Or, more specifically, what’s your email address? Everything kicks off with a Microsoft account registered through one of their many services. You probably have one already.

Active Directory is used for authentication - especially authentication for Microsoft services. One was probably created for you when you setup Azure with your Account. If you ever see all your Subscriptions or Services disappear, it’s probably because you have selected the wrong AD.

This is how you tell Microsoft how you’re going to pay for all the goodies in the next sections. If you want to split Services over multiple payment methods, you’re going to need multiple Subscriptions.

Resource Groups are convenient for moving many Services from one Subscription (payment method) to another or to delete several Services.

Now you can add Services to the machine you selected in the Service Plan or to a Resource Group (which one depends on the service). There are literally billions of services to choose from. Each one will add their own costs based on usage and daily rates to the credit card on the Subscription.