



Microsoft

Monthly Technical Update

March 2022

Abbas Kudrati
APAC Chief Cybersecurity Advisor
Abbas.Kudrati@microsoft.com
<https://aka.ms/abbas>

- [M365 Conference – April 2022](#)
- [Microsoft Envision – April 2022](#)
- [Microsoft Tech Community Blog depot](#)
- [Microsoft Official Blog](#)
- [TechCommunity Events](#)



Announcements and Tips



New trends with Microsoft Technology

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

- [Microsoft Security Blog](#)
- [Microsoft Global Threat Monitor](#)
- [Microsoft Security Response Center](#)
- [Zero Trust through Data lifecycle](#)



Security and Compliance

- [Microsoft IT Showcase](#)
- [Technical Professional Training](#)
- [User Training and technology introductions](#)



Showcase of the month

- [Teams Updates](#)
- [Office Updates](#)
- [Power Platform and Dynamics](#)
- [Power Platform Templates](#)
- [GitHub Updates](#)
- [Developer Blogs and Showcase](#)
- [Office Developer Blog](#)



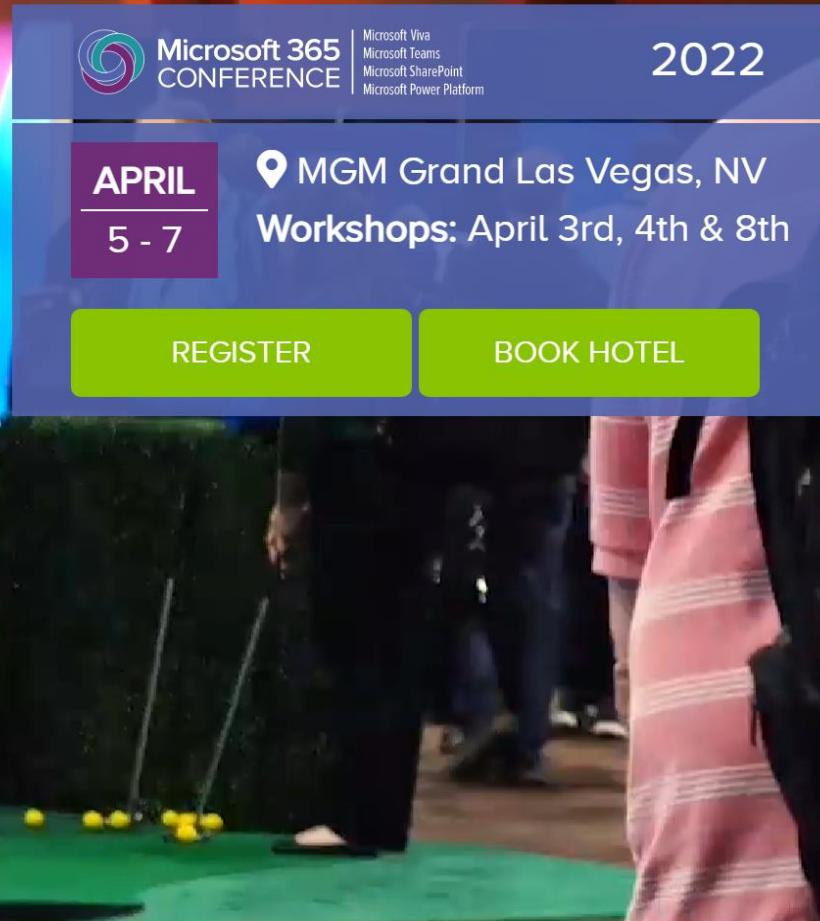
Microsoft 365 update information



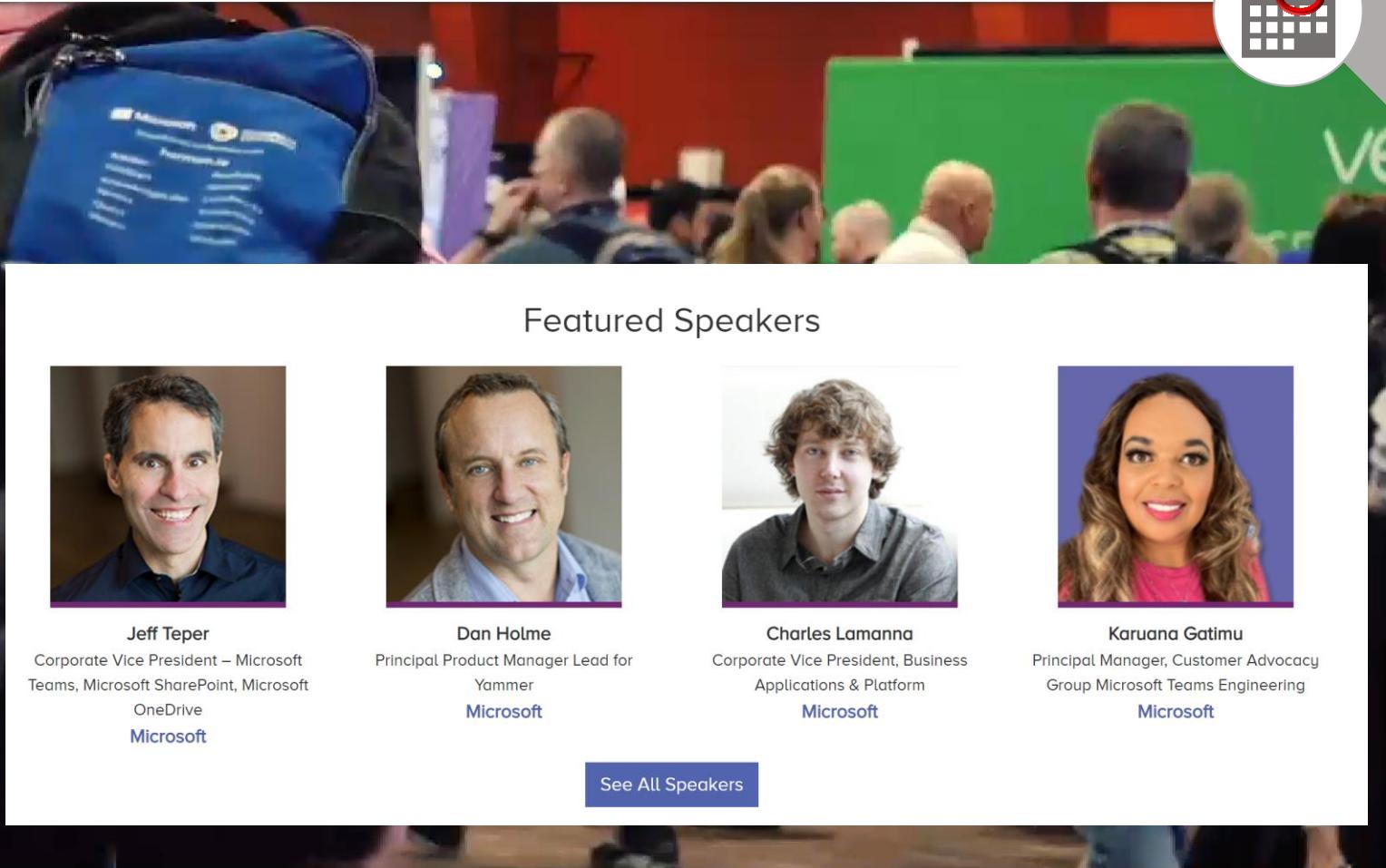
Product Lifecycles

Acquisitions and Announcements

- [Products Reaching End of Support in 2021 and 2022](#)
- [Companies and Technologies Acquired Since 2018](#)

 Microsoft 365
CONFERENCEMicrosoft Viva
Microsoft Teams
Microsoft SharePoint
Microsoft Power Platform

2022

APRIL
5 - 7 MGM Grand Las Vegas, NV
Workshops: April 3rd, 4th & 8th[REGISTER](#)[BOOK HOTEL](#)

Featured Speakers



Jeff Teper

Corporate Vice President – Microsoft
Teams, Microsoft SharePoint, Microsoft
OneDrive
Microsoft



Dan Holme

Principal Product Manager Lead for
Yammer
Microsoft



Charles Lamanna

Corporate Vice President, Business
Applications & Platform
Microsoft



Karuana Gatimu

Principal Manager, Customer Advocacy
Group Microsoft Teams Engineering
Microsoft

[See All Speakers](#)

SPEAKERS

150

SESSIONS

200

WORKSHOPS

20

EXHIBITORS

100

Microsoft Envision

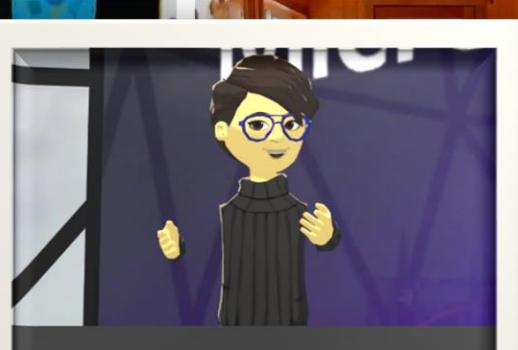
Microsoft Envision is a digital series where you'll join thought leaders from across industries to explore the latest business and technology trends. Get ready to discover the new wave of digital innovation and connect with peers from across the globe.



Five trends reshaping the world and how agility is key to helping organizations respond

Discover how transformational forces like the push for sustainability, the challenges of our global supply chain, and the rise of the attention economy are requiring organizations to adopt new solutions and remain agile, to thrive in the face of constant change.

