

# Azure Files in Azure File Sync

Slavko Kukrika

([Slavko.Kukrika@Outlook.com](mailto:Slavko.Kukrika@Outlook.com))

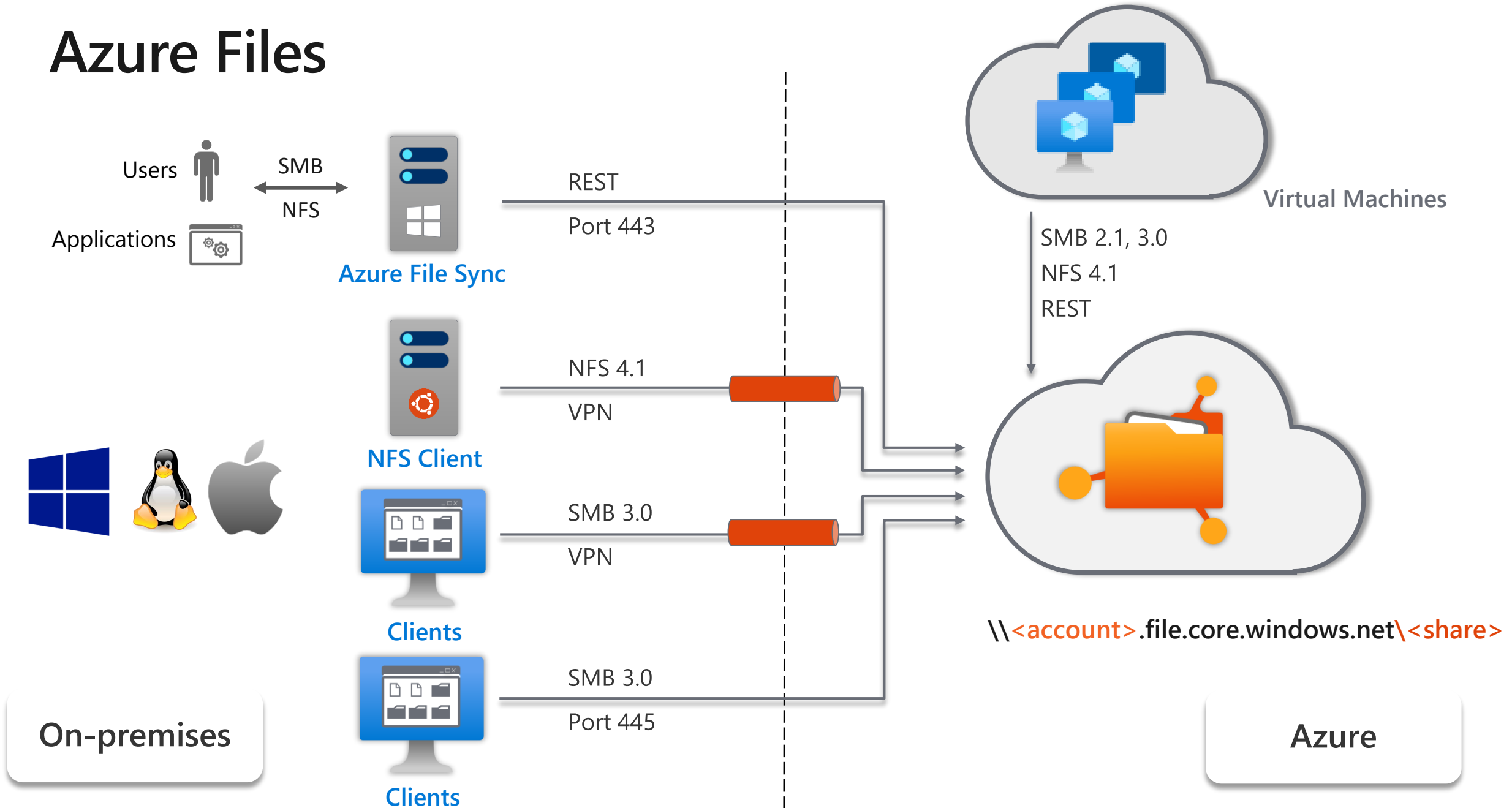
MCT in prijazen fant



# Agenda

- ➔ Azure Storage Services
- ➔ Azure Files - SMB file shares in the cloud
- ➔ Azure Files Sync to sync data with the cloud
- ➔ Protect Azure Files with Azure Backup
- ➔ Questions & Answers

