

Veeam Backup for Azure

(Azure Private Deployments)

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Executive summary

Microsoft Azure is more than ever one of the preferred choices when it comes to public cloud computing. Customers and partners know that protecting the workloads in the cloud matter for various reasons. This is underlined by the Shared Responsibility Model, which defined that from the OS system onward or the data kept in PaaS and SaaS the customer is responsible for the data protection.

To protect their data from outsiders, customers are more frequently setting up isolated or restricted networks within Azure. Such environments are also called private deployments and are often seen in hardened environments based on the Microsoft Cloud Adaption Framework (CAF).

This document should give backup and Azure security administrators some guidance steps on running Veeam Backup for Azure in an environment where public access should be avoided.

Introduction

To provide an easier start with a basic setup in a private deployment, this document provides the initial steps and some hints on how to set up Veeam Backup for Microsoft Azure with a focus on the specialities of such environments.

Additionally, the general information can be found on the Helpcenter pages: https://helpcenter.veeam.com/docs/vbazure/guide/overview.html

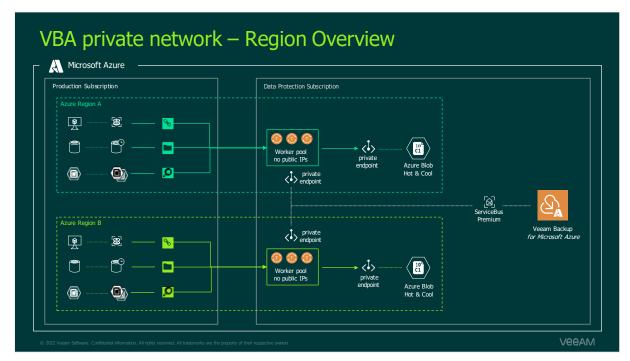
Please have a regular read through the Best Practices Guide to be up to date with some valuable tips and hints from field experience: https://bp.veeam.com/vbcloud/guide/azure/

The following steps are part of this document:

- Setting up App registration and permissions
- Deploying the Veeam Backup for Azure Appliance
- Enabling private network deployment and ServiceBus Premium
- Setting up Storage Accounts and Repositories
- Define Networks and private DNS
- Using Azure Key Vaults
- Additional topics that might be helpful

Overview

The following drawing provides a high-level overview of the setup and its connections. As we can see, the environment is split up into a production and a data protection subscription. Also, it is visible that different regions can be considered when deciding on where to place certain components.



This design gives us a basis for the setup described in this document.



Requirements

App registration and permissions

Veeam Backup for Microsoft Azure uses Azure AD Applications to connect and interact with Azure resources. They are named Azure Accounts and Repository Accounts within Veeam Backup for Microsoft Azure.

Their usage for operations starts with the enumeration of resources and building worker instances; they are involved in snapshot management and reach all the way to storing data in Azure Storage Accounts. Therefore, a range of permissions is needed.

We can find the detailed and most recent list of permissions here:

Azure Service Account Permissions

https://helpcenter.veeam.com/docs/vbazure/guide/service account permissions.html

Azure Repository Account Permissions

https://helpcenter.veeam.com/docs/vbazure/guide/repository account permissions.html

It is possible to leverage only one Azure Application. Still, using a dedicated account just for the backup repositories is recommended to minimise the required permissions for each connection. Also, the repositories can reside in a separate subscription and therefore need a separate Azure Application.

In this demo setup, we have added one Azure Application for the Production subscription and two for the Data Protection subscription. The two Azure Applications in the Data Protection subscription are used to split up the permissions of managing the Appliance and Worker on one side and the access to the Storage Accounts on the other side.

Azure Custom Roles have been defined with settings to reduce the permissions to the minimum requirements. The JSON templates for these roles can be found in Appendix A.

Veeam Appliance

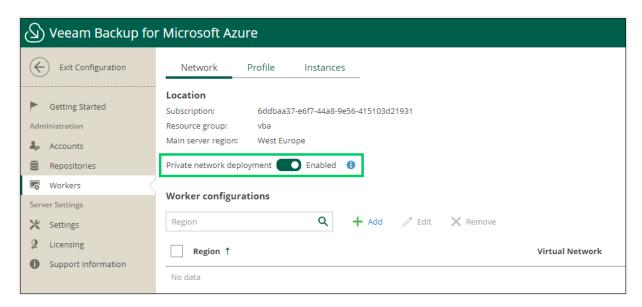
To simplify the deployment of Veeam Backup for Microsoft, we can find a virtual Machine template called "Veeam Backup for Microsoft Azure BYOL Edition" in the Azure Marketplace. Please use the Helpcenter Pages for the initial setup process:

https://helpcenter.veeam.com/docs/vbazure/guide/installing vb.html

Veeam recommends using a Standard_B4ms machine, which can be adjusted to your needs. Ensure not to go below 2 vCPU and 4 GB RAM for small environments.

