



Microsoft

Monthly Technical Update

August 2021



Abbas Kudrati

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<https://aka.ms/abbas>



- [Microsoft Inspire 2021 Book of News](#)
- [Windows 365 – The Cloud PC Announcement](#)
- [Windows 11 Announcements](#)
- [Microsoft Official Blog](#)
- [Microsoft “By-The-Numbers”](#)



Announcements and Tips



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- [Industry Cloud Announcements](#)
- [Microsoft Research Blog](#)
- [Microsoft Quantum Computing](#)

- [Microsoft Security Blog](#)
- [Microsoft Global Threat Monitor](#)
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Security and Compliance

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Showcase of the month

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Microsoft 365 update information



Product Lifecycles

Acquisitions and Announcements

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Microsoft Inspire

Azure

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Sustainability

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Certificate change: Azure IoT and Device Provisioning Service (DPS)

Install DigiCert Global G2 certificate to avoid disruption of connectivity



Change in Certificate chain for Azure IoT and DPS

When: by October 2022

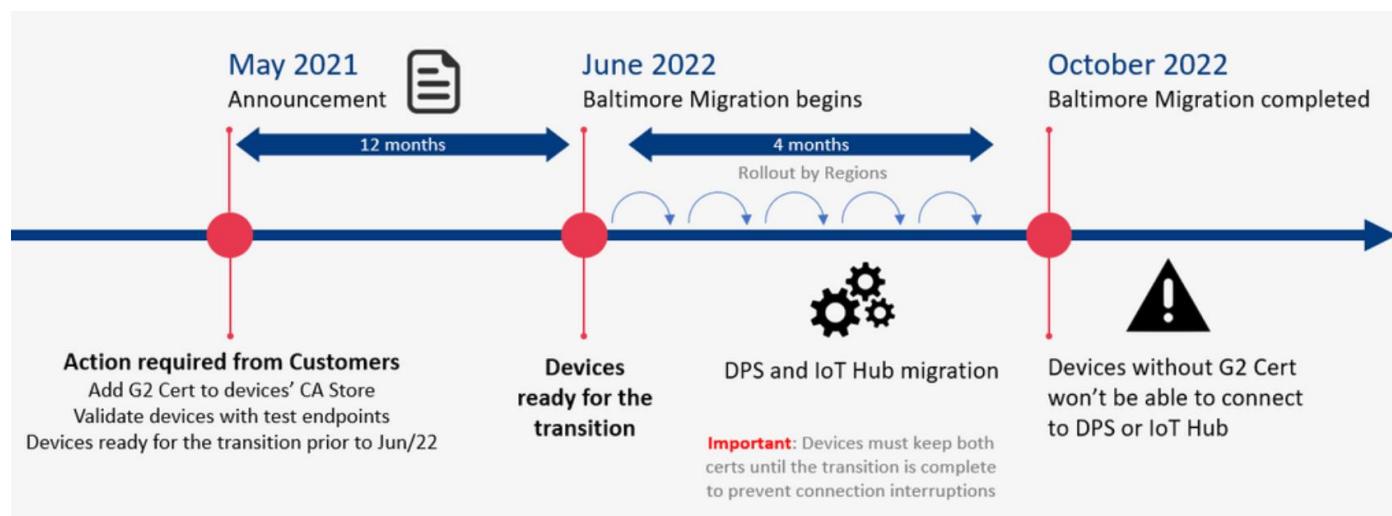
Impact: disruption of connectivity to Azure IoT and DPS if not on DigiCert Global G2 certificate

Why: Certificate Root Chain will be migrated from Baltimore CyberTrust to DigiCert Global G2

Reason: Most Azure services are already updated to use the DigiCert Global G2 root.
Azure IoT Hub and Device Provisioning Service (DPS) remained on TLS certificates issued by the Baltimore CyberTrust Root but now need to be migrated, too.

Action: Add the DigiCert Global root G2 to your trusted root store.

Do not delete the Baltimore root till after transition (~Nov 2022) to prevent interruption.



How do I know I'm impacted?

If

- your devices use a connection stack other than the ones provided in an Azure IoT SDK
- your client applications, devices, or networking infrastructure (e.g. firewalls) perform any sub root validation in code



More information and Support options

Windows 365 – The Cloud PC

A Cloud Service that introduces a new way to experience Windows 10 or Windows 11



July 14, 2021

Introducing a new era of hybrid personal computing: the Windows 365 Cloud PC

By Wangui McKelvey, General Manager, Microsoft 365

Choose the right option to fit your secure hybrid work needs

Securely stream your Windows experience—including your personalized apps, content, and settings—from the Microsoft cloud to any device with your Windows 365 Cloud PC.

Available August 2.

Choose the right option to fit your secure hybrid work needs

Azure Virtual Desktop
A flexible cloud virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) platform that securely delivers virtual desktops and remote apps with maximum control

- Windows 10 personalized and multi-session desktops and remote app streaming
- Full control over management and deployment, plus options for Citrix and VMware integration
- Flexible consumption-based pricing

Optimized for **flexibility**.

Windows 365
A complete software-as-service (SaaS) solution that securely streams your personalized Windows experience – all your apps, content and settings – to any device

- Windows 10 personalized desktops
- Management and deployment with familiar desktop tools and skills
- Predictable per-user pricing

Optimized for **simplicity**.

July 14, 2021

From collaborative apps in Microsoft Teams to Windows 365—here's what's new in Microsoft 365 at Inspire >

Announcing new hybrid-work innovations to the Microsoft cloud—the cloud built for a new world of work.

A new solution for today's hybrid workforce

- Your content** wherever you go
- Compute options** for different users
- Consistent settings** across devices
- The apps** you need, when you need them
- Scalable storage** based on your needs
- Integrated unified security** and identity management

Windows 365 for Enterprise:
Versatile options to meet your needs

Access from a variety of devices and operating systems

Form factor Desktop / Laptop / Tablet / Phone	Platform Windows / Mac, iOS / Android
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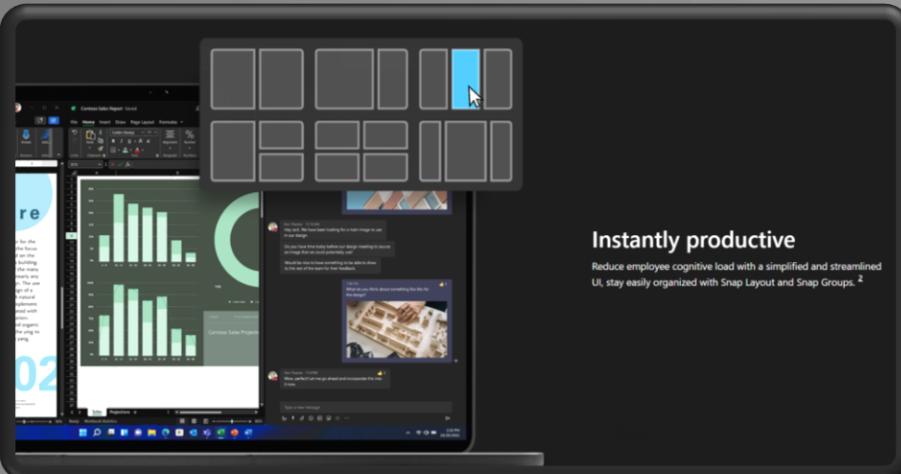
Provision with your choice of Windows

Windows 10	Windows 11 (when available)
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Choose from a range of compute and storage configurations—each offered at a predictable monthly per-user price

8vCPU 32GB / 128GB 32GB / 256GB 32GB / 512GB	4vCPU 16GB / 128GB 16GB / 256GB 16GB / 512GB	2vCPU 4GB / 64GB 4GB / 128GB 4GB / 256GB 8GB / 128GB 8GB / 256GB	1vCPU 2GB / 64GB
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Windows Event : June 24, 2021



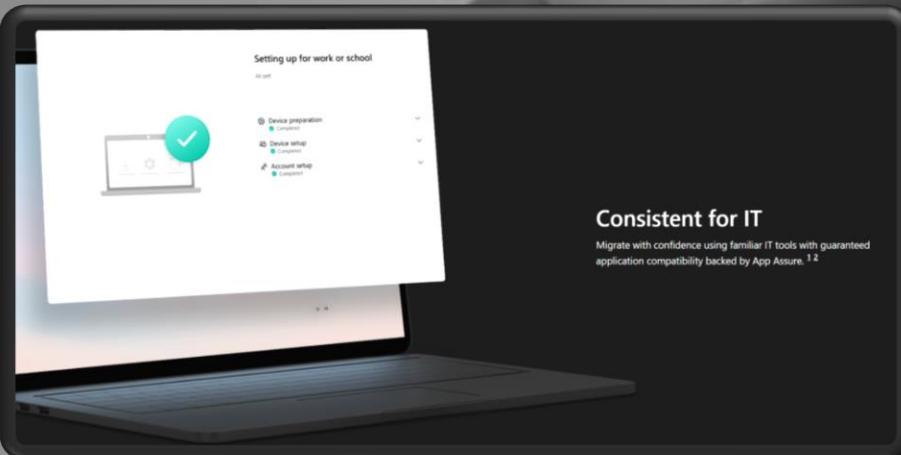
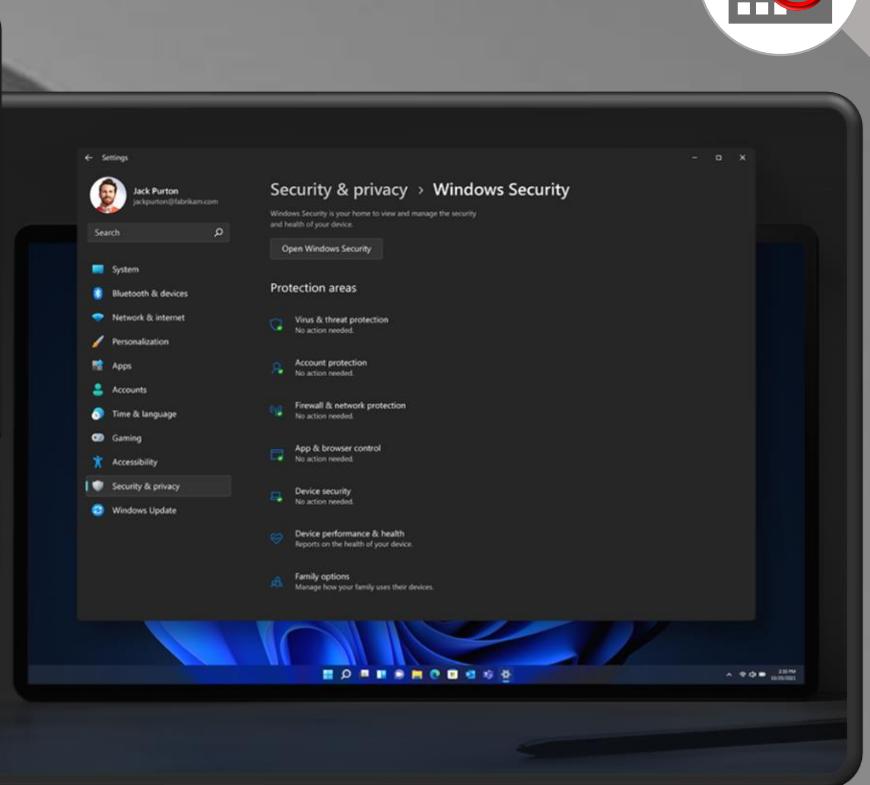
Instantly productive