# Azure Files



# Why Azure Files?

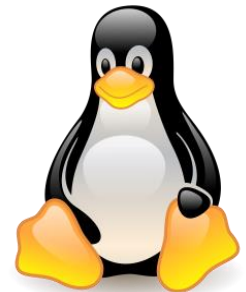
- Azure Files benefits:
  - Serverless deployment
  - Almost unlimited storage
  - Data redundancy
  - Data encryption
  - Access from anywhere
  - Use of standard protocols
  - Integration into existing environment
  - Granular file permissions
  - Pay-as-you-go pricing model
  - Previous versions and backup
  - (Optional) Integration with on-premises file servers
- Common uses of Azure Files
  - Replace or supplement on-premises file servers
  - Lift and shift
  - Backup and disaster recovery

# Accessing Azure Files



```
net use Z:  
\\sk180227storage.file.core.windows.net\share01 /u:AZURE\sk1  
80227storage  
F6lpH/DHTolSorTU7kS2h4vMxHlhVfr6PT0vN3iNmYg4ynp4j6c2j  
GWP7MLppYvZ/nwo6egThtsqpKgE0YG7SA==
```

```
sudo mount -t  
cifs //sk180227storage.file.core.windows.net/share01 [mount  
point] -o  
vers=3.0,username=sk180227storage,password=F6lpH/DHTolS  
orTU7kS2h4vMxHlhVfr6PT0vN3iNmYg4ynp4j6c2jGWP7MLppYv  
Z/nwo6egThtsqpKgE0YG7SA==,dir_mode=0777,file_mode=077  
7,sec=ntlmssp
```



# Azure Files Authentication

Active Directory  
Domain Services



OR  
(mutually  
exclusive)

Azure Active Directory  
Domain Services



Azure Files authentication support:

- Access key
- Shared access signature
- **Identity-based authentication over SMB**



Clients



Storage File Data SMB Share Contributor ⓘ



Storage File Data SMB Share Elevated Contributor ⓘ



Storage File Data SMB Share Reader ⓘ



Azure file share

# Azure Files Snapshots

- Azure file share snapshots enable you to revert to previous file versions
- Created per Azure file share
  - Azure Backup creates snapshot when backing up Azure file share
  - Share can have up to 200 snapshots
- Access file share snapshots in Azure portal or by using Previous Versions tab in File Explorer

Simple  
configuration

User defined  
retention

Point in time  
restore

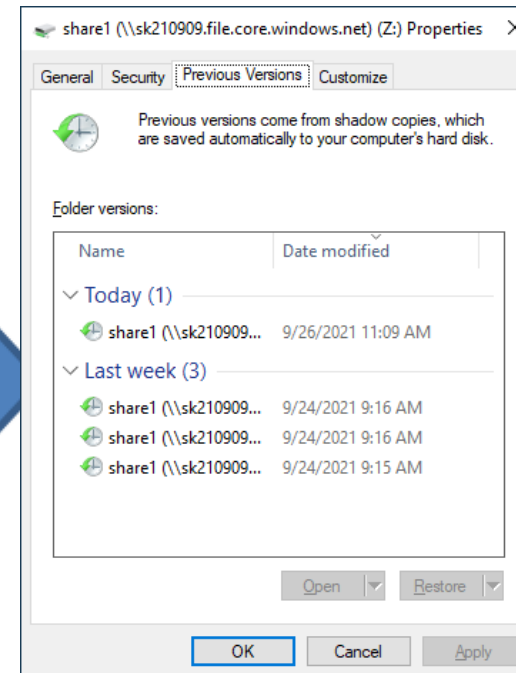


share1 | Snapshots ...

File share

+ Add snapshot Refresh Delete

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Date created
<input type="checkbox"/>	2021-09-24T07:15:58.0000000Z	9/24/2021, 9:15:58 AM
<input type="checkbox"/>	2021-09-24T07:16:08.0000000Z	9/24/2021, 9:16:08 AM
<input type="checkbox"/>	2021-09-24T07:16:10.0000000Z	9/24/2021, 9:16:10 AM
<input type="checkbox"/>	2021-09-26T09:09:18.0000000Z	9/26/2021, 11:09:18 AM