Azure Service Bus

For private environments, it is necessary to enable Azure Service Bus premium since this provides the functionality of private endpoints for a Service Bus. Veeam Backup for Microsoft Azure is managing this automatically once we activate the "Private network deployment" Option:



In the Azure Portal, we can see that a new premium Service Bus has been created. The process of activating the new Service Bus might take a while.

Veeam Backup for Azure needs to use the Azure Service Bus Premium to perform tasks in private environments. Depending on your environment, this comes with additional costs to consider.

Storage Accounts for Repositories

Multi-Region and landing zones.

As a best practice provide at least one Azure Storage Account within the data protection subscription per region in which you want to protect workloads to avoid the intensive costs generated by traffic leaving the region.

For security reasons, the Storage Accounts used for Repositories should not be within the same subscription as the production data. Separating them would also align with the landing zone concept provided by the Cloud Adoption Framework. Please see the Microsoft pages for more information: https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/ready/landing-zone/

Azure Storage Accounts

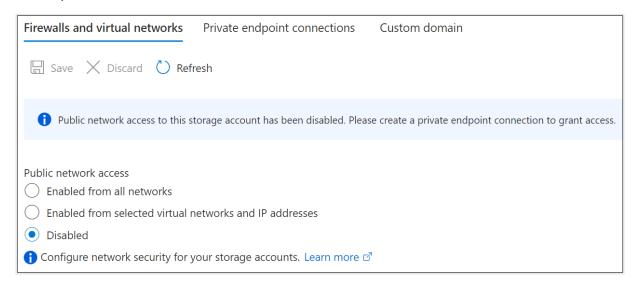
In this setup, we created a Storage Account in North Europe and one in West Europe:



Each Storage Account has a container with a private access level defined:

Name	Last modified	Public access level
\$logs	3.1.2023, 11:53:04	Private
vbarepo	3.1.2023, 12:03:07	Private

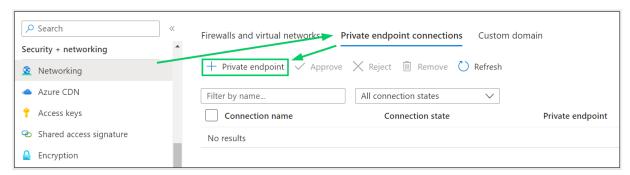
Set the public network access to "Disabled":

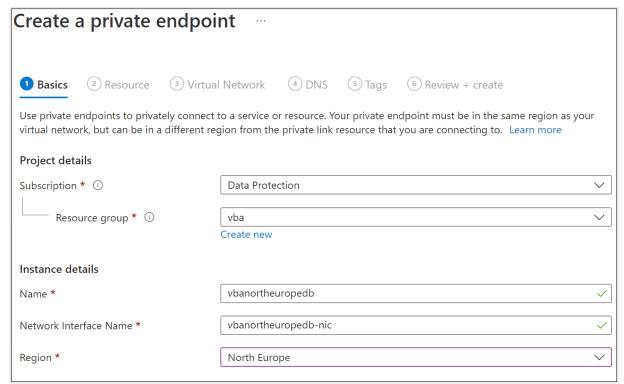


Create a private endpoint for every Storage Account in its region and one in the same network as the Veeam Appliance. The first is to enable the worker writing data during backups and the latter to manage the repository.

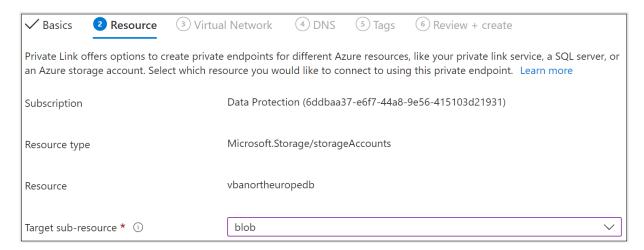


You can access the private endpoint settings by clicking "Networking" and "Private Endpoints" on the Storage Account.

