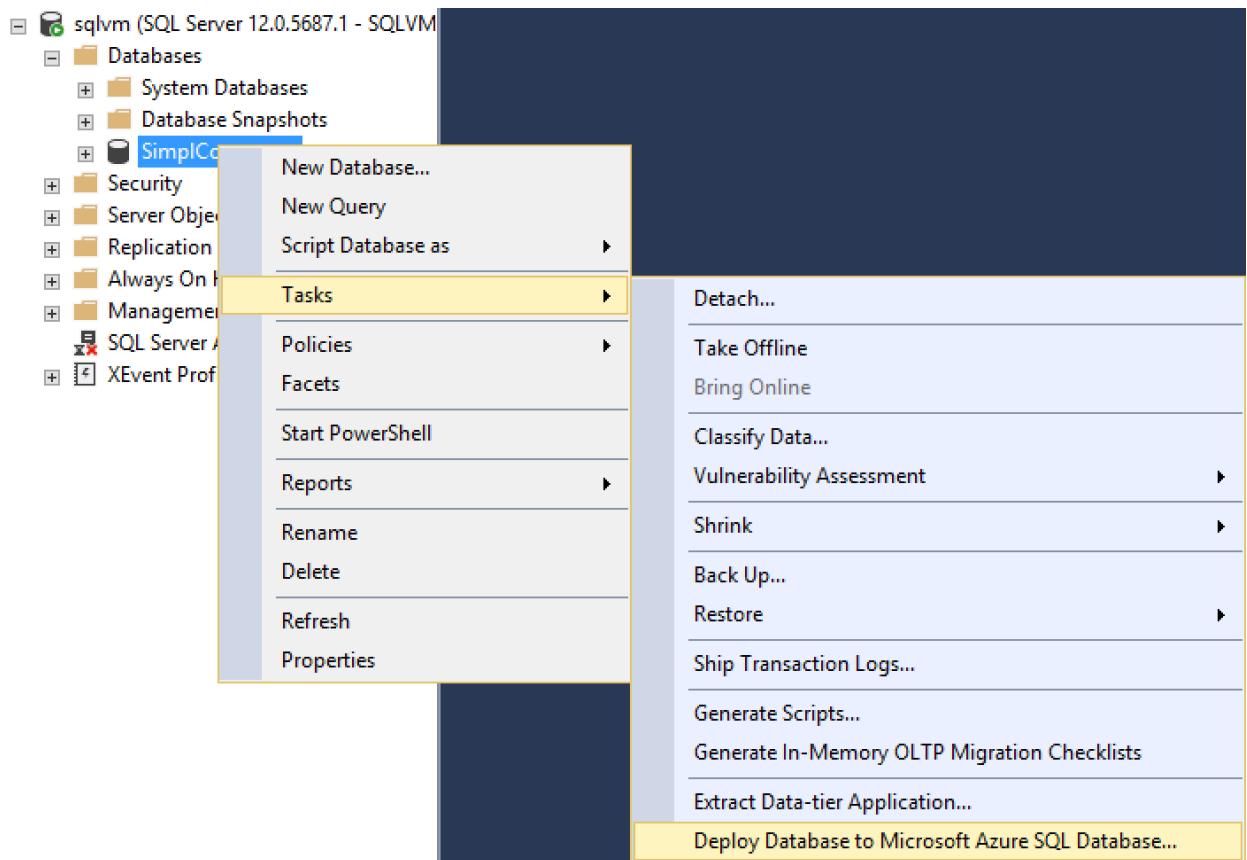
9. Press Connect to log on to this SQL Server instance.