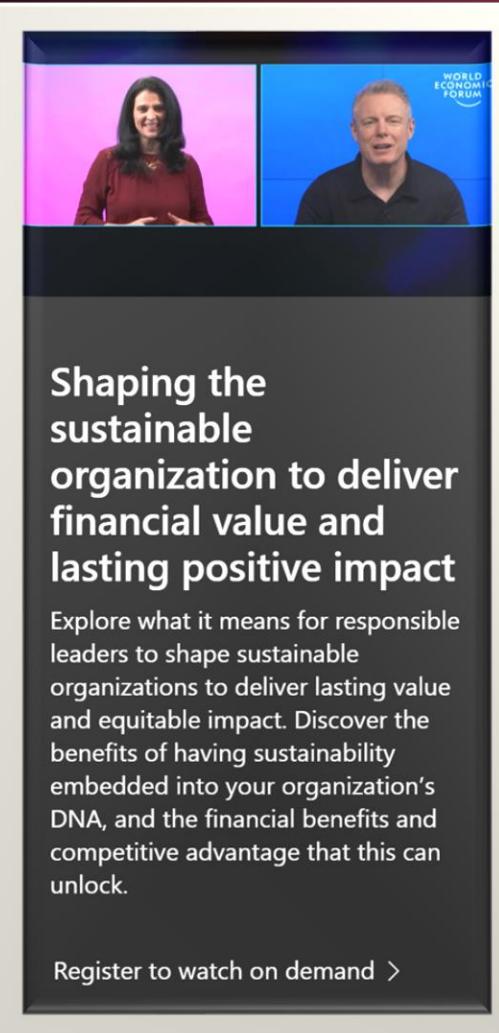
[Register to watch on demand >](#)



Extended reality is a game-changer for the employee experience

Connecting, collaborating, and creating is the essence of what Accenture people do. How best to do this while virtual? Accenture shares how VR enables their employees to experience an omni-connected environment using Microsoft's AltspaceVR to train, collaborate, and network.

[Register to watch on demand >](#)



Shaping the sustainable organization to deliver financial value and lasting positive impact

Explore what it means for responsible leaders to shape sustainable organizations to deliver lasting value and equitable impact. Discover the benefits of having sustainability embedded into your organization's DNA, and the financial benefits and competitive advantage that this can unlock.

[Register to watch on demand >](#)

Missed the live show? There's still time to learn and explore all of the segments on demand

Register now for free and save the date for Episode 4 on April 12.

[Register for free](#)

[Sign in](#)

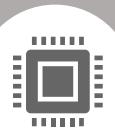
April 12, 2022

Updates of Security and Compliance



Monitoring Global Threats: Microsoft

Microsoft Security Response Center



Ukraine ▾

Global threat activity

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

Most affected industries

Reported enterprise malware encounters in the last 30 days

Telecommunications

Show all industries >

Devices with encounters:

199,937 (2.39%)



February 17, 2022 • 6 min read

4 best practices to implement a comprehensive Zero Trust security approach

Learn how to create a comprehensive, integrated Zero Trust approach that enables simplified security and compliance across your enterprise.

Telecommunications ▾

Top threats:

Adware:Win32/Hiru
Behavior:Win32/PShellCobStager.A
Exploit:JS/CVE-2014-0322.A
Exploit:Linux/Local
HackTool:Win32/Wincred.H

February 16, 2022 • 12 min read

'Ice phishing' on the blockchain

Our recent analysis of a phishing attack connected to the blockchain reaffirms the durability of threats like social engineering, as well as the need for security fundamentals to be built into related future systems and frameworks.

Ukraine

1,483,700 devices with encounters

Top threats:

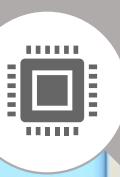
Exploit:O97M/CVE-2017-11882!MSR
Exploit:Win32/Senglot.E
HackTool:BAT/AutoKMS
HackTool:Win32/Ntscan
PUAAdvertising:Win32/Draughts

Show worldwide data >

Cyber threat activity in Ukraine: analysis and resources

MSRC / By msrc / February 28, 2022

UPDATE 02 MAR 2022: See Updated malware details and Microsoft security product detections below for additional insights and protections specific to the evolving threats we have identified impacting organizations with ties to Ukraine. Microsoft has been monitoring escalating cyber activity in Ukraine and has published analysis on observed activity in order to give organizations the ...

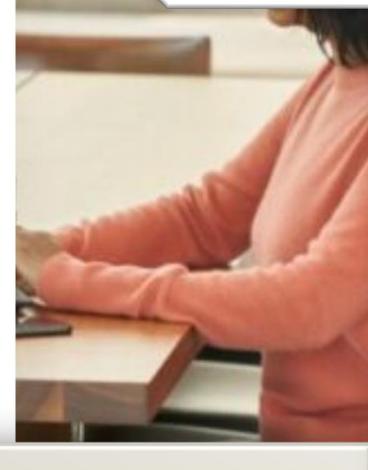


March 8, 2022 • 7 min read

2.5 million-plus cybersecurity jobs are open— women can fill them

As we celebrate International Women's Day and Women's History Month, we examine the potential roadblocks and exciting opportunities for women in cybersecurity.

[Read more >](#)



March 1, 2022 • 5 min read

Microsoft shares 4 challenges of protecting sensitive data and how to overcome them

Breaches of sensitive data are extremely costly for organizations when you tally data loss, stock price impact, and mandated fines from violations of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), or other regulations. They also can diminish the trust of those who become the victims of identity theft, credit card fraud, or...

February 28, 2022 • 8 min read

How Microsoft can help reduce insider risk during the Great Reshuffle

These are exciting and demanding days for organizations adapting to hybrid work realities, including a wider distributed workforce and more rapid change in employee roles. These dramatic shifts drive business resilience and upside in a world still coping with pandemic disruptions.

February 17, 2022 • 3 min read

US Government sets forth Zero Trust architecture strategy and requirements

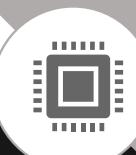
To help protect the United States from increasingly sophisticated cyber threats, the White House issued Executive Order 14028 on Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity, requiring US Federal Government organizations to take action to strengthen national cybersecurity.

February 22, 2022 • 7 min read

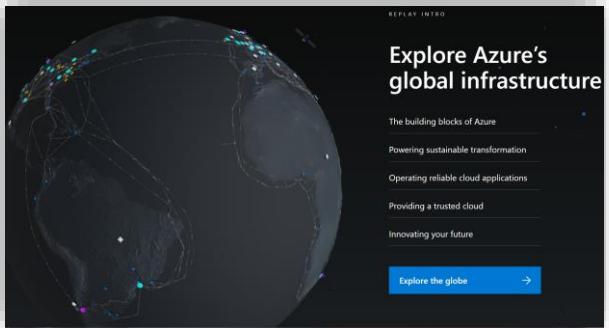
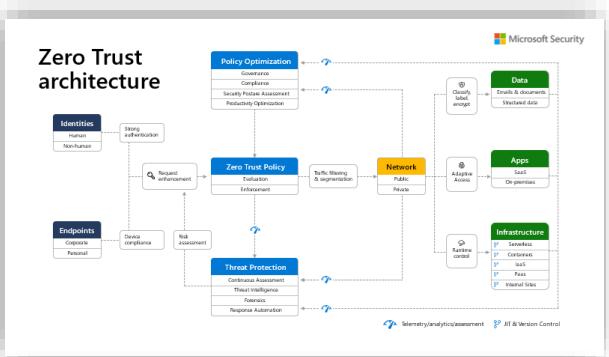
The federal Zero Trust strategy and Microsoft's deployment guidance for all

On January 26, 2022, the White House announced its Federal Zero Trust strategy. The security announcement is a key milestone for all those that understand the importance of a Zero Trust model and are working hard to achieve it.

Deployment Guidance for Federal Zero Trust Strategy



The memorandum clearly describes the government's strategic goals for Zero Trust security. It advises agencies to prioritize their highest value starting point based on the [Zero Trust maturity model](#) developed by the national Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Microsoft's [maturity model for Zero Trust](#) enhances the architecture pillars of identities, endpoints, devices, networks, data, apps, and infrastructure, strengthened by end-to-end governance, visibility, analytics, and automation and orchestration.



- ❖ [Cloud Adoption Framework](#): A rich repository of documentation, implementation guidance, and best practices to help accelerate cloud adoption.
- ❖ [Zero Trust rapid modernization plan](#): A downloadable suggested phased rollout plan to accelerate adoption of a Zero Trust security approach.
- ❖ [Zero Trust scenario architectures](#): A downloadable PDF of key architecture scenarios mapped to NIST standards.
- ❖ [Multifactor authentication \(MFA\) deployment guide](#): Guidance on using Microsoft Azure Active Directory (Azure AD) to meet Zero Trust Architecture and MFA requirements.
- ❖ [Interactive guide on the Cybersecurity EO](#): Clear, concise guidance to help organizations better understand near- and long-term milestones, build a strategic response aligned to security modernization priorities and Executive Order requirements, and determine how technology partners can help accelerate the journey.



Secure identity with Zero Trust

Identities—whether they represent people, services, or IoT devices—define the Zero Trust control plane. When an identity attempts to access a resource, verify that identity with strong authentication, and ensure access is compliant and typical for that identity. Follow least privilege access principles.



Secure endpoints with Zero Trust

Once an identity has been granted access to a resource, data can flow to a variety of different endpoints—from IoT devices to smartphones, BYOD to partner-managed devices, and on-premises workloads to cloud-hosted servers. This diversity creates a massive attack surface area. Monitor and enforce device health and compliance for secure access.



