

MICROSOFT QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS, PRODUCT RELEASES AND ENHANCEMENTS

FY25 Q2

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

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

Microsoft 365 Copilot

[SharePoint agents](#) unlock the value of an organization's content, so every artifact becomes a reusable business asset. Every SharePoint site now comes equipped with a ready-made SharePoint agent scoped to the contents of the site or to specific content users choose — finding, retrieving and processing information like a well-informed teammate would — all backed by Microsoft 365 security and responsible AI commitments. Whether a simple "prompt and response" agent for information-finding or a more advanced agent reasoning over complex data to help accelerate business decision making, information workers and frontline workers alike are empowered using SharePoint agents.

[Copilot in Excel with Python](#) combines the power of Python with Copilot in Excel. Now, anyone can work with Copilot to conduct advanced analysis like predictive analytics, machine learning, cleaning complex data and more — all using natural language, no coding required. Copilot in Excel with Python also renders stunning visuals that were previously not possible or were difficult to create like heatmaps, pairplots, multiplots and violin plots so users can better understand and communicate their analysis.

To receive the highest quality responses from Copilot, users have the option to allow Copilot to reference web content. As more customers experience this benefit, we are continuing to invest in providing increased visibility and [control over web search for Copilot](#). Web search query citations for users include the exact web search queries derived from the user's prompt in the linked citation section of the Copilot response, helping users understand what search queries, along with the sites searched, were used to enhance the response. Web search query logging enables admins to perform search, audit and

eDiscovery on the exact web search queries Copilot derived from the user's prompt, in the same way that they have been able to perform those actions for prompts and responses.

[New Copilot feature metrics](#) are now generally available in the Copilot Dashboard and advanced Copilot reporting in Viva Insights. These new metrics help leaders better understand how employees use and access Copilot throughout their day: "Intelligent Recap" actions taken in Teams; "Visualize as table" actions taken in Word; "Add content to presentation" actions taken using PowerPoint; "Organize presentation" actions taken using PowerPoint; "Chat (Copilot in PowerPoint)" prompts submitted in the in-app chat section in PowerPoint; "Chat (Copilot in Word)" prompts submitted in the in-app chat section in Word; and "Chat (Copilot in Excel)" prompts submitted in the in-app chat section in Excel.

[Copilot Prompt Gallery](#) (formerly known as Copilot Lab) boosts AI confidence and success through prompting. Users can now create, save and share their own custom prompts to inspire others, while supporting organizations on their quest to drive widespread AI adoption in the workplace. The product name has also been updated to drive clarity of the product's purpose and functionality and to align with enhancements to the product based on customer feedback.

[Copilot survey templates in Viva Pulse](#) enable change leaders to gather employee feedback on aspects of Copilot readiness, adoption and impact. This qualitative feedback complements the usage metrics already included in the Copilot Dashboard. Viva Pulse survey results for the Copilot impact template will be automatically shared to the Microsoft Copilot Dashboard.

Microsoft 365 Consumer/Commercial

HR users and leaders of large organizations spend a lot of valuable time interpreting Glint survey results and comments. [Copilot in Viva Glint](#) enables them to understand and act on employee feedback by quickly summarizing large quantities of comments. Copilot in Viva Glint is available for all enabled users whose teams meet the threshold for verbatim comment results.

[Integration between Viva Glint and Viva Insights](#) brings employee engagement data and behavioral metrics together to give organizations a holistic view of the employee experience. HR, leaders and analysts can see how organizational patterns relate to employee sentiment for deeper insights on engagement and productivity.

Microsoft Teams

[Microsoft Places](#), an AI-powered workplace solution for flexible work, is now available with a Teams Premium license. Places reimagines flexible work by helping coordinate hybrid teams to make the most of in-office days, modernizing how employees make connections, and optimizing space management with occupancy and utilization data.