Reduce employee cognitive load with a simplified and streamlined UI, stay easily organized with Snap Layout and Snap Groups.²



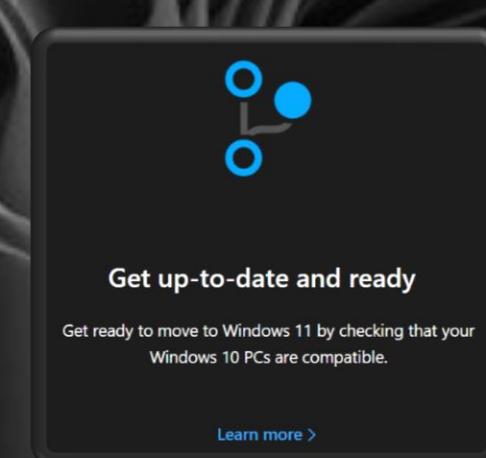
The most secure Windows yet

A Zero Trust-ready OS with powerful built-in security, hardware-based isolation, encryption, and malware protection.²



Consistent for IT

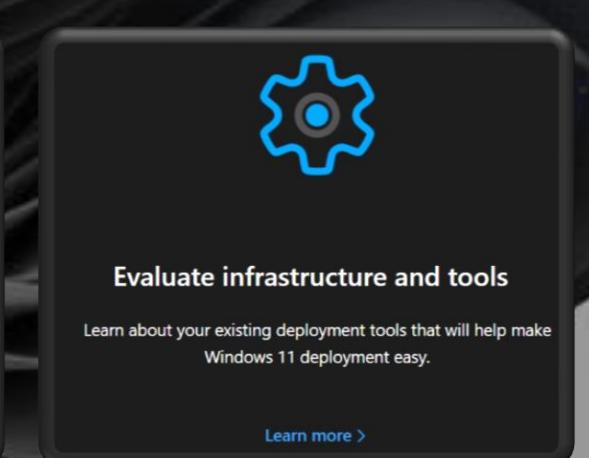
Migrate with confidence using familiar IT tools with guaranteed application compatibility backed by App Assure.^{1,2}



Get up-to-date and ready

Get ready to move to Windows 11 by checking that your Windows 10 PCs are compatible.

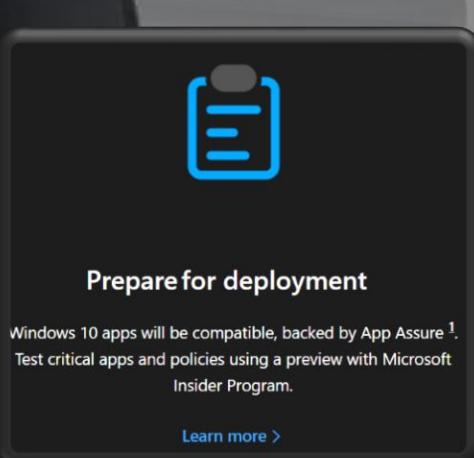
[Learn more >](#)



Evaluate infrastructure and tools

Learn about your existing deployment tools that will help make Windows 11 deployment easy.

[Learn more >](#)



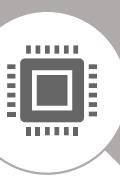
Prepare for deployment

Windows 10 apps will be compatible, backed by App Assure¹. Test critical apps and policies using a preview with Microsoft Insider Program.

[Learn more >](#)

Updates of Security and Compliance





August 5, 2021

Sharing the first SimuLand dataset to expedite research and learn about adversary tradecraft

Last month, we introduced the SimuLand project to help security researchers around the world deploy lab environments to reproduce well-known attack scenarios, actively test detections, and learn more about the underlying behavior and implementation of adversary techniques. Today, we are excited to release a dataset generated from the first simulation scenario to provide security researchers with an option to access data mapped to attack behavior without deploying the full environment.

[Read more >](#)

July 21, 2021

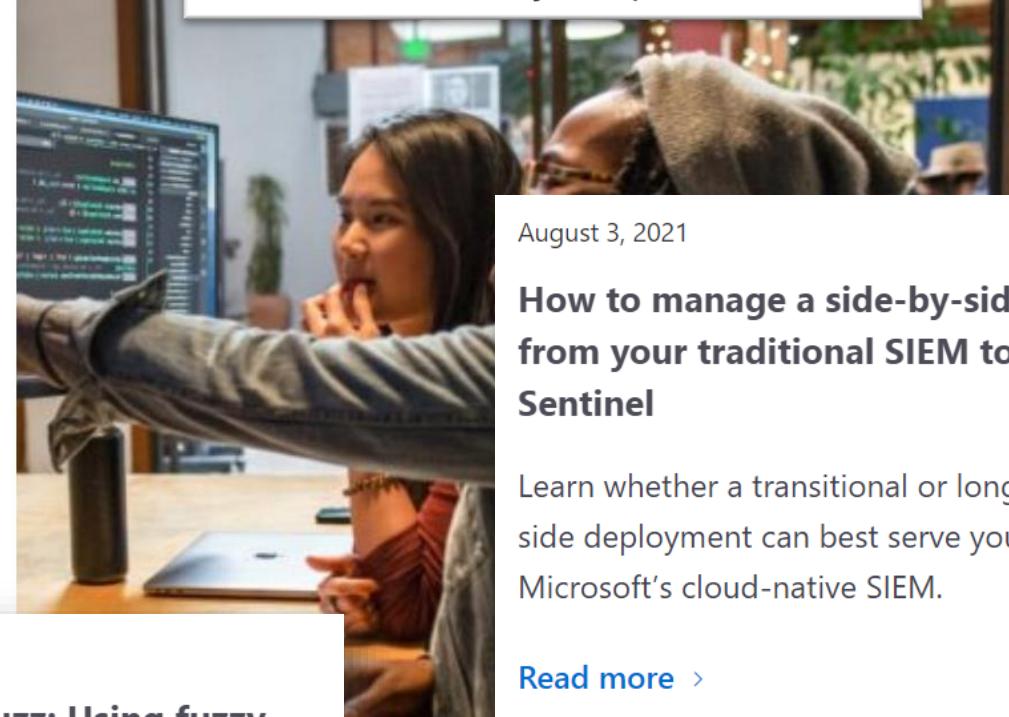
The evolution of a matrix: How ATT&CK for Containers was built

As containers become a major part of many organizations' IT workloads, it becomes crucial to consider the unique security threats that target such environments when building security solutions. The first step in this process is understanding the relevant attack landscape.

July 27, 2021

Combing through the fuzz: Using fuzzy hashing and deep learning to counter malware detection evasion techniques

A new approach for malware classification combines deep learning with fuzzy hashing. Fuzzy hashes identify similarities among malicious files and a deep learning methodology inspired by natural language processing (NLP) better identifies similarities that actually matter, improving detection quality and scale of deployment.



August 3, 2021

How to manage a side-by-side transition from your traditional SIEM to Azure Sentinel

Learn whether a transitional or long-term side-by-side deployment can best serve your migration to Microsoft's cloud-native SIEM.

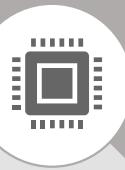
[Read more >](#)

July 29, 2021

Attack AI systems in Machine Learning Evasion Competition

Today, we are launching MLSEC.IO, a new machine learning security evasion competition as an educational effort for the AI and security communities to exercise their muscle to attack critical AI systems in a realistic setting.

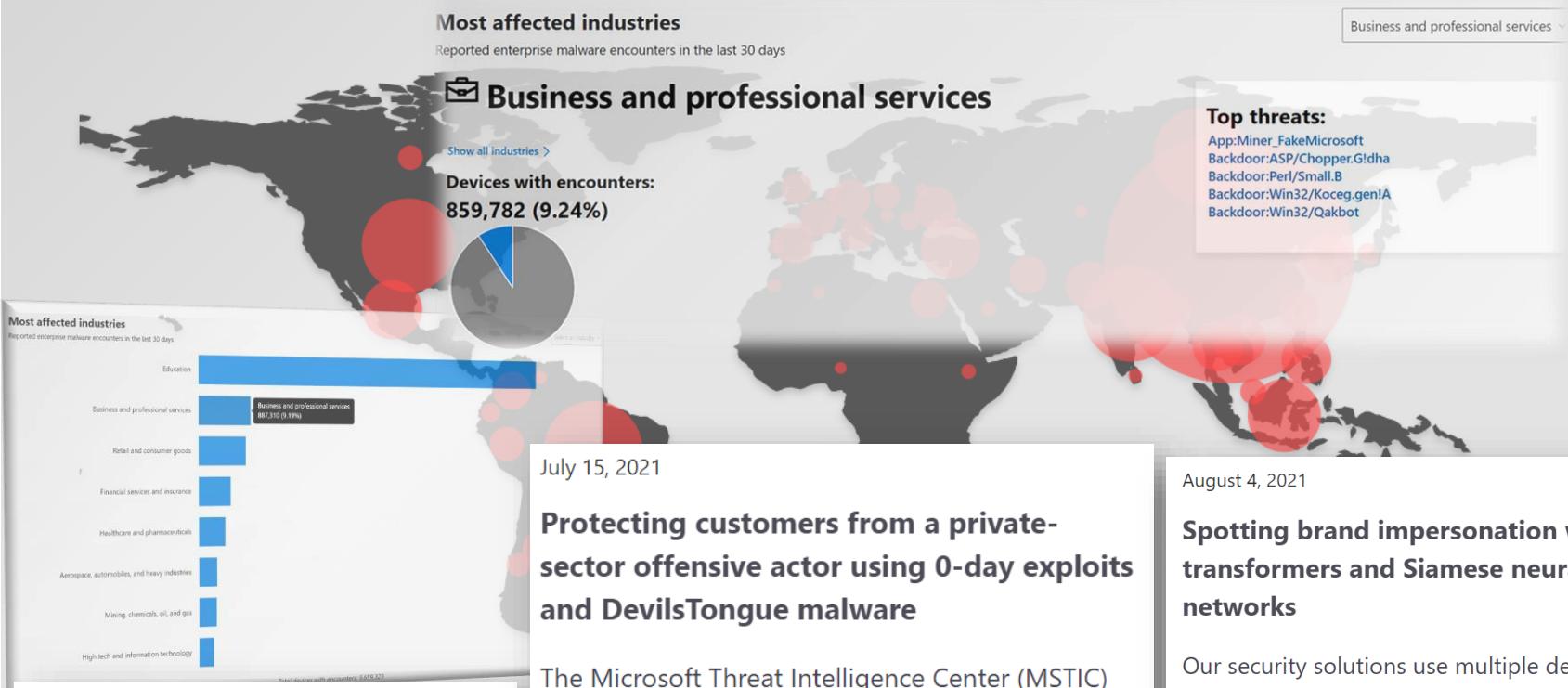
Monitoring Global Threats: Microsoft



Select a region ▾

Global threat activity

Countries or regions with the most malware encounters in the last 30 days



Worldwide
91,188,556 devices with encounters

Top threats:

- HackTool:Win32/AutoKMS
- HackTool:Win64/AutoKMS
- Trojan:Win32/Wacatac.B!ml
- HackTool:Win32/Keygen
- HackTool:MSIL/AutoKms

July 29, 2021

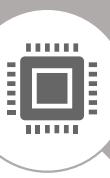
BazaCall: Phony call centers lead to exfiltration and ransomware

Our continued investigation into BazaCall campaigns, those that use fraudulent call centers that trick unsuspecting users into downloading the BazaLoader malware, shows that this threat is more dangerous than what's been discussed publicly in other security blogs and covered by the media.

