Every quarter Microsoft delivers hundreds of products, either as new releases, services or enhancements, to current products and services. These releases are a result of significant research and development investments, made over multiple years, designed to help customers be more productive and secure and to deliver differentiated value across the cloud and the edge.

Following are the major product releases and other highlights for the quarter, organized by product categories, to help illustrate how we are accelerating innovation across our businesses while expanding our market opportunities.

# Microsoft 365

* [**Microsoft 365 Search**](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2018/09/24/microsoft-search-cohesive-search-that-intelligently-helps-you-find-discover-command-and-navigate/)**,** a new unified search capability in Microsoft 365, enables you to find, command, navigate and discover items across your organization’s network of data, transforming your search bar into a resource for collective knowledge. An AI-powered insight engine connects content across Windows, Office.com, Office apps, SharePoint, OneDrive and third-party ecosystems to surface relevant, personalized results, whether it’s a recent chat or a document a co-worker created.
* [**Microsoft Managed Desktop (MMD)**](https://microsoft-my.sharepoint.com/personal/sglass_microsoft_com/Documents/IR/FY19%20Earnings/Product%20Lists%20for%20Earnings/•%09https:/www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2018/09/17/collaborating-with-customers-and-partners-to-deliver-a-modern-desktop-microsoft-managed-desktop/) simplifies our customers’ journey to a modern desktop by integrating the latest technology with the best experience from Microsoft 365 backed by Microsoft. Through MMD our customers can now move to a modern desktop via a cloud-based solution built to delight end users and free up IT.
* [**Desktop Analytics**](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2018/09/06/helping-customers-shift-to-a-modern-desktop/) service provides insight and intelligence to help customers make more informed decisions as they shift to a modern desktop with Windows 10 and Office 365 ProPlus. Customers can optimize deployments with System Center Configuration Manager by combining data from their organization with data aggregated from millions of devices connected to Microsoft’s cloud services. That helps customers take the guesswork out of testing and focus their attention on key blockers.

# Office 365

* [**Office Collaboration Enhancements for Word, Excel and PowerPoint**](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2018/09/24/10-new-ways-for-everyone-to-achieve-more-in-the-modern-workplace/) brings threaded comments in Excel and @mentions across Word, Excel and PowerPoint. These features make it easier for teams to work together on shared documents and worksheets and give individual users the ability to get someone’s attention directly within the comments. (Threaded comments [here](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.microsoft.com%2Fen-us%2Fmicrosoft-365%2Fblog%2F2018%2F07%2F31%2Fnew-to-microsoft-365-in-july-integrating-apps-and-empowering-businesses%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7C492a34a9871844b0cdd108d623a82567%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C636735602413397626&sdata=flabzN37Y1t9A4zdXE5YthvVY6bQlntBcY4g5spnn6g%3D&reserved=0) and @mentions [here](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.microsoft.com%2Fen-us%2Fmicrosoft-365%2Fblog%2F2018%2F08%2F31%2Fnew-to-microsoft-365-in-august-tools-to-achieve-more-in-the-modern-workplace%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7C492a34a9871844b0cdd108d623a82567%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C636735602413407634&sdata=CYU03OuKTibvK2sbmPKJuqmyVCvhq%2FNuiLY4OZEfbd4%3D&reserved=0))
* [**Excel AI innovation**](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2018/09/24/bringing-ai-to-excel-4-new-features-announced-today-at-ignite/)**:**
  + **Ideas** is an AI-powered insights service that helps people take advantage of the full power of Office. Proactively surfacing suggestions tailored to the task at hand, Ideas helps users create professional documents, presentations and spreadsheets in less time. In Excel, for instance, Ideas helps identify trends, patterns and outliers in a data set — helping customers analyze and understand their data in seconds.
  + **New data types.** This new AI-powered capability turns a single, flat piece of text into an interactive entity containing layers of rich information. It can recognize real-world concepts, starting with Stocks and Geography. For instance, by converting a list of countries in a workbook to “Geography” entities, customers can weave location data into an analysis of their own data.
  + **Insert Data from Picture** allows you to take a picture of a printed data table with your Android device and convert that analog information into an Excel spreadsheet with a single click. New image-recognition functionality automatically converts the picture to a fully editable table in Excel, eliminating the need for you to manually enter data. Insert Data from Picture will be available in preview for the Excel Android app soon.
* [**Office 365-LinkedIn Enhancements**](https://microsoft-my.sharepoint.com/personal/sglass_microsoft_com/Documents/IR/FY19%20Earnings/Product%20Lists%20for%20Earnings/•%09https:/blog.linkedin.com/2017/september/250/adding-linkedin_s-profile-card-on-office-365-offers-a-simple-way)**.** When you connect your Microsoft and LinkedIn accounts, you can send emails and share documents with your LinkedIn 1st-degree connections directly from Outlook, Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Outlook now provides LinkedIn insights about people you’re meeting with directly in your calendar.
* [**Office 365 people card**](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbusiness.linkedin.com%2Fsales-solutions%2Fblog%2Flinkedin-sales-navigator%2F2018%2Fthe-next-era-for-sales-navigator----adding-value-across-the-enti&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cb7881cace8c84b39740c08d61e71d271%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C636729871537380914&sdata=h1I25FP2bqx71Yi2RXofLokHUfELK8WQ0%2FUkZN2uKDg%3D&reserved=0)**.** This Sales Navigator integration with Microsoft Office 365 gives sales professionals access to information about select contacts directly in Outlook.
* [**MyAnalytics Nudging**](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2018/07/12/introducing-workplace-analytics-solutions-and-myanalytics-nudging/)**.** Nudges in MyAnalytics provide friendly, data-driven collaboration tips that surface as you get work done in Office 365. MyAnalytics Nudges surface in Outlook as you read and compose emails and meeting invites. It will notify you when a meeting invite conflicts with a block of focus time that you’ve already scheduled or will nudge you to avoid sending after-hours emails to co-workers.