Secure applications with Zero Trust

Applications and APIs provide the interface by which data is consumed. They may be legacy on-premises, lifted-and-shifted to cloud workloads, or modern SaaS applications. Apply controls and technologies to discover shadow IT, ensure appropriate in-app permissions, gate access based on real-time analytics, monitor for abnormal behavior, control user actions, and validate secure configuration options.



Secure data with Zero Trust

Ultimately, security teams are protecting data. Where possible, data should remain safe even if it leaves the devices, apps, infrastructure, and networks the organization controls. Classify, label, and encrypt data, and restrict access based on those attributes.



Secure infrastructure with Zero Trust

Infrastructure—whether on-premises servers, cloud-based VMs, containers, or micro-services—represents a critical threat vector. Assess for version, configuration, and JIT access to harden defense. Use telemetry to detect attacks and anomalies, and automatically block and flag risky behavior and take protective actions.



Secure networks with Zero Trust

All data is ultimately accessed over network infrastructure. Networking controls can provide critical controls to enhance visibility and help prevent attackers from moving laterally across the network. Segment networks (and do deeper in-network micro-segmentation) and deploy real-time threat protection, end-to-end encryption, monitoring, and analytics.



Visibility, automation, and orchestration with Zero Trust

In our Zero Trust guides, we define the approach to implement an end-to-end Zero Trust methodology across identities, endpoints and devices, data, apps, infrastructure, and network. These activities increase your visibility, which gives you better data for making trust decisions. With each of these individual areas generating their own relevant alerts, we need an integrated capability to manage the resulting influx of data to better defend against threats and validate trust in a transaction.

Multi-Cloud Security : GCP, AWS, and Azure native protection



Microsoft Defender for Cloud provides **Cloud Security Posture Management** and **Cloud Workload Protection**.

- Identifies configuration weak spots across top providers
- Strengthens the overall security posture in the cloud
- Provides threat protection across workloads
- All from a single place.
- Use [Microsoft Sentinel new capabilities](#) for high volume data

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Defender for Cloud Overview page. Key metrics displayed include:

- Azure subscriptions: 54
- AWS accounts: 4
- GCP projects: 18
- Assessed resources: 8928
- Active recommendations: 215
- Security alerts: 7768

The page is divided into several sections: Secure score (Current secure score: 54%), Regulatory compliance (Azure security benchmark: 2 of 44 passed controls), Workload protections (Resource coverage: 95%, with a bar chart showing 95% for full protection), Insights (Upgrading to New Container plans), Most prevalent recommendations (Audit diagnostic setting, Storage account public access should be disabled, Vulnerability assessment solution), Most attacked resources (tomsmt5.cloudapp.net, Virtual machine 2, CnC03), and Controls with the highest potential increase (Remediate vulnerabilities, Enable encryption at rest).

The screenshot shows the CloudKnox Directory dashboard. Key features displayed include:

- Permission Creep Index (PCI) for AWS Authorization System, showing a trend of 95 over 8 weeks.
- Identity Findings: 435 inactive roles, 44 inactive service principals, 43 users with MFA not enabled, 41 over-privileged active roles, 27 inactive users.
- Resource Findings: 48 open security groups, 47 unencrypted S3 buckets, 19 EC2 instances with access to S3 buckets, 9 S3-EC2 encrypted buckets, 1 S3 bucket accessible externally.

CloudKnox Permission Management : Public Preview

- User and Workload Identities across clouds
- Automated enforcement of “Least Privilege”
- Machine Learning-powered monitoring, detection, and remediation of Suspicious activities
- Enhances Zero-Trust Security posture

Use Actionable Insights

- Automate Recommendations
- Ensure Resources are Configured Securely across all clouds



Microsoft 365 update information

Microsoft Teams Blog:



What's New in Microsoft Teams | February 2022

What's New in Microsoft Teams | February 2022

Microsoft_Teams_team on Feb 28 2022 03:00 AM

Welcome to the February edition of "What's New in Microsoft Teams". This month we are bringing more exciting announcements...

New for This Month:

- Updated Companion Mode for iOS Users
- Pin or Hide your own video in Team Meetings
- Support open-text question poll for Teams Meetings
- Walkie-Talkie on Teams phone devices

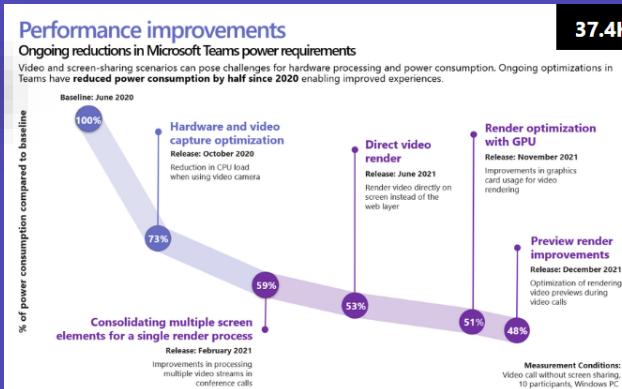


Power Platform and Custom Development

- Enable third-party Teams app developers to test the In-Production purchase experience within the Teams Client
- Interoperability with Azure Communication Services
- Workflows in Teams app store and new message extensions
- Share specific parts of the App to meeting stage
- Changes to Microsoft Teams apps' Native Permissions in Browser
- Power Automate actions for meetings, teams, channels and chat : Updated

Devices:

- Teams Certified Devices : Update
- Devices for Healthcare
- Realware Devices for Firstline workers : Update
- Teams panels Check-in and Room Release
- Check-in "Knock-Knock" notification on front-of-room display
- Microsoft Teams Rooms on Android Update
- Meeting Improvements : Android, dual-screen video, etc.
- Customize Home-Screen wallpapers on Android Devices
- HDMI Ingest and Sharing on certified Teams Rooms devices
- Far-End camera control
- Yealink UVc34 all-in-one USB video bar
- Yealink MVC340 solution bundle



Microsoft Teams performance improvements reduce power...

robertaichner on Feb 09 2022 08:00 AM

Dive into how our goals and measurement methodology used to cut power consumption in Teams meetings.

Chat and Collaboration

- Pairing of channel and the corresponding SharePoint folder name
- Mute Notifications During Meetings
- Local Time added to People Profile
- Pin Chat Messages
- Chat Density and spacing updates
- Respond to Group Approval Requests within Teams Approvals App
- Set Mandatory Comments within the Teams Approvals App

Security and Compliance

- End-to-End Encryption (E2EE) option for one-to-one Teams calls for Mobile

Management:

- New Tag Management Settings

Government Cloud Updates : GCC-High and DoD Clouds:

- Tags are available in DoD
- Press to unmute
- Updated companion mode for iOS users
- Music Mode for Teams
- Mirror my Video
- Pin or Hide your own video in Teams Meetings



What's New in Microsoft 365

M365 Blogs, Office Blogs, and Administrative Blogs covering Office 365, Enterprise Mobility + Security and Windows ::



Microsoft 365 Updates:

- Microsoft 365 Conference : April 5 -7, 2022
- Azure AD RBAC : Custom Roles for App Management
- Microsoft 365 Cloud Carbon Footprint tools
- Yammer Explained Q&A Session
- Viva Learning : Updates
- TLS Certificate changes to M365 Services and Teams
- Universal Action and Adaptive Cards Updates
- Windows 365 Cloud PC Architecture Design Updates
- Teams and Exchange Hybrid Integration diagnostics
- Azure AD Join Windows 365 Cloud PC support : Public Preview
- SharePoint Roadmap
- Reading Coach : Personalized Practice, Reading Progress
- Microsoft Project self-service trials : Generally Available
- Azure AD Change Management : Updates
- Custom Workflows in Azure AD Entitlement Management
- Viva Connections Feed : Updates
- OneDrive support for Apple Silicon : Generally Available
- CLI for Microsoft 365 v5.0 : Generally Available

Microsoft 365 roadmap

Get the latest updates on our best-in-class productivity apps and intelligent cloud services. Rethink productivity, streamline business processes, and protect your business with Microsoft 365.

Using this roadmap

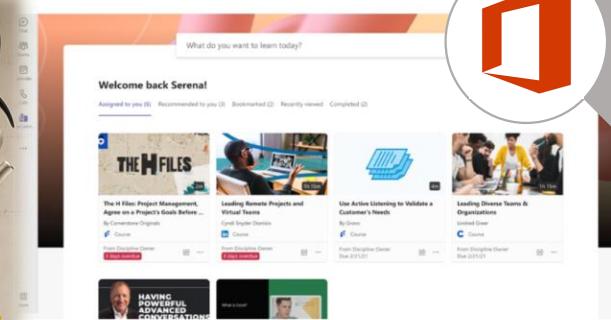
Roadmap improvements



Azure AD RBAC: Custom roles for app management now avai...

Alex Simons (AZURE) in Azure Active Directory Identity Blog Mar 02 2022 12:00 PM

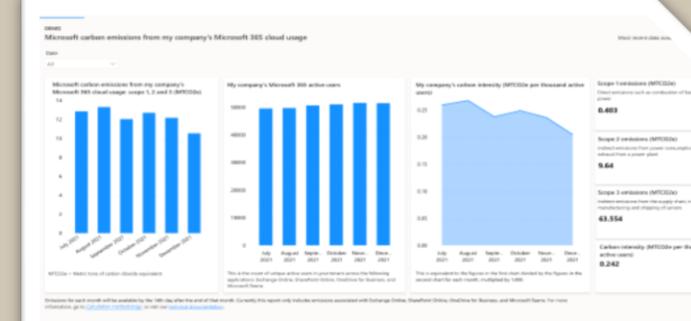
Provide fine-grained control over with custom roles
- app registration and enterprise ap...