Incremental

Programmable

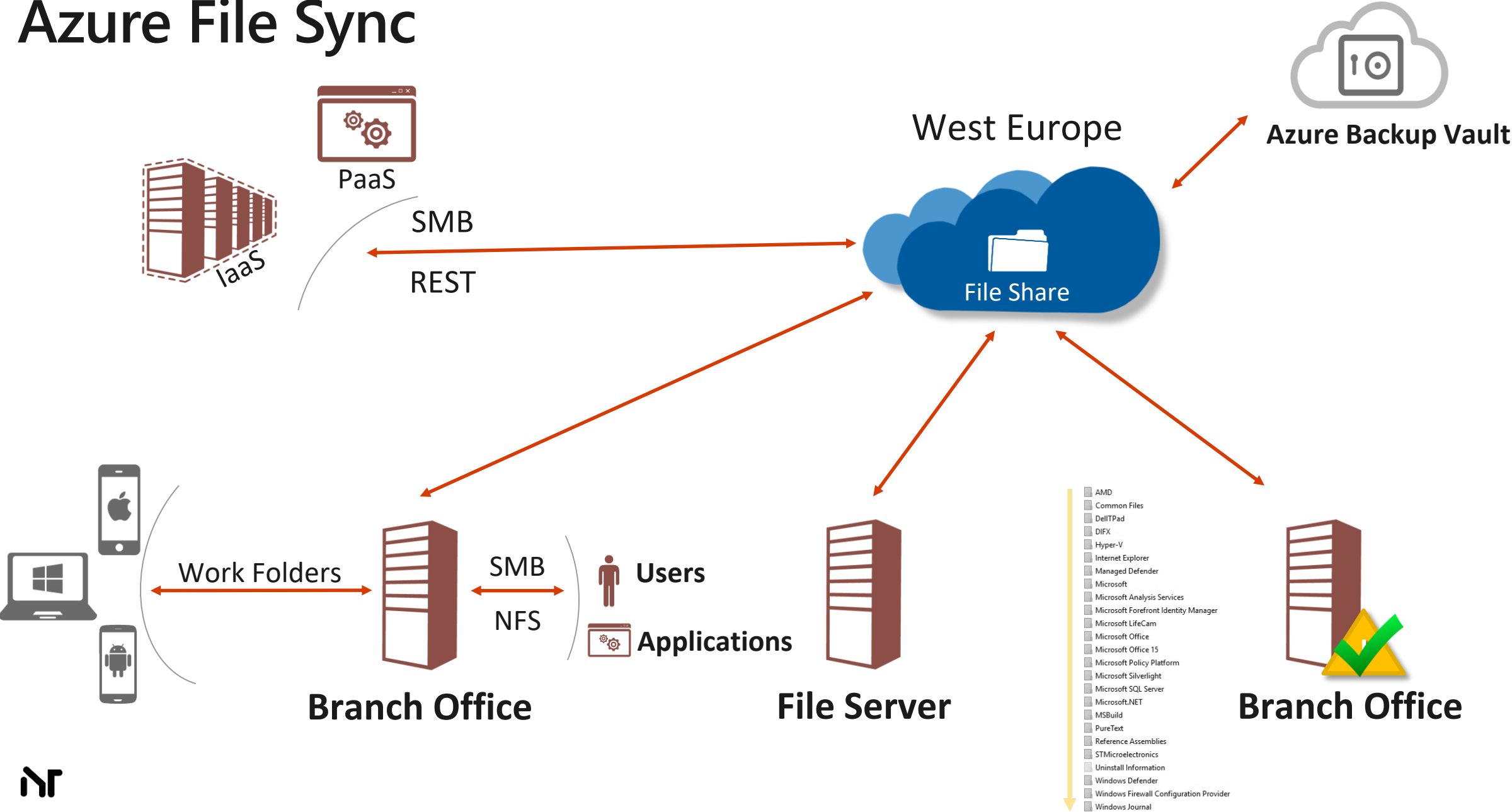
VSS like  
experience

# Demo: Configuring Azure Files

- Creating storage account, file share and uploading a file
- Using Azure file share snapshots
- Configuring Azure file share authentication



# Azure File Sync



# Demo: Implementing Azure File Sync

- Registering Azure Storage Sync agent
- Adding Storage Sync server endpoint
- Testing Azure File Sync