# Dynamics 365

* **New Dynamics 365 connected field service offering** integrates Dynamics 365 for Field Service with Azure IoT Central to help customers become proactive, predictive and most cost effective with their connected devices. The SaaS solution supports bidirectional flows of alerts and commands between devices and Dynamics 365 for Field Service.
* **Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations.** A major extensibility enhancement to support [embedding Microsoft PowerApps](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/business-applications-release-notes/April18/dynamics365-finance-operations/embedding-powerapps-workspaces-forms) in the Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations user experience, which allows customers to use PowerApps to configure unique user experiences that embed data from external sources into the Finance and Operations user experience.
* **Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations** includes [upgrade automation](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/business-applications-release-notes/April18/dynamics365-finance-operations/upgrade-automation) enhancements that make major version upgrades a self-service operation for customers, using Life-Cycle Services capabilities in nonproduction environments. Upgrade automation includes environment, data and code upgrades. Customers can also test, diagnose and fix issues as needed.
* **Dynamics 365 for Field Service.** We have made [significant enhancements](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/business-applications-release-notes/April18/dynamics365-field-service/rso-additional-enhancements) to optimize service scheduling of resources. This includes simulation run analysis to give RSO admins the ability to finely tune optimization settings and statistic reports to more closely evaluate optimization results using data.