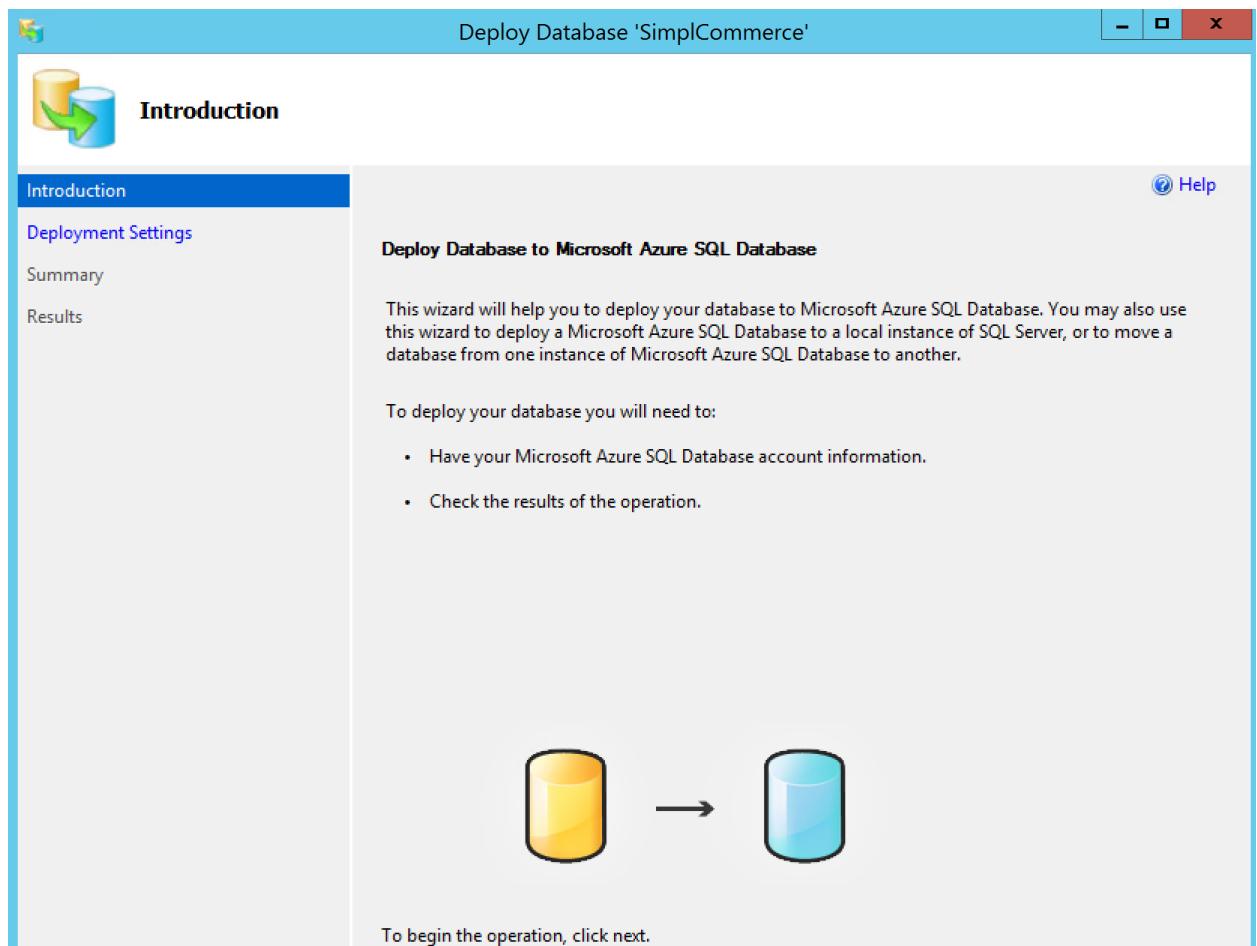
10. In order to have a connection to the SQL VM database instance, we need to add another connection. From the SQL Management Studio console, click **File / Connect Object Explorer**. In the **Connect to server** popup that appears, this time provide the server credentials from the SQLVM:
server name: sqlvm
authentication: **Windows Authentication**