The new [Queues app](#) is a solution for collaboratively handling customer calls natively in Teams. Call queue members can easily handle inbound calls without ever leaving Teams, whether the call is made via PSTN or VOIP. Agents can make outbound calls on behalf of the call queues or auto attendant that they are assigned to. Agents and supervisors can review the call queue statistics while seamlessly collaborating with their colleagues, all within the flow of work. Call queue and auto-attendant configuration is intuitively designed, with admin-delegated rights that allow leads to manage members as well as call queue and auto-attendant settings, all within Teams.

The [calendar in Teams](#) has been redesigned for reliability and familiarity, with the integration of both Copilot and Places. Copilot capabilities like drafting an agenda and managing booking, and Places capabilities like recommended in-office days, Places finder and Places card, are all available in the new Teams calendar experience. The new Teams calendar offers features such as calendar sharing, month view, multiday view, print support, filtering, and support for multiple time zones.

[Survivable Branch Appliance](#) enables users to continue placing and receiving PSTN calls in the event of a network outage. SBA relies on authentication tokens that are renewed daily. With this upcoming update, SBA will be able to use expired authentication tokens for up to seven days. This will allow users to maintain connectivity for an extended period of time in the event of an outage. Availability timing for this update will vary depending on your Session Border Controller vendor.

With [Working Time](#), IT admins now have the ability to create boundaries around productivity app usage outside set working hours. Restriction options range from warning notifications to fully restricted access. This solution is robust enough to satisfy the requirements of strict labor regulations and customizable enough to fit any frontline organization.

Windows

[The Windows 11, version 24H2 update](#) included new features like Energy Saver designed to extend battery life and reduce energy use, HDR background support, and improvements to the taskbar, systems tray, File Explorer and Settings to make PC usage more intuitive. Windows 11 also includes Hearing Aid support with Bluetooth LE Audio, with new capabilities to control audio presets and ambient sound volume and experience

enhancements. Additionally, Wi-Fi 7 compatibility on Windows 11 now offers unprecedented connectivity speed, reliability and efficiency.

[Windows in mixed reality](#) brings the full capabilities of Windows 11 to mixed-reality headsets, starting with Meta Quest 3 and Quest 3S. Access to a local Windows PC or Windows 365 Cloud PC from a Quest headset is seamless and takes only seconds to connect to a private, high-quality, large, multiple-monitor workstation.

Guided by the Microsoft Secure Future Initiative, three big changes were made to deliver the highest level of Windows security. [Smart App Control](#) and [App Control for Business](#) policies have been added to provide peace of mind that only verified apps can run on Windows devices, helping fend off attacks like malicious attachments or even social-engineered malware. [Windows Hello](#) authentication has been extended to passkeys, so customers no longer have to choose between a simple sign-in and a safe one.

Windows 11 Enterprise includes [Personal Data Encryption for known folders](#), adding a second layer of protection that encrypts individual files in the Documents, Desktop and Picture folders — ensuring that they can only be accessed by the user when logged in with Windows Hello, even when the device is on or in standby.

Windows Server 2025 offers new features, services and an easy upgrade path. The new [Windows Backup for Organizations with Entra ID Accounts](#) supports settings backup and restoration for Windows 10/Windows 11 devices that are Hybrid or Entra ID joined, streamlining setup for reimaged or new Windows 11 devices.

Intune

The foundation of next-generation endpoint management is data, and visibility at depth across your entire device estate is key. From hardware and software to device performance and usage, more information for IT administrators facilitates more actionable reporting, device targeting and troubleshooting. [Resource explorer](#) makes it possible to create a policy in Microsoft Intune to collect details about more Windows hardware properties.

IT teams have emphasized that access to data alone is not sufficient; it's essential to have actionable options that enable meaningful responses based on that data. With Intune Advanced Analytics, IT administrators can also take [remote actions](#) — such as restarting a device, collecting diagnostics or updating configurations — directly after querying the real-time data about a device. This progression marks a major step forward, providing IT with data precisely when it's needed and enabling more proactive endpoint management across the organization.

Dynamics 365

In Dynamics 365 Contact Center, [multilingual voice agents](#) help improve customer experience while streamlining operations by supporting multiple languages with a single voice agent. This reduces maintenance complexity, accelerates deployment by centralizing updates, and enhances customer satisfaction by enabling seamless language switching during calls, all without requiring separate agents for each language.