# Microsoft 365 Security

* [**Microsoft Threat Protection**](https://cloudblogs.microsoft.com/microsoftsecure/2018/09/24/delivering-security-innovation-that-puts-microsofts-experience-to-work-for-you/)**.** Microsoft Threat Protection is a new end-to-end solution that detects cyberthreats, remediates their effects, and protects organizations from new and changing threats. It is Microsoft’s most comprehensive security solution and combines the intelligence of Microsoft’s security products.
* [**Password-free sign-in for thousands of apps**](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftechcommunity.microsoft.com%2Ft5%2FAzure-Active-Directory-Identity%2FAnnouncing-password-less-login-identity-governance-and-more-for%2Fba-p%2F262472&data=02%7C01%7C%7C6b74e50208eb4a8d697e08d623ca2c2a%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C636735748558542402&sdata=iL6LCxinIcAwj3Vdh055WLOBxFTEnmAbeoJTGyvVfy8%3D&reserved=0)**.** We are delivering new support for password-less login via the Microsoft Authenticator app for the hundreds of thousands of Azure Active Directory connected apps that businesses use every day. No company lets enterprises eliminate more passwords than Microsoft. The app eliminates the need for passwords — the No. 1 security liability for enterprises — by combining your phone and fingerprint, face, or PIN for a more secure, multifactor sign-in.
* [**Microsoft Secure Score**](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/Security-Privacy-and-Compliance/New-controls-available-in-Microsoft-Secure-Score/ba-p/261050) is a security analytics solution that helps organizations get better visibility into what security controls they have enabled and which ones they should consider enabling. We recently added additional security controls to help organizations get a more holistic view of their security position across Microsoft 365, which will help them further mitigate their security risks
* [**Modern Compliance enhancements**](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/Security-Privacy-and-Compliance/Manage-Your-Compliance-from-One-Place-Announcing-Compliance/ba-p/106493)**.** New enhancements in Microsoft 365 compliance solutions are now available to support an organization's compliance journey beyond the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) with more intelligent capabilities. Enhancements include a new unified labeling experience for creating and configuring data sensitivity labels at the same time for Office 365 and Azure Information Protection. With this new experience in Office 365 Security and Compliance Center, organizations have a more integrated approach to configure and automatically apply protection and retention labels and policies. The Compliance Manager solution also now has new risk-assessment templates that help customers strengthen their data protection controls.
* [**Expansion of work to bring the entire tech sector together through the Cybersecurity Tech Accord**](https://blogs.microsoft.com/on-the-issues/2018/04/17/34-companies-stand-up-for-cybersecurity-with-a-tech-accord/)**.** Since our participation in the establishment of the Cybersecurity Tech Accord, an agreement to bring the entire technology sector together in defending all customers everywhere from malicious attacks by cybercriminal enterprises and nation-states, the group has nearly doubled in size. With 27 new organizations joining from around the globe since its launch, including Panasonic, Salesforce, Swisscom and Rockwell Automation to name a few, the total number of signatories is now 61 companies, strengthening the broad ecosystem needed to keep the world secure.
* [**Microsoft AccountGuard**](https://blogs.microsoft.com/on-the-issues/2018/08/20/we-are-taking-new-steps-against-broadening-threats-to-democracy/)**.** To protect against broadening cyberattacks targeting political campaigns and democratic organizations, Microsoft AccountGuard provides notification about cyberthreats, including attacks by known nation-state actors, in a unified way across both email systems run by organizations and the personal accounts of these organizations’ leaders and staff who opt in. The service also provides security guidance and early-adopter opportunities. It is open to all current candidates for federal, state and local office in the United States and their campaigns; the campaign organizations of all sitting members of Congress; national and state party committees; technology vendors that primarily serve campaigns and committees; and certain nonprofit organizations and nongovernmental organizations. Microsoft AccountGuard is offered free of charge. Organizations must be using Office 365 to register.
* [**Azure Active Directory (AD) B2B organization pane**](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftechcommunity.microsoft.com%2Ft5%2FAzure-Active-Directory-Identity%2FAzure-AD-B2B-Collaboration-support-for-Google-IDs-is-now-in%2Fba-p%2F245459&data=02%7C01%7C%7C3db25768190647fd691c08d623e79b66%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C636735874979430768&sdata=m7L6QvAKk8ZIyzjIaWwggle9CHXRFGbakHTtdtiHIAQ%3D&reserved=0)**.** Azure AD B2B collaboration new organization relationships pane gives customers greater ability to view and manage B2B identities by which organization they are from and apply custom policies such as Terms of Use.
* [**Azure Active Directory (AD) B2B for Google**](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/Azure-Active-Directory-Identity/Azure-AD-B2B-Collaboration-support-for-Google-IDs-is-now-in/ba-p/245459) **IDs.** Work with any org on the planet and with guest users who can sign in with Google credentials or any other OIDC identity service provider.

# LinkedIn

* [**Voice Messaging**](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fblog.linkedin.com%2F2018%2Fjuly%2F26%2Fvoice-messaging-on-linkedin-giving-you-more-ways-to-have-conversations&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cb7881cace8c84b39740c08d61e71d271%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C636729871537370904&sdata=PQYtQQ6Q81wBFl96STAEZYGrqgcGI0VyOxQOeOXLnV4%3D&reserved=0) gives you the ability to send audio messages in LinkedIn Messaging, giving our global members more ways to talk.
* [**New Reporting Experience (LMS)**](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbusiness.linkedin.com%2Fmarketing-solutions%2Fblog%2Flinkedin-news%2F2018%2F-introducing-a-new-reporting-experience-in-linkedin-campaign-man&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cb7881cace8c84b39740c08d61e71d271%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C636729871537370904&sdata=AT6t6w2gpGIBIsNhR4e0l8cwWWGRrGBrNI1IAU3lb0M%3D&reserved=0)**.** LinkedIn released a new reporting experience for LMS that makes it easier to understand how your campaigns are performing and quickly optimize for better results.
* [**Deals**](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbusiness.linkedin.com%2Fsales-solutions%2Fblog%2Flinkedin-sales-navigator%2F2018%2Fthe-next-era-for-sales-navigator----adding-value-across-the-enti&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cb7881cace8c84b39740c08d61e71d271%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C636729871537380914&sdata=h1I25FP2bqx71Yi2RXofLokHUfELK8WQ0%2FUkZN2uKDg%3D&reserved=0) is a new feature in Sales Navigator that gives sales professionals a more effective way to understand and manage their pipeline.
* [**LinkedIn Learning Global Expansion**](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flearning.linkedin.com%2Fblog%2Flearning-thought-leadership%2Fmore-learning-content--served-the-way-you-want-and-in-more-langu&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cb7881cace8c84b39740c08d61e71d271%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C636729871537390918&sdata=v6hCKR5CFg3lvkYxXEOaPsOOIT3tTLTnQ1BKqfI%2FppE%3D&reserved=0)**.** To deliver more personalized learning experiences and to give more professionals the opportunity to get the skills they need, LinkedIn Learning expanded its global content library with the additions of two international libraries in Mandarin and Brazilian-Portuguese. We now have seven language libraries — English, Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Mandarin and Brazilian-Portuguese.