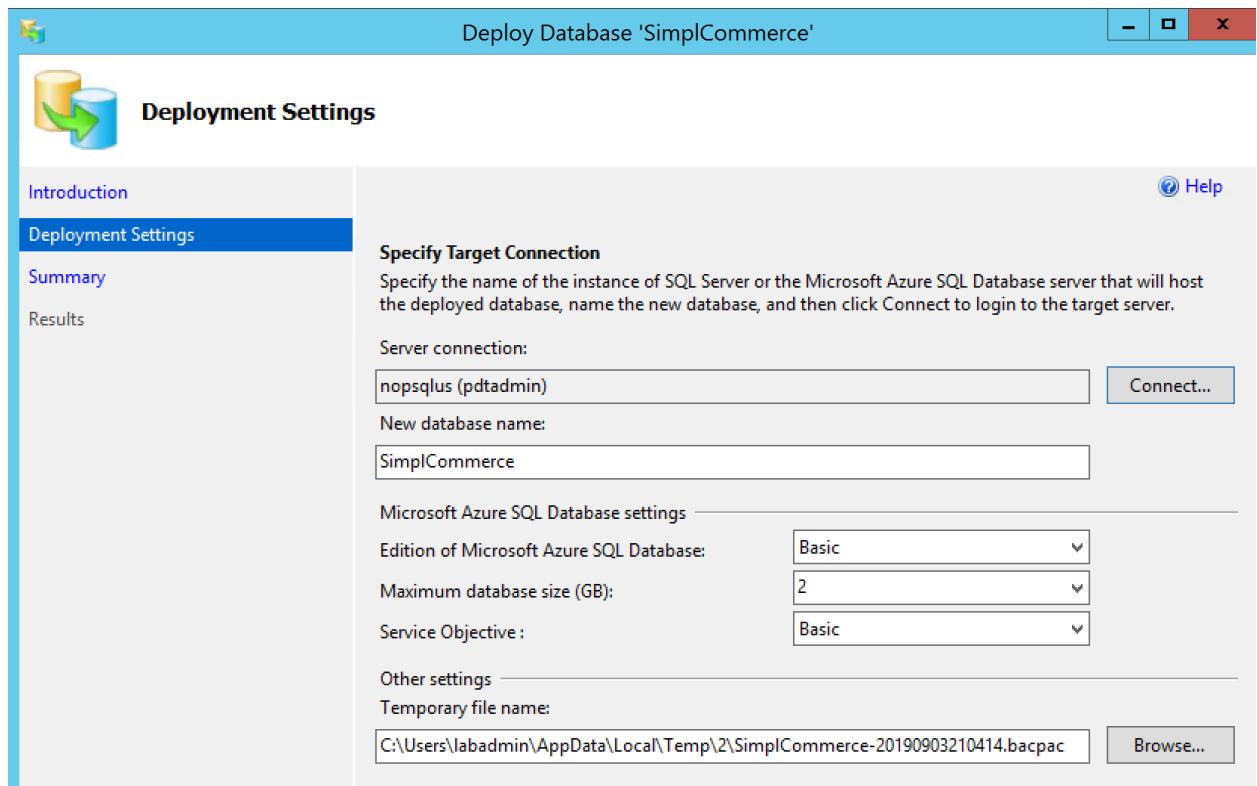
11. Press the **Connect** button.
12. The **Object explorer** shows a successful connection to both databases now. If you open the **Databases** level, you should see the **SimplCommerce** database.
13. The next step is running the actual migration of the database. Therefore, **select** the **AdventureWorks** database on the local **sqlvm**, **right-click** it, select **Tasks**, and next, select **Deploy Database to Microsoft SQL Azure Database**.



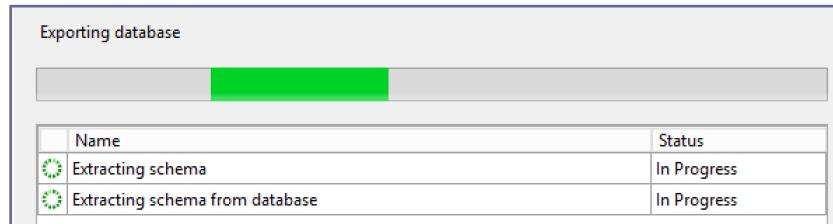
14. Press the **Next** button when you see the **Introduction** step showing up.



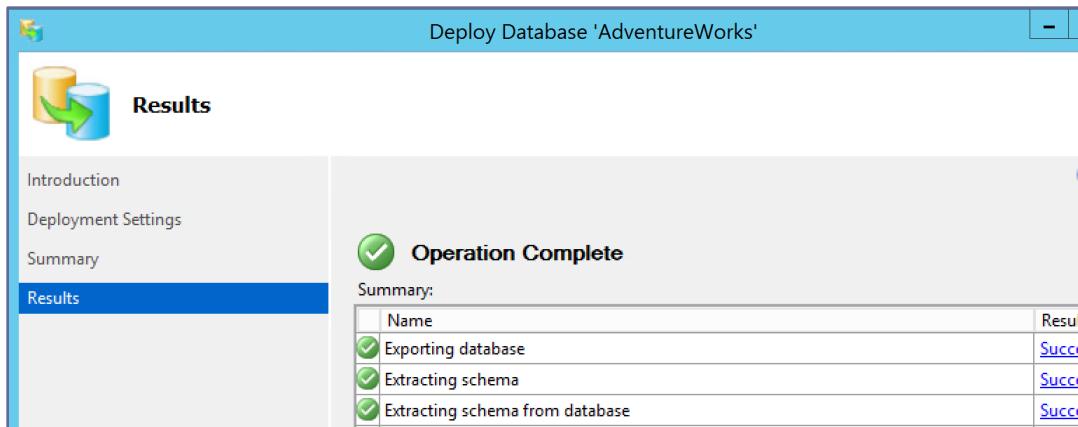
15. In the Deployment Settings, provide the Server Connection by pressing the **Connect** button. Provide the following details here:
 - Server Connection: <your sql server in Azure>
 - New Database name: **SimplCommerce**
 - Edition of Microsoft SQL Database: **Basic**
 - Max DB size: **2GB**
 - Service Objective: **Basic**



