

# Windows Server 2025

## Microsoft Windows Server 2025: Secure, Scalable, and AI-Ready

Effective November 1, 2024, Microsoft Windows Server 2025 is available for purchase. This release is the most secure and innovative version to date. It offers advanced security features, new Azure hybrid capabilities, and enhanced performance for AI and application workloads. It will be available as a perpetual license and as a subscription, with the latter offering enhanced rights. The main editions will remain Standard and Datacenter. Let's explore everything new in this article.



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## Licensing Editions

Microsoft Windows Server 2025 still offers **three primary licensing editions**, tailored to fit different organizational sizes and needs regarding virtualization and datacenter requirements:

Windows Server 2025 Edition	Ideal for	Licensing model [1]	CAL requirements
<b>Datacenter</b>	Highly virtualized datacenters and cloud environments. Includes features like <b>Azure Hybrid Benefit</b> and unlimited OSEs/Hyper-V isolated containers	Core-based	Windows Server CAL
<b>Standard</b>	Physical or minimally virtualized environments. Provides core Windows Server functionality. Includes two OSEs/Hyper-V isolated containers.	Core-based	Windows Server CAL
<b>Essentials</b>	Small businesses with up to 25 users and 50 devices	Specialty servers (server license) [2]	No CAL required

[1] CALs are required for every user or device accessing a server. See the Product Use Rights for details.

[2] Up to 10 cores and 1 VM on single-socket servers. Windows Server Essentials is available through Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) Server Hardware partners of Microsoft.

# Licensing Model

The licensing model for Windows Server 2025 has been updated to provide more flexibility for organizations. It introduces a new pay-as-you-go option, alongside the traditional perpetual licensing.

## Pay-as-you-go subscription

Under this new licensing approach, companies can opt for a subscription-based model, in which you pay based on actual usage. It is managed and billed via Azure. This requires using Azure Arc, which is designed to oversee enterprise workloads across various platforms. The advantage of this model is that it enables organizations to scale their server capacity up or down based on fluctuating demands, such as seasonal spikes in activity, without the need for permanent infrastructure expansion. This offers a cost-effective solution for managing short-term increases in server load.

## Perpetual license

The perpetual license option remains available for those who prefer the conventional method. It offers five years of standard support followed by five years of extended support.

Need help with your organization's Microsoft Licensing? [Book a consultation](#) with our specialists and get tailored advice for your business needs!