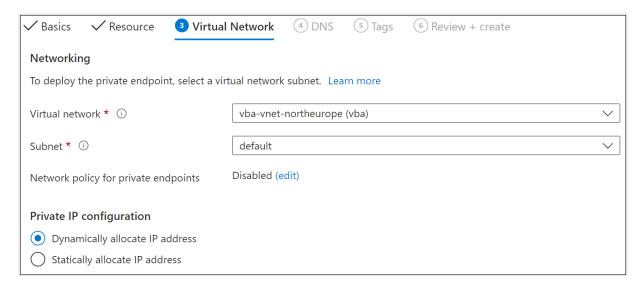




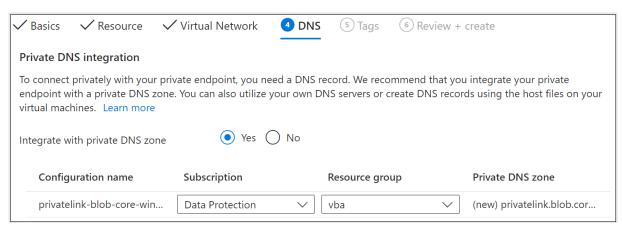
Define the Target sub-resource as "Blob":



Select the related network in the region:



Keep the DNS settings with their defaults:

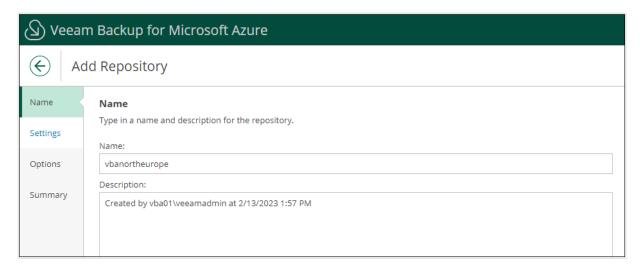


If required, add tags and continue with Create.

Repeat this procedure for additional Storage Accounts that should be used as a repository.

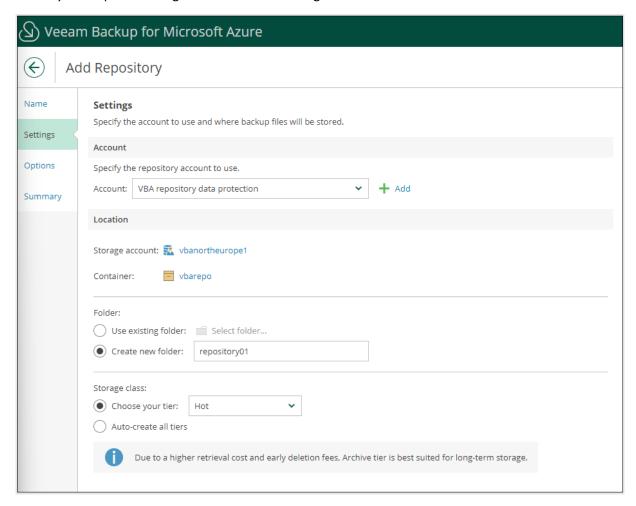
Veeam Backup Repositories

Now that the Storage Accounts in Azure are prepared, we can add Repositories in Veeam Backup for Azure targeting them. Provide a name for the new Repository and select Next.



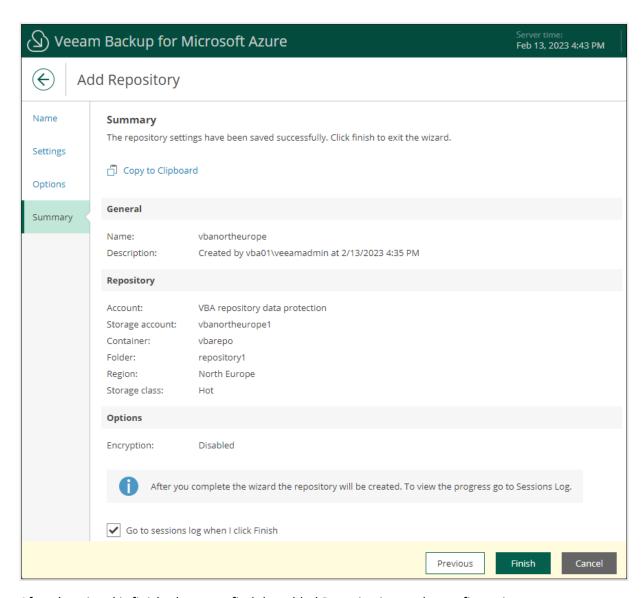


Select the dedicated account for repositories in the data protection subscription and the container to be used. If you have prepared a folder in the container, select it or create a new one instead. At last, define your required storage tier before continuing with Next.