16. **Read** through the settings in the summary step. **Press** the **Finish** button to start the actual move process.



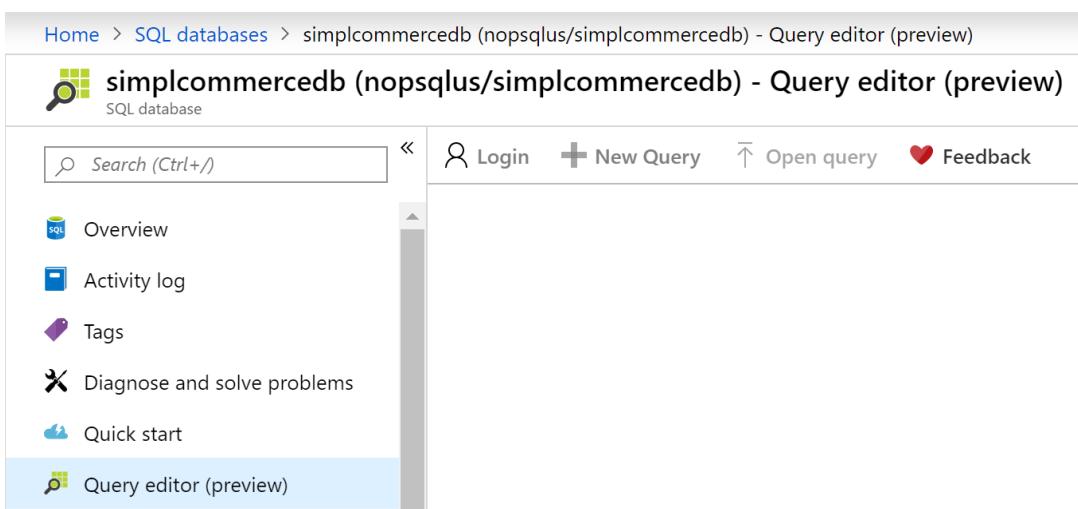
17. **Wait** for this process to complete – this could take about 10minutes.



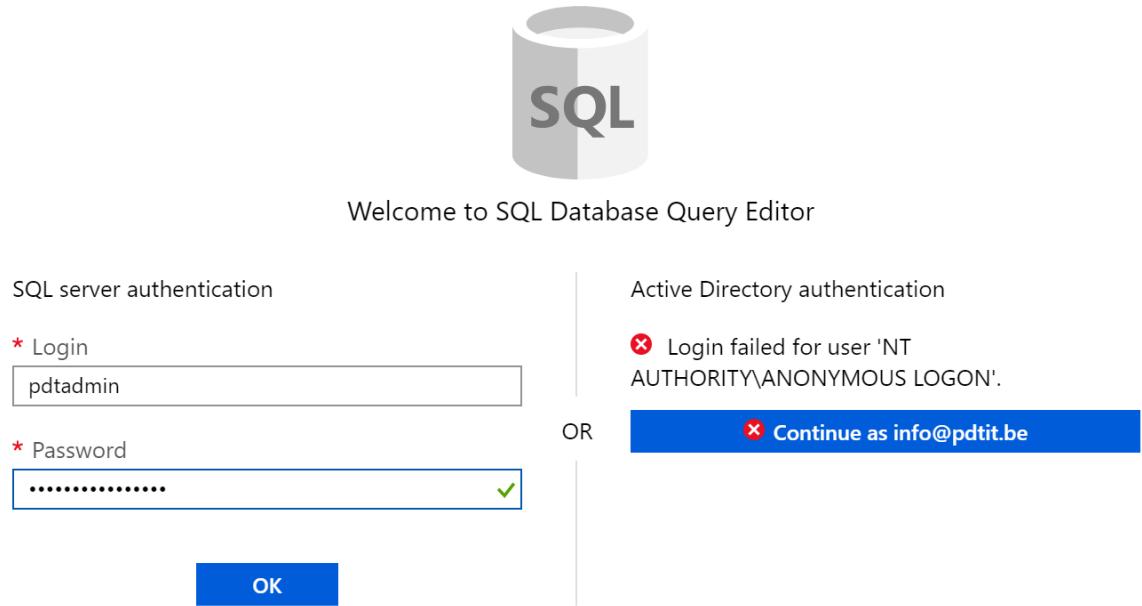
18. Once completed, close the migration window.