August 4, 2021

Spotting brand impersonation with Swin transformers and Siamese neural networks

Our security solutions use multiple detection and prevention techniques to help users avoid divulging sensitive information to phishers as attackers continue refining their impersonation tricks. In this blog, we discuss our latest innovation toward developing another detection layer focusing on the visual components of brand impersonation attacks.



Modern Mining Malware is a Cross-Platform Infrastructure

LemonDuck/LemonCat: bot malware steals credentials, removes security controls, spreads via emails, moves laterally

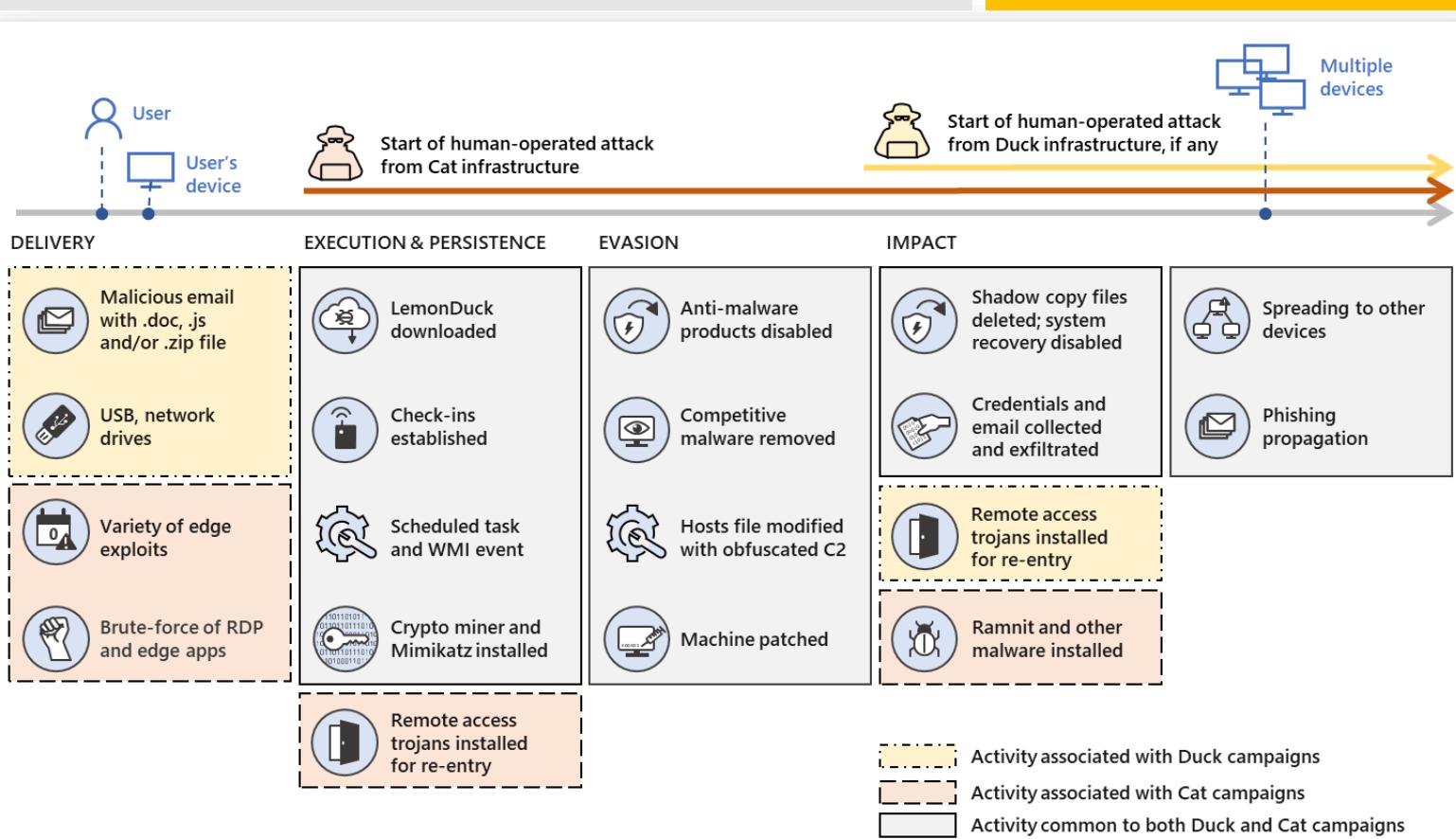
LemonDuck and LemonCat

- Actively updated and robust malware
- Focused botnet and cryptocurrency mining
- Steals credentials and removes security controls



Part 1: Exposing LemonDuck and LemonCat

Part 2: Hunting LemonDuck and LemonCat



Mitigation actions,
detection information,
and advanced hunting
queries for
Microsoft 365 Defender
customers

LemonDuck template
subject lines

LemonDuck Botnet
Registration Functions

LemonDuck keyword
identification

LemonDuck Microsoft
Defender tampering

Antivirus uninstallation
attempts

Known LemonDuck
component script
installations

LemonDuck named
scheduled creation

Competition killer script
scheduled task execution

LemonDuck hosts file
adjustment for dynamic C2
downloads

July 28, 2021

Zero Trust Adoption Report: How does your organization compare?

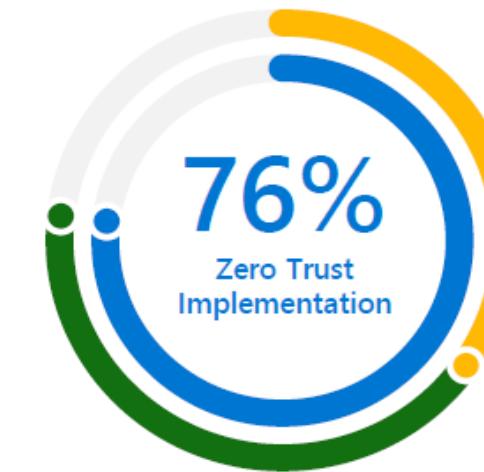
Vasu Jakkal Corporate Vice President, Security, Compliance and Identity



Share ▾

From the wide adoption of cloud-based services to the proliferation of mobile devices. From the emergence of advanced new cyberthreats to the recent sudden shift to remote work. The last decade has been full of disruptions that have required organizations to adapt and accelerate their security transformation. And as we look forward to the next major disruption—the move to hybrid work—one thing is clear: the pace of change isn't slowing down.

Zero Trust Adaption Report



	US (2020)	US	DE	JP	AUS/NZ
Zero Trust implementation	70%	79%	75%	76%	71%
• Fully implemented	27%	44%	19%	32%	28%
• In progress	43%	35%	56%	44%	43%

● 35% Fully implemented

● 42% Implementation in progress

Download the full report here: <https://query.prod.cms.rt.microsoft.com/cms/api/am/binary/RWGWha>

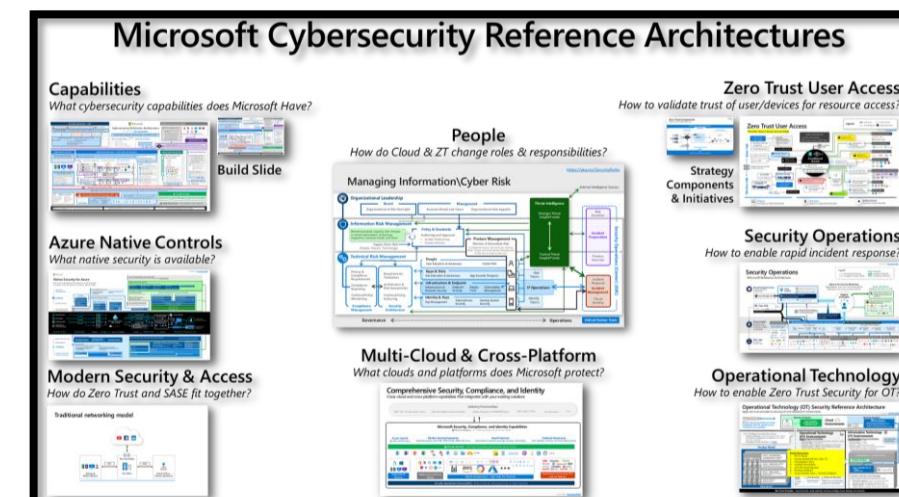
Microsoft Cybersecurity Reference Architecture (updated)

<https://aka.ms/MCRA>

We're pleased to release the three "Microsoft Cybersecurity Reference Architecture (MCRA)" interactive guides, which you can find at the links below. Download the slides from this link, <https://aka.ms/mcra>.

Interactive training guides below.

- [Microsoft Cybersecurity Reference Architectures \(MCRA\) - Capabilities](#)
- [Microsoft Cybersecurity Reference Architectures \(MCRA\) - Zero Trust User Access](#)
- [Microsoft Cybersecurity Reference Architectures \(MCRA\) - People](#)



A photograph of a young woman with long blonde hair in a braid, wearing a white ribbed sweater. She is sitting at a desk, looking down at a tablet device she is holding with both hands. A stylus pen is in her right hand. On the desk in front of her is a laptop and a notebook. The background shows large windows with a view of a city skyline.

Microsoft 365 update information



Microsoft Viva Updates

Microsoft Viva Blog Employee experience in 4 modules

Viva Connections:

- Gateway to the digital workplace.
- Updated single-entry point for employee engagement and internal communications.

Viva Insights:

- New **personal wellbeing experiences**, insights, and recommended actions
- Added to the flow of people's work in Microsoft Teams.

Viva Learning:

- New Tools to assign learning, track the completion of courses and **foster a learning culture**.
- Makes learning natural. Easily **discover and share everything from training courses to microlearning content**.

Viva Topics:

- A Wikipedia with AI superpowers for your organization.
- Uses **AI to automatically organize company-wide content and expertise into relevant categories** like "projects," "products," "processes," and "customers."

