

SQL Server 2022 Licensing and Cost, with details on the available editions, pricing, licensing models, and key features:

SQL Server 2022 Licensing and Cost

Edition	Licensing Model	Cost	Key Features	Best For
Enterprise Edition	Core-based Licensing	- \$7,128 per core**	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Advanced high availability with Always On.- Unlimited virtualization with Software Assurance (SA).- Advanced security (Always Encrypted, TDE).- Big data and machine learning integration.- Data virtualization (PolyBase).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Large enterprises with mission-critical workloads.- Big data, analytics, and machine learning environments.
Standard Edition	Core-based Licensing or Server + CAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- \$1,859 per core**- \$931 per server + \$209 per CAL**	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2-node Basic Availability Groups.- Standard data analytics and reporting tools.- Data encryption (TDE).- Support for hybrid cloud environments (Azure Arc).- Containers and Kubernetes integration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Medium-sized businesses.- Environments with basic availability requirements and limited scale.

Developer Edition	Free	- Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full SQL Server Enterprise functionality. - Development and testing environment only. - Not for production use. - Includes all advanced features (HA, analytics, security). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developers building SQL Server-based applications. - Testing environments.
Express Edition	Free	- Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic SQL Server functionality. - 10 GB database size limit. - Limited to 1 GB memory and 4 cores. - Lightweight database for small apps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small-scale applications. - Learning environments. - Basic, entry-level projects.
Web Edition	Core-based Licensing (via hosting provider)	- \$862 per core**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Optimized for web hosting environments. - Scaled-down version of Standard Edition for web apps. - Full-text indexing and search. - Optimized for ASP.NET, PHP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Web applications and hosting environments requiring SQL Server capabilities.
SQL Server Big Data Clusters	Core-based Licensing (Enterprise or Standard)	- Enterprise or Standard pricing**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Combines SQL Server, Apache Spark, and Hadoop. - AI and machine learning integration. - Supports Kubernetes and containerization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enterprises with big data solutions. - Data lakes, advanced data analytics, and machine learning.

<https://www.sqlbatches.com>

Key Licensing Models:

1. Core-based Licensing:

- For **Enterprise** and **Standard** editions, SQL Server is licensed based on the number of cores in the processor.
- Minimum of **4 cores per instance** must be licensed.

2. Server + CAL Licensing:

- Available for **Standard Edition**.
- This model involves purchasing a **Server License** and **Client Access Licenses (CALs)** for each user or device accessing the server.

3. Software Assurance (SA):

- Adds benefits like **license mobility**, **version upgrades**, and **unlimited virtualization rights** (for Enterprise Edition).
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Cost Considerations:

- **Core-based licensing** is generally preferred for organizations with many users or virtualized environments.
- **Server + CAL** is more cost-effective for smaller organizations with fewer users or devices.
- **Software Assurance** provides additional benefits for cloud readiness, unlimited virtualization, and long-term cost savings.

Additional Notes:

- **Express Edition** and **Developer Edition** are free, but **Developer Edition** is for non-production use only.
- **Web Edition** is only available through hosting service providers.
- **Pricing** may vary by region, licensing agreements, and reseller-specific deals.

Note: Pricing may vary based on country, resellers, and agreements.