Viva Learning news and feature update

John_Mighell in Microsoft Viva Blog Mar 08 2022 09:00 AM

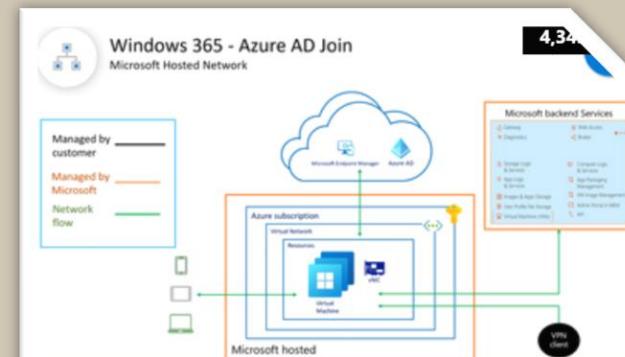
Viva Learning highlights new partner announcements, early adopter spotlights, and new feat...



Measure your cloud carbon footprint with the Emissions...

Peter Bergen on Feb 14 2022 09:00 AM

Quantify the emissions associated with your organization's usage of Microsoft 365.



Windows 365 Cloud PC Architecture Design Provisioning o...

jsifuentes in Healthcare and Life Sciences Blog Mar 04 2022 02:41 PM

Let's dive into architecture design options to provision Cloud PCs in your Windows 365 eco...

Power Platform and Dynamics

Roadmaps and Release plans:



- ❖ [Power BI Blog](#)
- ❖ [PowerApps Blog](#)
- ❖ [Power Automate Blog](#)
- ❖ [Power Virtual Agents Blog](#)

- [Power BI Feature Update Summary](#)
- [Mobile-Optimized Power BI Reports](#)
- [Pay-as-you-go for Power Apps](#): Generally Available
- [Power Platform CLI](#): Updated
- [Power Apps portals as Mobile apps](#): Generally Available
- [Tenant-Level Analytics for Power Automate Cloud Flows](#)
- [Power Virtual Agents bots-as-skills](#): Generally Available
- [Power Virtual Agents for US Government](#): Generally Available



Create an Azure DevOps work item when email arrives with 'Bug' in subject

By Microsoft

Automated
2457



Send an email to responder when response submitted in Microsoft Forms

By Microsoft Power Automate Community

Automated
181475



Microsoft HoloLens 2 and mixed reality bridge physical reality and digital experiences >

February 23, 2022 • 4 min read

By [Ronan Jenkins](#), Global Product Marketing Manager for HoloLens 2

Across industries, companies are finding practical ways to bridge physical reality and digital experiences using hands-free headsets and augmented reality solutions to inform decisions and action on insights produced by smart, connected solutions. Mixed reality—a set of technologies that superimposes digital data and images in the physical world—brings new opportunities that have become instrumental to... [Read more](#)



4 key elements to a successful field service transformation >

March 3, 2022 • 5 min read

By [Safiyah O'Quinn](#), Product Marketing Manager, Dynamics 365 Field Service

A successful digital transformation requires weaving together technology, data, process, and operational change. If one of these domains fails to make the grade, your entire transformation may be in jeopardy. These four domains have one thing in common and that is they rely on people and what they bring to the table. It's the people... [Read more](#)



6 field service trends to watch in 2022 >

February 14, 2022 • 6 min read

By [Safiyah O'Quinn](#), Product Marketing Manager, Dynamics 365 Field Service

The global field service market is continuing to grow at a quickening pace. In 2016, the field service market size was estimated to be \$1.78 billion USD, and now that number is predicted to hit \$4.45 billion by the end of 2022—an estimated compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16.5 percent.¹ Much has changed since... [Read more](#)

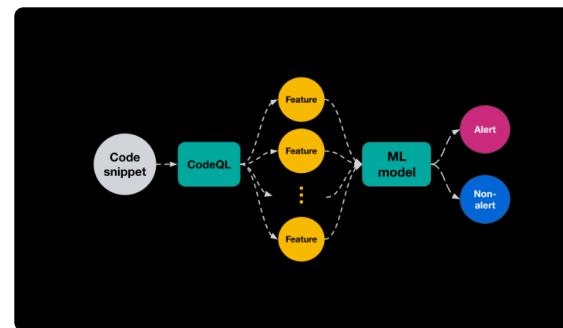
Developer and GitHub



Codespaces for the largest repositories just got faster

The ability to prebuild codespaces is entering public beta. Enable fast environment creation times, regardless of the size and complexity of your repositories.

Tanmayee Kamath February 23, 2022



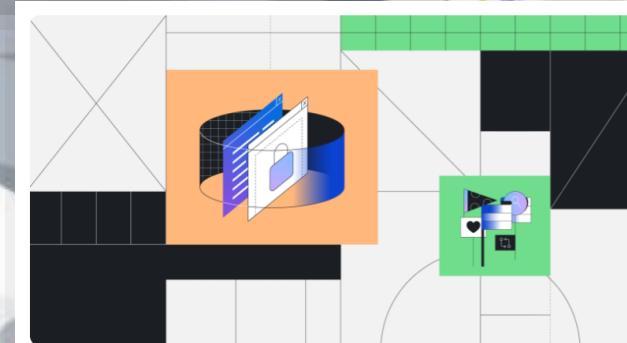
Leveraging machine learning to find security vulnerabilities

A behind-the-scenes peek into the machine learning framework powering new code scanning security alerts.

Tiferet Gazit February 17, 2022

Microsoft Developer Blogs:

- [PowerShell Crescendo : Generally Available](#)
- [Edge Developer Tools for Visual Studio : Preview](#)
- [Visual Studio 2022 for Mac : Preview 6](#)
- [.NET 7 : Preview 1](#)
- [Embedded Software Development in Visual Studio Code](#)
- [Deploy into Azure using Pulumi and GitHub Actions](#)
- [Debugging Microsoft Teams app locally with Teams Toolkit](#)
- [PyTorch-DirectML : Preview 2](#)



Encoding and escaping untrusted data to prevent injection attacks

Practical tips on how to apply OWASP Top 10 Proactive Control C4.

Jason White February 16, 2022

GitHub Blog

- [Response to the war in Ukraine](#)
- [Finding Security Vulnerabilities leveraging Machine Learning](#)
- [Include Diagrams in Markdown files with Mermaid](#)
- [Improved Management for GitHub Enterprise Owners](#)
- [Understanding GitHub-hosted Runner Capacity](#)
- [Security Workflows : Getting Started](#)
- [Encoding and escaping untrusted data to prevent injection attacks](#)
- [GitHub Advisory Database open to Community Contributions](#)
- [Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure \(CVD\) for Open-Source Projects](#)
- [Announcing the 2022 MLH Fellowship Cohort, powered by GitHub](#)

Experimental alerts are generated by machine learning. They might include more false positives but they will improve over time. [Learn more or report a problem.](#)

Code scanning alerts / #173
Uncontrolled data used in path expression (experimental)

Open Experimental

Branch: master

routes/recyclebin.ts:14 ↗
11 export interface Recyclebin = () => (req: Request, res: Response) => {
12 route: string;
13 where: {
14 id: JSON.parse(req.params.id);
15 }
16 }
17 const Recyclebin = () => {
18 return res.json(utils.queryResultToJson(Recyclebin));
19 }
20
21 module.exports = Recyclebin;

Severity: High

Tags: security

CodeQL Show paths

This is an experimental query. Experimental queries generate alerts using machine learning. They might include more false positives but they will improve over time.

Show more ▾

Code scanning finds more vulnerabilities using machine learning

Today we launched new code scanning analysis features powered by machine learning. The experimental analysis finds more of the most common types of vulnerabilities.

Tiferet Gazit February 17, 2022

Office Developer Blogs and Microsoft 365 Dev Center



Develop for the Microsoft 365 platform

Build rich solutions that integrate apps and business processes to enhance productivity in the modern workplace.