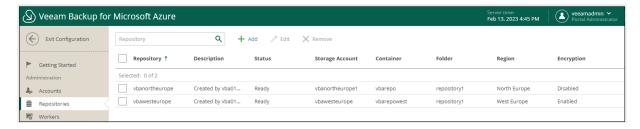


Choose if you want to enable encryption of the backup data. You can use a dedicated password to encrypt or use an Azure Key Vault encryption key. Be aware that there is no way for Veeam to support with the decryption of backups if this key is ever lost. It is important to make sure that a copy is stored in a very safe place.

In this example we skip encryption and add the Repository after the summary page. Please see the steps below for using Azure Key Vaults if required.



After the wizard is finished, we can find the added Repositories on the configuration page:

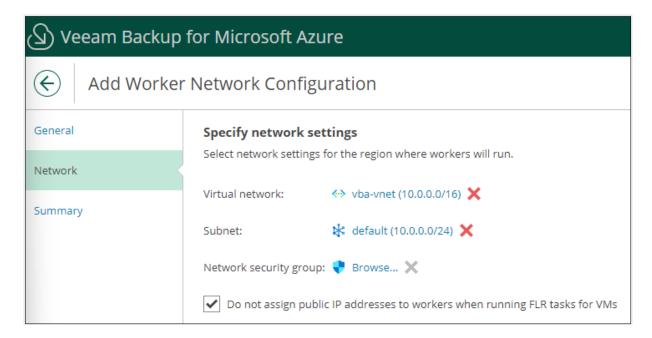


Veeam Workers

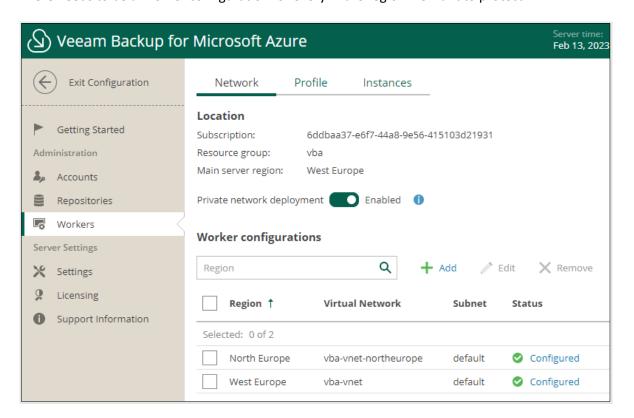
Network Configuration

To be able to backup workloads in multiple regions, we need to add the Worker configuration. Since we enabled private network deployment, all workers will use private endpoints automatically.

During the wizard of adding a Worker configuration, make sure to enable the option **not** to assign public IP addresses to workers when running FLR tasks for VMs:



There needs to be a Worker configuration for every Azure region we want to protect:





Dedicated profiles for Worker instances can be set up in the Worker configuration. Since there is nothing special to private environments regarding the Worker profiles, please see the Helpcenter documentation for additional details on this topic:

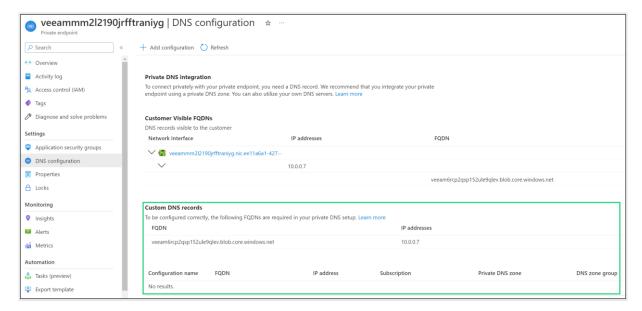
https://helpcenter.veeam.com/docs/vbazure/guide/managing worker profiles.html