For organizations with multiple lines of business and CRMs, organizations can now easily [embed their customer interactions and service rep workspace \(along with Copilot\) directly into their existing solutions](#), streamlining communication without the need to switch between platforms. With out-of-the-box (OOB) connectivity for ServiceNow, this feature simplifies integration, allowing contact center administrators to easily connect the embedded experience for improved efficiency and a seamless workflow.

The [voice channel is now available in the United Arab Emirates \(UAE\)](#), enabling businesses to deploy Dynamics 365 Contact Center, connect their own phone numbers via Azure Direct Routing, create self-serve voice agents with Copilot Studio, and use the integrated voice channel for customer service. Powered by Azure Communication Services, the voice channel supports provisioning business phone numbers, with connections possible via new or existing Azure resources.

In Dynamics 365 Field Service, the new [schedule board](#) brings improved accessibility, usability and performance while laying the foundation for new capabilities for multiday scheduling and intelligent interactions.

Ensuring a seamless experience both with and without device connectivity is crucial for an effective frontline workforce. Field Service offers [mobile offline capabilities](#) to address this need. To create optimized offline profiles, customers need insights into the offline performance and device data. Using Application Insights, customers get the necessary data to answer essential questions about offline mobile usage, which helps with enhanced troubleshooting and user experience optimization.

Dynamics 365 Sales now enables users to quickly access information stored in documents written in other languages by asking questions about its contents [and receiving responses from Copilot in a preferred language](#). This helps users transcend the language gap and connect with customers at a personal level.

Sellers often work on multiple accounts simultaneously, which can make it challenging to stay on top of all accounts and gather relevant information efficiently. With the [AI-generated account summary](#) feature, users can now access a consolidated summary of vital customer data, buying behavior, associated opportunities, leads, marketing campaigns, and the latest news about an account.

To effectively communicate with customers, sellers must strike the right tone and structure and include important information. Now, using NLP (natural language processing)

algorithms, [Copilot can generate clear, concise and compelling emails](#) tailored to each customer, which can lead to improved engagement and increased sales.

Microsoft 365 Copilot for Sales

Microsoft 365 Copilot for Sales now features a new [dashboard powered by Viva Insights](#) that provides access to Copilot for Sales usage data to help organizations measure and track adoption and impact. Included are user-friendly and self-serve out-of-the-box Power BI templates that provide both high-level usage data pivoted by organizational data, all the way down to scenario-level usage, and even usage trends over time.

Sellers can now view and engage with follow-up suggestions using [actionable message banners](#) in Outlook emails. This feature helps improve CRM data quality without disrupting flow of work. Some of the suggested high-value CRM actions include adding new contacts or leads from the customer email and saving the email to the CRM.

New enhancements to [generate post-meeting summary emails for customer follow-ups](#) include improved email draft quality such as better alignment with the meeting action items and notes, improved tone of communications, and having key details from the meeting like participants' email addresses be automatically added to the To and Cc fields.

[Email summary enhancements](#) include more concise summaries and improved language translations that respect language nuances. Email draft content now includes suggested meeting slots based on email conversations and can be created in a requested language if the user provides a custom prompt in that language or specifies a certain language for the responses to be drafted.

Microsoft Power Platform

With [agents in Microsoft 365 Copilot](#), users can now extend their existing Copilot with various specialized agents. Knowledge, like enterprise-specific data, can be added to agents to increase the relevance of information. Agents can also be designed to take actions like sending emails, updating records or creating support tickets.

[Organizations can add generative AI to their Interactive Voice Response \(IVR\) systems](#) so that users can call in and get answers to their complex questions without needing to talk to a human. The IVR system can use added knowledge sources to handle an array of complex questions over the phone, allowing organizations to reduce escalations. The voice-enabled agents can recognize speech, handle interruptions, detect silence, and offer re-prompts to improve user satisfaction.

[Data workspace](#) allows users to develop deployment-ready business solutions by crafting their data model from natural language input, Excel file or SharePoint list with Copilot assistance — now available in nine languages.

