

# Create an Azure snapshot of a virtual hard disk - Azure Virtual Machines

By roygara

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**Applies to:** ✓ Linux VMs ✓ Windows VMs ✓ Flexible scale sets

A snapshot is a full, read-only copy of a virtual hard disk (VHD). You can use a snapshot as a point-in-time backup, or to help troubleshoot virtual machine (VM) issues. You can take a snapshot of both operating system (OS) or data disk VHDs. With snapshots, you can back up your managed disks at any point in time. These snapshots exist independently of the source disk, and you can use them to create new managed disks.

Snapshots are billed based on the used size. For example, if you create a snapshot of a managed disk with provisioned capacity of 64 GiB and an actual used data size of 10 GiB, that snapshot is billed only for the used data size of 10 GiB. You can see the used size of your snapshots by checking the [Azure usage report](#). For example, if the used data size of a snapshot is 10 GiB, the *daily* usage report shows  $10 \text{ GiB} / (31 \text{ days}) = 0.3226$  as the consumed quantity. Snapshots are billed separately from their original disk. For details, see the [pricing page](#).

## Create a snapshot of a VHD

If you want to use a snapshot to create a new VM, ensure that you first cleanly shut down the VM. This action clears any processes that are in progress.

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

To create a snapshot using the Azure portal, complete these steps.

1. In the [Azure portal](#), select **Create a resource**.
2. Search for and select **Snapshot**.
3. In the **Snapshot** window, select **Create**. The **Create snapshot** window appears.
4. For **Resource group**, select an existing [resource group](#) or enter the name of a new one.
5. Enter a **Name**, then select a **Region** and **Snapshot type** for the new snapshot. If you would like to store your snapshot in zone-resilient storage, you need to select a region that supports [availability zones](#). For a list of supporting regions, see [Azure regions with availability zones](#).
6. For **Source subscription**, select the subscription that contains the managed disk to be backed up.
7. For **Source disk**, select the managed disk to snapshot.
8. For **Storage type**, select **Standard HDD**, unless you require zone-redundant storage or high-performance storage for your snapshot.

9. If needed, configure settings on the **Encryption**, **Networking**, and **Tags** tabs. Otherwise, default settings are used for your snapshot.
10. Select **Review + create**.

## Next steps

To recover using a snapshot, you must create a new disk from the snapshot, then either deploy a new VM, and use the managed disk as the OS disk, or attach the disk as a data disk to an existing VM.

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Source: <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-machines/linux/snapshot-copy-managed-disk>