Azure Private DNS Integration

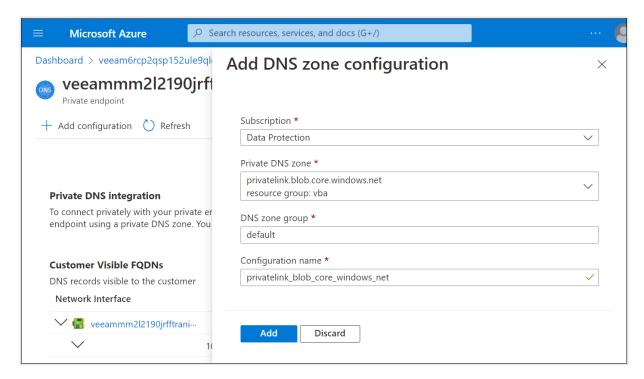
The workers use a Storage Account per region to load their configuration. This Storage Account is automatically created with the first worker that gets deployed. In private deployments, this can lead to the issue that the Private Endpoint needs to be added to a Private DNS Zone. Veeam is evaluating options to improve and automate this in future product releases.

This will result in workers being unable to be provisioned because they cannot read a config.

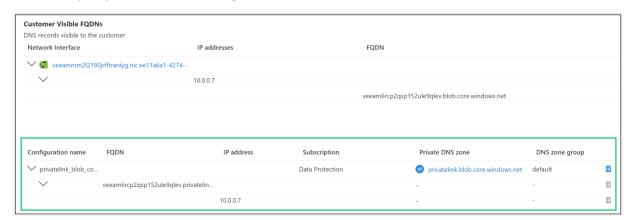
To add the DNS record, open the DNS configuration of the Private Endpoint. Here we see that no Custom DNS record is present:



Click on Add configuration at the top and add a custom DNS zone configuration:



After the configuration has been added, it is visible in the DNS configuration, and the workers can successfully be provisioned in this region:

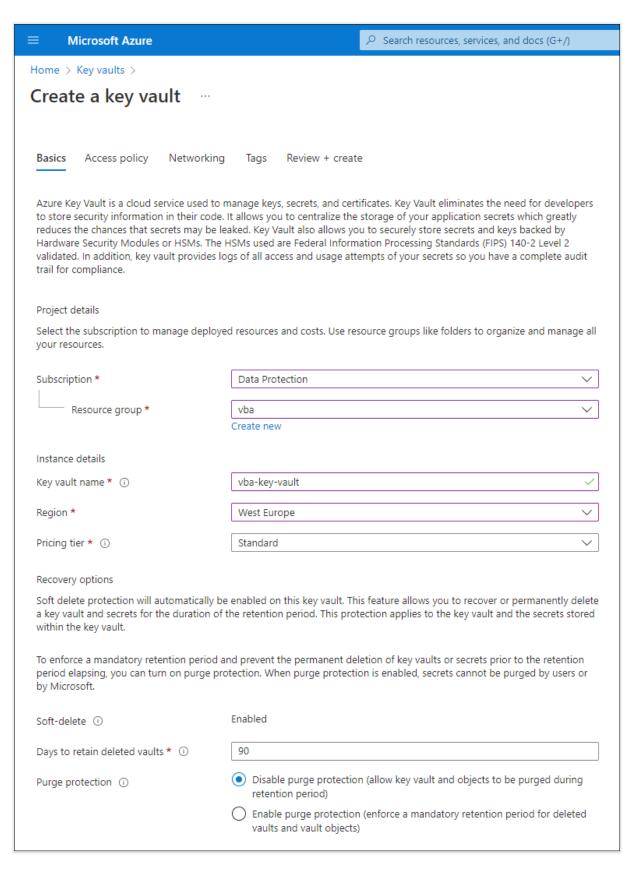


Azure Key Vault

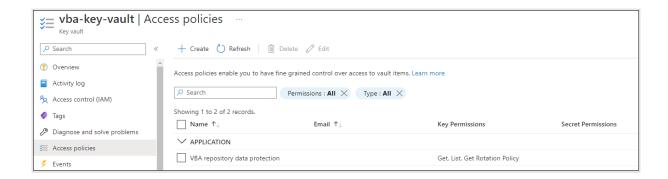
If you decide to use Azure Key Vault Keys to encrypt backups stored by Veeam Backup for Microsoft Azure within a private deployment, it is necessary to add a private endpoint to the Azure Key Vault. Be aware that we need an Azure Key Vault in the same regions of the Azure Storage Accounts where you want to encrypt backup data.

