Overview
On December 14, 2023, the Azure AI Studio team held an AMA on Microsoft Tech Community. The live hour of Q&A provided members the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to the product team. We hope you join us live next time!

Resources

- Azure AI Studio is continuing to advance state-of-the-art model and tooling support
- Learn more about Azure AI Studio Build your own copilots with Azure AI Studio (youtube.com)
- Build with Azure AI Studio
- Request for access to Azure OpenAI Service
- Join our SMEs during the upcoming Azure AI Studio AMA session – December 14th, 9-10am PT
- Azure AI SDK
- Azure AI Studio documentation
- Introduction to Azure AI Studio (learn module)

Introduction

Welcome to the Azure AI Studio AMA! View the list of introductions in this thread.

General Discussion

Q: *Could you please let me know about the data privacy/confidentiality features safeguarding user/enterprise data in Azure AI? (link)*

A: Our documentation is a great place to start, so sharing some docs here. Is there anything specific you want to learn more about (use case, service, etc.)?

Azure AI Studio

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-gb/azure/ai-studio/how-to/configure-managed-network

Role-based access control in Azure AI Studio - Azure AI Studio | Microsoft Learn

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-gb/azure/ai-services/rotate-keys

Customer-Managed Keys for Azure AI services - Azure AI services | Microsoft Learn

Azure OpenAI Service

Data, privacy, and security for Azure OpenAI Service - Azure AI services | Microsoft Learn

Q1: *Thanks! I'll go through the linked material. We're working on a use case where enterprises will upload their data for processing and Azure AI might be one of the components in the data processing/AI pipeline, so data confidentiality becomes important.*

A1: Sounds good! One other feature to check out if PII is relevant for your use case: What is the Personally Identifying Information (PII) detection feature in Azure AI Language? - Azure AI services | Microsoft Learn

Q: *We're actively using Azure AI Studio to develop various models for our AI-powered healthcare solution. As we look to incorporate a generative AI component into our software for 2024, we are considering Azure OpenAI for this purpose. Our specific need is for a model that can automatically pull and incorporate new data points for each individual patient to provide accurate and personalized responses. Could you shed light on whether Azure OpenAI models support this kind of dynamic data ingestion and updating? Additionally, how does Azure OpenAI compare with other platforms in terms of integration, scalability, and security, particularly in a healthcare application context? We're eager to understand the best path forward for our project and greatly appreciate your insights on these critical aspects. (link)*

A: You might be interested to know – if you haven't found them already - Azure AI Studio includes a gallery of industry-specific prompt samples helps facilitate the development of domain-specific copilots. Whether developing enterprise chat solutions, enhancing customer interactions with multimodal experiences, or delving into speech analytics.

A1: If you're looking to use Azure OpenAI service to personalize the patient's response, this is typically well served by a pattern we call "Retrieval augmented generation" (RAG). With this you pass along additional information about the patient as input to the large language model. In Azure AI studio, take a look at playground for prototyping a chat-based application, or prompt flow to iterate and evaluate your RAG flow.

Q2: I appreciate your introduction to the prompt samples in Azure AI Studio, I was not aware of this. I'm particularly intrigued by the recent announcement of Phi-2. Its performance, achieving state-of-the-art results among base language models with less than 13 billion parameters, is impressive. Phi-2's ability to match or outperform models up to 25 times larger on complex benchmarks, is particularly noteworthy. Given its compact size and outstanding reasoning and language understanding capabilities, I'm considering Phi-2 as a foundation for our initial AI projects in healthcare. Are there any particular considerations or advice you'd recommend regarding its use in this context? I understand that Phi-2 is designed as an ideal platform for research and development, including safety improvements and fine-tuning for various tasks. I'm eager to hear about any applications or use cases of Phi-2, particularly those that might align with our AI healthcare solutions. Insights into how Phi-2 is being utilized in different scenarios, considering its tailored data curation and scaling techniques, would be extremely valuable as we explore its suitability for our projects.

A2: You can finetune phi-2 on your own dataset to align the model to the new domain for best results.

Q: *Can you provide more details of your roadmap? When will the tool mature enough to be not anymore in preview? Same goes with the many announcements in AOAI. When will they be GA available? EG, Deployment with PVA is not possible in any region expect east US. GPT-4 in west-europe? (link)*

A: Public Preview is a critical time for us to get feedback from customers and partners to ensure products and features are GA-ready. We're unable to disclose specific GA dates in this forum. Depending on your business need, your account manager may be able to share more roadmap information directly with you. The goal is always…. Soon!