Start with the Microsoft identity platform

[Get started >](#)



Connect to data through Microsoft Graph

[Learn more >](#)



Extend your solution through Microsoft Teams

[Build for Teams >](#)



Publish to Microsoft AppSource

[Publish your app >](#)



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 >](#)



[Global Developer Updates and Bootcamps ::](#)
[M365 Developer Blog :: Office Developer ::](#)
[DevBlogs](#)

- [Word Style Checking Add-In Itbui on Angular2](#)
- [Debugging Microsoft Teams app locally with Teams Toolkit](#)
- End-of-service for SharePoint Online Machine Translation Service and APIs
- [New Permissions for Teams Chats and Tags APIs : Announced](#)
- [Microsoft Graph Task API : Beta](#)
- [Design Guidance for Viva Connections Custom Cards and Quick Views](#)
- [Client Secret expiration limited to a maximum of two years](#)

Azure



Azure Updates

Azure Announcements : Azure Blog

- [Azure Purview Workflows](#) : Public Preview
- [Azure Chaos Studio Key Vault and Classic Cloud Services faults](#) : Generally Available
- [Specify API Language Runtime Versions in Azure Static Web Apps](#) : Generally Available
- [Azure Spring Cloud Enterprise](#) : Preview
- [Microsoft Azure at NVIDIA GTC Developer Conference 2022](#) : Event
- [New Azure for Operators solutions and services built for the future of telecommunications](#)
- [Log Analytics data export in Azure Monitor](#) : Generally Available
- [Automatically delete a VM and its associated Resources simultaneously](#) : Generally Available

Data, AI, Security, & Availability

- [Dynamic Lineage Extraction](#) from Azure SQL Databased in [Azure Purview](#)
- [On-Demand Capacity Reservation with Azure Site Recovery](#) : Public Preview
- [Azure Synapse Link for Azure Cosmos DB Partitioning Spark 3.1](#) : Public Preview
- [Meet PCI Compliance with credit card Tokenization](#)
- [Microsoft DDoS Protection and Response Guide](#) : Updated
- [Azure Form Recognizer for Azure Applied AI Services](#) : Public Preview
- [Azure NetApp Files new region and cross-region replication](#) : Generally Available
- [Application Gateway mutual authentication](#) : Generally Available

Operations & Benefits

- [Custom Retention for AzureActivity and Usage Data Tables](#) : Generally Available
- [Cost Management Anomaly Detection for Subscriptions](#) : Public Preview
- [Cross Region Virtual Machine Restore Points](#) : Public Preview
- [Net Learning Content on Azure IoT Central homepage](#) : Generally Available

The anatomy of a datacenter—how Microsoft's datacenter hardware powers the Microsoft Cloud

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Leading hardware engineering at "the" software company is not as strange as it sounds, as the Microsoft Cloud depends on hardware as the foundation of trust, reliability, capacity, and performance, to make it possible for Microsoft and our customers to achieve more.

[Rani Borkar](#), Corporate Vice President, Azure Hardware Systems and Infrastructure

New Azure for Operators solutions and services built for the future of telecommunications

Monday, February 28, 2022

Imagine the benefits to communities and organizations that have access to improved bandwidth, reliability, and reduced latency, while leveraging the rich capabilities of cloud-to-edge technology without compromise to security, critical services, or key workloads. With the most complete offerings for the telecommunications industry, Microsoft is the ideal cloud provider to help operators with their digital transformation journey and enable them to deliver these innovative services to their consumer, enterprise, and public sector customers. Today, we're announcing the next wave of Azure for Operators solutions and services.

[Jason Zander](#), EVP, Strategic Missions and Technologies



Azure Services Directory



Project Bonsai PREVIEW

Create intelligent industrial control systems using simulations



OpenAI Service PREVIEW

Apply advanced language models to a variety of use cases



Azure Private 5G Core PREVIEW

Rapidly deploy and manage private 5G networks at the enterprise edge

Project Bonsai : Preview

- ❖ [Enable Engineers to create AI](#) without requiring Data-Science
- ❖ [Teach AI with Instructions and Guidance](#) created by Engineers
- ❖ Prepare AI for real environments through Simulations
- ❖ [Deploy AI to work independently](#) or in Partnership with People
- ❖ [Get Started with Project Bonsai](#) though Quickstarts

Azure OpenAI Service: Private

Fine-tune Language Models to your needs; From summarization to content and Code Generation

- ❖ Apply large, pretrained models to new use cases
- ❖ Fine-Tune models using data and adjust Hyperparameters to Ensure Accurate Results
- ❖ Detect and Mitigate harmful-use with built-in Responsible AI controls and filters
- ❖ Increase Security through Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) and Private Networks

Azure Private 5G Core: Preview

- ❖ Simple, Scalable, and Secure deployment on an [Azure Arc-managed](#) platform.
- ❖ [5G core network functions](#) including User Plane, Control Plane, Subscriber, and Policy
- ❖ [Deployed on Azure private MEC](#)
- ❖ [Single multi-access core to support both 4G LTE and 5G](#) standalone radio access network (RAN) from any vendor
- ❖ [Centralized orchestration and automation](#) of 5G core software, service management for configuration, and monitoring
- ❖ [APIs to securely provision](#) a SIM and monitor RAN metrics

New trends with Microsoft Technology



Updates from Microsoft Industry Blogs



Microsoft at CERAWeek: Accelerating digital transformation for a sustainable energy future >

March 3, 2022 • 5 min read
By [Darryl Willis](#), Corporate Vice President, Worldwide Energy Industry

Sustainability and decarbonization continue to be at the top of the global energy agenda and will be for the foreseeable future. As a leading technology partner of the energy industry, Microsoft works closely with customers and partners to navigate these complex issues and to deliver technology solutions to transform the industry. To support Microsoft's...[Read more](#)



Microsoft and Nuance joining forces to support the resilience of healthcare >

March 4, 2022 • 4 min read
By [Gregory J. Moore MD, PhD](#), CVP, Health and Life Sciences, Microsoft

This blog post is co-authored by Diana Nole, EVP and GM of Healthcare, Nuance. There is nothing more personal or important than our health. These last two years have exacerbated an already fragile healthcare ecosystem, taxed our essential services, and put unimaginable strain on frontline workers. In response to these mounting pressures, the healthcare industry...[Read more](#)



Microsoft brings intelligent telecommunications to MWC 2022 >

February 27, 2022 • 6 min read
By [Francesco Venturini](#), Corporate Vice President, Media and Communications

Today marks the opening of Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2022, the largest mobile event in the world and a showcase for the latest innovations and leading-edge technology. I'm always energized by MWC and the opportunity it provides to connect with customers, partners, and colleagues over four very busy days. And this year, it will be especially...[Read more](#)



Powering energy innovation with Microsoft: Technology solutions for the digital utility >

February 15, 2022 • 4 min read
By [Darryl Willis](#), Corporate Vice President, Worldwide Energy Industry

Power and utilities companies are navigating the largest changes in the industry since the development of the grid—infrastructure modernization, clean energy integration at scale, managing a proliferation of security threats, and building a digital-first workforce. Companies embracing these challenges and prioritizing digital, data, and automation are leading the market and laying the foundation for a...[Read more](#)

Microsoft Cloud for Sustainability

Record, report, and reduce your organization's environmental impact.



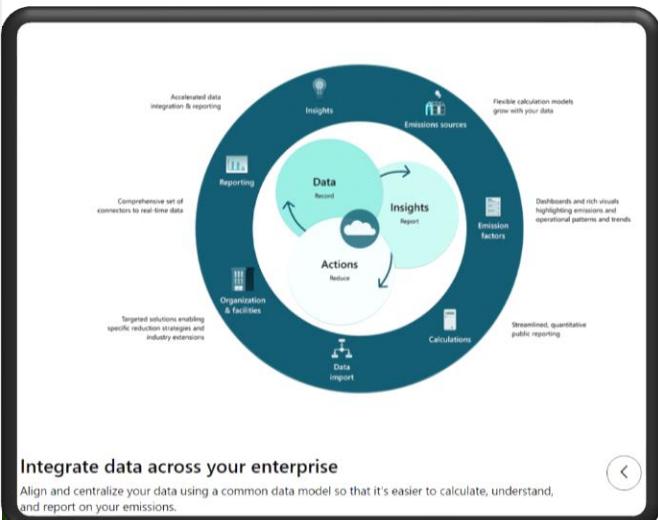
Accelerate your sustainability journey

Microsoft Cloud for Sustainability is an extensible software-as-a-service solution that helps you record, report, and reduce your organization's environmental impact through automated data connections and actionable insights.



Record

Connect data to more accurately represent the emissions footprint of your operation and value chain.



Report

Visualize and report your environmental impact and sustainability progress in near real time.

The interface shows a dashboard for Scope 1, 2, 3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) measurement. It includes a summary table for Scope 1 (Direct emissions), Scope 2 (Indirect emissions from purchasing electricity, heat, steam), and Scope 3 (Other indirect emissions, supply chain emissions). A legend indicates that green checkmarks are present in the first two columns. To the right, a sidebar lists Key Capabilities: Data ingestion, Calculation & Reporting, Insights & Recommendations, and Extensibility.

Scope	Description	Checkmark
1	Direct emissions: company facilities, company vehicles	✓
2	Indirect emissions from purchasing electricity, heat, steam	✓
3	Other indirect emissions, supply chain emissions 15 categories	

Initial 3 Categories *
Purchased Goods & Services
Capital Goods
Business Travel

Key Capabilities

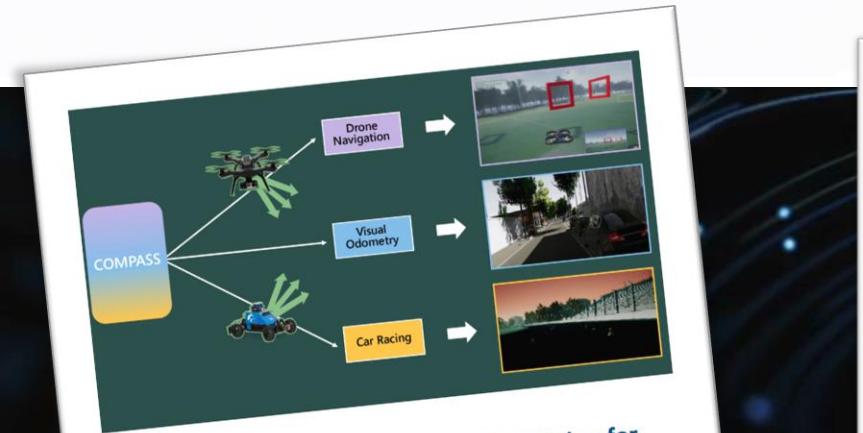
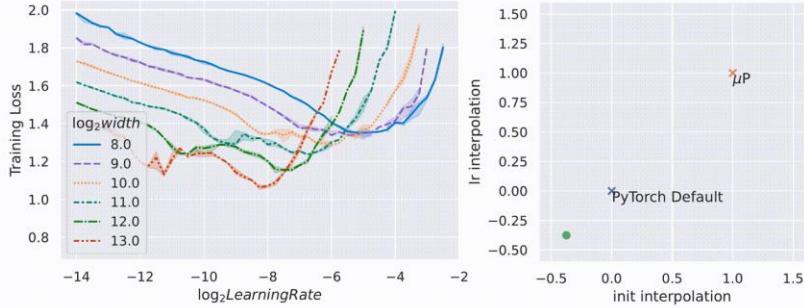
- Data ingestion**
 - Sustainability Common Data Model support for Scopes 1, 2, and 3 emissions
 - Automate the capture of operational data using customer or pre-built connectors (facilities, assets, sales, procurement, logistics, manufacturing, etc.)
- Calculation & Reporting**
 - GHG emissions calculations for Scopes 1, 2, and 3 (Categories 1, 2, & 6)
 - Preparation reports to support statutory requirements
 - Operational and executive dashboards
 - Analytical insights
- Insights & Recommendations**
 - Data driven scorecards and goal tracking
- Extensibility**
 - Key ISVs or industry extensions