This is Microsoft Viva

Microsoft Viva is an employee experience platform that brings together communications, knowledge, learning, resources, and insights. Powered by Microsoft 365 and experienced primarily through Microsoft Teams, Viva fosters a culture where people and teams are empowered to be their best from anywhere.

The collage illustrates the Microsoft Viva platform across multiple devices and interfaces. It includes:

- A desktop browser showing the Viva Connections dashboard with news items, a company feed, and a rewards section.
- A mobile phone displaying the Viva Connections app with notifications for tasks, health checks, and team updates.
- A mobile phone showing the Viva Learning catalog with various course and microlearning options.
- A mobile phone showing a Microsoft Teams-like interface for a "Marketing Chat" with a "SOAR" project update.
- A desktop browser showing the Viva Insights dashboard with personal wellbeing metrics and team communication snippets.
- A large circular inset showing a Microsoft Teams-style communication feed with messages, attachments, and a "Start meditating" button.

Microsoft Teams Blog:



What's New in Microsoft Teams | July 2021

What's New in Microsoft Teams | July 2021

Microsoft_Teams_team on Jul 30 2021 06:43 AM

Welcome to What's New in Teams for July! The Teams product team has been busy delivering several new features in July to...

New for This Month

- Find meeting recordings in Microsoft Search based on transcripts
- Lock a meeting from additional joins
- Translate a slide in PowerPoint Live in Teams
- Set Teams Meetings Auto Recording
- **Organization-Wide Background Settings**
- **End user Real-time telemetry for meetings**
- Related Content for Teams Meetings for mobile
- Hard audio mute includes PSTN attendees in meetings
- Transfer calls between desktop and mobile

Chat and Collaboration:

- Expanded emoji picker
- Immersive Reader Support for Mobile
- Inline Message Translation in channels for Android and iOS
- Headspace integration with Microsoft Viva Insights



Developers and Management

- **Share-to-Stage support for meetings apps**
- App Risk Evaluation
- Left navigation updates in Teams Admin Center

For Security, Compliance, Privacy

- **Teams Multi-Geo Support**
- **Safe Links Protection for Microsoft Teams**

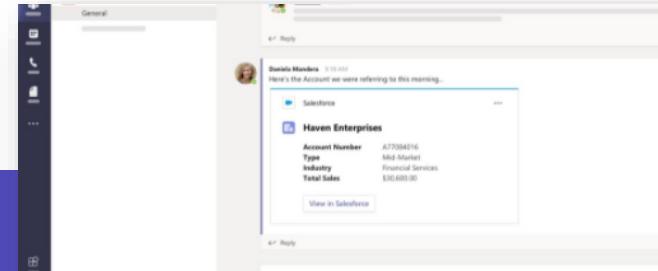
For Teams Phones

- Intelligent Together Mode on Teams Phones



Devices:

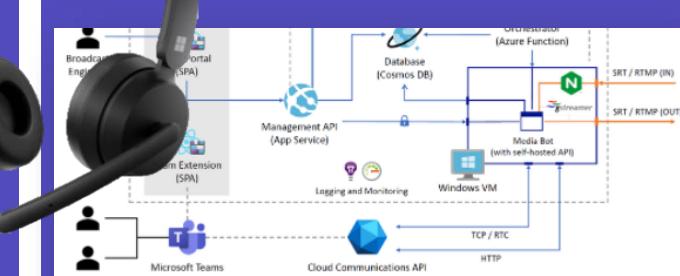
- **Ekinops' Session Boarder Controller Certification**
- Microsoft Teams Rooms update on Windows
- New Devices from **Dell, Poly, Yealink, and Crestron**



Salesforce brings sales and service data into Microsoft...

Microsoft_Teams_team on Jul 07 2021 08:58 AM

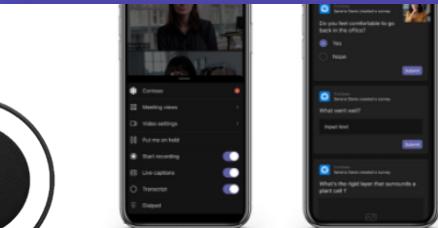
The Salesforce app in Microsoft Teams is now Generally Available.



Introducing the broadcast development kit for Microsoft...

alinne on Jul 21 2021 08:00 AM

Today, we are announcing the introduction of the broadcast development kit for Teams. It's an open-source project that e...



Use apps in your meetings from Microsoft Teams mobile today

Jun_Pak on Jul 19 2021 08:00 AM

We're excited to share that Microsoft Teams apps built for meetings are now also supported on mobile with iOS and Androi...

What's New in Microsoft 365



[M365 Blogs](#) and [Administrative Blogs](#)
covering Office 365, Enterprise Mobility
and Security and Windows ::

Microsoft 365 Updates:

- [Windows 11 : For Hybrid Work and Learning](#)
- [AWS Stencils and Shapes in Visio](#)
- [Suggested Replies appear in Outlook](#)
- [Updated Linked Data Types bring facts and data into Excel](#)
- Accessibility Ribbon and tools update
- Refreshed look for Office Start Screen on Mac
- Outlook for iOS support for *.ICS file attachments
- Play My Email feature on Outlook for iPad
- Android text predictions for Word on Android
- Use Voice commands to forward messages and events on Android

Administrative Capabilities Updates:

- [Inventory on Microsoft 365 Apps admin center](#)

July 8, 2021



Get nostalgic with new Microsoft Teams backgrounds >

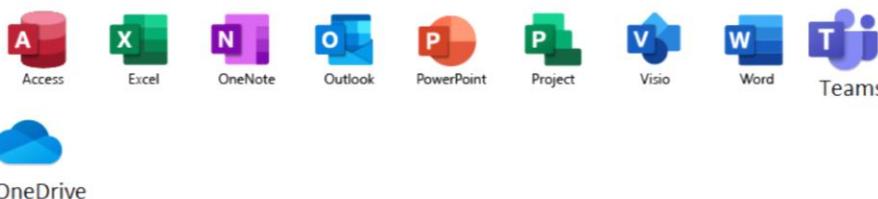
It's that time of the week again: #ThrowbackThursday. The day we reflect on old pictures, funny GIFs, and the nostalgic moments that have defined us over the years.

What's new for admins in Microsoft 365 Apps for enterprise...

[Microsoft_365_Team](#) on Jul 07 2021 11:46 AM

Learn about the General Availability of Inventory for Microsoft 365 Apps admin center, a new Microsoft 365 licensing opt...

What's new in your favorite Office app



AWS stencils and shapes

We now have stencils with the latest AWS shapes to help you create diagrams.

[LEARN MORE](#)

New in:

Power Platform and Dynamics



2021 release wave 2 plans for Dynamics 365 and Power Platform now available >

July 15, 2021

By [Mo Osborne](#), Corporate Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Business Applications Engineering

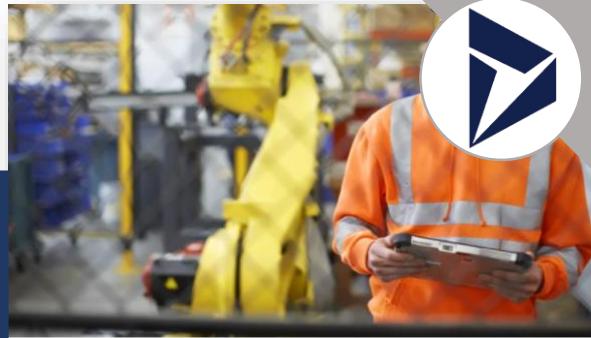
On July 14, 2021, we published the 2021 release wave 2 plans for Microsoft Dynamics 365 and Microsoft Power Platform, a compilation of new capabilities that are planned to be released between October 2021 and March 2022. This second release wave of the year offers hundreds of new features and enhancements, demonstrating our continued investment to...[Read more](#)

Power BI Blog

- [How Microsoft runs the Power BI Service](#)
- [Refresh History Updates for Models – Utilizing XMLA Endpoints](#)
- [Power BI Ideas Site Updates](#)
- [Power BI REST API support for DAX queries : Public Preview](#)
- [Data gateway support for Single Sign-On \(SSO\) with Azure AD](#)
- [Backup and Restore for Power BI datasets : Generally Available](#)
- [Admin APIs to Determine Access Rights : Public Preview](#)
- [Streaming Dataflows in Power BI premium : Public Preview](#)

PowerApps Blog: Power Automate Blog: Power Virtual Agents Blog

- [Power Virtual Agents export and import chatbots using solutions](#)
- [Transcript viewer – now available as part of PVA Custom Analytics](#)
- [Custom Pages for converging model-driven apps and canvas apps : Public Preview](#)
- [Power Automate Desktop July 2021 Update](#)
- [VNet Connectivity for Power Platform Dataflows : Public Preview](#)
- [Monitor model-driven apps using Application Insights : Preview](#)
- [Submit a connector to Microsoft Power Platform - Independent Publisher](#)
- [Introducing Seven New Connectors : Power Automate](#)
- [Transcript viewer – now available as part of PVA Custom Analytics : Power Virtual Agent](#)
- [AI-assisted authoring: detect topic overlaps and get topic suggestions from bot sessions](#)



Transforming service operations with Connected Field Service >

July 27, 2021

By [Shona Bang](#), Product Marketing Manager, Dynamics 365 Field Service and Remote Assist

You have probably heard of Connected Field Service as a buzzword these days, but some of you may still wonder what it actually entails. Field service management (or FSM) typically refers to the management of a company's resources employed at or en route to the client's location.¹ FSM typically involves the installation, service, maintenance, or...[Read more](#)

Developer and GitHub



GitHub ChangeLog

- [Release Radar · Mid-year 2021 Edition](#)
- [15+ new code scanning integrations with open source security tools](#)
- [Adding support for cross-cluster associations to Rails 7](#)
- [GitHub Actions: Self-hosted runner events are now included in the Audit Log](#)
- [Better deep linking experiences on GitHub Mobile](#)
- [Enhanced citation support](#)
- [Introducing the CodeQL package manager : public beta](#)
- [Granular controls for Sponsors' Custom Amounts](#)

July 28, 2021 — Enterprise

15+ new code scanning integrations with open source security tools

July 12, 2021 — Engineering

Adding support for cross-cluster associations to Rails 7

July 22, 2021 — Open Source

Minimum Viable Governance: lightweight community structure to grow your FOSS projects

Release Radar · Mid-year 2021 Edition

Microsoft Developer Blogs:

- [Quantum software development using the QDK](#)
- [Python in Visual Studio Code – August 2021 Release](#)
- [Dual-screen developer tools recap](#)
- [Introducing Microsoft GCToolkit](#)
- [Microsoft build of OpenJDK for M1 and ARM64 : Generally Available](#)
- [SecretManagement 1.1: Generally Available](#)
- [Xamarin.Essentials 1.7 and introducing .NET MAUI Essentials](#)
- [.NET Framework July 2021 Security and Quality Rollup](#)
- [Announcing .NET 6 Preview 6](#)
- [Announcing .NET MAUI Preview 6](#)

Office Developer Blogs and Microsoft 365 Dev Center



Build apps for Microsoft Teams

Extend and customize Teams to create and connect apps and workflows.