You can find information about Azure AI Studio regional availability, here: Azure Products by Region | Microsoft Azure

Q: *I am interested in learning more about Prompt Flow in Azure AI. It's a bit confusing. (link)*

A: As it comes to Prompt flow, it is designed to help streamline the development lifecycle for AI applications with LLMs, and provides tools to support the prototyping, evaluating and deployment of these.

Q: *I was, 25 years ago, an accomplished C/C++ Windows SDK developer, after which I was a MSFT Technology Evangelist and pre-sales engineer. Now I want to get back into it and build a Large Language Model (I think) application that will summarize complex documents in a specific knowledge domain. Maybe I'll build a business around this. After Microsoft Ignite and a couple of weeks of trying, I am LOST as to WHERE to get STARTED. There are SOoooo many options - AI studio, CoPilot Studio, OpenAI Service, etc. Help! - Also I am thinking to program in Python. Any comment on Python as my choice? (link)*

A: For building a new LLM based application AI Studio is a great place to get started. You can create a new project and play with any of our models such as GPT-4 in our playground. From there, you can upload your own data and gain experience with prompt crafting. Python is a great language for AI!

A1: Let me help describe Copilot Studio and Azure AI Studio. Copilot Studio allows you to create your own copilots or extend and customize Microsoft Copilot via an end-to-end SaaS studio. The infrastructure is managed for you, no service need to be spun up, including built-in generative AI features, responsible AI checks, analytics dashboards, LLM orchestrator, and IT admin center built in. Design copilots that assist with knowledge discovery over your data and task completion via automation. For a comprehensive developer experience, Azure AI Studio offers a fully managed AI platform including the ability to customize apps with the latest models from Azure OpenAI Service and open models, ground models using enterprise data, orchestrate apps with prompt flow, as well as fine-tune models, and evaluate apps with enterprise-grade

security, safety, privacy, and compliance. The good news is that they can be used together! Does this help?

Q2: *Do I need to be an "Enterprise" to use Copilot Studio or Azure AI Studio? On some path a few days ago, I remember getting blocked on that point ... couldn't log in with a "private account". At this time, I am just one of two "enterprising individuals" investigating this idea and wanting to prototype.*

A2: What you would need to get started in AI Studio is an Azure Subscription. We support logging in for both enterprise tenants and individual accounts.

Q3: *Where does Azure AI SDK fit into the picture with Copilot Studio and Azure AI Studio?*

A3: Azure AI SDK is the unifying SDK for our Azure AI portfolio. You can find more information about it here: https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/ai-studio/how-to/sdk-install?tabs=windows

Q4: Working at https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/ai-studio/how-to/sdk-install, any advice on "Install the SDK into an existing development environment" versus "Use the Azure AI SDK without installing it"?

A4: When starting development on a project most developers would want to install the SDK locally, this is what "install the SDK into an existing development environment covers". However, to try out the SDK quickly using a pre-build VS Code environment (VS Code (Web) in AI Studio, using one of our sample repos in GitHub codespaces or locally on DevContainers) would allow you to work in an environment that has everything you need pre-installed. This can also be helpful if you just want to quickly try out something in a fresh environment knowing that you may want to throw it away quickly. This is what "Use the Azure AI SDK without installing it" covers.

Q5: Do I need the Azure AI SDK ... or might I just work in AI Studio? (BTW a few days ago I created an Azure account for myself).

A5: The Azure AI SDK is a great resource for developing using a code-first approach. However, you do not need to use this - you can develop using the UI. We cannot wait to see what you innovate!

Q: *Firstly, I want to say that this new Azure AI studio experience is a really great start to consolidating the expansive offerings into a single platform. Having used different variations and flavors in the Azure AI space over the past few years this is finally starting to feel like a cohesive platform and experience. A few of questions 1. Are there plans to bring the 'deploy to a Copilot (former PVA)' option to the Azure AI studio and not just in the Azure Open AI Studio? 2. When using that option above (deploy to bot), my experience has been that the deployment will not respond to any inquiry outside the content it was grounded in, even with the 'Limit responses to your data content' box left unchecked. Is this the intended design or might I be doing something*

wrong? 3. What are the options or best practices for grounding a custom model (or copilot) with data from multiple sources (for instance - fabric lakehouse, files in blob/SharePoint, websites, and external data sources)? (link)

A: 1. Yes

2. With our "on your data" features you should be able to elect when to query specifically from your data. Read for more information on how to turn this on/off.