For this setup, a dedicated Azure Key Vault and the key is created:

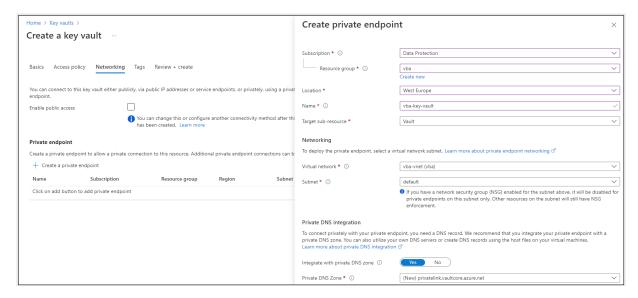




For the access policy, we add the Azure Application used for repository access with the key permissions Get, List, Get Rotation Policy:

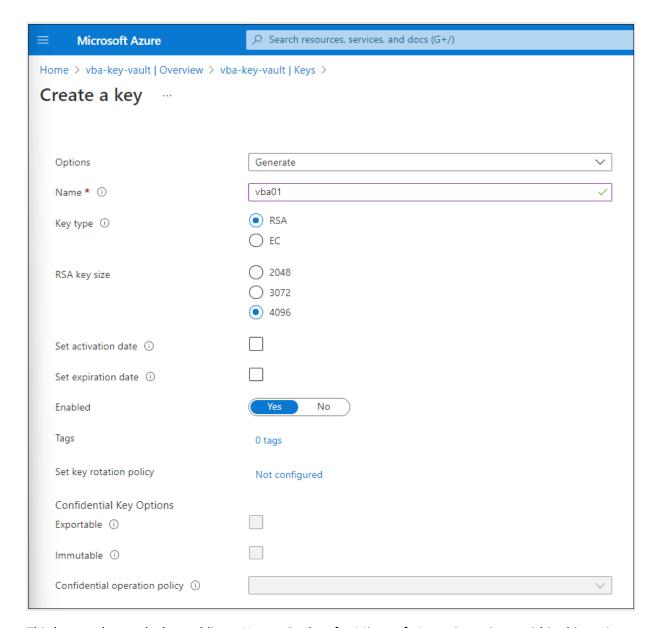


On the Networking page, we disable public access and create a private endpoint:



Review + Create the new Azure Key Vault.

Once the resource has been created, go on and create a key that should be used for the encryption of backup data:



This key can be used when adding a Veeam Backup for Microsoft Azure Repository within this region.

Conclusion

Private deployments do bring some challenges which you need to be aware of. In this document we described the settings and configuration steps that must be taken care of to run Veeam Backup for Microsoft Azure within such environments successfully.

At this stage you can create backup policies to achieve the desired state of protection for workloads in your private deployment in Azure.

If there are further questions or challenges to master, please see the Veeam Helpcenter documentation or raise a case with our support team.



Additional Topics

Azure Plug-in for Veeam Backup & Replication

If you want to use the Microsoft Azure Plug-in for Veeam Backup & Replication in a private deployment, make sure to have your firewall and routing for VPN or ExpressRoute set up so that communication between Veeam Backup & Replication and Veeam Backup for Microsoft Azure can be established. The required firewall ports can be found here:

https://helpcenter.veeam.com/docs/vbazure/vbr_integration/used_ports.html

Azure network hints

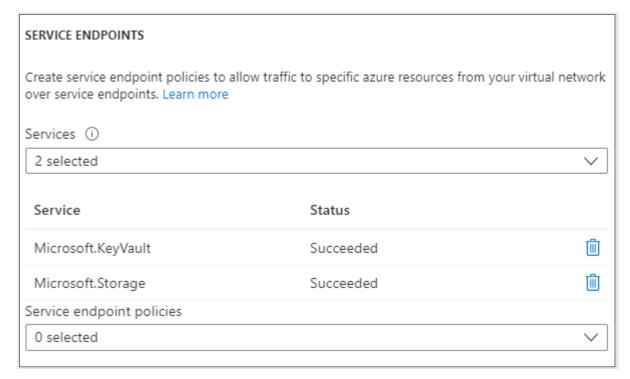
To avoid issues while connecting the Veeam Backup for Microsoft Azure appliance and workers to the Azure services, check the following settings in Azure:

- DNS configuration of the private endpoints.
- Peerings between the virtual networks involved.

This should be done for Storage Accounts used for backup repositories and Azure Key Vaults containing keys planned to encrypt backup data.

