

# AI-02082 Azure Under 20 Dollars

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**Is it possible to setup Azure for testing with Ubuntu Server for under \$20 24/7. List the items to choose from during vm creation.**

Yes, it's possible to set up an Ubuntu Server for testing on Azure for under \$20 a month, especially by using cost-effective options like Burstable B-series VMs and taking advantage of the free tier and Azure Spot VMs.

## Cost-Saving Strategies

- Free Tier: New Azure customers can sign up for a free account that includes \$200 in credit for the first 30 days and access to certain services that are always free or free for 12 months. This includes up to 750 hours a month of a B1s VM, which is often enough for a full month of 24/7 testing.
- Burstable VMs: The B-series VMs (like the B1s or B1ls) are designed for workloads that don't need a high CPU for long periods, which is ideal for development and testing environments. They have a baseline CPU performance that can "burst" when needed. The B1s, for example, typically costs well under \$10 a month for 24/7 operation.
- Azure Spot VMs: These VMs use unused Azure capacity and are offered at a significant discount (up to 90% off Pay-As-You-Go prices). The trade-off is that Azure can reclaim the VM at any time, but for non-critical testing, they are a great way to save money.

## VM Creation Items

When you create a virtual machine in the Azure portal, you'll be prompted to

provide information across several sections. Here are the key items to choose from:

#### 1. Project Details

- Subscription: Select the Azure subscription you want to use.
- Resource group: A logical container for your Azure resources. You can select an existing one or create a new one.

### **Instance Details**

- Virtual machine name: A unique name for your VM within your subscription.
- Region: The geographical location where your VM will be hosted. Costs can vary by region, so it's wise to check the pricing calculator.
- Availability options: For a simple test setup, you can leave this as "No infrastructure redundancy required."
- Security type: Choose between Standard, Trusted launch virtual machines, or Confidential virtual machines. For a basic test environment, Standard is sufficient.
- Image: This is where you select your operating system. You'll choose Ubuntu Server from the dropdown menu, with options for different versions and LTS (Long Term Support) releases.
- Size: This is the most critical factor for cost. You'll select the VM size (e.g., B1s, B1ls, B2s) which determines the number of vCPUs and the amount of RAM. For a low-cost testing environment, you'll want to choose a size from the B-series.

### **Administrator Account**

- Authentication type: Choose between SSH public key (recommended for Linux) or Password.
- Username: The administrator username for your VM.
- SSH public key source: If using an SSH key, you can generate a new key pair or use an existing one.

### **Inbound Port Rules**

- Public inbound ports: You can choose to allow specific ports to be open to the public internet. For connecting to your VM, you'll need to allow SSH (22). For a web server, you'd also open HTTP (80) and/or HTTPS (443). For security, it's best to allow only the ports you need.

## **Disks**

- OS disk type: The storage for your operating system. For a low-cost setup, Standard HDD is the most affordable option, though Standard SSD offers better performance for a slightly higher price.
- Data disks: You can attach additional disks if you need more storage. The remaining tabs, like Networking, Management, and Advanced, can typically be left at their default settings for a basic test environment to keep costs down.