[Visit Dev Center >](#)



Global Developer Updates and Bootcamps :: M365 Developer Blog

- [SharePoint Framework 1.13 with Viva Connections : Public Preview](#)
- [Graph Connectors API Changes](#)
- [Case Study : Uniper boosts Productivity using Office Scripts](#)
- [Microsoft Graph .NET SDK v4 : Generally Available](#)
- [Extending the Context Menu and Share Dialog in Windows 11](#)
- [Script Lab API tool updates](#)
- [Fluent UI and API Updates](#)
- [Updated Training Events and Sites](#)
- [Updated Learning site and paths](#)
- [MSAL for React](#)
- [MSAL for Angular v2](#)

EVENTS

Virtual Training Days

These 1 and 2 day virtual events will give you the opportunity to expand your skillset and connect with Microsoft experts.

[READ MORE >](#)

August 4, 2021

Office Scripts

Easily automate your day-to-day tasks with **Office Scripts in Excel on the web**. Get started automating today!

[Learn more >](#)

[Try sample scripts >](#)



Teams UI Kit

Get core components, scenario-based templates, and best practices for designing Teams apps.

[Explore >](#)



Script Lab

Use the Office JavaScript API tool to create Office Add-ins for Excel, Word, or PowerPoint.

[Explore >](#)

Breaking changes to the Microsoft Graph connectors API (beta)

We have made improvements to our API to make it more useful and intuitive to developers. Implementing these improvements requires us to introduce some breaking changes detailed here.

[READ MORE >](#)

Azure



Azure Updates



Azure Announcements : Azure Blog

- [Azure Healthcare APIs](#) : Expand Microsoft Cloud portfolio
- [Azure Sustainability](#) : Advanced financial services strategy for sustainability in your business
- [Microsoft Cloud improving 5G wireless networks](#)
- [Azure Monitor IT Services Management – Certified with ServiceNow Quebec version](#)
- [Azure Virtual Desktop – Start VM on connect](#) : Generally Available

Data, AI, Security, & Availability

- [Azure Virtual Machine Availability transparency](#) : Fast notification when a VM availability is impacted
- [Azure Firewall Premium](#) : Next-generation firewall capabilities
- [Spark 3.0 connector for Azure SQL Server](#) : Generally Available
- [Global Disaster Recovery via Azure Site Recovery](#) : Generally Available
- [Azure ExpressRoute Global Reach](#) : 2 new locations
- [Azure Automation – Availability Zone Support](#) : Coming Soon
- [Azure Managed HSM Private Link](#) : Generally Available
- [Privileged Identity Management with Azure Lighthouse enables Zero Trust](#)
- [Web Application Firewall \(WAF\) bot protection on Application Gateway](#) : Generally Available

Operations & Benefits

- [Cost Management and Billing Updates](#) : July 2021
- [Azure Migrate Software Inventory and agentless dependency analysis](#) : Generally Available
- [VMware Site Recovery Manager for Azure VMware Solution](#) : Generally Available
- [Azure VM Image Builder Service](#) : Generally Available

MICROSOFT LEARN FOR AZURE

LEARN

VIDEOS Build Sessions

View on demand sessions from Build across various solutions and technologies.

Browse sessions

COMMUNITY Microsoft Tech Community

Connect and discuss the latest news, product updates, and best practices with Microsoft professionals and peers.

Join our community

EVENTS Virtual Training Days

These 1 and 2 day virtual events will give you the opportunity to expand your skillset and connect with Microsoft experts.

Browse training events

Your path to get started

Learning Path	Description	Duration	Level
	Azure Fundamentals part 1: Describe core Azure concepts	1 hr 36 min	Beginner Administrator Azure
	Manage resources in Azure	4 hr 31 min	Beginner Developer Azure
	Manage identity and access in Azure Active Directory	5 hr 17 min	Beginner Solution Architect Azure

Azure Updates

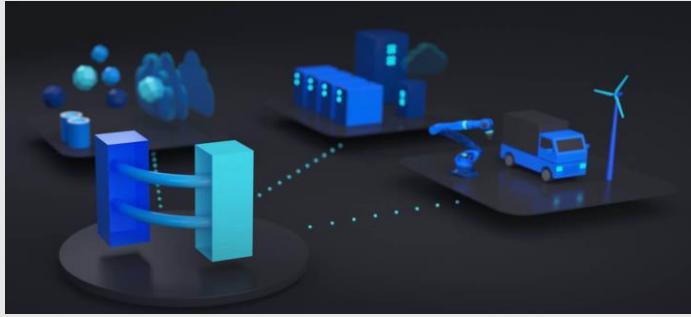


Azure Virtual Desktop

Provide the familiarity and compatibility of Windows 10 with the new scalable multi-session experience for your end users and save costs by using existing eligible Windows licenses.

Azure Virtual Desktop

- Modernize [Citrix](#) and [VMware](#) virtual desktops
- [Reduce Costs](#) – use existing Microsoft 365 licenses
- [Remote App Streaming](#) – run your app in Azure and stream it to a remote device
- [Deploy and Scale Quickly](#) within the Azure Portal
- [Start VM on Connect capability](#) : Generally Available
- [Windows 365 and Azure Virtual Desktop](#) – offerings for secure hybrid workplace



Azure Arc

Unify on-prem, hybrid, and cross-cloud infrastructure

Azure Arc

[Data Services](#) and [Infrastructure](#) management :

- Centrally manage a wide range of resources including [Windows](#) and [Linux](#) servers, SQL server, [Kubernetes](#) clusters, and [Azure services](#).
- Azure Arc-enabled PostgreSQL Hyperscale : Preview
- [Enable Multi-Environment Search](#) with Azure Resource Graph
- [Delegate access and manage security policies](#)



Azure Percept : Preview

Accelerate edge intelligence from silicon to service:
Azure Percept is a comprehensive, easy-to-use platform with added security for creating edge AI solutions.

Azure Percept (preview)

- Accelerators built to integrate seamlessly with [Azure AI](#) and [Azure IoT services](#).
- Works out of the box with [Azure Cognitive Services](#), [Azure Machine Learning](#), and other Azure services to **deliver vision and audio insights in real time**.
- Included library of [pre-built AI models](#) for **vision** including **object detection, shelf analytics, vehicle analytics, and audio capabilities** like voice control and anomaly detection.

New trends with Microsoft Technology



Updates from Microsoft Industry Blogs



Digital experiences drive new revenue and differentiation for Telcos >

July 26, 2021



By [Kees Lemmens](#), Industry Digital Strategist, Worldwide Communications & Media

Like 72 percent of organizations¹, Telcos have long had customer experience (CX) top of mind and been investing to drive revenue growth. In 2008, when I started my career as a Telecom consultant, my first project "Data is Key" set to identify the data key to power a new business intelligence (BI) engine. This engine,...[Read more](#)



Embracing security and digital transformation in the COVID-19 era >

July 28, 2021



By [Jeremy M. Goldberg](#), WWPS Director of Critical Infrastructure

As the world emerges from a global pandemic, nations face a pivotal moment for government technology. Governments at every level are at the brink of digital transformation, but at the same time vulnerable to cyberattacks. Going forward, governments must invest in new technology and top-tier security software to deliver services while protecting critical infrastructure. They...[Read more](#)



How technology is helping in the fight against the pandemic >

August 4, 2021



By [Greg McKay](#), Microsoft's Worldwide Public Sector lead for Public Health and Social Services



[Eric Basha](#), Director of Business Strategy, Worldwide Government Industry

The global pandemic is far from over, we want to take this opportunity to recognize and applaud the continued heroic efforts by front-line workers—healthcare workers, first responders, service workers, and others—around the world. They put their lives at risk every day to save patients and keep critical operations running. While much of the recent news...[Read more](#)



Explore the new wave of cloud innovation at HIMSS21 >

July 22, 2021



By [Tom McGuinness](#), Corporate Vice President, Worldwide Health, Microsoft



[Jenn Roth](#), Global Industry Product Marketing Director-Health

It's hard to believe another year of HIMSS is upon us and given the impact of COVID-19 on our society, we've all had to rethink how we approach connecting with community and engaging with audiences this past year. So, we are delighted that HIMSS21 will be offered both in-person and digitally—so everyone, everywhere can join together. As a sponsor of HIMSS Digital 2021,...[Read more](#)



Leveraging the value of our partnerships to empower Defense and Intelligence >

July 21, 2021



By [Gus MacGregor-Millar](#), General Manager Defense & Intelligence, WW Public Sector, Microsoft

Microsoft has developed one of the largest technology ecosystem in the world, which provides opportunities for our partners in the defense industrial base to digitally transform and deliver mission capability. With our partners we seek to: Help securely advance missions across land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace to promote stability and security for people, nations,...[Read more](#)

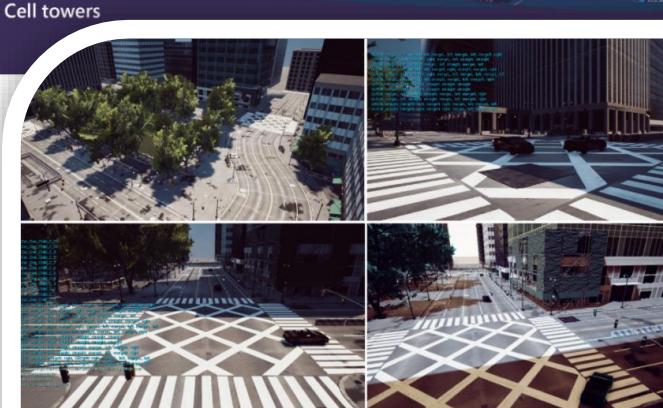
Microsoft Research Blog



Traditional Cellular Network Infrastructure



Cloudified Cellular Network Infrastructure



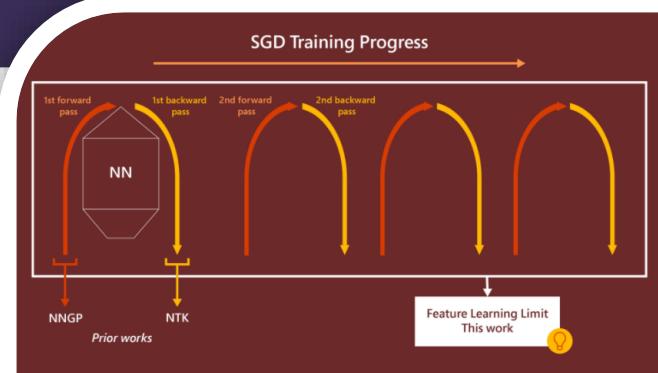
CausalCity: Introducing a high-fidelity simulation with agency for advancing causal reasoning in machine learning >

The ability to reason about causality, and ask “what would happen if...?” is one property that sets human intelligence apart from artificial intelligence. Modern AI algorithms perform well on clearly defined pattern recognition tasks but fall short generalizing in the ways that human intelligence can....