Virtual Network Service Endpoints

Make sure that the Service Endpoints contain Microsoft.KeyVault and Microsoft.Storage for all Azure virtual networks used by Veeam Workers and the Appliance:



Firewall Ports

For an up-to-date list of the firewall ports used by Veeam Backup for Microsoft Azure, please look at the related Helpcenter pages: https://helpcenter.veeam.com/docs/vbazure/guide/ports.html

HTTP Proxy for Updates

Suppose you have restricted internet access and use an HTTP and HTTPS proxy. In that case, you should configure the Veeam Backup for the Microsoft Azure appliance for this to receive OS and appliance updates.

```
Open an SSH connection to the appliance and perform these steps:
```

```
sudo -i

Modify or create the proxy.conf file:
```

vi /etc/apt/apt.conf.d/proxy.conf

Add the following information related to your proxy:

```
Acquire::http::Proxy "<a href="http://yourproxy.fqdn.com:8080/";">http://yourproxy.fqdn.com:8080/";</a> Acquire::https::Proxy "<a href="http://yourproxy.fqdn.com:8080/";">http://yourproxy.fqdn.com:8080/";</a>
```

Save and exit the file and run a test:

apt-get update

Appendix A – JSON role template

The JSON template for roles in Production and Data Protection subscription where the Veeam Backup for Microsoft Azure appliance is located:

```
"id": "/subscriptions/ABC-123-PROD/providers/Microsoft.Authorization/roleDefinitions/ABC456",
"properties": {
 "roleName": "vba service account production",
 "description": "",
 "assignableScopes": [
  "/subscriptions/ABC-123-PROD"
  "/subscriptions/ABC-123-DP"
],
 "permissions": [
  "actions": [
    "Microsoft.Authorization/roleAssignments/read",
    "Microsoft.Commerce/RateCard/read",
    "Microsoft.Compute/diskEncryptionSets/read",
    "Microsoft.Compute/disks/beginGetAccess/action",
    "Microsoft.Compute/disks/delete",
    "Microsoft.Compute/disks/endGetAccess/action",
    "Microsoft.Compute/disks/read",
    "Microsoft.Compute/disks/write",
    "Microsoft.Compute/snapshots/beginGetAccess/action",
    "Microsoft.Compute/snapshots/delete",
    "Microsoft.Compute/snapshots/endGetAccess/action",
    "Microsoft.Compute/snapshots/read",
    "Microsoft.Compute/snapshots/write",
    "Microsoft.Compute/virtualMachines/deallocate/action",
```

```
"Microsoft.Compute/virtualMachines/delete",
"Microsoft.Compute/virtualMachines/extensions/read",
"Microsoft.Compute/virtualMachines/extensions/write",
"Microsoft.Compute/virtualMachines/read",
"Microsoft.Compute/virtualMachines/runCommand/action",
"Microsoft.Compute/virtualMachines/start/action",
"Microsoft.Compute/virtualMachines/write",
"Microsoft.DevTestLab/Schedules/write",
"Microsoft.Insights/MetricDefinitions/Read",
"Microsoft.Insights/Metrics/Read",
"Microsoft.KeyVault/vaults/deploy/action",
"Microsoft.KeyVault/vaults/keys/versions/read",
"Microsoft.KeyVault/vaults/read",
"Microsoft.Network/loadBalancers/read",
"Microsoft.Network/networkInterfaces/delete",
"Microsoft.Network/networkInterfaces/join/action",
"Microsoft.Network/networkInterfaces/read",
"Microsoft.Network/networkInterfaces/write",
"Microsoft.Network/networkSecurityGroups/join/action",
"Microsoft.Network/networkSecurityGroups/read",
"Microsoft.Network/privateEndpoints/delete",
"Microsoft.Network/privateEndpoints/read",
"Microsoft.Network/privateEndpoints/write",
"Microsoft.Network/privateLinkServices/privateEndpointConnections/read",
"Microsoft.Network/privateLinkServices/privateEndpointConnections/write",
"Microsoft.Network/privateLinkServices/privateEndpointConnections/delete",
"Microsoft.Network/publicIPAddresses/delete",
"Microsoft.Network/publicIPAddresses/join/action",
"Microsoft.Network/publicIPAddresses/read",
"Microsoft.Network/publicIPAddresses/write",
"Microsoft.Network/routeTables/join/action",
"Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks/checkIpAddressAvailability/read",
"Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks/delete",
"Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks/read",
"Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks/subnets/join/action",
"Microsoft.Network/virtualNetworks/write",
"Microsoft.Resources/subscriptions/resourceGroups/delete",
"Microsoft.Resources/subscriptions/resourceGroups/moveResources/action",
"Microsoft.Resources/subscriptions/resourceGroups/read",