3. If you have multiple sources other than Microsoft 365 only (for example SharePoint, OneDrive, Exchange Online, etc.) in which case your best choice is to ground the data using Microsoft Copilot for Microsoft 365 | Microsoft 365, then you can use Azure AI Search to ground the data from multiple sources. There are built-in pull connectors to automatically have your data indexed: Data sources gallery - Azure AI Search | Microsoft Learn and for any that is not directly supported to pull the data, you can create your own indexing pipelines and use the Push API/SDKs (Data import and data ingestion - Azure AI Search | Microsoft Learn) to get any data in an Azure AI Search index and use it to ground your data.

Q: *I'm very new to Azure AI studio.... extremely new.... I've got a lot of address data that I need to analyze to predict timing of events occurring.... How can I utilize Azure AI studio to figure out which attributes of a parent "case" are "significant" to the data? I'm not sure I'm asking this right.... We have "Cases"... each of those cases has several addresses associated with it. For each case, we are trying to determine which address an event will occur at and when. We have the historical data associated with older cases going back about 2 years.... Where would I even begin? (link)*

A: Where is your data? What data source?

Q1: *All of the data is in an Azure SQL Server database... I think I need to dive into the Azure Machine Learning side of things.*

A1: Awesome! You can use https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/machine-learning/how-to-connection?view=azureml-api-2&tabs=cli to create connection and import data from SQL server and use it in your training.

Q2: *Thanks for joining! The use case you describe sounds like a machine learning challenge – you want to make predictions based on historical data. Have you explored Azure Machine Learning at all? AutoML (automated ML) can help new users get started more easily. Let me know if this looks relevant/helpful for you: https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/machine-learning/how-to-auto-train-forecast*

A2: Thank you very much for your assistance. This is definitely more of what I'm after. I've done VERY little exploration into Azure Machine Learning. I think I just need to start at the overview for AML and go from there.

Q: *A client has invested in M365 Copilot, and has quite complex requirements in terms of sourcing LOB content from numerous sources (databases, SharePoint documents, lists, and online sources) - assuming they used Azure AI Studio to achieve that - how would they be able to integrate that capability within their M365 Copilot tenancy for a seamless experience - or would it end up needing to be completely separate from their M365 Copilot experience? (link)*

A: At the surface, using Microsoft Fabric would be the way to go on integration from various sources. We from Azure Studio already integrate with Fabric Lakehouse with other integrations coming soon. We can connect with you to understand your requirements more to provide proper recommendation.

Q: *I'm interested in utilizing Azure AI to do a few different things. (link)*

A: Fantastic. We encourage you to get started with Azure AI through AI Studio. Get started https://ai.azure.com/ ! Can access our OpenAI models, as well as our speech, search, vision, safety capabilities and more!

Q1: *We're less interested in generative interactions and more interested on the predictive side of things. I'm not sure the get started is what I'm looking for.*

A1: If your use cases are more related to classic machine learning use cases and less generative AI, the best offering in the Azure AI portfolio for you would be Azure Machine Learning service. The product provides a set of tools to help prepare data, build, evaluate and operate machine learning models.

Q: *I know that I want to get experience with CHATGPT4 prompts. I am a one person IT managed services/consulting services business using M365 Business Premium as my underlying technology. How can the speakers on this AMA guide me to the advantages and disadvantages of doing this with an OpenAI.com Plus account as compared to doing this with an Azure AI Studio account? I am asking this question now because I have a scheduling conflict for the one hour when this AMA will be live on December 14. (link)*

A: If you are just looking to get experience experimenting with GPT-4, then you can't go wrong with either approach - it's just up to your preference on UI, ease, cost, ease of access to data sources if you're planning to use RAG, etc. With Azure AI Studio, you will have access to models from OpenAI via Azure OpenAI Service (note, you will be required to apply for access) as well as other models from Microsoft, Meta, Hugging Face, and other model developers. Beyond having the benefit of access to more models, Azure also provides customers with enterprise security, compliance, data security, responsible AI practices, SLAs, support -- things that Azure customers typically require to bring their LLM applications into production. But again, if you're just experimenting – then the most important thing is just getting started!

That's a wrap!

Thank you for joining this fun hour! We hope you'll continue to ask questions and share your feedback.

See you next time!