

Configure a lifecycle management policy - Azure Blob Storage

By normesta

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2. [Enable access time tracking](#)
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This article shows you how to create or manage an Azure Blob Storage lifecycle management policy.

You can use lifecycle management policies to transition blobs to cost-efficient access tiers based on their use patterns or delete them entirely at the end of their lifecycle. To learn more, see [Azure Blob Storage lifecycle management overview](#).

Note

A lifecycle management policy must be read or written in full. Partial updates are not supported.

Create or manage a policy

- [Portal](#)
- [PowerShell](#)
- [Azure CLI](#)
- [Template](#)

1. In the Azure portal, navigate to your storage account.
2. Under **Data management**, select **Lifecycle Management** to view or change lifecycle management policies.
3. Select the **List View** tab.
4. Select **Add a rule** and name your rule on the **Details** form. You can also set the **Rule scope**, **Blob type**, and **Blob subtype** values. The following example sets the scope to filter blobs. This causes the **Filter set** tab to be added.

Dashboard > lifecyclesamples >

Add a rule ...



- 1** Details
- 2 Base blobs
- 3 Filter set

A rule is made up of one or more conditions and actions that apply to the entire storage account. Optionally, specify that rules will apply to particular blobs by limiting with filters.

Rule name *

Rule scope *

- Apply rule to all blobs in your storage account
- Limit blobs with filters

Blob type *

- Block blobs
- Append blobs

Blob subtype *

- Base blobs
- Snapshots
- Versions

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5. Select **Base blobs** to set the conditions for your rule. In the following example, blobs are moved to cool storage if they haven't been modified for 30 days.

Home > lifecyclesamples >

Add a rule ...

✓ Details 2 Base blobs

Lifecycle management uses your rules to automatically move blobs to cooler tiers or to delete them. If you create multiple rules, the associated actions must be implemented in tier order (from hot to cool storage, then archive, then deletion).

If 

Base blobs were *

Last modified

Created


Last accessed

More than (days ago) *

30

↓

Then

Move to cool storage 

Move to cool storage
For infrequently accessed data that you want to keep on cool storage for at least 30 days.

Move to cold storage
For rarely accessed data that you want to keep for at least 90 days.

Move to archive storage
Use if you don't need online access and want to keep the object for 180 days or longer.

Delete the blob
Deletes the object per the specified conditions.

Previous Add

The **Last accessed** option is available only if you have enabled access time tracking and you've selected **Block blobs** as the blob type. See [Enable access time tracking](#).

6. If you selected **Limit blobs with filters** on the **Details** page, select **Filter set** to add an optional filter. The following example filters on blobs whose name begins with *log* in a container called *sample-container*.

Dashboard > lifecyclesamples >

Add a rule



✔ Details ✔ Base blobs **3** Filter set

Blob prefix

Filter blobs by name or first letters. To find items in a specific container, enter the name of the container followed by a forward slash, then the blob name or first letters. For example, to show all blobs starting with "a", type: "mycontainer/a".

Blob prefix

 *

Blob index match

If you have indexed items in containers with keys and values, you can filter for them.

Key

Value

Previous

Add

If you encounter unexpected results, see the following FAQ entry: [The blob prefix match string didn't apply the policy to the expected blobs.](#)

7. Select **Add** to add the new policy.

Manage a policy by using the code view.

You can also define a policy by adding JSON code directly in the **Code View** tab.

The following screenshot shows JSON in the **Code View** tab. This JSON defines a lifecycle policy that moves a block blob whose name begins with *log* to the cool tier if it has been more than 30 days since the blob was modified.

Microsoft Azure (Preview)

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contoso | Lifecycle management ☆ ...
Storage account

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Lifecycle management offers a rich, rule-based policy for general purpose v2 and blob stor

List View **Code View**

```
1 {
2   "rules": [
3     {
4       "enabled": true,
5       "name": "move-to-cool",
6       "type": "Lifecycle",
7       "definition": {
8         "actions": {
9           "baseBlob": {
10            "tierToCool": {
11              "daysAfterModificationGreaterThan": 30
12            }
13          }
14        },
15        "filters": {
16          "blobTypes": [
17            "blockBlob"
18          ],
19          "prefixMatch": [
20            "sample-container/log"
21          ]
22        }
23      }
24    }
25  ]
26 }
```

Overview
Activity log
Tags
Diagnose and solve problems
Access Control (IAM)
Data migration
Events
Storage browser
Storage Mover
Partner solutions
Resource visualizer
Data storage
Security + networking
Data management
Storage tasks (preview)
Redundancy
Data protection
Object replication
Blob inventory
Static website
Lifecycle management
Azure AI Search

Enable access time tracking

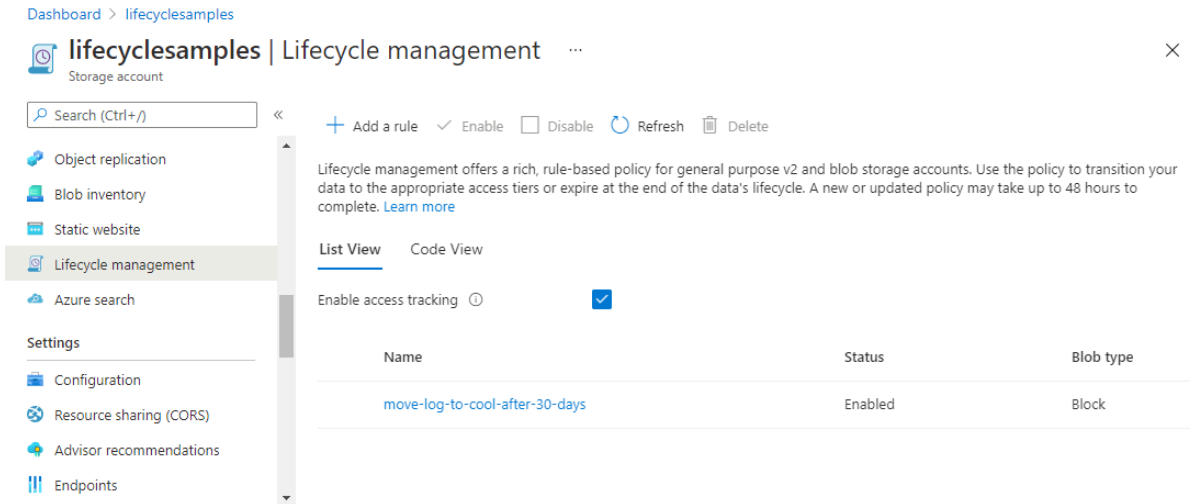
Enable access tracking if you want to include an action based on the time that the blob was last accessed with a read or write operation. To learn about the behavior of this capability, see [Access time tracking](#).

- [Portal](#)
- [PowerShell](#)
- [Azure CLI](#)
- [Template](#)

1. Navigate to your storage account in the Azure portal.

2. In the **Data management** section, select **Lifecycle management**.

3. Check the checkbox "Enable access tracking"



See also

- [Azure Blob Storage lifecycle management overview](#)
- [Lifecycle management policies that transition blobs between tiers](#)
- [Lifecycle management policies that delete blobs](#)
- [Lifecycle management policy monitoring](#)
- [Access tiers for blob data](#)

Additional resources

Training

- Last updated on 08/19/2025

Source: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/storage/blobs/lifecycle-management-policy-configure?tabs=azure-portal>