"Microsoft.Resources/subscriptions/resourceGroups/write",
"Microsoft.ServiceBus/namespaces/delete",
"Microsoft.ServiceBus/namespaces/networkrulesets/delete",
"Microsoft.ServiceBus/namespaces/networkrulesets/read",
"Microsoft.ServiceBus/namespaces/networkrulesets/write",
"Microsoft.ServiceBus/namespaces/operationresults/read",
"Microsoft.ServiceBus/namespaces/queues/authorizationRules/ListKeys/action",
"Microsoft.ServiceBus/namespaces/queues/authorizationRules/read",
"Microsoft.ServiceBus/namespaces/queues/authorizationRules/write",
"Microsoft.ServiceBus/namespaces/queues/delete",
"Microsoft.ServiceBus/namespaces/queues/read",
"Microsoft.ServiceBus/namespaces/queues/write",
"Microsoft.ServiceBus/namespaces/read",
```

```
"Microsoft.ServiceBus/namespaces/write",
     "Microsoft.ServiceBus/register/action",
     "Microsoft.Sql/locations/*",
     "Microsoft.Sql/managedInstances/databases/delete",
     "Microsoft.Sal/managedInstances/databases/read",
     "Microsoft.Sql/managedInstances/databases/write",
     "Microsoft.Sql/managedInstances/encryptionProtector/read",
     "Microsoft.Sal/managedInstances/read",
     "Microsoft.Sql/servers/databases/azureAsyncOperation/read",
     "Microsoft.Sql/servers/databases/delete",
     "Microsoft.Sql/servers/databases/read",
     "Microsoft.Sql/servers/databases/syncGroups/read",
     "Microsoft.Sql/servers/databases/transparentDataEncryption/read",
     "Microsoft.Sql/servers/databases/usages/read",
     "Microsoft.Sql/servers/databases/write",
     "Microsoft.Sql/servers/elasticPools/read",
     "Microsoft.Sql/servers/encryptionProtector/read",
     "Microsoft.Sql/servers/read",
     "Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts/blobServices/read",
     "Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts/listKeys/action",
     "Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts/managementPolicies/write",
     "Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts/privateEndpointConnections/write",
     "Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts/PrivateEndpointConnectionsApproval/action",
     "Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts/read",
     "Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts/write"
   ],
   "notActions": [],
   "dataActions": [
     "Microsoft.KeyVault/vaults/keys/encrypt/action",
     "Microsoft.KeyVault/vaults/keys/decrypt/action",
     "Microsoft.KeyVault/vaults/keys/read"
   "notDataActions": []
The JSON template for a role in the subscription where the backup repositories are located:
 "id": "/subscriptions/DEF-123-DP/providers/Microsoft.Authorization/roleDefinitions/DEF456",
  "roleName": "vba repository data protection",
  "description": "",
  "assignableScopes": [
   "/subscriptions/DEF-123-DPREPO"
  ],
  "permissions": [
```



```
"actions": [
 "Microsoft.Authorization/roleAssignments/read",
 "Microsoft.KeyVault/vaults/deploy/action",
 "Microsoft.KeyVault/vaults/keys/versions/read",
 "Microsoft.KeyVault/vaults/read",
 "Microsoft.Network/privateEndpoints/delete",
 "Microsoft.Network/privateEndpoints/read",
 "Microsoft.Network/privateEndpoints/write",
 "Microsoft.Network/privateLinkServices/privateEndpointConnections/read",
 "Microsoft.Network/privateLinkServices/privateEndpointConnections/write",
 "Microsoft.Network/privateLinkServices/privateEndpointConnections/delete",
 "Microsoft.Resources/subscriptions/resourceGroups/read",
 "Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts/blobServices/read",
 "Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts/listKeys/action",
 "Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts/privateEndpointConnections/write",
 "Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts/PrivateEndpointConnectionsApproval/action",
 "Microsoft.Storage/storageAccounts/read"
"notActions": [],
"dataActions": [
 "Microsoft.KeyVault/vaults/keys/encrypt/action",
 "Microsoft.KeyVault/vaults/keys/decrypt/action",
 "Microsoft.KeyVault/vaults/keys/read"
],
"notDataActions": []
```

You can use and customize these JSON templates for your needs, but please check the latest Helpcenter information since required permissions might change with future development. https://helpcenter.veeam.com/docs/vbazure/guide/account_permissions.html