Project Arno: How Microsoft Research created the technology and industry momentum for Azure to empower telecom operators in the cloud >

July 19, 2021 by [Yongguang Zhang](#) and [Bozidar Radunovic](#)

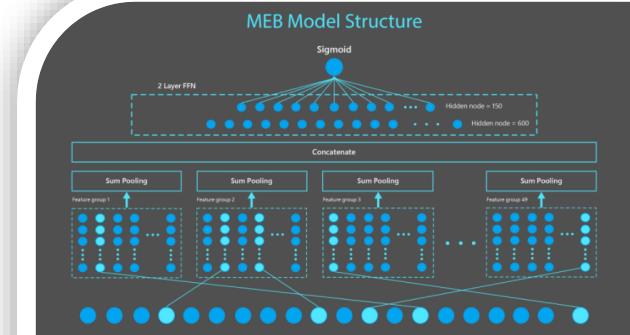
Editor's note: In recent years, telecommunications operators have faced a growing challenge to meet surging global demand for immersive online services and collaboration tools. Upgrading their proprietary networks to prepare for 5G and beyond would require major capital expenditures, even as competition was driving down...



On infinitely wide neural networks that exhibit feature learning >

In the pursuit of learning about fundamentals of the natural world, scientists have had success with coming at discoveries from both a bottom-up and top-down approach. Neuroscience is a great example of the former. Spanish anatomist Santiago Ramón y Cajal discovered the neuron in the...

July 22, 2021 by [Edward Hu](#) and [Greg Yang](#)



Make Every feature Binary: A 135B parameter sparse neural network for massively improved search relevance >

Recently, Transformer-based deep learning models like GPT-3 have been getting a lot of attention in the machine learning world. These models excel at understanding semantic relationships, and they have contributed to large improvements in Microsoft Bing's search experience and surpassing human performance on the SuperGLUE...

August 4, 2021 by [Junyan Chen](#), [Frédéric Dubut](#), [Jason \(Zengzhong\) Li](#), and [Rangan Majumder](#)



Microsoft Quantum

Get to know the world's first full-stack, open cloud quantum computing ecosystem

Azure Quantum PREVIEW

The most innovative quantum computing and optimization solutions converge in a single marketplace quantum service



```
/// # Summary
/// This operation applies Grover's algorithm to
/// inputs to an operation to find a particular n
operation SearchForMarkedInput (nQubits : INT) :
    using (qubits = Qubit [nQubits]) {
        // Initialize a uniform superposition over all
        PrepareUniform(qubits);
        // The search itself consists of repeatedly
        // marked state and our start state, which we
        // do as a for loop.
        for (idxIteration in 0...NIterations (nQubits)) {
            ReflectAboutMarked(qubits);
            ReflectAboutUniform(qubits);
        }
        // Measure and return the answer.
        return ForEach(MResetZ, qubits);
    }
```

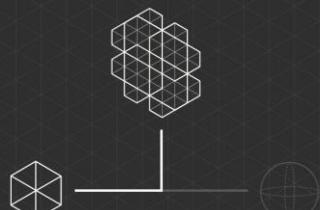
Grow your quantum skills

Join the growing global community of experts, enthusiasts, and quantum computing companies by learning the fundamentals of quantum computing concepts, operations, and Q# programming. Get started with a wide variety of learning resources for developers, researchers, and students, including free, self-paced Microsoft Learn courses and open-source GitHub katas.

[Start learning](#)

Q#: Quantum Programming Language Updates

- Q# is a high-level quantum-focused programming language offering an intuitive and modern approach to quantum program development.
- Q# allows you to focus your work at the algorithm and application level to create quantum programs.



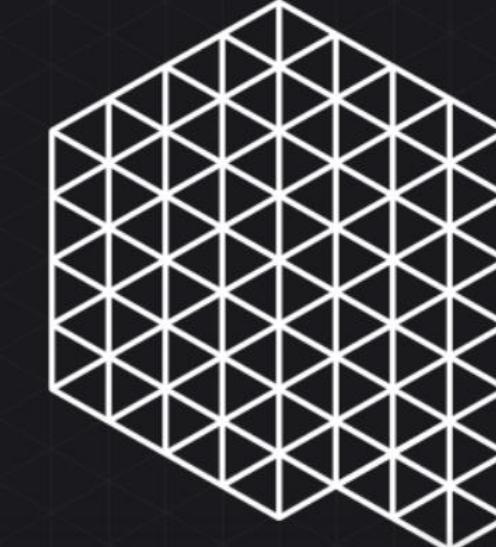
Optimization

Optimization solvers that run on classical hardware.

LEARN	CODE	USE
Code Samples	Visual Studio	Python SDK
MS Learn	VS Code	Optimization API

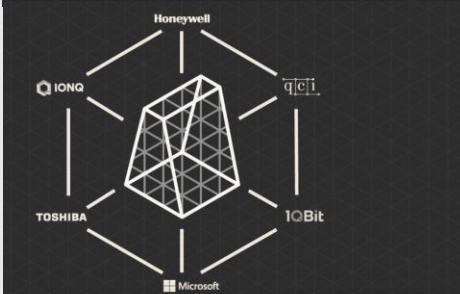
Optimization

Solve optimization problems on classical hardware faster and better using algorithms inspired by physical processes.



Building a scalable quantum system

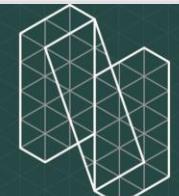
Learn how Microsoft is leading the way to scalable, accessible quantum computing with worldwide research teams and partnerships



Unified development interface

With Azure Quantum and its [quantum development kit](#), what could be a heterogenous hardware and software set of solutions is unified. Your development investments are protected in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

Microsoft and its Partners ensure hardware and software innovations are brought to you with minimal to no change to your code base.



Microsoft Quantum Network

The Microsoft Quantum Network is a community of pioneering individuals and organizations working together to develop practical solutions, grow talent through education, and build a worldwide quantum partner ecosystem

Showcase of the month



IT Showcase

Discover the inside story of how Microsoft does IT.
IT Showcase shares the blueprint of Microsoft reinvention, helping you learn from our experience and accelerate your transformation.





Microsoft Showcase Series



Aug 3, 2021 | [Aleenah Ansari](#)

Microsoft CISO Bret Arsenault provides practical advice to secure your hybrid workspace

In episodes of the Security Unlocked podcast, Microsoft CISO Bret Arsenault discusses the biggest challenges in securing your hybrid workspace with industry peers from Microsoft, LinkedIn, Vodafone, and more. The episodes cover how security leaders...



Jul 30, 2021 | [Aleenah Ansari](#)

SAP on Microsoft Azure: Lessons Microsoft learned moving to the cloud

Editor's note: This story has been updated with new details and updated terminology. A new SAP on Microsoft Azure video also has been added below. Microsoft expected that it would save money and time when...



Jul 27, 2021 | [Becky West](#)

Accelerating Microsoft's global real estate transformation with Microsoft Digital

It's been a privilege to help drive Microsoft's real estate transformation. As an IT leader at Microsoft, I appreciate the powerful transformation acceleration that comes from partnering closely with the internal business partner that you...

Inside Track

Discover the inside story of how Microsoft Digital is powering, protecting and transforming Microsoft, helping you learn from our experiences and accelerate your own transformation.

Microsoft Events and Training: August Updates



Microsoft Virtual Training Days

Events Catalog



Microsoft Security Virtual Training Day: Secure and Protect Your Organization

8/23/2021 12:00 PM (EST)

As remote work becomes increasingly common, you need to empower employees to be productive from anywhere, without compromising security...

[Register Now >](#)

Microsoft Azure Virtual Training Day: DevOps with GitHub

8/24/2021 9:30 AM (CST)

During this training you will explore the tools and processes necessary to improve group communication and collaboration to set a found...

[Register Now >](#)

Microsoft Security Virtual Training Day: Protect Sensitive Information and Manage Data Risk

8/25/2021 12:00 PM (EST)

As more people are working remotely, protecting your organization's information and managing risk is essential. With the exponential gr...

[Register Now >](#)

Learning and Training : August Updates



Virtual workshops and training

Our interactive virtual workshops and training sessions are taught live by Microsoft Store associates for an in-person experience—wherever you are.

Cybersecurity for your Business



[See all 6 sessions >](#)



Create Powerful Business Applications using Microsoft Power Apps



[See 2 sessions >](#)

Create visual analytical reports using Power BI



[Learn more >](#)

Microsoft Virtual Training Days

Microsoft Enterprise Skills Initiative (ESI)

self-paced learning, virtual training, instructor-led training, certifications



Enterprise Skills Initiative (ESI) continues*

- We have increased capacity and number of offerings.
- ESI covers training and certification for Azure technology.
- New: now also covers Security technology for eligible customers.
- ESI has options for different learning styles and stages:
 - Training is available as self-paced, instructor-led, Event.
 - Other training formats (e.g. Open Hack, GitHub, Cloud Skills Challenge) planned. ETA to be announced later.
 - Free exam vouchers available for eligible customers.
 - Free practice tests available for eligible customers.

*Eligibility required; trainings and free offers are limited in numbers/availability.

Try it: <https://esi.microsoft.com>

1. Microsoft enables your organization for the Customer Experience Portal (CxP)
2. Login with your work account
 - *Authentication is federated, meaning you may see Multi-Factor Authentication from your organization if this has been configured by your administrator.*
3. Create your learning profile
4. Start your skilling