Reduce

Learn how to advance your efforts to reduce emissions, gain efficiencies, and make lasting changes.

The dashboard displays various metrics and visualizations. On the left, there are sections for Overview, Emissions (with a table for Total emissions and Emissions by country), Data (Activity data, Reference data, Connectors), Calculations (Metrics, Profiles, Emission factors), Settings (Report settings, Unit groups, Region mapping), and Insights & Recommendations. On the right, there are sections for Visualize emissions trends and opportunities, and a detailed view of Emissions by country.



COMPASS: Contrastive Multimodal Pretraining for Autonomous Systems >

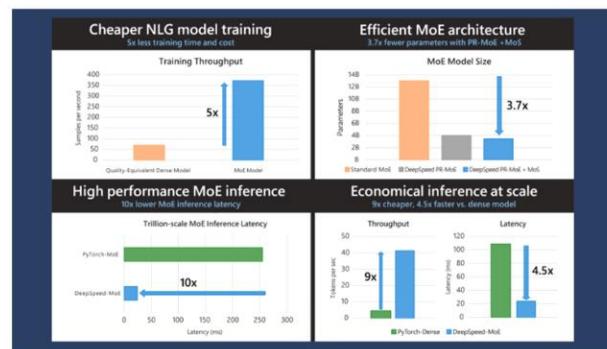
Figure 1: COMPASS is a general-purpose pretraining pipeline, which is trained on multimodal data, including RGB images, depth and optical flow. The pretrained COMPASS model can be deployed on various downstream autonomous systems tasks. In this work, we test COMPASS on simulated drone navigation, car...

February 23, 2022

μTransfer: A technique for hyperparameter tuning of enormous neural networks >

March 8, 2022 by [Edward Hu](#), [Greg Yang](#), and [Jianfeng Gao](#)

Great scientific achievements cannot be made by trial and error alone. Every launch in the space program is underpinned by centuries of fundamental research in aerodynamics, propulsion, and celestial bodies. In the same way, when it comes to building large-scale AI systems, fundamental research forms...



DeepSpeed: Advancing MoE inference and training to power next-generation AI scale >

In the last three years, the largest trained dense models have increased in size by over 1,000 times, from a few hundred million parameters to over 500 billion parameters in Megatron-Turing NLG 530B (MT-NLG). Improvements in model quality with size suggest that this trend will...

January 19, 2022 by [DeepSpeed Team](#) and [Andrey Proskurin](#)



Advancing AI trustworthiness: Updates on responsible AI research >

Inflated expectations around the capabilities of AI technologies may lead people to believe that computers can't be wrong. The truth is AI failures are not a matter of if but when. AI is a human endeavor that combines information about people and the physical world...

February 1, 2022 by [Mihaela Vorvoreanu](#) and [Kathy Walker](#)

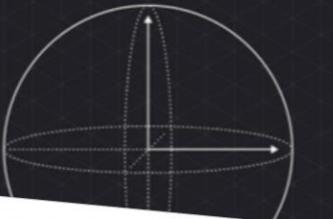
Microsoft Quantum

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

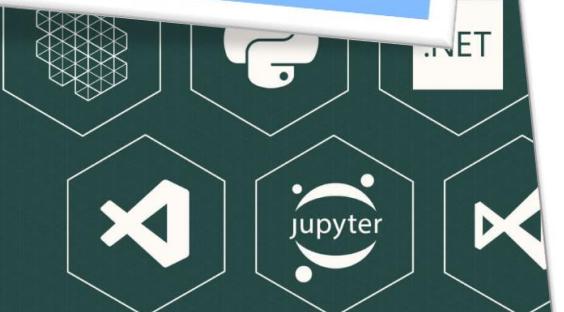
[Overview](#) / [What is quantum computing?](#)

What is quantum computing?

It's the use of quantum mechanics to run calculations on specialized hardware.



Myth vs. reality: A practical perspective on quantum computing
Read the article discussing the practicality of quantum computers.



Develop with familiar tools

The Quantum Development Kit includes feature-rich integration with Visual Studio, Visual Studio Code, and Jupyter Notebooks. Use the Q# programming language on its own, in notebooks, and at the command line, or use a host language with both Python and .NET interoperability. Integrate your existing quantum workflows with support for Qiskit and Cirq. Formulate optimization solutions with the Azure Quantum optimization Python package.

[Get started >](#)



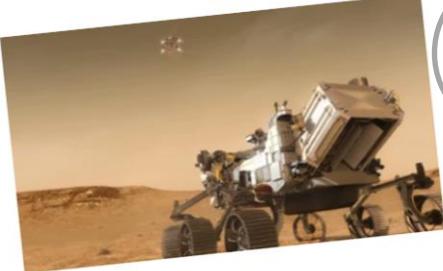
Improving financial services anomaly detection with Mphasis and Azure Quantum >

February 23, 2022 • 4 min read



By [Matt Zanner](#), Principal Program Manager, Outreach and Partnerships, Azure Quantum

Quantum-inspired optimization (QIO) improves and adds scale to traditional anomaly detection, reducing payment card risk in the financial services industry. In 2019, fraudulent activity led to tens of billions of dollars in losses from payment cards alone.¹ Payment card providers worldwide are constantly looking to improve their methods to detect and block fraudsters from exploiting their...[Read more](#)



NASA's JPL uses Microsoft's Azure Quantum to manage communication with space missions >

January 27, 2022 • 2 min read



By [Anita Ramanan](#), Senior Azure Quantum Software Engineer

As NASA launches more frequent and complex missions into space, managing communications with the growing number of spacecraft is becoming increasingly challenging. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) has turned to Azure Quantum to explore ways to communicate more efficiently with spacecraft exploring our solar system and beyond. JPL communicates with space missions through the Deep...[Read more](#)



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

An update on Microsoft's sustainability commitments: Building a foundation for 2030

Mar 10, 2022 | [Brad Smith, President and Vice Chair, and Lucas Joppa, Chief Environmental Officer](#)

2021 progress

\$571M

Allocated \$471 million to date via our Climate Innovation Fund to accelerate our carbon goals, as well as water and waste. We also donated \$100 million to Breakthrough Energy's Catalyst initiative.

Carbon

2.5M tons

In FY21 and FY22, Microsoft successfully contracted to remove 2.5 million mtCO₂, meeting our cumulative two-year goal.

Water

1.3M m³

In FY21, Microsoft invested in replenishment projects that are expected to generate over 1.3 million cubic meters of volumetric benefits.

Waste

Circular Centers

We have planned five Circular Centers, with Amsterdam open, construction underway in Boydton, Virginia, and three more to be added in 2022.

Ecosystems

>17,000 acres

In FY21, we contracted to protect more than 17,000 acres of land.

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.



Scopes explained



Scope 1

Direct emissions created by your activities



Scope 2

Indirect emissions from the consumption of the electricity or heat you use



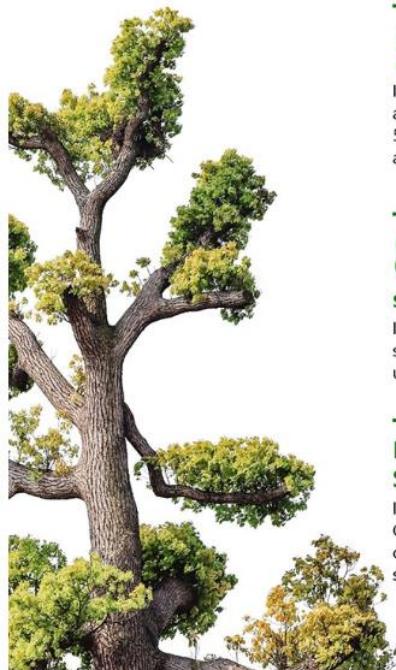
Scope 3

Indirect emissions from all other activities in which you're engaged

This is by far the largest category of emissions and covers all parts of your value chain (upstream and downstream). Upstream examples include supply chain, materials in buildings, business travel, and manufacturing. Downstream examples include the electricity customers consume using your products.

Scope 3 measurement poses a significant opportunity for improvement.

[View the 2021 report >](#)



Microsoft Learning and Training : New Sessions



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.