[Canvas coauthoring](#) allows multiple canvas app-makers to work on the same app simultaneously, see real-time updates and communicate seamlessly. This feature enhances collaboration, accelerates development and fosters creativity by enabling diverse perspectives to come together in the app-building process.

[Comment-generated formulas](#) allow users to create Power Fx formulas directly from code comments by typing “//” followed by a natural language request, making it easier than ever to create Power Fx formulas. This feature supports multiple languages beyond English, ensuring that users around the globe can take full advantage of the tool in their native language.

[Picture-in-picture in Power Automate for desktop](#) lets users run attended desktop flows within a virtual window that mirrors their desktop. It allows multitasking, improves user experience and increases productivity by allowing the user to continue their work while the flow runs in the background.

[Automation center](#) is a central hub for efficient monitoring and troubleshooting experiences for automation processes across Power Automate at scale. The automation center provides comprehensive visualizations that enable you to monitor the health of your automations, quickly detect issues or trends, and troubleshoot problems more efficiently.

[Copilot hub in Power Platform Admin Center](#) is designed to help admins manage agents built in Copilot Studio effectively by streamlining governance, enhancing insights, and supporting admins in leveraging agent capabilities efficiently. The Copilot hub provides education resources and updates on new agent releases, offers metrics on agent adoption in MCS, and centralizes control with tools to monitor and manage agent features.

The [security hub in Microsoft Power Platform admin center](#) provides comprehensive solutions to protect data from threats, control access, prevent data exfiltration, and gain visibility into customers' security posture. It encompasses compliance; data protection and privacy; identity and access management; threat protection; and security posture management in an aim to balance AI adoption with top-tier data protection, providing a seamless and scalable security management experience for IT admins.

Microsoft Industry Cloud

Agriculture

[E.L.Y. \(Expert Learning for You\) Crop Protection](#) is an innovative adapted AI model designed in [collaboration with Bayer](#) to help solve global agri-food challenges by upskilling agronomists and other farmer-facing employees. Contextually relevant responses to user prompts on farm management and Bayer agricultural products help advisors and farmers make informed decisions that protect crops while promoting environmental sustainability. E.L.Y. offers a cost-effective, customizable and scalable foundation for agricultural entities, whether they are small farms or large enterprises.

Education

[Reading Coach](#) helps learners discover the joy of reading while improving literacy skills, whether practicing challenging words or co-creating stories with responsible AI. Reading Coach uses AI to generate stories matched with learner abilities and interests while providing instant feedback on pronunciation and reading fluency. Learners can track level of accuracy, syllabification and other metrics with an easy-to-read dashboard. Available in 81 languages, including 14 different English dialects, Reading Coach is designed to be inclusive, supporting emerging readers and learners with dyslexia.

[Math Progress](#) streamlines assignment creation and provides performance insights to help educators save time and accelerate learning outcomes. Math Progress provides educators with the ability to easily create assessments with an intelligent question generator, review insights for each learner's progress over time, and benchmark with class performance metrics, including overall grade, number of points, difficulty rating, and mistakes and misconceptions identified, to better understand learning trends.

Financial Services and Insurance

[Meeting Prep for Financial Services](#) combines the power of generative AI with rich industry data — transforming financial services by enabling professionals to quickly access and synthesize critical insights for faster, more efficient and better-informed decision-making. Now available in Microsoft Teams for organizations with requisite licensing, this is the newest addition to [Microsoft Cloud for Financial Services](#) and an innovation from Microsoft's long-term strategic partnership with LSEG (London Stock Exchange Group). The new app, built and optimized for Microsoft Teams and Microsoft 365 Copilot, offers deep links and interoperability with LSEG's next-generation data and analytics workflow solution, LSEG Workspace, to augment the workflow experience.