# Modern Workplace and Microsoft Teams

* [**Microsoft Teams Freemium Offer**](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/Microsoft-Teams-Blog/Introducing-a-free-version-of-Microsoft-Teams/ba-p/214592)**.** Microsoft Teams is now available in a free version worldwide in 44 languages. Whether you’re a freelancer, a small-business owner or part of a team inside a large organization, you can now start using Teams as your hub for teamwork. For up to 300 people, the free version includes features like chat, content creation with Office Online, SharePoint and OneDrive for Business file storage, and built-in video calling.
* [**Skype to Teams Transition Update**](https://microsoft-my.sharepoint.com/personal/sglass_microsoft_com/Documents/IR/FY19%20Earnings/Product%20Lists%20for%20Earnings/•%09https:/techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/Microsoft-Teams-Blog/Microsoft-Teams-is-now-a-complete-meeting-and-calling-solution/ba-p/236042)**.** We have completed our road map for bringing Skype for Business Online features and functionality into Teams. Teams is ready to meet the messaging, meeting and calling needs of our customers, including our intelligent communications features that were announced at Ignite 2017. Teams delivers advanced meeting capabilities that enhance our user productivity with new features such as cloud meeting recording, inline message translation, and enhanced meeting room devices. In addition, we released resources, tools and guidance to help current Skype for Business Online customers with their upgrade to Teams.
* [**Microsoft Teams features for Messaging and Meetings**](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2018/09/24/10-new-ways-for-everyone-to-achieve-more-in-the-modern-workplace/)
  + **Messaging.** Teams now offers unified presence, federated chat and contacts, as well as inline translation capabilities that allow team members to converse in their native language.
  + **Meetings.** Cloud-based meeting recording, support for larger meetings of up to 250 participants; federated meetings, which provides the ability to host meetings across multiple organizations; meeting lobby so you can qualify dial-in callers before they join your meeting; and dial-in fallback support to ensure people can join a meeting regardless of network issues.
* [**Intelligent communications features in Microsoft Teams**](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/Microsoft-Teams-Blog/What-s-new-in-Teams-Ignite-Edition/ba-p/252531)
  + **Background blur** enables meeting attendees to blur their background video while on a Teams meetings, minimizing distractions for other attendees and enabling remote working scenarios without having to worry about what’s in the background.
  + **Live Events Quick Start** in Teams enables anyone to produce a production-quality meeting targeted to a 1:many audience and scale that to up to 10K attendees, all through Teams.
  + **Meeting recording** is the ability to record any meeting within Teams and enable transcription using Microsoft Stream. The meeting is stored in the cloud and can be accessed within a Teams channel with closed captioning and search enabling a full meeting lifecycle scenario.
* [**Empower workers in all roles and across industries in Microsoft Teams**](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/Microsoft-Teams-Blog/What-s-new-in-Teams-Ignite-Edition/ba-p/252531)**.** New experiences that are tailored to industry-specific and role-based workflows. For example, there are more than 2.5 billion firstline workers worldwide — that’s a group that includes factory workers, store clerks and electricians, among others.
  + **Home** is a new mobile experience that allows firstline workers to see at a glance the most important and relevant info for their day. With Home, firstline workers can clock in and out of shifts/breaks, receive important notes for the day or shift, find out who is working during the shift, and save time by easily reviewing information and schedule.
  + **Shifts** enables firstline managers to plan schedules in an employee self-service and integrated experience. They can create, update and distribute schedules for teams as well as broadcast open and unfilled shifts so that other employees can cover them. Finally, they can review and accept time-off requests and swap shifts — all from mobile. For firstline employees, they can swap/offer shifts and request time off, right from their phones.
* [**Microsoft Teams Rubrics Grading**](https://support.office.com/en-us/article/Create-reusable-grading-rubrics-in-Microsoft-Teams-68292a5f-f582-4a41-8ba3-8c96288ec5ca)**.** Using customizable rubrics to fit any subject and instructional style, teachers can provide more actionable, personalized and specific feedback in the assignments experience.
* [**Microsoft Teams Immersive Reader**](https://educationblog.microsoft.com/tag/immersive-reader/)**.** Regardless of age or ability, learners can increase their reading speed and comprehension. Immersive Reader enables students with learning differences, such as dyslexia, with text-decoding solutions and helps build confidence for emerging readers through features like read-aloud and Picture Dictionary.
* [**Microsoft Forms**](https://blogs.windows.com/windowsexperience/2018/10/02/find-out-whats-new-in-windows-and-office-in-october/#F6wdvmeIZcusXf6Z.97) is a simple, lightweight tool for creating surveys and quizzes. With real-time responses and automatically generated charts, Forms make it easy to quickly understand results and take the next step.
* [**LinkedIn Learning Social Recommendations**](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flearning.linkedin.com%2Fblog%2Flearning-thought-leadership%2Fmore-learning-content--served-the-way-you-want-and-in-more-langu&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cb7881cace8c84b39740c08d61e71d271%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C636729871537400923&sdata=G4bdsDFsraOP2GD5qULggq8sCkDiTAIm6B%2Fw36lXkaE%3D&reserved=0) shows you if a course has been liked by your connections, co-workers or professionals bearing similar job titles.
* **Updates to Jobs and Salary Search.** To make job searching easier and more efficient, we’ve introduced an updated design to Jobs Search that makes the important information easier to find. We also introduced remote jobs search, and more ways to uncover deeper salary insights within LinkedIn Salary.
* [**LinkedIn Groups**](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fblog.linkedin.com%2F2018%2Fseptember%2F10%2Funveiling-a-new-linkedin-groups-experience-a-shared-space-to-build-community&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cb7881cace8c84b39740c08d61e71d271%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C636729871537400923&sdata=FbOusAWWqUYEaJrVX10hTkn41AtrX9CiJPt9J9uc8PU%3D&reserved=0) gives you a shared space to build professional communities.
* [**Dynamic Ads for self-service**](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbusiness.linkedin.com%2Fmarketing-solutions%2Fblog%2Flinkedin-news%2F2018%2Fintroducing-linkedin-dynamic-ads-in-campaign-manager&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cb7881cace8c84b39740c08d61e71d271%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C636729871537410932&sdata=xq4rdkpMOdG5MfulvTn96eAKf%2FkVfhmSXWsGD%2FQ4gag%3D&reserved=0) makes it easier than ever to send personalized ads to every professional in your target audience across LinkedIn’s desktop experience. We’ve made all key formats available via self-service, making it easy for all online marketers — regardless of size — to leverage LinkedIn’s advertising tools so they can achieve their marketing goals.