Learning Microsoft Power Platform Foundations Level 100



[See all 7 sessions >](#)

Create Your First Chat Bot with Microsoft Virtual Agents



[See all 3 sessions >](#)



Get Started with Power BI service



[See all 5 sessions >](#)



Work less, do more with Microsoft Power Automate



[See all 3 sessions >](#)

Learn to be cyber smart with Microsoft security foundations



[See 2 sessions >](#)

Microsoft Virtual Training Days

Microsoft Events and Training: Updates



Microsoft Virtual Training Days

Events Catalog

Robotic Process Automation in a Day - Digital Mobile

03/23/2022 | 11:00 - 19:00 (CDT)

Digital
Training

Registration and details

Dashboard in a Day - Newcomp Analytics Inc. - United States

03/24/2022 | 08:00 - 16:00 (CDT)

Digital
Training

Registration and details

Further your goals with Microsoft events

Whether you're a developer, IT professional, partner, educator, or business professional, we have plenty of Microsoft events specifically created with your growth in mind. Explore special events and learning opportunities created to help you expand your expertise, learn new skills, and build community.

Microsoft Azure Virtual Training Day: Linux OSS Database Migration

03/28/2022 | 09:00 - 12:15 (CDT)

Digital
Training

Registration and details

App in a Day - PragmaticWorks - United States

03/24/2022 | 08:00 - 16:00 (CDT)

Digital
Training

Registration and details

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



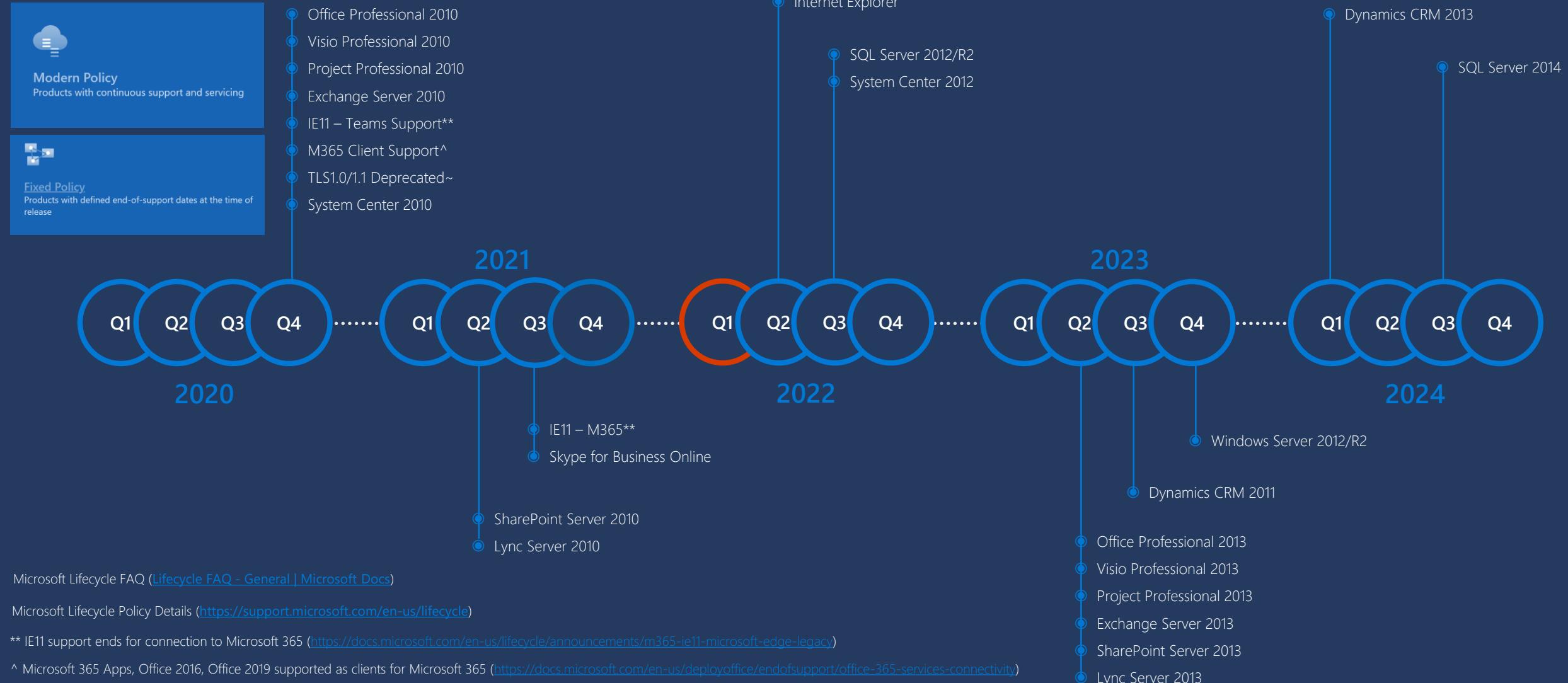
Login not working? Your organization may need to be onboarded to ESI. Please talk to your Microsoft Account Team.

Product Lifecycles

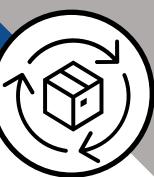




End of Service Roadmap to 2024



Microsoft Product Lifecycle: Modern Policy Products that will Retire



Products under Modern Policy that will Retire in 2022

Products that will Retire in 2022 (Modern Policy)	End of Support Date
Dynamics 365 for Talent	February 2, 2022
Microsoft Machine Learning Server (Microsoft R Server)	July 1, 2022
Windows Server 20H2	August 11, 2022
PowerShell 7.x	December 3, 2022

Products under Modern Policy that will Retire in 2023

Products that will Retire in 2023 (Modern Policy)	End of Support Date
Microsoft Azure Virtual Machine (classic)	March 1, 2023
Windows 11 Home and Pro (Version 21H2)	October 10, 2023

Lifecycle data export

Export all products

Export lifecycle data for all products by clicking below:

[Export All Products](#)

Announcements

- Retirement of SQL Server 2019 Big Data Clusters
- Windows 10, version 20H2 end of servicing
- Windows 10, version 1909 end of servicing (Enterprise and Education)
- Mainstream support extended for BizTalk Server 2020 and Host Integration Server 2020
- Office 2013 and Skype for Business 2015 end of support on April 11, 2023
- UPDATE: Skype for Business Online retirement on July 31, 2021

- UPDATED: Support extended for Visio Services in SharePoint Online (aka Visio Web Access)
- Windows 10, version 2004 end of servicing (all editions)
- Windows Server, version 2004 end of servicing (Datacenter, Standard)
- Microsoft Store for Business and Education retiring in early 2023
- New options for SQL Server 2012 and Windows Server 2012 End of Support

[See more >](#)

Microsoft Product Lifecycle: Modern Policy Reaching End of Servicing



Products Release End of Servicing for 2022

Products Moving to End of Servicing (Modern Policy)	End of Servicing Date
Microsoft Endpoint Configuration Manager, Version 2006	February 11, 2022
Dynamics 365 Business Central on-premises (Modern Policy), 2020 release wave 2, version 17.x	April 12, 2022
.NET 5.0	May 8, 2022
Windows 10 Enterprise and Education, Version 1909 Windows 10 Home and Pro, Version 20H2 Windows 10 IoT Enterprise, Version 1909	May 10, 2022
Microsoft Endpoint Configuration Manager, Version 2010	May 30, 2022
Azure Active Directory (AD) Connect, Version 1.x	August 31, 2022
Microsoft Endpoint Configuration Manager, Version 2103	October 5, 2022
Dynamics 365 Business Central on-premises (Modern Policy), 2021 release wave 1, version 18.x	October 11, 2022
.NET Core 3.1 (LTS)	December 3, 2022
Windows 10 Enterprise and Education, Version 21H1 Windows 10 Home and Pro, Version 21H1 Windows 10 IoT Enterprise, Version 21H1	December 13, 2022

Products Release End of Servicing for 2023

Products Moving to End of Servicing (Modern Policy)	End of Servicing Date
Microsoft Endpoint Configuration Manager, Version 2107	February 2, 2023
Dynamics 365 Business Central on-premises (Modern Policy), 2021 release wave 2, version 19.x	April 12, 2023
Windows 10 Enterprise and Education, Version 20H2 Windows 10 IoT Enterprise, Version 20H2	May 9, 2023
Windows 10 Home and Pro, Version 21H2	June 13, 2023
Azure Dev Spaces	October 31, 2023