Discover & Explore

Uncover the latest technologies and imagine new ways to create solutions



Learn skills

Choose the way you want to learn and grow your expertise



Prove skills

Demonstrate your knowledge and abilities



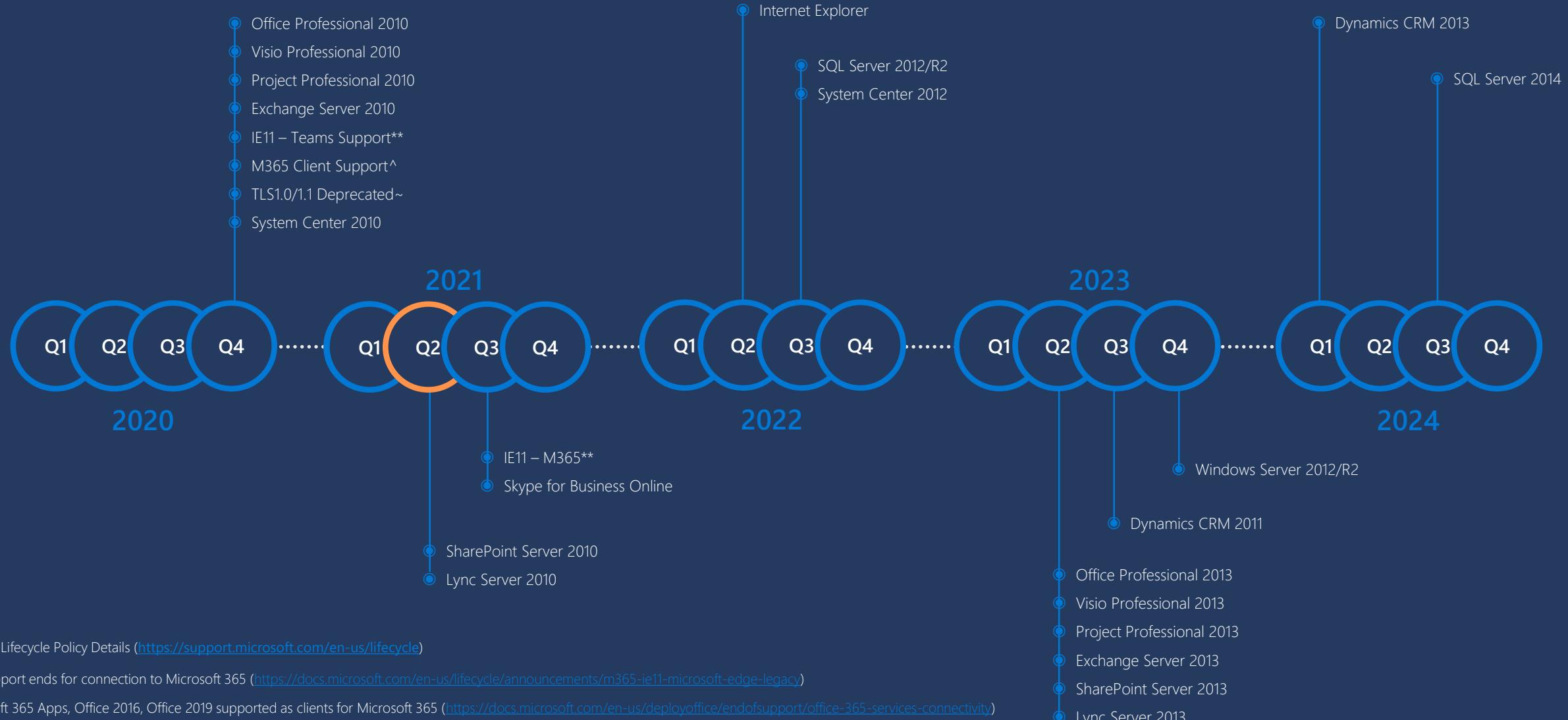
Login not working? Your organization may need to be onboarded to ESI. Please talk to your Microsoft Account Team.

Product Lifecycles





End of Service Roadmap to 2024



Microsoft Product Lifecycle: Modern Policy Products that will Retire



Products under Modern Policy that will Retire 2021

Products that will retire in 2021: (Modern Policy)	End of Support Date
Microsoft Endpoint Configuration Manager, version 1906	January 26, 2021
Azure Information Protection Client	March 31, 2021
Dynamics 365 Business Central on-premises, 2019 release wave 2, version 15.x	April 13, 2021
Windows 10, version 1803 (Enterprise, Education, IoT Enterprise)	May 11, 2021
Windows 10, version 1809 (Enterprise, Education, IoT Enterprise)	
Windows 10, version 1909 (Home, Pro, Pro Education, Pro for Workstations)	
Windows Server, version 1909 (Datacenter, Standard)	
Microsoft Endpoint Configuration Manager, version 1910	May 29, 2021
Skype for Business Online	July 31, 2021
Microsoft .NET Core, version 2.1 (LTS)	August 21, 2021
Visio Services in SharePoint Online (in Microsoft 365)	September 30, 2021
Microsoft Endpoint Configuration Manager, version 2002	October 1, 2021
Dynamics 365 Business Central on-premises, 2020 release wave 1, version 16.x	October 12, 2021
Windows 10, version 2004 (Enterprise, Education, IoT Enterprise, Home, Pro, Pro Education, Pro for Workstations)	December 14, 2021
Windows Server, version 2004 (Datacenter, Standard)	
Dynamics 365 Layout	December 31, 2021

Products under Modern Policy that will Retire in 2022

Products that will Retire in 2022 (Modern Policy)	End of Support Date
Dynamics 365 Talent – Attract and Onboard apps	February 2, 2022
Dynamics 365 Business Central on-premises, 2020 release wave 2, version 17.x	April 12, 2022
Windows 10, version 1909 (Enterprise, Education, IoT Enterprise) Windows 10, version 20H2 (Home, Pro, Pro Education, Pro for Workstations) Windows Server, 20H2 (Datacenter, Standard)	May 10, 2022
.NET Core 3.1 (LTS) PowerShell 7.x	December 3, 2022

Announcements

- ↳ Microsoft Store for Business and Education retiring in early 2023
- ↳ New options for SQL Server 2012 and Windows Server 2012 End of Support
- ↳ Microsoft Machine Learning Server (R Server) retirement on July 1, 2022
- ↳ Internet Explorer 11 desktop application ending support for certain operating systems
- ↳ UPDATE: Transport Layer Security 1.0 and 1.1 disablement
- ↳ UPDATE: Adobe Flash Player end of support on December 31, 2020

- ↳ UPDATE: SHA-1 signed content to be retired
- ↳ UPDATE: Exchange Online deprecating Basic Auth
- ↳ Upcoming Windows 10 and Office Long Term Servicing Channel releases
- ↳ Windows 10, version 1909 end of servicing (Home and Pro)
- ↳ Windows Server, version 1909 end of servicing

See more >

Microsoft Product Lifecycle: Fixed Policy Reaching End of Support



Products Reaching End of Support for 2021

Products Moving to End of Support (Fixed Policy)	End of Support Date
BizTalk Server 2010 (all editions) Host Integration Server 2010 Microsoft Sync Framework 2.1 Windows 7 , ESU Year 1 (all editions) Visual Studio 2019, version 16.0 (all editions)	January 12, 2021
Lync 2010 (all editions) Lync Server 2010 (all editions) Microsoft Enterprise Desktop Virtualization 2.0 Windows Embedded Compact 7 PerformancePoint Services in SharePoint Server 2010 Project Server 2010 SharePoint Server 2010 SharePoint 2010 (for Internet Sites) SharePoint Foundation 2010	April 13, 2021
Dynamics Retail Management System 2.0 (all editions) Dynamics CRM 2011 Dynamics SL 2011 Microsoft SQL Server Compact 4.0 Windows MultiPoint Server 2011 (all editions)	July 13, 2021
BitLocker Administration and Monitoring 1.0	September 14, 2021
Microsoft Diagnostics and Recovery Toolset 7.0 Silverlight 5 Windows Embedded POSReady 7 Windows Thin PC Windows Embedded Standard 7 , ESU Year 1 (all editions) Visual Studio 2019, version 16.4 (all editions)	October 12, 2021
Visual Studio 2019, version 16.0	January 12, 2021

Products Reaching End of Support for 2022

Products Moving to End of Support (Fixed Policy)	End of Support Date
Visual Studio LightSwitch 2011 Windows 7, ESU Year 2 (all editions)	January 11, 2022
Microsoft AppFabric 1.1 for Windows Server Dynamics AX 2009 Dynamics AX 2012 Dynamics AX 2012 R2	April 12, 2022
Cloud Platform System Microsoft Report Viewer Redistributable 2012 Microsoft Report Viewer 2012 Runtime Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Enterprise Core Microsoft SQL Server 2012 (all editions) System Center 2012 App Controller System Center 2012 Configuration Manager System Center 2012 Data Protection Manager System Center 2012 Endpoint Protection for Mac System Center 2012 Operations Manager System Center 2012 Orchestrator System Center 2012 Service Manager System Center 2012 Virtual Machine Manager System Center 2012 R2 App Controller System Center 2012 R2 Configuration Manager System Center 2012 R2 Data Protection Manager System Center 2012 R2 Endpoint Protection System Center 2012 R2 Operations Manager System Center 2012 R2 Orchestrator System Center 2012 R2 Service Manager System Center 2012 R2 Virtual Machine Manager Windows Azure Pack (on Windows Server 2012 R2) Windows Azure Pack V2 Web Sites	July 12, 2022
Windows Embedded POSReady 7, ESU Year 1	October 8, 2022
Forefront Identity Manager 2010 Forefront Identity Manager 2010 R2 Windows Embedded Standard 7, ESU Year 2	October 11, 2022
Azure StorSimple 8000 Series Azure StorSimple 1200 Series StorSimple Data Manager	December 31, 2022

Microsoft Product Lifecycle: Products moving to Extended Support



Products Moving to Extended Support for 2021

Products Moving to End of Support (Fixed Policy)	End of Support Date
Advanced Threat Analytics 1.X Dynamics 365 (CRM 2016) Microsoft Identity Manager 2016*	January 12, 2021
Dynamics C5 2016 Dynamics NAV 2016 Microsoft Diagnostics and Recovery Toolset 10	April 13, 2021
Dynamics GP 2016 Dynamics GP 2016 R2 InfoPath 2013 Project Server 2016 SharePoint Designer 2013 SharePoint Server 2016 SQL Server 2016	July 13, 2021
Windows 10 Enterprise 2016 LTSB (Enterprise, IoT Enterprise)	October 12, 2021

Products Moving to Extended Support for 2022

Products Moving to End of Support (Fixed Policy)	End of Support Date
Windows Azure Pack (on Windows Server 2016) BizTalk Server 2016 (all editions) Dynamics NAV 2017 Host Integration Server 2016 HPC Pack 2016 Hyper-V Server 2016 Microsoft Internet Information Services 10.0 System Center 2016 Data Protection Manager System Center 2016 Operations Manager System Center 2016 Orchestrator System Center 2016 Service Manager System Center 2016 Virtual Machine Manager Visual Studio Team Foundation Server 2017 Windows Defender for Windows Server 2016 Windows Server 2016 (all editions) Windows Server Update Services for Windows Server 2016 Windows Storage Server 2016	January 11, 2022
Visual Studio 2017	April 12, 2022
SQL Server 2017 on Linux (all editions) SQL Server 2017 on Windows (all editions)	October 11, 2022