Task 4: Validate SQL Azure Database Migration using Azure Portal Query Editor

1. To validate the database is actually migrated successfully, one can go back to the Azure Portal, and use the Query editor, which is currently in preview, to check on the contents of the database and tables. **From the Azure Portal**, navigate to **all** services and **select** SQL databases.
2. From the list of databases, select **SimlCommerceDB** (migrated with Azure Data Migration Assistant), or **SimlCommerceDB** (migrated using SQL Mgmt Studio).
3. From the **SimlCommerceDB** detailed blade, select **Query editor (preview)**



4. Notice you are prompted to provide your SQL database credentials, where your Azure admin credentials are not giving you access to the database content.



5. Provide the labadmin / [L@BadminPa55w.rd](#) credentials, and **press OK**. This opens the query editor window. In the Query editor to the right, enter the following SQL query:

```
select * from dbo.Catalog_Product
```

and **press Run**. This will show you the full list of all Products we have in the database. Which confirms our migration from SQL Management Studio ran successful.

ID	NAME	SLUG	METATITLE
1	Lightweight Jacket	lightweight-jacket	
2	Lightweight Jacket M Black	lightweight-jacket-m-black	
3	Lightweight Jacket M Gray	lightweight-jacket-m-gray	
4	Lightweight Jacket L Black	lightweight-jacket-l-black	
5	Lightweight Jacket L Gray	lightweight-jacket-l-gray	

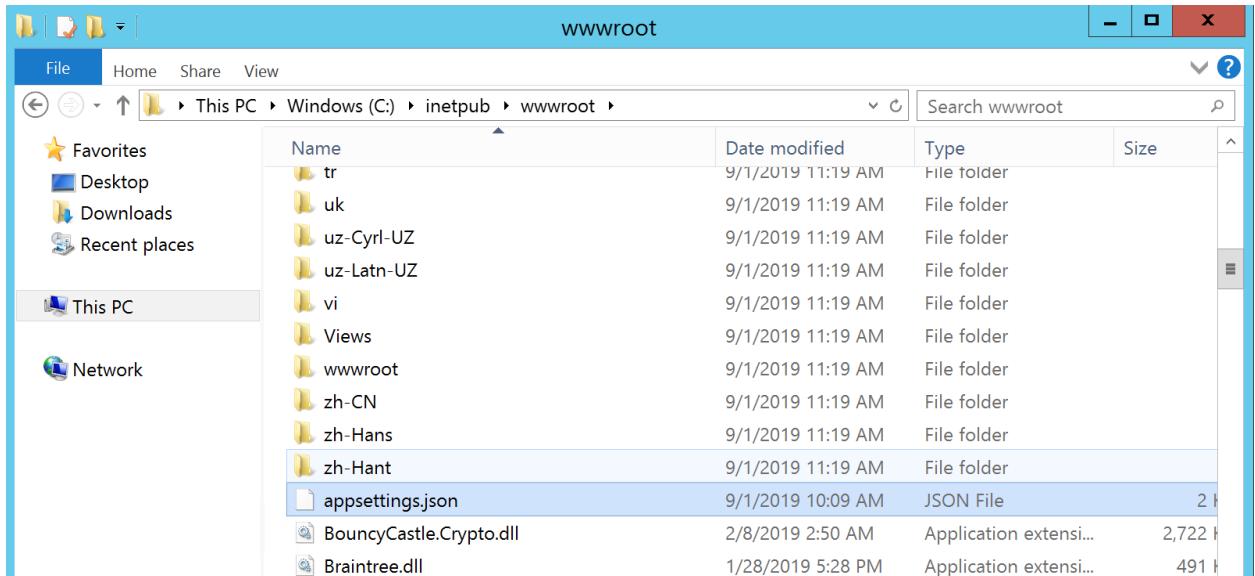
 The 'Messages' tab is also visible below the results table."/>

