





ARM, Bicep, knees and toes!
Infrastructure as code for beginners.



Originally from Mexico.



Tech Lead at Geneca.

Spend time with family, movies, videogames, soccer.



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Agenda

Who is this talk for?

• Infrastructure as Code

- Tool overview
 - ARM templates
 - Bicep
 - Terraform



Who is this talk for?

People completely new to IaC.

Little experience with ARM templates.

• New to Bicep.

New to Terraform.



Infrastructure as Code

 Deploy infrastructure in an automated, consistent and repeatable manner.











ARM templates



ARM templates

JSON format with declarative syntax.

• Defines infrastructure and configuration.



ARM Template format

```
// Copy

{
    "$schema": "https://schema.management.azure.com/schemas/2019-04-01/deploymentTemplate.jso
    "contentVersion": "",
    "apiProfile": "",
    "parameters": { },
    "variables": { },
    "functions": [ ],
    "resources": [ ],
    "outputs": { }
}
```





66 Let this code compile,

In not an hour, but a little while.

Allow this application to run with speed and zest,

as this will keep users glued to my test.

If my code blows up in my face,

do it with style and grace.

And last but not least, when all is said and run,

let thy requirements have been correctly done.

https://www.rambli.com/2016/06/the-prayer-of-the-demo-gods/





Bicep



Bicep

 Domain specific language that aims to drastically simplify authoring experience.

Transparent abstraction over ARM templates.



Bicep format

```
Copy
Bicep
targetScope = '<scope>'
@<decorator>(<argument>)
param <parameter-name> <parameter-data-type> = <default-value>
var <variable-name> = <variable-value>
resource <resource-symbolic-name> '<resource-type>@<api-version>' = {
  <resource-properties>
module <module-symbolic-name> '<path-to-file>' = {
  name: '<linked-deployment-name>'
 params: {
    <parameter-names-and-values>
output <output-name> <output-data-type> = <output-value>
```



Modules

 Allow you to use reference other bicep AND ARM template files.

 Import modules from private or public registries.



Conditional (if)

 Allow you to deploy resources only when condition is met.

```
Bicep

param deployZone bool

resource dnsZone 'Microsoft.Network/dnszones@2018-05-01' = if (deployZone) {
   name: 'myZone'
   location: 'global'
}
```



Loops

- Define multiple copies of:
 - Resources
 - Modules
 - Variables
 - Properties
 - Outputs



Loop over index

```
Bicep

[for <index> in range(<startIndex>, <numberOfElements>): {
    ...
}]
```



Loop over items

```
Bicep

[for <item> in <collection>: {
    ...
}]
```



Loop over dictionary items

```
Bicep

[for <item> in items(<object>): {
    ...
}]
```



Loop over integer index and items

```
Bicep

[for (<item>, <index>) in <collection>: {
    ...
}]
```



Loop over items with conditional

```
Bicep

[for <item> in <collection>: if(<condition>) {
    ...
}]
```







Terraform



Terraform.

 Open source IaC tool for provisioning and managing infrastructure.

HCL syntax.

 Can provision resources to multiple cloud providers.



Terraform providers.

- Plugins used to interact with cloud providers, SaaS providers and other APIs.
 - Azure
 - AWS
 - Google Cloud



Terraform syntax.

Arguments.

```
image_id = "abc123"
```

• Blocks.

```
resource "aws_instance" "example" {
    ami = "abc123"

    network_interface {
        # ...
    }
}
```



Modules

• Containers for multiple resources.

 Terraform registry hosts publicly available modules.



Terraform state.

• Terraform stores infrastructure state in a separate file.





Which one should I use?





Terraform.

 Resources not in Azure (including onprem).

Mix of cloud providers.

More accessible for developers.



Bicep.

Resources in Azure only.

Share templates via registries.

More accessible to developers.



ARM.

Resources in Azure only.

Do not want to learn new language.

Team has experience with ARM templates.





Useful links.

- https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/templates/.
- https://github.com/Azure/azure-quickstarttemplates
- https://github.com/Azure/bicep.
- https://github.com/hashicorp/terraform-provider-azurerm/tree/main/examples.



Useful links.

• https://github.com/Azure/bicep-registry-modules/tree/main/modules













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