# File Sync cloud tiering

- Cloud tiering is Azure File Sync optional feature that ensures that:
  - File server has always sufficient free space available
  - Frequently accessed files are cached locally on a file server
  - End user has transparent experience as all the files would be stored locally on file server
- Cloud tiering enabled by a file system filter driver
  - Builds a “heatmap” based on:
    - Last-accessed-time
    - Frequency of access
- Cloud tiering is compatible with data deduplication

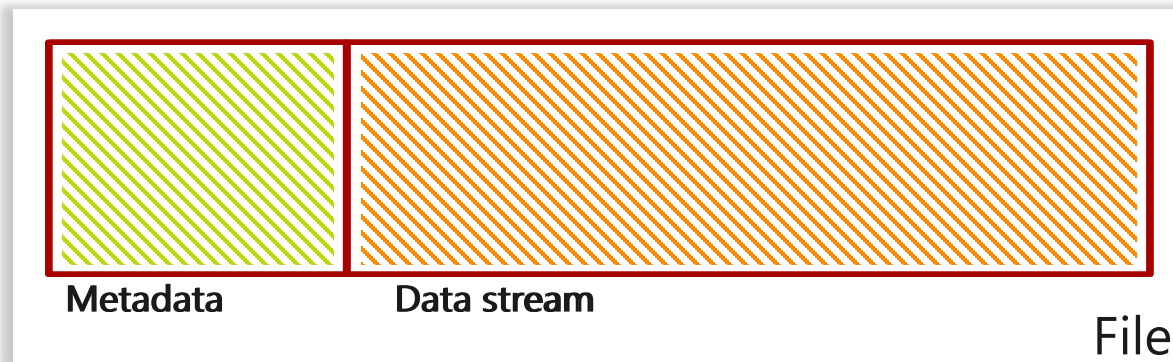
Cloud Tiering Enabled Disabled

Always preserve the specified percentage of free space on the volume: ⓘ

95

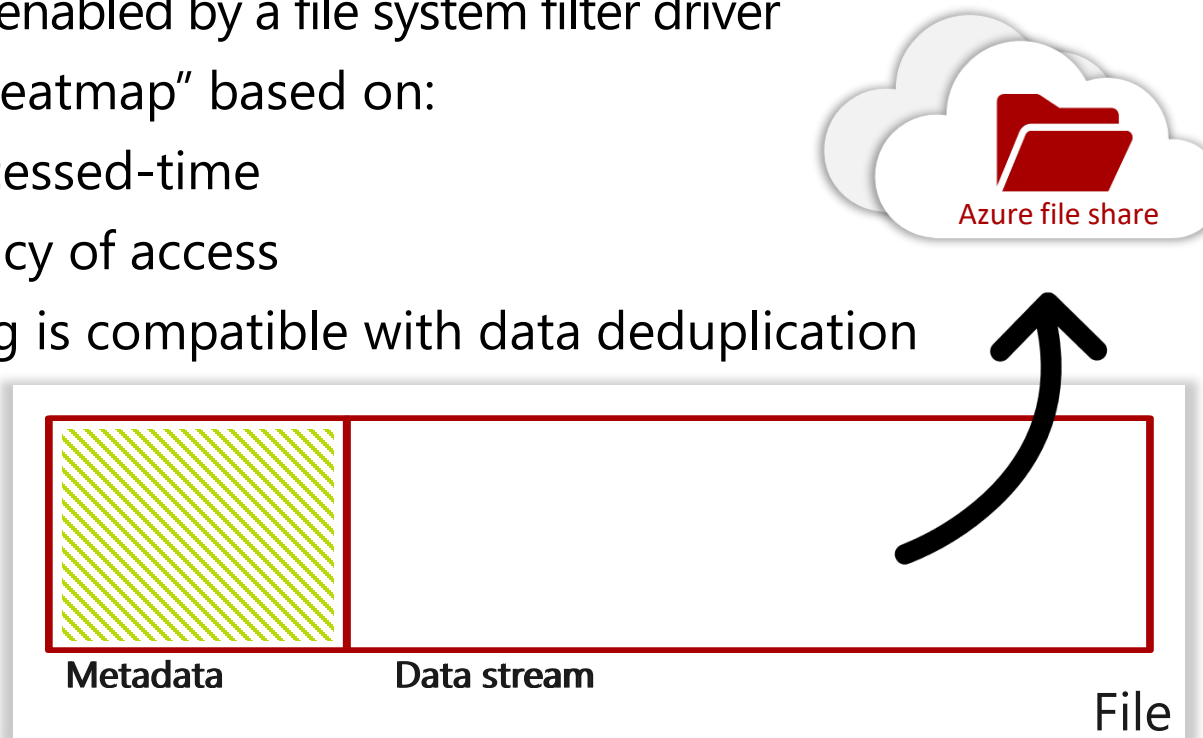
☒ Only cache files that were accessed or modified within the specified number of days: ⓘ

