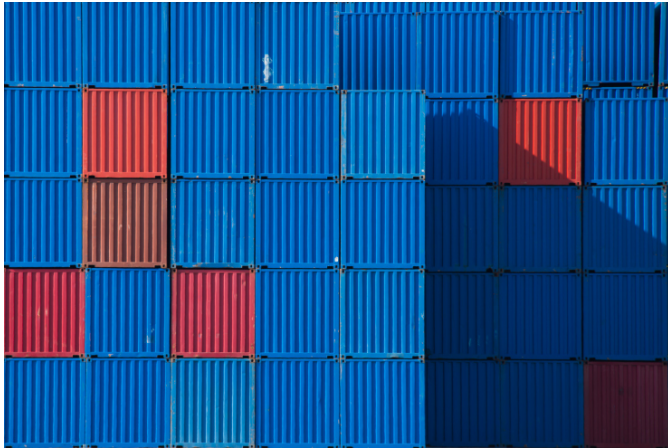# Microsoft Intros Rapid Container Deployment

Written by Marco Attard
28 July 2017

Microsoft announces Azure Container Instances (ACI)-- a container deployment service with an emphasis on speed and ease of use, as opposed to scalability and orchestration.

Currently available in preview form, ACI allows users to create a container with a choice of memory and CPU cores in just a few seconds (in fact usage is billed by the second). Microsoft insists containers created in ACI are first-class objects on the Azure cloud, and get the same role-based access controls, billing tags and other features expected from the platform. "Proven virtualisation technology" isolates the containers from other customers.

The service is designed to complement, not replace, the Azure Container Service, which allows for more scalable deployments one can use with an orchestrator. That said, Microsoft also provides an ACI connector with Kubernetes, meaning users can use both VM and ACI containers in the same Kubernetes cluster.

At the moment ACI only supports Linux containers, but Microsoft says Windows container support is coming "in the next couple of weeks."

In other cloud-related Microsoft announcements, the Windows developer is now a Platinum member of the Cloud Native Computing Foundation (CNCF), the collaborative project of the Linux Foundation (which Microsoft joined last year) with a focus on container-packaged applications. Fellow Platinum members include Cisco, CoreOS, Dell Technologies, Docker, Google, Huawei, IBM, Intel, Joyent and RedHat.

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