Government

[New innovations in the Microsoft Cloud for Sovereignty](#) are designed to help customers navigate the complexities of regulatory frameworks, streamline compliance processes, and enhance their overall data control. By leveraging these new capabilities, public sector organizations can confidently advance their digital transformation while maintaining the

highest standards of compliance and data protection. The updates include [Policy portfolio enhancements](#), helping organizations customize deployments to align with specific custom policy frameworks; [Sovereign Landing Zone in Terraform](#), providing advanced sovereignty controls and capabilities supporting regulatory compliance for organizations with stringent regulatory requirements; and [Guidelines for Azure Databricks in regulated industry](#), with a reference architecture to help users build a well-architected environment that adheres to best practices for regulated industries.

Manufacturing and Mobility

[By combining Rockwell's expertise in industrial automation with Microsoft's cutting-edge cloud and AI capabilities](#), this integration aims to bridge the gap between traditional industrial practices and modern digital applications, unlocking the full potential of industrial data to drive operational efficiency and sustainable growth. The innovations include:

- [Azure IoT Operations](#), which integrates with Rockwell's digital offerings, including [FactoryTalk® Optix™](#), to capture critical insights from existing sites without extensive retrofitting, making it simpler to harness data and insights from physical operations and across the global enterprise, and enable comprehensive AI-enhanced decision-making.
- [FactoryTalk Design Studio Copilot](#), which expands Rockwell's FactoryTalk Design Studio software-as-a-service design software with a new Generative AI Copilot, developed in partnership with Microsoft. Powered by Microsoft Azure OpenAI Service, it enables engineers to use natural language prompts for tasks like product guidance, code generation, troubleshooting and code explanations, making system design faster and more intuitive.
- FT Optix Food & Beverage Model, which brings the power of AI and generative AI directly to the manufacturing floor. The adapted AI model, which leverages the power of Microsoft's Phi-3 small language models (SLM), will provide machine operators with AI-guided instructions, assisting in process and device operations via the familiar FactoryTalk Optix interface.

In collaboration with Cerence, [a new pioneering embedded Small Language Model](#) will enable customers in equipped vehicles to enjoy advanced in-car control for entertainment, cabin comfort, and other systems and services, even in areas of limited or no cloud connectivity, providing a rich experience for vehicle occupants. The CaLLM (Cerence Automotive Large Language Model) Edge is fine-tuned on Microsoft's Phi-3 family of small language models, using Cerence's extensive automotive dataset to deliver highly specialized AI that can handle a variety of automotive use cases. Its core capabilities include implicit and explicit car control commands (for example, temperature, windows and doors, seat position) and point-of-interest search and navigation, as well as conversational interaction.

The [new copilot for NX X software leverages an adapted AI model](#) that enables users to ask natural language questions, access detailed technical insights, and streamline complex design tasks for faster and smarter product development. The copilot will provide CAD designers with AI-driven recommendations and best practices to optimize the design process within the NX X experience, helping engineers implement best practices faster to ensure expected quality from design to production.

[Sight Machine's Factory Namespace Manager](#) is one of the first partner-enabled adapted AI models for manufacturing offered within the Azure AI model catalog, [announced](#) at Ignite. Factory Namespace Manager makes the universe of plant data in the manufacturing enterprise AI-ready, enabling manufacturers to optimize production and energy use in plants, balance production with supply chain logistics and demand and integrate factory data with enterprise data systems for end-to-end optimization. The model analyzes existing factory data, learns the patterns and rules behind the naming conventions, and then automatically translates these data field names into standardized corporate formats.

Retail and Consumer Goods

[Store Operations Agent in Copilot Studio](#) revolutionizes how store associates and managers handle daily tasks with its headless architecture that integrates into applications (including Dynamics 365 Finance, Dynamics 365 Commerce and ServiceNow) or websites — and to other enterprise resource planning (ERP) software and applications. Partners can also utilize the Store Operations Agent alongside their own solutions to accelerate customer adoption. Accenture Avanade has launched a Clienteling copilot, which has Store Operations Agent embedded and assists store associates in managing daily tasks efficiently. It also offers natural language query for store policies and procedures, enabling associates and managers to make informed decisions. Ready-to-deploy plugins currently include product search or inventory search, order details, incident management, task management, and omnichannel access — and will be continually updated to help partners scale operations.