Task 5: Defining a hybrid connection from a Web VM to an Azure SQL database

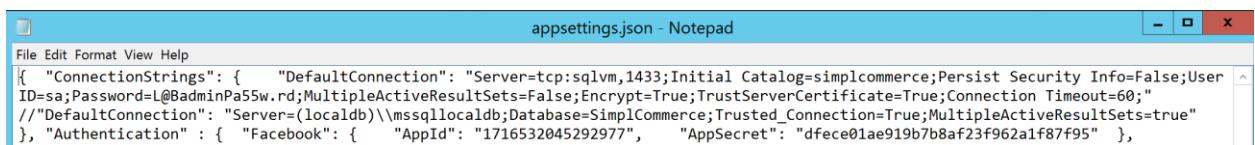
1. To complete our hybrid cloud migration, we will now update the connection string settings in the `appsettings.json` file of our Web VM web site application. This information can be retrieved from the SQL database settings in the Azure Portal. **From within the SQL database detailed blade**, browse to **Connection String** under the **settings** section.

2. Leave this information on screen, as you will need to copy parts of the ADO.NET connection string information into the Web server's `web.config` file.

3. Go back to the WebVM Virtual Machine Remote Desktop session (or open it again when you already closed the WebVM RDP session)
4. Browse to the IIS web server folder that has the web application content: c:\inetpub\wwwroot\ and open the file **appsettings.json** with Notepad.



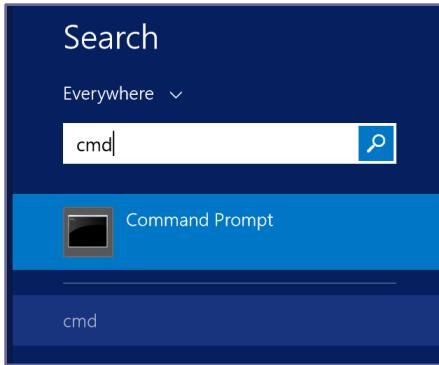
5. Go to the section that starts with "connectionStrings".



6. Replace the following settings with the parameters from the Connection String information in the Azure Portal:
 - **Server=tcp:sqlvm=>** change the sqlvm to <Azure SQL server name> e.g. nopsqlus.database.windows.net in our example
 - **Uid=sa =>** change the sa account to labadmin

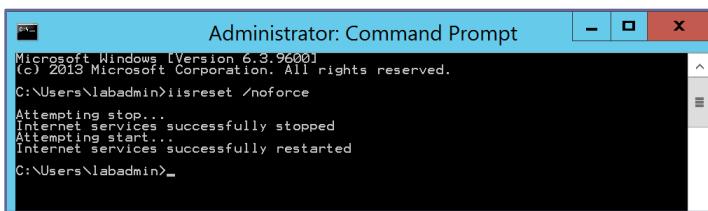
Save the changes to the **appsettings.json** file.