Acquisitions and Announcements

Microsoft Acquisitions - 2021



Company	Date	Description
Suplari	07-28-2021	Suplari , a leading provider of supplier spend insights . Suplari enables companies to proactively manage supplier spend by transforming data from multiple sources , such as contracts, purchase orders, invoices, expenses, and supplier risk, into valuable insight. By bringing Suplari's spend intelligence insights together with the existing Microsoft Dynamics 365 capabilities, Microsoft is further helping organizations become insight-driven and enabling business leaders to take strategic action.
CloudKnox	07-21-2021	Enhanced Zero-Trust controls. The acquisition of CloudKnox further enables Microsoft Azure Active Directory customers with granular visibility, continuous monitoring and automated remediation for hybrid and multi-cloud permissions . Microsoft is committed to providing our customers with unified privileged access management, identity governance and entitlement management. With this Cloudknox, Microsoft is uniquely positioned to empower and defend the future of hybrid work and multi-cloud environments, providing essential visibility, control and monitoring Zero Trust demands .
RiskIQ	07-12-2021	A leader in global threat intelligence and attack surface management , to help our shared customers build a more comprehensive view of the global threats to their businesses, better understand vulnerable internet-facing assets, and build world-class threat intelligence. RiskIQ offers global threat intelligence collected from across the internet, crowd-sourced through its PassiveTotal community of security researchers and analyzed using machine learning . The combination of RiskIQ's attack surface management and threat intelligence empowers security teams to assemble, graph, and identify connections between their digital attack surface and attacker infrastructure and activities, to help provide increased protection and faster response .
ReFirm Labs	06-02-2021	ReFirm Labs is joining Microsoft to enrich our firmware analysis and security capabilities across devices that form the intelligent edge, from servers to IoT . This acquisition marks the next step in our journey and ability to help secure customers from the chip to the cloud , backed by more than 3,500 defenders at Microsoft and the >8 trillion security signals we process every day. ReFirm are the authors of the well-respected Binwalk open-source software , which has been used to analyze thousands of device types for firmware security issues , uncovering unpatched common vulnerabilities and exposures (CVEs), insecure secrets, and a multitude of other security problems in plugin IoT devices and embedded firmware. Microsoft acquires ReFirm Labs to enhance IoT security - Microsoft Security
Kinvolk	04-29-2021	Kinvolk has a rich, innovative history in open source cloud-native distributed computing, including Kubernetes, eBPF, community building, and container-optimized Linux . Kinvolk will be key contributors to the engineering development of Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) , Azure Arc , and future projects that will expand Azure's hybrid container platform capabilities and increase Microsoft's upstream open source contributions in the Kubernetes and container space.
Nuance	04-12-2021	Nuance is a cloud software pioneer and a leading provider of conversational AI and ambient clinical intelligence. Nuance provides AI expertise and intelligent customer engagement across Interactive Voice Response (IVR), virtual assistants, and digital and biometric solutions to some of the largest organizations in the world. Nuance's global customer and partner base spans nearly every industry, and together we are well-positioned to advance our AI capabilities with high-value solutions and a platform to support our customers' and partners' future innovation .
The Marsden Group	03-16-2021	The Marsden Group is a leader in industrial technology innovation and rapid prototyping. The Marsden Group has earned a unique reputation as a powerful and trusted partner among industry leaders who seek to quickly identify business needs, ideate technology solutions and build high-quality prototypes tailored to individual customer needs . The Marsden Group has helped its enterprise customers rapidly envision, prototype and implement solutions that drive meaningful value to their businesses, employees and customers .



Microsoft Acquisitions - 2020

Company	Date	Description
<u>ZeniMax Media</u>	09-21-2020	ZeniMax Media, the parent company of Bethesda Softworks , one of the largest privately held game developers and publishers in the world . Creators of critically acclaimed and best-selling gaming franchises including The Elder Scrolls, Fallout and many others , Bethesda brings an impressive portfolio of games, technology and talent — as well as a track record of blockbuster commercial success — to Xbox.
<u>Orions Systems</u>	07-07-2020	Orions Systems, a pioneer in the development of large-scale, hybrid, smart vision systems focused on “human-in-the-loop” machine teaching combined with services that can adapt to running on a single device or scale to address large scale edge-to-cloud network topologies . The Power Platform and Orions Systems is enabling intelligent retail spaces by leveraging observational data to unlock the full potential of customers, employees, and assets.
<u>CyberX</u>	06-22-2020	CyberX will complement the existing Azure IoT security capabilities and extends to existing devices including those used in industrial IoT, Operational Technology and infrastructure scenarios . With CyberX, customers can discover their existing IoT assets, and both manage and improve the security posture of those devices . CyberX, customers can see a digital map of thousands of devices across a factory floor or within a building and gather information about their asset profile and vulnerabilities,
<u>ADRM Software</u>	06-18-2020	ADRM Software is a leading provider of large-scale industry data models , which are used by large companies worldwide as information blueprints. ADRM's robust industry data models have been built and refined over decades for business-critical analytics. Together with Microsoft Azure, these capabilities will be delivered at scale , enabling our customers to accelerate digital progress, and reduce risk in a variety of major initiatives.
<u>Softomotive</u>	05-19-2020	<u>Softomotive</u> currently helps more than 9,000 global customers seamlessly automate business processes across legacy and modern desktop applications . Together with Power Automate, WinAutomation will provide customers additional options for RPA desktop authoring so anyone can build a bot and automate Windows-based tasks.
<u>Metaswitch Networks</u>	05-14-2020	<u>Metaswitch Networks</u> , a leading provider of virtualized network software and voice, data and communications solutions for 5G operators .
<u>Corp.Com</u>	04-07-2020	"To help in keeping systems protected we encourage customers to practice safe security habits when planning for internal domain and network names. We released a security advisory in June of 2009 and a security update that helps keep customers safe. In our ongoing commitment to customer security, we also acquired the Corp.com domain."
<u>Affirmed Networks</u>	03-26-2020	Affirmed Networks with its leadership in virtualized 5G mobile networks . Affirmed Networks and Microsoft will play an important role in helping advance 5G and deliver new network solutions that offer step-change advancements in speed, cost and security. This combination of technology leaders will enable a host of new opportunities for businesses and society, including autonomous vehicles, smart cities, virtual reality and a range of other smart industry use cases and services .

Microsoft Acquisitions - 2019



Company	Date	Description
Movere	10-21-2019	Movere accelerates cloud migrations. It increases business intelligence by accurately presenting entire IT environments within a single day , providing enterprises with the confidence they need to have visibility and control of their environments regardless of platform, application or geography as organizations grow, change and digitally optimize .
Semmle	09-18-2019	Semmle's revolutionary semantic code analysis engine allows developers to write queries that identify code patterns in large codebases and search for vulnerabilities and their variants . Semmle is trusted by security teams at Uber, NASA, Microsoft, Google , and has helped find thousands of vulnerabilities in some of the largest codebases in the world , as well as over 100 CVEs in open source projects to date.
JClarity	08-19-2019	The leading contributor to the AdoptOpenJDK project , to support their continued contributions to open source while driving increased performance for Java workloads on Azure . The team, formed by Java champions and data scientists with proven expertise in data driven Java Virtual Machine (JVM) optimizations , will help teams at Microsoft to leverage advancements in the Java platform.
PromotelQ	08-05-2019	The leading provider of vendor marketing technology to online retailers and brands . PromotelQ has pioneered the private marketplace approach to digital vendor marketing. PromotelQ's technology strategically complements Microsoft's current retail advertising offerings, and can enable retailers with a portfolio of technology solutions to modernize their e-commerce platforms and maximize their monetization opportunity. Retailers such as Kroger, Kohl's and Overstock.com — will continue to benefit from the PromotelQ platform and team.
BlueTalon	07-29-2019	A leading provider of Unified Data Access Control solutions for modern data platforms . BlueTalon works with leading Fortune 100 companies to eliminate data security blind spots and gain visibility and control of data. BlueTalon provides a customer-proven, data-centric solution for data access management and auditing across the diverse systems resident in modern data estates.
PullPanda^	06-17-2019	PullPanda^ helps teams create more efficient and effective code review workflows on GitHub . Better code reviews mean better code for software teams of all sizes, whether you work in open source or on a Fortune 500 team. PullPanda^ gives teams a better way to manage reviews, reduce turnaround times, and ship code faster .
Double Fine Productions	06-09-2019	Double Fine is a beacon of creativity and spirit in game development for almost 20 years with classic games like Pyschonauts, Brütal Legend and Broken Age . At the root of every game is an emphasis on creating crazy worlds with originality, story and fun. That commitment to creating a unique, player-centric experience is what drew us to the studio, and I'm looking forward to seeing what we create together.
Drawbridge Solutions	05-28-2019	LinkedIn will integrate Drawbridge's technology into our marketing solutions portfolio to help our customers better reach and understand their professional audiences and measure the ROI of their campaigns.
Dependabot	05-23-2019	Dependabot is integrated directly into GitHub and will monitor your dependencies for known security vulnerabilities and automatically open pull requests to update them to the minimum required version. We are rolling out automated pull requests to all accounts with security alerts enabled along with other enhancements in the coming months.



Microsoft Acquisitions – 2019 & late 2018

Company	Date	Description
Express Logic	04-18-2019	a leader in real time operating systems (RTOS) for IoT and edge devices powered by microcontroller units (MCUs) . Express Logic's ThreadX RTOS has over 6.2 billion deployments, making it one of the most deployed RTOS in the world per VDC Research . This widespread popularity is driven by demand for technology to support resource constrained environments, especially those that require safety and security.
DataSense	02-04-2019	The integration of DataSense into Microsoft's suite of products, we will help educational institutions – and school and district IT leaders in particular – better collect, manage and explicitly control access to their data within Azure to help drive the best possible learning outcomes for their students. Read more at https://educationblog.microsoft.com/en-us/2019/02/introducing-datasense-to-microsoft-educations-family-of-products/#E6CKQEBUjS35TOH4.99
Citus Data	01-24-2019	a leader in the PostgreSQL community. Citus is an innovative open source extension to PostgreSQL that transforms PostgreSQL into a distributed database, dramatically increasing performance and scale for application developers . Because Citus is an extension to open source PostgreSQL, it gives enterprises the performance advantages of a horizontally scalable database while staying current with all the latest innovations in PostgreSQL . Citus is available as a fully-managed database as a service, as enterprise software, and as a free open source download.
FSLogix	11-19-2018	FSLogix is a next-generation app-provisioning platform that reduces the resources, time and labor required to support virtualization . From small businesses to very large global enterprises across numerous industries, FSLogix solutions enhance customer experience and productivity, while reducing support requirements for IT departments.
XOXCO	11-14-2018	A software product design and development studio known for its conversational AI and bot development capabilities . The company has been paving the way in conversational AI since 2013 and was responsible for the creation of Howdy , the first commercially available bot for Slack that helps schedule meetings, and Botkit, which provides the development tools used by hundreds of thousands of developers on GitHub . Over the years, we have partnered with XOXCO and have been inspired by this work.
Obsidian	11-10-2018	The studio quickly made a name for itself with the Xbox exclusive Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic II: The Sith Lords . Over the last fifteen years, they have delivered genre-defining RPGs to players on both console and PC through titles including <i>Fallout: New Vegas</i> , <i>South Park: The Stick of Truth</i> , and <i>Pillars of Eternity</i> . Read more at https://news.xbox.com/en-us/2018/11/10/obsidian-inxile-join-microsoft-studios/#P4ARqRq505qOpmfU.99
InXile	11-10-2018	Like Obsidian, InXile excels at creating vast worlds for players to explore with titles such as Wasteland 2, Torment: Tides of Numenera, Bard's Tale IV and the upcoming Wasteland 3 . Read more at https://news.xbox.com/en-us/2018/11/10/obsidian-inxile-join-microsoft-studios/#P4ARqRq505qOpmfU.99
Lobe	09-13-2018	Lobe makes deep learning simple, understandable and accessible to everyone. Lobe's simple visual interface empowers anyone to develop and apply deep learning and AI models quickly, without writing code .



Thank YOU!