# Azure

Following is a select list of generally available Azure products, service and enhancements for the quarter. A full list can be found at <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/>.

# Azure Hybrid Infrastructure

* [**Windows Server 2019 and Windows Server, version 1809 availability**](https://cloudblogs.microsoft.com/windowsserver/2018/09/24/windows-server-2019-announcing-general-availability-in-october/)**.** Windows Server 2019 is the latest Long-Term Servicing Channel release. The release accrues value from previous Semi-Annual Channel releases (version 1709 and 1803). Windows Server 2019 bridges on-premises environments with Azure services for hybrid scenarios, has built-in layers of protection for increased security, and provides hyper-converged infrastructure for greater efficiency and scale.
* [**Expanded capacity for Azure Stack.**](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/new-investments-in-azure-stack-extend-microsoft-s-hybrid-cloud-leadership/) The ability to expand a single Azure Stack to 16 nodes via integrated systems from certain hardware partners. The capability ensures customers can increase the capacity of an Azure Stack integrated system to meet their business needs.
* [**Larger Azure Managed Disks sizes.**](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/introducing-the-public-preview-of-larger-managed-disks-sizes/) New tiers for Azure Managed Disks that significantly expand storage capacity are now available in public preview in specific regions. The offerings for Premium SSD, Standard SSD and Standard HDD will now feature 8, 16 and 32TB storage capacity to enable better performance and simpler management.
* [**Azure Standard SSD Managed Disks**](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/announcing-general-availability-of-standard-ssd-disks-for-azure-virtual-machine-workloads/) is an offering for workloads with low input/output operations per second (IOPS) and that need consistent performance. Azure Standard SSDs (Solid State Drives) deliver better availability, consistency, reliability and latency than Hard Disk Drive Disks.
* [**Azure Virtual WAN**](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-virtual-wan/) provides a simple, unified and global distributed connectivity-and-security platform for deploying large-scale branch office infrastructure to help customers with massive modernization efforts. Azure ExpressRoute now also connects to Azure Virtual WAN, allowing customers to access corporate resources, such as an on-premises datacenter, that are connected to an Azure ExpressRoute circuit.
* [**Azure Data Box general availability, previews of Azure Data Box Heavy, Data Box Edge and Data Box Gateway.**](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/expanding-the-azure-data-box-family/) New offerings for customers to quickly and securely transfer data to Azure, including new products Data Box Edge and Data Box Gateway. Data Box Edge is an on-premises appliance with AI-enabled edge compute capabilities, and Data Box Gateway is a standalone virtual appliance.