[Personalized Shopping Agent](#) can engage in natural language conversations to understand and respond to shoppers' needs, providing tailored recommendations based on the shopper's specific requirements and preferences. It can also handle specific requests, such as finding matching items or suggesting outfits for specific occasions. The agent leverages Retail Data Solutions, using aggregated product catalogs and AI orchestration tools to provide accurate and contextually relevant answers.

[Retail data solutions in Microsoft Fabric](#) helps retailers unify, enrich and model their data and generate insights faster. This platform enables customers to integrate data from different systems and offers ready-to-use agents to speed up AI transformation. Included

are Retail Industry data model (plan and design data solutions for governance, reporting, business intelligence and analytics); Frequently Bought Together model (use insights to enhance upselling, shelf optimization and store efficiency); and Sitecore OrderCloud Connector (standardize commerce data from Sitecore OrderCloud to gain actionable insights).

Sustainability

[Sustainability Data Solutions in Microsoft Fabric](#) empower organizations to leverage a single, AI-powered platform for centralizing enterprise data and analytics. Using these solutions, organizations can centralize and transform disparate data into one sustainability data lake that conforms to a standardized ESG schema, driving progress faster by simplifying and accelerating analytics, collaboration and decision-making.

LinkedIn

LinkedIn [launched](#) Tango, the fourth-ever LinkedIn Game, a once-a-day puzzle that takes only minutes and is designed to inspire connecting with a member's network and fostering friendly conversation and competition. Games were enhanced with other improvements to spark more conversations and banter.

[Dynamic cover photos](#) were introduced as a new feature for Premium Business subscribers to showcase more about what they offer in a compelling way. Subscribers can now select up to five photos to create a rotating slideshow on their Profile.

[A new AI-powered coaching feature on LinkedIn Learning](#) helps learners practice human skills through interactive scenarios using text or voice. Learners can practice delivering performance reviews, having conversations on work-life balance, and giving feedback.

[Accelerate](#), our automated B2B marketing campaign creation experience powered by AI, is now available globally. In as little as five minutes, Accelerate recommends an end-to-end campaign and automatic optimizations to reach the right B2B audience with engaging creatives, which customers can adjust and fine-tune before they launch their campaign.

[Companies Hub](#) in Campaign Manager can now help B2B marketers plan, activate and measure campaigns based on how companies engage with their brand on LinkedIn.

[Post boosting for Lead Generation](#) can now help marketers extend their reach beyond existing LinkedIn Page followers by turning organic posts into ads.

[Lead IQ](#) is a new feature in Sales Navigator that helps sellers make their interaction with a lead more productive and valuable by providing sellers with more information about a

lead's professional background and company information. Lead IQ does so by aggregating information shared on LinkedIn with firmographic data made available through the Account IQ feature in Sales Navigator.

Microsoft Security

[Data Security Posture Management for AI \(DSPM for AI\)](#) provides visibility into how sensitive data flows through Copilot prompts and responses, highlighting any risks related to data oversharing, data leakage and noncompliant use of Microsoft 365 Copilot. Instead of restricting AI use to avoid these outcomes, DSPM for AI suggests protection policies that use existing Microsoft Purview features. In addition to Microsoft 365 Copilot, DSPM for AI supports other copilots from Microsoft, and AI apps from third-party large language modules (LLMs).

With new AI regulations emerging, many teams want to quickly understand how to adhere to these requirements when deploying M365 Copilot. To support this need we have released four new [AI compliance assessments](#), including the EU AI Act, NIST AI RMF, ISO 42001 and ISO 23894, in Microsoft Purview Compliance Manager to help assess and strengthen organizations' compliance controls. These out-of-the-box assessment templates help identify the necessary technology, people and process control requirements by providing step-by-step guidance on recommended actions and tracking a compliance score, which measures current compliance posture and progress.

Azure

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

Azure Core Infrastructure

[Azure Elastic SAN for Azure VMware Solution](#) offers Azure VMWare Solution customers an Azure-deployed, fully managed, VMware Certified storage area network that can achieve massive scale, is easy to manage, and has redundancy built in at a low total cost of ownership.