7. From the Start Screen on the WebVM, open a command prompt, by typing "CMD".

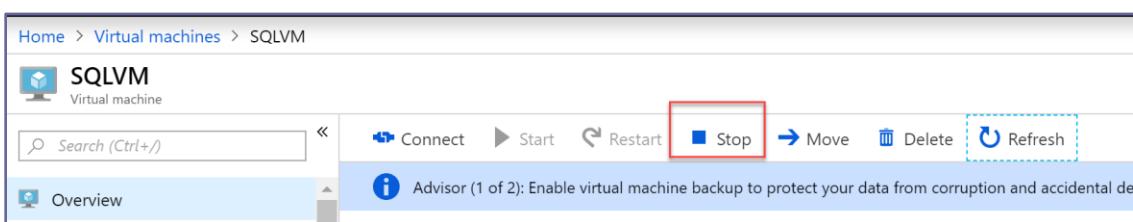


8. In the command prompt, run the following command, to restart the IIS Web Server service.

```
iisreset /noforce
```

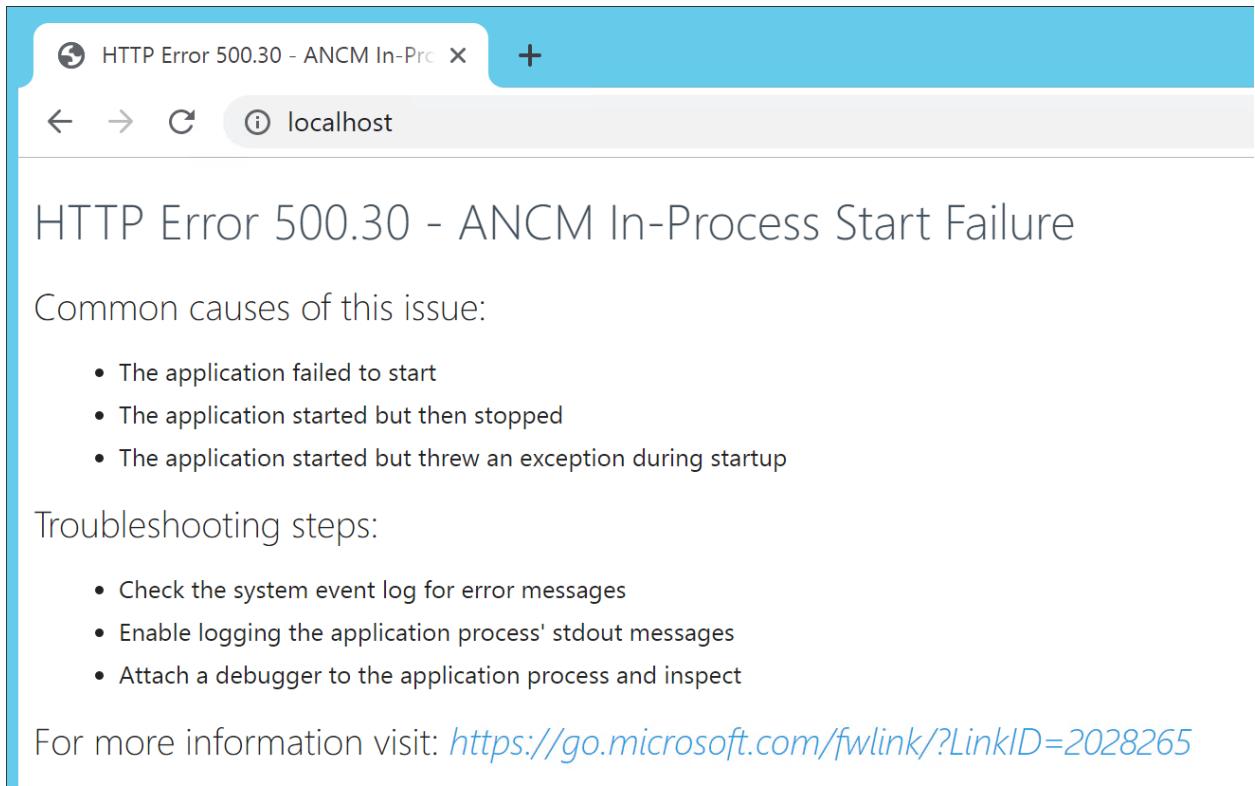


9. To proof that the web application is now connecting to the Azure SQL database, let's shutdown the SQLVM. From the Azure Portal, navigate to Virtual Machines, and click on the SQLVM Virtual Machine.
10. From the SQLVM detailed blade, press the STOP button in the top menu. Wait for the notification message, telling you the VM has shutdown.



11. To test if the web application is now connecting to the Azure SQL database, browse to the web site from within the WebVM's browser, connecting to localhost.
12. The website should load successfully and showing you the product catalog list.
13. If you receive an error message in the browser, similar to below screenshot, it means there is something wrong with the SQL database connection. Verify your settings again the

appsettings.json file, and run `IISreset again` from the command prompt..



HTTP Error 500.30 - ANCM In-Proc

localhost

HTTP Error 500.30 - ANCM In-Process Start Failure

Common causes of this issue:

- The application failed to start
- The application started but then stopped
- The application started but threw an exception during startup

Troubleshooting steps:

- Check the system event log for error messages
- Enable logging the application process' stdout messages
- Attach a debugger to the application process and inspect

For more information visit: <https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=2028265>

14. This completes this lab.

Summary

In this lab, you learned how to deploy a SQL Azure server resource, as well as how to migrate a SQL database using Azure SQL Data Migration Assistant, and/or the SQL Server Management Studio 17. You updated the IIS web server appsettings.json file and validated the web application is now running in a hybrid setup.