# Azure Security and Management

* **Azure Firewall** is a new firewall-as-a-service offering a managed, cloud-native network security service to protect application resources with built-in high availability and unrestricted cloud scalability. Customers can centrally create, enforce and log policies for application and network connectivity across subscriptions and virtual networks. The service now also supports inbound and outbound connectivity, hybrid networks (ExpressRoute/VPN), and deeper platform integration with Azure Monitor, Azure Security Center, Azure Application Services, Network Watcher and more.
* **Azure DDoS Protection Standard** services provide attack insights and visualization for customers protecting their virtual network against DDoS attacks. The services include detailed attack-mitigation reports and flow logs, via diagnostic settings in Azure Monitor. Azure Security Center also now provides recommendations to protect virtual networks against DDoS attacks.
* Microsoft Secure Score in Azure Security Center and [**Azure Security Center update**](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-security-center-update-july-1/) include many features, such as a redesigned overview dashboard and new security recommendations.

# Azure Data and Analytics

* [**Azure Cosmos DB Multi-master general availability**](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/azure-cosmos-db-pushing-the-frontier-of-globally-distributed-databases/)**.** Three updates to Azure Cosmos DB are available to help customers build mission-critical, globally distributed apps. Multi-master support, launched in preview at Build 2018, provides high levels of availability and single-digit millisecond latency with built-in flexible conflict resolution. The Cassandra API, launched in preview in 2017, expands Cosmos DB into a multimodel, multi-API database. And the Reserved Capacity feature reduces cost barriers to entry.

# Azure Serverless and App Dev Services

* **Azure Functions 2.0 runtime** brings the power of functions-based computing to more developers. Runtime and other platform improvements allow you to use your cross-platform .NET Core assets within your Functions apps. Updates also include support for Python development and a consumption plan for Functions built on top of Linux OS. Azure Functions also now shows HTTP dependencies on the Application Insights App Map, enabling support for Function triggers and any HTTP connections for richer monitoring experience.
* **New features in Azure Event Grid** allow customers to become their own event publishers. Advanced filtering based on fields on the data payload attribute and a preview of a Time-To-Live setting for Event Subscriptions set up a maximum time of retention for events.
* **Azure Container Registry Updates.** 
  + **ACR tasks.** Using ACR tasks, you can define a series of steps to build, test and validate your containers before they are deployed.
  + **Content trust** provides you with the ability to verify both the integrity and the publisher of all the data that goes into a container image. Authorized users or services can push signed images to ACR and validate them at the point of deployment.
  + **Helm Repositories.** As customers deploy multicontainer applications, Helm has evolved as the de facto standard to describe Kubernetes-based applications. With Helm repositories, customers can push their Helm Charts to ACR, providing a single source of truth for their images and deployment definitions running in Kubernetes.

# Azure AI

* **New Azure Machine Learning capabilities.** Azure Machine Learning helps data scientists and developers build and train AI models faster, then easily deploy to the cloud or the edge. Significant new updates to the service include automated machine learning to identify the most efficient algorithms and optimize model performance, additional hardware-accelerated models for FPGAs, and a Python SDK that makes Azure Machine Learning services accessible from popular IDEs and notebooks.
* **Azure Cognitive Services update.** Microsoft’s new Speech Service, which combines several AI speech capabilities into a single service, is now generally available. The solution bundles improved models for speech recognition, capabilities for speech translation and the ability to customize models to create a unique voice.
* **Microsoft Bot Framework v4 SDK** is now generally available with rich, multilanguage tools for building and connecting intelligent bots using C#, Java, Python and JavaScript. The latest version simplifies your first bot experience, with a modular, extensible architecture that allows you to pick components and services you need and leverage a rich ecosystem of pluggable extensions.