[Enhancements on Azure Container Storage for performance, scalability and operations insights](#) optimize ephemeral disk performance, boost read and write IOPS, and improve reliability for stateful containers on Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS).

[Enhancements on Elastic SAN on resiliency, scalability and integration with Azure VMware Solution](#) include an availability SLA for Elastic SAN to ensure reliability for mission-critical workloads. Additionally, CRC protection is now available, enabling checksum verification at

the volume group level to safeguard data integrity by rejecting connections without CRC32C set for both header and data digests.

[Azure NetApp Files cool access support for large volumes](#) allows tiering of infrequently accessed data on large volumes under standard, premium or ultra storage, to a lower-cost storage tier. This allows customers with large capacity workloads to take advantage of cost savings for the inactive data.

Customers can now create [an Azure NetApp Files volume as small as 50 GiB](#) compared to the initial minimum size of 100 GiBs. This enhancement is particularly beneficial for workloads that require smaller volumes, such as Kubernetes. This allows customers to right-size their storage volumes more appropriately when volume usage is between 50 GiB and 100 GiB, helping them save costs and free up space in the capacity pool.

[Live Resize for Azure Premium SSD v2 and Ultra Disks](#) dynamically increases the storage capacity of disks without causing any disruption to applications. To reduce costs, customers can begin with smaller disks and gradually increase their storage capacity without experiencing any downtime.

[Azure Compute Fleet](#) has been updated to expand to all Azure public regions, facilitating the rate and scale at which Azure compute infrastructure can be deployed, particularly that of utilization-optimizing Spot VMs. In addition, critical preview features, such as [multiregion deployment](#) and [attribute-based VM selection](#), have been rolled out that greatly enhance and streamline the infrastructure deployment customer experience.

[Virtual Machines Scale Sets zonal expansion](#) significantly enhances the business continuity and resilience this service can provide, reducing downtime up to 5x and achieving a higher availability service level agreement (SLA) of 99.99% compared to the previous 99.95%. VMSS delivers these new capabilities by enabling VMs to be distributed across multiple availability zones, so customers can transition their virtual machine scale sets from a regional to zonal resiliency strategy or can add additional zones to a scale set.

[Standby Pools for VMSS with Flexible Orchestration](#) greatly increase customers' ability to scale quickly and respond to changing workload demands by creating pools of pre-provisioned VMs running on standby, ready to launch when needed. The virtual machines in the standby pool complete all post provisioning processes such as installing applications, downloading data packages, etc. When a scale set requires more instances, the instances in the standby pool are automatically moved into the scale set, significantly reducing the time it takes to scale out a Virtual Machine Scale Set.

[Azure Cobalt 100 Arm-based VMs](#) are Azure's latest generation Arm-based VMs using our in-house Cobalt 100 chipset. Compared to our previous generation Ampere Altra VMs, the Cobalt 100 VMs offer up to a 100% performance improvement for web servers, .NET applications and in-memory cache applications; up to a 50% performance improvement on

Java-based workloads; and up to a 40% performance improvement on other workloads. They also offer up to a 50% improvement in price-performance, making them among the most cost-effective Arm-based VM offerings among the major hyperscalers.

[Azure VMs based on the 4th Gen AMD EPYC™ processor](#) consist of our new general purpose Dasv6-series and Dalsv6-series, our new memory-optimized Easv6-series VM series, and our new compute-optimized Falsv6, Fasv6 and Famsv6 VM series. They offer better performance and better price-performance than our previous-generation AMD-based VMs, which can serve a wide range of workloads, including data analytics, web and application servers, databases, caches, and more. Specifically, compared to their v5 counterparts, these new VMs offer 80% better remote storage performance, 400% faster local storage speeds, 20% networking bandwidth improvement, and 45% higher NVMe SSD capacity per vCPU for Daldsv6, Dadsv6, Eadsv6-series VMs with local disks.