5



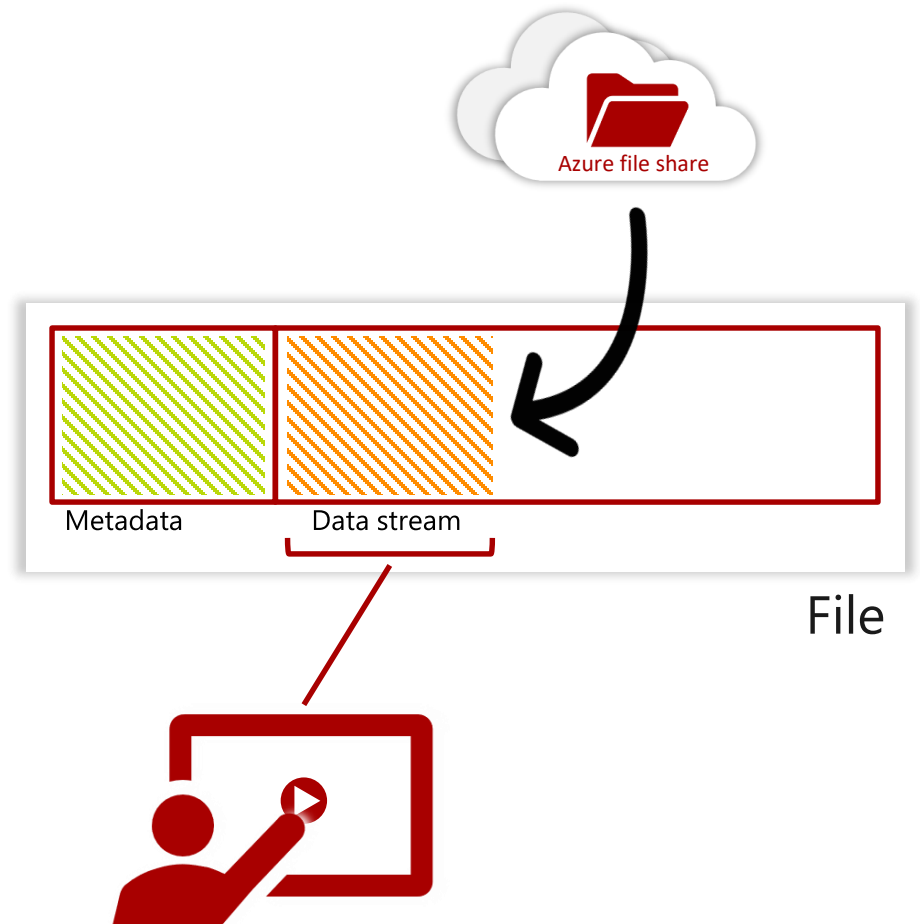
# File Sync cloud tiering

- Cloud tiering is Azure File Sync optional feature that ensures that:
  - File server has always sufficient free space available
  - Frequently accessed files are cached locally on a file server
  - End user has transparent experience as all the files would be stored locally on file server
- Cloud tiering enabled by a file system filter driver
  - Builds a “heatmap” based on:
    - Last-accessed-time
    - Frequency of access
- Cloud tiering is compatible with data deduplication



# Partial File Recall

- Files can be:
  - Cached locally
  - Tired in Azure file share
  - Partially tiered
- Only some file formats support partially tired state
  - Media files, .zip archives
- File recall is transparent for users
- You can recognize tiered files by viewing:
  - File size on disk
  - File attributes