# Azure IoT

* [**Azure Digital Twins**](https://blogs.microsoft.com/iot/2018/09/24/announcing-azure-digital-twins-create-digital-replicas-of-spaces-and-infrastructure-using-cloud-ai-and-iot/)**.** Azure Digital Twins is a breakthrough service in our IoT platform that enables customers and partners to create a comprehensive digital model of any physical environment, including people, places and things, as well as the relationships and processes that bind them. Once that digital model is in place, Azure Digital Twins uses Azure IoT Hub to connect the IoT devices and sensors that keep the digital model up to date with the physical world.
* [**Azure IoT Central general availability**](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/azure-iot-central-ga/)**.** Azure IoT Central, a new solution for getting started quickly with IoT, is now generally available. The solution simplifies the journey to IoT with the security and global scale of Azure, allowing organizations to build enterprise-grade, secured IoT applications without having to manage back-end infrastructure.
* [**Azure Sphere public preview**](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/azure-sphere-is-here-public-preview-and-dev-kits-now-available/)**.** Azure Sphere, the first holistic solution to create secured, connected microcontroller devices, is now available in public preview. The solution provides security that starts with secured microcontrollers and extends to a turnkey cloud service that guards every Azure Sphere device. Development kits are now universally available.
* [**New Azure IoT Edge** **features and capabilities**](https://blogs.microsoft.com/iot/2018/09/24/microsoft-ignite-2018-build-and-secure-next-generation-iot-and-edge-solutions-at-scale/)**.** Microsoft partners can now submit third-party IoT Edge modules for certification and showcase in the Azure Marketplace. In July, Microsoft announced that the marketplace will showcase third-party modules to help customers discover prebuilt edge solutions and reduce development time. Partners showcasing modules will also have monetization capabilities in the future.

# Quantum Computing (future Azure capability)

* [**Microsoft opens doors to its newest quantum lab**](https://cloudblogs.microsoft.com/quantum/2018/10/09/accelerating-quantum-materials-research-with-microsofts-new-copenhagen-lab/)**.** Microsoft, in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen, opened its doors to the new Quantum Materials Lab – Copenhagen at the Microsoft site in Lyngby. This lab, led by Peter Krogstrup, along with a team of highly skilled mechanical engineers, materials scientists and quantum physicists, is developing the quantum crystals leveraged by other Microsoft quantum laboratories around the world.
* **Open source tools to help developers’ quantum programming.** In July, we released [Quantum Katas](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgithub.com%2FMicrosoft%2FQuantumKatas&data=02%7C01%7C%7C57ce52f2d5154b142a0208d6152ab678%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C636719670519590687&sdata=PejpYqIzRPHkphwTXW7YSOEy7nG6ut7ayAZZyIrLfD0%3D&reserved=0), an open source project containing a series of programming exercises that provides immediate feedback as you progress. Available on GitHub, this series of self-paced tutorials lets developers learn elements of quantum computing and Q# programming at the same time. This is one more way we’re bringing tools to the developer community to help them expand their capabilities even further.
* [**Microsoft Quantum to add chemical simulation library for tackling real-world challenges**](https://blogs.microsoft.com/ai/future-quantum-microsoft-releases-free-preview-quantum-development-kit/)**.** The Microsoft Quantum Development Kit adds a new chemical simulation library in collaboration with computational chemistry leader Pacific Northwest National Labs. The library will enable developers and organizations to create quantum-inspired solutions that can be simulated on classical computers today and quantum computers in the future — helping them tackle big chemistry challenges in such fields as agriculture and climate.

# Surface

* [**Surface Go.**](https://blogs.windows.com/devices/2018/08/02/surface-go-available-now-starting-at-399/) At only 1.15 pounds, Surface Go gives you the versatility and portability of a tablet, with the performance of a laptop. Surface Go empowers you to stay connected without weighing you down or compromising on quality.