Microsoft Product Lifecycle: Fixed Policy Reaching End of Support 2022



Products Reaching End of Support for 2022

Products Moving to End of Support (Modern Policy)	End of Servicing Date	Products Moving to End of Support (Modern Policy)	End of Servicing Date
Visual Studio LightSwitch 2011 Windows 7, Extended Security Update Year 2* Windows Server 2008, Extended Security Update Year 2 Windows Server 2008 R2, Extended Security Update Year 2	January 11, 2022	Windows Embedded POSReady 7, Extended Security Update Year 1*	October 8, 2022
AppFabric 1.1 for Windows Server Dynamics AX 2009 Dynamics AX 2012 Dynamics AX 2012 R2 Visual Studio 2019, Version 16.7	April 12, 2022	Microsoft Forefront Identity Manager 2010 Microsoft Forefront Identity Manager 2010 R2 SQL Server 2016, Service Pack 2 Visual Studio 2019, Version 16.9 Windows Embedded Standard 7, Extended Security Update Year 2*	October 11, 2022
Microsoft .NET Framework, .NET Framework 4.5.2 Microsoft .NET Framework, .NET Framework 4.6 Microsoft .NET Framework, .NET Framework 4.6.1	April 26, 2022	Azure StorSimple 1200 Series Azure StorSimple 8000 Series StorSimple Data Manager	December 31, 2022
Cloud Platform System Microsoft Report Viewer 2012 Runtime Microsoft Report Viewer Redistributable 2012 Microsoft SQL Server 2008, Extended Security Update Year 3 Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2, Extended Security Update Year 3 Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Microsoft System Center 2012 App Controller Microsoft System Center 2012 Configuration Manager Microsoft System Center 2012 Data Protection Manager Microsoft System Center 2012 Endpoint Protection Microsoft System Center 2012 Operations Manager Microsoft System Center 2012 Orchestrator Microsoft System Center 2012 R2 App Controller Microsoft System Center 2012 R2 Configuration Manager Microsoft System Center 2012 R2 Data Protection Manager Microsoft System Center 2012 R2 Endpoint Protection Microsoft System Center 2012 R2 Operations Manager Microsoft System Center 2012 R2 Orchestrator Microsoft System Center 2012 R2 Service Manager Microsoft System Center 2012 R2 Virtual Machine Manager Microsoft System Center 2012 Service Manager Microsoft System Center 2012 Virtual Machine Manager Windows Azure Pack (on Windows Server 2012 R2)	July 12, 2022		

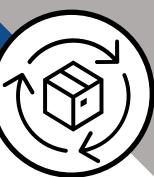
Microsoft Product Lifecycle: Fixed Policy Reaching End of Support 2023



Products Reaching End of Support for 2023

Products Moving to End of Support (Modern Policy)	End of Servicing Date	Products Moving to End of Support (Modern Policy)	End of Servicing Date
Dynamics AX 2012 R3 Dynamics NAV 2013 Dynamics NAV 2013 R2 Hyper-V Server 2012 Hyper-V Server 2012 R2 Internet Information Services (IIS), IIS 8.5 on Windows 8.1 Microsoft Diagnostics and Recovery Toolset 8.0 Service Bus for Windows Server User Experience Virtualization (UE-V) 1.0 Visual Studio 2012 Visual Studio Team Foundation Server 2012 Windows 7, Extended Security Update Year 3* Windows 8.1 Windows Defender For Windows 8 and 8.1 Windows Embedded 8.1 Pro Windows RT Windows Server 2008, Extended Security Update Year 3 Windows Server 2008 R2, Extended Security Update Year 3 Workflow Manager 1.0	January 10, 2023	BizTalk Server 2013 BizTalk Server 2013 R2 Dynamics 365 for Customer Engagement Apps, version 9 (on-premises update), Original Release (ver 9.0) Microsoft BitLocker Administration and Monitoring 2.0 Microsoft SQL Server 2008, Extended Security Update Year 4 (Azure only) Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2, Extended Security Update Year 4 (Azure only) Microsoft SQL Server 2012, Extended Security Update Year 1 Visual Studio 2022 , Version 17.0 (LTSC channel) Windows Embedded 8 Standard Windows Embedded 8.1 Industry	July 11, 2023
Access 2013 Dynamics GP 2013 Dynamics GP 2013 R2 Excel 2013 Exchange Server 2013 HPC Pack 2012 HPC Pack 2012 R2 Lync 2013 Microsoft Lync Phone Edition Microsoft Lync Server 2013 Microsoft Office 2013 Microsoft OneNote 2013 Outlook 2013 PowerPoint 2013 Project 2013 Project Server 2013 Publisher 2013 SharePoint Foundation 2013 SharePoint Server 2013 Skype for Business 2015 Visio 2013 Word 2013	April 11, 2023	Excel 2019 for Mac Internet Explorer 7 Internet Information Services (IIS), IIS 8 on Windows Server 2012 Internet Information Services (IIS), IIS 8.5 on Windows Server 2012 R2 Microsoft Office 2019 for Mac Microsoft Office Audit and Control Management Server 2013 Outlook 2019 for Mac PowerPoint 2019 for Mac Windows Embedded Compact 2013 Windows Embedded POSReady 7, Extended Security Update Year 2* Windows Embedded Standard 7, Extended Security Update Year 3* Windows MultiPoint Server 2012 Windows Server 2012 Windows Server 2012 R2 Windows Server Update Services for Windows Server 2012 Windows Server Update Services for Windows Server 2012 R2 Windows Storage Server 2012 Windows Storage Server 2012 R2 Word 2019 for Mac	October 10, 2023

Microsoft Product Lifecycle: Products moving to Extended Support



Products Moving to Extended Support for 2022

Products Moving to Extended Support (Fixed Policy)	End of Support Date
BizTalk Server 2016	January 11, 2022
Dynamics NAV 2017	
HPC Pack 2016	
Hyper-V Server 2016	
Microsoft Host Integration Server 2016	
System Center 2016 Data Protection	
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 Azure Pack (on Windows Server 2016)	
Windows Server 2016	
Windows Storage Server 2016	
Visual Studio 2017	April 12, 2022
SQL Server 2017	October 11, 2022

Products Moving to Extended Support for 2023

Products Moving to Extended Support (Fixed Policy)	End of Support Date
Dynamics GP 2018	January 10, 2023
Dynamics GP 2018 R2	
Dynamics NAV 2018	
Visual Studio Team Foundation Server 2018	
Dynamics SL 2018	July 11, 2023
Access 2019	October 10, 2023
Dynamics 365 Business Central on-premises (Fixed Policy)	
Excel 2019	
Microsoft Office 2019	
OneNote 2016	
Outlook 2019	
PowerPoint 2019	
Project 2019	
Publisher 2019	
Visio 2019	
Word 2019	



Acquisitions and Announcements

Microsoft Acquisitions - 2022



Company	Date	Description
<u>Oribi</u>	02-28-2022	Microsoft's LinkedIn will acquire <u>Oribi</u> , an Israel based marketing analytics company , to further help customers, from marketers to recruiters, gain actionable insights, make smarter decisions and drive business results . The integration of LinkedIn and Oribi will accelerate Microsoft's marketing attribution and codeless analytics capabilities .
<u>Activision Blizzard</u>	01-18-2022	Microsoft announced plans to acquire Activision Blizzard Inc. (Nasdaq: ATVI), a leader in game development and interactive entertainment content publisher. This acquisition will accelerate the growth in Microsoft's gaming business across mobile, PC, console and cloud and will provide building blocks for the metaverse . "The combination of Activision Blizzard's world-class talent and extraordinary franchises with Microsoft's technology, distribution, access to talent, ambitious vision and shared commitment to gaming and inclusion will help ensure our continued success in an increasingly competitive industry."

Microsoft Acquisitions - 2021



Company	Date	Description
Xandr	12-21-2021	Microsoft will acquire Xandr from AT&T . Xandr provides a data-enabled technology platform with tools that help power a diverse ecosystem connecting marketers and media owners through first-party, data-led advertising solutions across its network. With Xandr, Microsoft can accelerate the delivery of digital advertising solutions for the open web by combining Microsoft's audience understanding, technology and global advertising customer base with Xandr's large-scale, data-driven platforms for advertising.
Two Hat	10-29-2021	Two Hat , a leading content moderation solution provider offering protection measures for online communities. Two Hat's technology has helped to make global communities in Xbox, Minecraft and MSN safer for users.
Clear Software	10-22-2021	Clear Software provides iPaaS and business process solutions with strong connectivity into SAP and Oracle . Clear Software's API access and system knowledge will strengthen Microsoft Power Platform's integration with outside systems and accelerate how customers leverage data and processes that reside beyond Microsoft first-party services.
Ally.IO	10-07-2021	Ally.io , a leading OKR (objectives and key results) company, will join the Microsoft Viva family as part of our employee experience platform (EXP) designed to help companies embrace the new digital work life. Ally.io will power a new Microsoft Viva module . Viva is an employee experience platform that brings together communications, knowledge, learning, resources and insights – from anywhere you work. Powered by Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Teams , Viva helps organizations foster a culture of human connection, growth, well-being and success.
TakeLessons	09-08-2021	We're so excited to announce that TakeLessons has been acquired by Microsoft . We believe this will further support TakeLessons' mission: to empower people to learn, connect, grow, and live more meaningful lives through education .
Clipchamp	09-07-2021	Clipchamp is a natural fit to extend the cloud-powered productivity experiences in Microsoft 365 for individuals, families, schools, and businesses. It's also a great fit for Microsoft Windows, which is a platform for boundless creativity. Clipchamp's template-driven, task-focused user experience gives everyone the confidence that they can create. Its rich library of filters, styles, transitions, and stock media combined with the power of a multi-track audio and video compositing editor gives everyone the fine control they need, and artistic help if they need it, to create exactly what they want, quickly and with confidence .
Peer5	08-10-2021	Peer5 expands Microsoft's ability for delivering secure, high-quality, large-scale live video streaming with optimized network performance in Teams . Peer5 offers a WebRTC-based eCDN solution that runs in-browser to optimize bandwidth usage helping mitigate impacts to network and line of business (LOB) applications. Its mesh networks are self-balancing and automatically scale as the number of viewers increase.

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
ZeniMax Media	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.
Orions Systems	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.
CyberX	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,
ADRM Software	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.
Softomotive	05-19-2020	Softomotive 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.
Metaswitch Networks	05-14-2020	Metaswitch Networks , a leading provider of virtualized network software and voice, data and communications solutions for 5G operators .
Corp.Com	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."
Affirmed Networks	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!