

Upgrade from Sitecore Azure 8.1 to 8.1 rev. 161109

Note

The Microsoft in-role memory cache is no longer used, therefore this upgrade changes the session state provider to Redis instead.

To upgrade from Sitecore Azure 8.1 to 8.1 rev. 161109, you must have [Sitecore Azure 8.1 rev.151119](#), the `Sitecore Azure 8.1 rev. 161109` upgrade package, and Azure SDK 2.9.1.

As part of the upgrade process, some solutions might need to be redesigned. For further help and guidance, refer to the administrator and developer documentation on the [Sitecore Developer Portal](#).

This topic describes how to:

- [Install the upgrade package](#)
- [Configure the Azure Redis Cache as your session state store](#)
- [Clear your browser cache](#)

System requirements

Before you can install the `Sitecore Azure 8.1 rev. 161109` upgrade package, you must [upgrade to Sitecore version 8.1 rev. 160519](#).

Important

Ensure that you back up your website before you install the upgrade package.

Install the upgrade package

To install the upgrade package:

1. Go to [the Dev portal](#) and download the upgrade package.
2. Go to `http://<yourhostname>/sitecore/admin/UpdateInstallationWizard.aspx` and open the **Update Installation Wizard**. See the Update Installation Wizard Guide for more information on how to use the wizard.
3. Install the `Sitecore Azure 8.1 rev. 161109` upgrade package to upgrade from Sitecore Azure 8.1 rev. 151119 to 8.1 rev. 161109.

Note

Any current deployments will be archived. You can access them using the **Archive** feature.

You may see the following messages:

- *Item to be deleted is in use* – this applies to items under: `/sitecore/templates/Branches/Azure` and does not affect the upgrade process.

- *File has been modified* – this applies to the file, `\Website\bin\Sitecore.Azure.dll`, and does not affect the upgrade process.

Configure the Azure Redis Cache as your session state store

This update adds support for the Sitecore ASP.NET session state provider for Redis, which enables you to use Azure Redis Cache as your session state store. The provider supports the `SessionEnd` event that xDB needs to track website visits.

To use Azure Redis Cache as your session state store:

1. Prepare an Azure Redis cache using the [instructions at Microsoft Azure](#).
2. Create the connection string to your Azure Redis cache and name it `redis.sessions`:

```
<add name="redis.sessions" connectionString="host_name,password=primary_or_secondary_access_key" />
```

3. In the **Connection Strings Patch** field of your deployments, add your connection string under the `<xsl:template match="/connectionStrings"><connectionStrings>` node.

Clear your browser cache

After changing the configuration files, you must clear your browser's cache. These steps may vary depending on your web browser.

To clear your browser cache, for example, for Internet Explorer:

1. In **Internet Explorer**, click **Tools, Internet Options**.
2. On the **General** tab, under **Browsing history**, click **Delete**.
3. In the **Delete Browsing History** dialog, select **Temporary Internet files and website files**, then click **Delete**.

Note

To apply these changes to all of your existing deployments, you must redeploy each one.