# Windows

* [**Microsoft To-Do**](https://products.office.com/en-US/microsoft-to-do-list-app) gets ink support to capture and complete tasks.
* [**Windows 10 Your Phone app**](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/phones) now gives you instant access to your most recent photos and texts from your Android phone. Drag and drop that photo from your phone onto your PC. Copy, edit or ink on that photo, right from your PC.
* The [**Microsoft Whiteboard app**](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/Office-365-Blog/Microsoft-Whiteboard-is-now-generally-available-for-Windows/ba-p/214574) is available for Windows 10 and iOS, and in commercial preview for the web. Whiteboard enables individuals and teams to ideate, create and collaborate visually on a freeform intelligent canvas. Because boards are saved to the cloud, users can work together from wherever they are and from any device.
* [**Windows 10 Mixed Reality Flashlight**](https://blogs.windows.com/windowsexperience/2018/10/02/find-out-whats-new-in-windows-and-office-in-october/#9pLXkd6cHKfmSovM.97) is available so you can open a portal into your real world via the Start menu, a button shortcut or voice command.
* **Cortana and Alexa interoperability.** Customers can summon Cortana on Echo devices and enable Alexa on their Windows 10 PCs and Harman Kardon Invoke speakers.
* [**Windows 10 Storage Sense**](https://blogs.windows.com/windowsexperience/2018/10/02/find-out-whats-new-in-windows-and-office-in-october/#9pLXkd6cHKfmSovM.97)**.** Storage Sense helps keep your storage optimized by automatically freeing up disk space by making older, unused, locally available files available online.
* [**Microsoft Intune for Education** **iOS Device Management**](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/intune-education/what-is-intune-for-education)**.** Microsoft Intune for Education is a great way to manage your school’s Windows 10 devices, and you can use it to manage apps and settings on your classroom iOS devices. With these new features, Microsoft Intune for Education continues to grow as a unified, streamlined administrative console to manage your school devices.

# Search/Bing

* [**Bing News Spotlight**](https://blogs.bing.com/search/2018-08/Bing-helps-you-learn-more-about-the-news-in-less-time) provides overviews of news topics right in the Bing search results when you search for major developing news stories. See how a story develops over time from multiple perspectives and relevant social media posts from people all around the web.

# Gaming

* [**Xbox Adaptive Controller availability**](https://www.xbox.com/en-US/xbox-one/accessories/controllers/xbox-adaptive-controller)**.** A first-of-its-kind controller designed for people with limited mobility. The controller and its accessible packaging were built from the ground up through strong partnerships with AbleGamers Charity, The Cerebral Palsy Foundation, Special Effect, Warfighter Engaged and many community members.
* [**Xbox All Access**](https://news.xbox.com/en-us/2018/08/27/xbox-all-access/)**.** Innovative new offering for a new Xbox One S or Xbox One X, which includes 24 months of Xbox Game Pass, 24 months of Xbox Live Gold, no upfront cost and one low monthly price. Available at Microsoft Stores in the U.S. for a limited time. Saw strong consumer response and exceeded sales expectations, proving our vision toward a subscription-based, content-first model and the benefit of value and variety.
* [**Xbox Game Pass App**](https://www.xbox.com/en-US/xbox-game-pass)for Android to enable you to manage your Xbox Game Pass account from your phone for continued expansion and ease of use for the program.
* [**Launch with FastStart**](https://www.xbox.com/en-US/xbox-one/faststart)**.** A patented new technology to get into the game in half the time. FastStart-enabled games use crowdsourced data to identify the parts of the game you’re most likely to need right away and downloads those parts first so you can play in full-fidelity with just a fraction of the game installed.
* [**Xbox Game Pass Tab in Dashboard launch**](https://news.xbox.com/en-us/2018/07/30/xbox-game-pass-tab-now-available/)**.** This new dedicated Xbox Game Pass tab on the Xbox One Home offers a fast way to get to Xbox Game Pass games, further building out our commitment to discoverability.
* [**Dolby vision streaming released to Insiders**](https://news.xbox.com/en-us/2018/08/30/dolby-vision-for-xbox-one-1810-system-update/)**.** Dolby Vision video-streaming support across Xbox One S and Xbox One X enables select TVs to take HDR up a notch with scene-by-scene precision and accuracy.
* [**Shopping Cart available in the Xbox Store**](https://news.xbox.com/en-us/2018/08/14/shopping-cart-in-xbox-store/)**.** Digital purchases can now be added to a cart and saved for later with the new Shopping Cart feature.
* [**Minecraft: Education Edition**](https://education.minecraft.net/)**.** iOS release of Minecraft: Education Edition for iPad. Update Aquatic for Minecraft: Education Edition filling the oceans in Minecraft with marine life, and introducing new biomes and lessons focused on marine biology.