# Azure File Sync Scenarios

## Multi-site sync

Keep a data set in sync across multiple locations

## Cloud tiering

Turn a server into a lightweight, performance cache for Azure Files

## Direct cloud access

Native file format with SMB or REST access

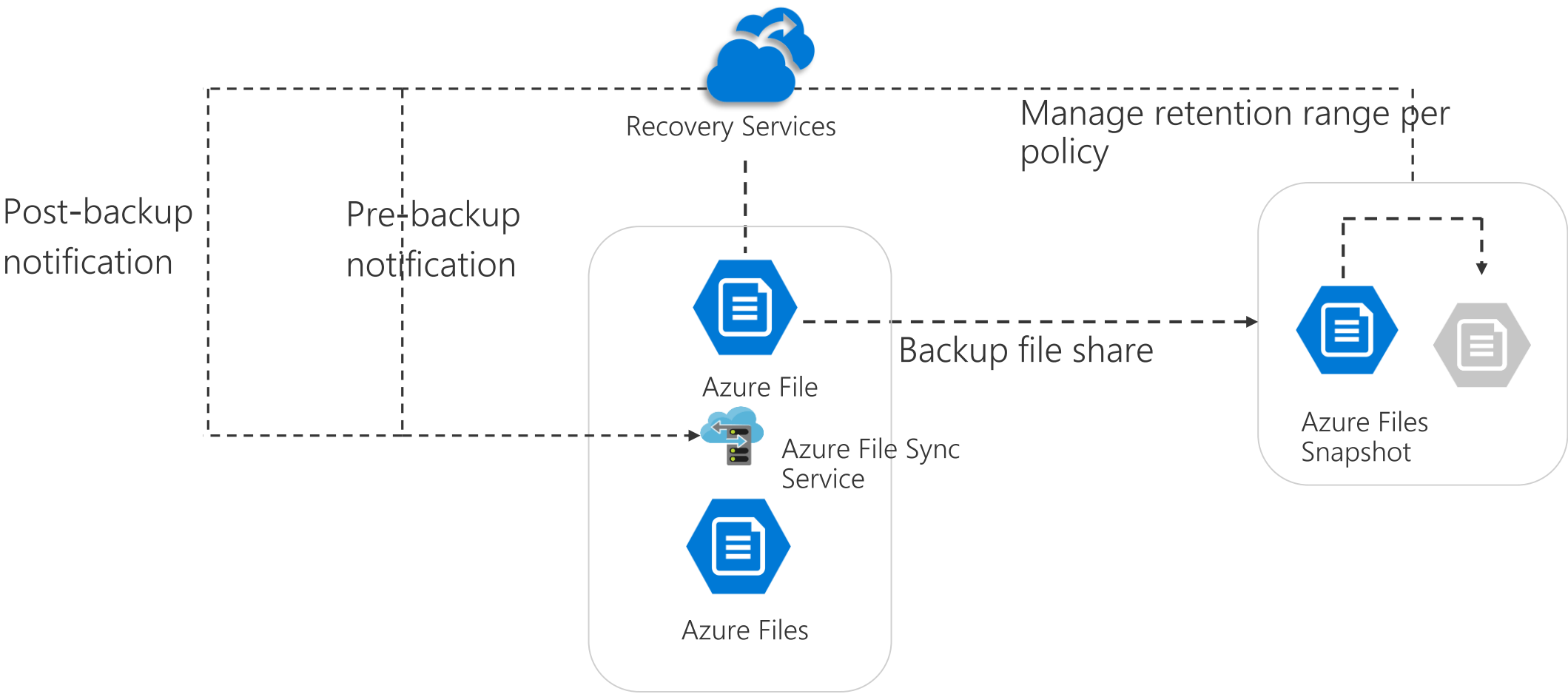
## Integrated cloud backup

Point-in-time recovery and retention policies without redundant data transfer

## Rapid file server DR

Fast namespace sync with no need to wait for data restore

# Sync-aware Azure Files backup



# Summary

## Azure Files can replace file servers

- Clients can access them as on-premises file servers

- Internet connectivity and TCP port 445 (outbound)

- Identity-based authentication with on-premises Active Directory

- Provides data backup and DR

- Pay-what-you-use approach

## Azure File Sync synchronizes data with the cloud

- Cloud tiring

- Synchronizes data and permissions

- Can replace DFS-R



# Additional Information

## What is Azure Files?

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/storage/files/storage-files-introduction>

## Planning for an Azure File Sync deployment

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/storage/files/storage-sync-files-planning>

## AD DS authentication for Azure file shares

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/storage/files/storage-files-identity-auth-active-directory-enable>

## Azure Files Pricing

<https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/pricing/details/storage/files/>

# Vprašanja?

**Slavko.Kukrika@Outlook.com**

Hvala za udeležbo na predavanju!



nt konferenca  
**2021**