

Licensing Windows Server 2019

The operating system that bridges on-premises and Azure services

Overview of Windows Server 2019

Windows Server 2019 is the operating system that bridges on-premises environments with Azure services, enabling hybrid scenarios that maximize existing investments. Increase security and reduce business risk with multiple layers of protection built into the operating system. Evolve your datacenter infrastructure to achieve greater efficiency and scale with Hyper-converged Infrastructure. Enable developers and IT pros to create cloud native applications and modernize their traditional apps using containers and micro-services.

Unique hybrid capabilities with Azure	Advanced multi-layer security	Faster innovation for applications	Unprecedented Hyper-Converged
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Windows Server 2019 editions

The right edition for your organization size, datacenter, and virtualization requirements.

Editions	Description	Licensing model	CAL requirements	Pricing
Windows Server 2019 Datacenter	For highly virtualized datacenters and cloud environments	Core based	WS CAL	\$6,155
Windows Server 2019 Standard	For physical or minimally virtualized environments	Core based	WS CAL	\$972
Windows Server 2019 Essentials	For small businesses with up to 25 users and 50 devices	Specialty server	No CAL required	\$501
Microsoft Hyper-V Server 2019	Free hypervisor download.	N/A	N/A	N/A

Datacenter and Standard edition per-core licensing

Windows Server 2019 Datacenter and Standard editions are licensed by physical core. Licenses are sold in 2-packs and 16-packs.

Minimum license requirements

- All physical cores must be licensed
- 8 core licenses per processor
- 16 core licenses per server

Per-core licensing scenarios

Physical Cores per Processor	2	4	8	10	12	14	16	Processors per server
Number of 2-core packs needed	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1 processor
	8	8	8	10	12	14	16	2 processors
	12	12	12	15	18	21	24	3 processors

Standard edition license stacking for OSEs

- Standard edition is licensed for 2 operating system environments (OSEs)¹ or Hyper-V containers. Additional OSEs require additional licenses.

Azure Hybrid Benefit

Customers with Software Assurance save significantly on Azure over the cost of running Windows Server in other public clouds:

What is Azure Hybrid Benefit?

A Software Assurance benefit that enables you to migrate to cloud at big savings. Save up to 49% on Windows Server virtual machines (VMs) by paying base compute² rates.

How do I qualify?

You qualify if you have active Software Assurance on your on-premises Windows Server licenses.³

Save up to 80% on Windows Server with Azure Hybrid Benefit and Reserved Instances.

For more details, see [Azure.com/ahub](https://azure.com/ahub).

¹ Datacenter is licensed for unlimited OSEs.

² Base compute equals Linux rates.

³ Each Windows Server 2-processor license OR each 16-core license set is entitled to two Azure instances with up to 8 cores each, or one instance up to 16 cores. Benefit applies both to Standard and Datacenter editions. No program restrictions, i.e. benefit available irrespective of where customer buys their Azure: EA, CSP, Web direct, etc.

How do I activate this benefit?

- Deploy a new VM in minutes using Azure Marketplace images.⁴
- Upload a custom VM.
- Migrate free⁵ with Azure Site Recovery.

Is it applicable for all VMs?

Use with Azure marketplace images, on-premises images, and workloads from other cloud providers.

Semi-Annual Channel benefit

Receive the latest features as they become available when you have Software Assurance.

	Recommended Scenarios	New Release	Supported For	Editions	Who can use	Installation Options
Long-term Servicing Channel	General purpose file Servers, first and third party workloads, traditional apps, and other infrastructure roles	Every 2–3 years	5 years of Mainstream support +5 years of Extended support	All available Windows Server editions	All customers through all channels	Server Core and Server with Desktop Experience
Semi-annual Channel	Containerized applications, container hosts, and application scenarios benefiting from faster innovation	Every 6 months	18 months	Standard and Datacenter	Software Assurance and cloud customers only	Server Core and Nano Server container image

Service Providers (Hosters)

Q: Does the price of Windows Server vary based on Service Providers (hosters)?

A: In order to provide customers with a variety of options to license Windows Server, Microsoft makes licenses for Windows Server available to Service Providers for sale to customers as part of Service Provider solutions. This is done through agreement between Microsoft and Service Providers. Pricing for these Windows Server licenses that are provided by the Service Provider is set by the Service Provider.

For more information

Visit Microsoft.com/windowsserver

⁴ Pre-built gallery images are available only for Enterprise Agreement customers.

⁵ Free for first 31 days.