[Azure Boost DPU](#), Microsoft's first in-house DPU, is designed to run Azure's data-centric workloads with high efficiency and low power, absorbing multiple components of a traditional server into a single piece of silicon. Azure Boost DPU integrates high-speed Ethernet and PCIe interfaces, along with network and storage engines, data accelerators, and security features, into a fully programmable system on chip.

[Azure Integrated HSM](#) is Microsoft's newest in-house security chip, a dedicated Hardware Security Module (HSM) that strengthens key protection by enabling the use of encryption and signing keys while they remain within the bounds of an HSM, without incurring the typical network access latencies for HSM access.

Azure Strategic Workloads

SAP

[Azure Mv3 High Memory virtual machines \(GA\) and Mv3 Very High Memory virtual machines](#) give customers faster insights, more uptime, lower total cost of ownership and improved price-performance for their most demanding SAP workloads. These next-generation VMs are supported for RISE with SAP customers as well.

VMware

[Resource Health for Azure VMware Solution](#), an Azure native feature, now monitors the health of Azure VMware Solution (AVS) Private Cloud resources, provides recommended actions for current issues, and allows reporting on past and present resource health. Resource Health offers customers a personalized dashboard to monitor the health of their Private Cloud resources, and provides insights into periods of resource unavailability, enhancing reporting and triage capabilities. Using Azure Monitor, customers can also configure alerts to notify them of availability changes to their cloud resources. A set of critical alerts has been activated to notify and provide customers with reasons for

host replacements, root causes of Storage and Network alarms, actions taken by Microsoft, and any required customer actions.

Azure VMware Solution is now approved to be added as a service within the DoD SRG Impact Level 4 Provisional Authorization (PA) in [Azure Government](#) (AVS IL4). AVS is currently available in Azure Government in both Arizona and Virginia.

Oracle Database@Azure

[Microsoft Purview integration](#) allows [Microsoft Purview](#) to now support Oracle Database@Azure so customers can govern, manage and secure their Oracle data, ensuring compliance and improved data governance for Oracle Exadata Service and Oracle Autonomous Database Service.

Oracle GoldenGate [integration with Microsoft Fabric now supports open mirroring](#) to streamline the management of complex data updates across a variety of enterprise data sources.

The new regions of [Italy North and Brazil South](#) are now generally available.

Azure and Hybrid and Edge Management

[Azure Local](#) brings the power of Azure compute and platform services to customers' distributed and on-premises locations, addressing both mission-critical and cloud-native applications like AI with flexibility and scalability.

[Windows Server Management enabled by Azure Arc](#) includes an expanded set of modern server management capabilities including Azure Update Manager, Machine Configuration, and Change Tracking and Inventory, which are now available for free to customers enrolled in Windows Server Pay as you Go or with active Software Assurance coverage for their Azure Arc-enabled servers.

[Azure IoT Operations](#) is a full-stack data plane that runs in an on-premises Arc-enabled Kubernetes cluster. It empowers customers to discover, collect, process and send data from the edge to the cloud using open standards and open protocols managed and supported by Microsoft.

Azure HPC + AI

[Azure H200 Virtual Machine](#) leverages the power of the NVIDIA H200 Tensor Core GPU, which offers a 76% increase in High Bandwidth Memory over the H100 GPUs to deliver higher performance on state-of-the-art Generative AI models.

[Azure GB200 Virtual Machine](#) is powered by the NVIDIA GB200 Grace Blackwell Superchip, featuring [NVIDIA Grace CPUs](#) and [NVIDIA Blackwell GPUs](#) with exceptional AI supercomputing capabilities for training state-of-the-art frontier models as well as accelerating generative inferencing.

[Azure HBv5 Virtual Machine](#) is up to 8x faster than competitors and up to 35x faster than end-of-cycle on-premises deployments. The VM is optimized for the most memory bandwidth-intensive HPC applications, such as computational fluid dynamics, automotive and aerospace simulation, weather modeling, energy research, molecular dynamics, computer aided engineering, and more.

Azure Data

[Azure Cosmos DB vector database integration with LangChain.js](#) is a framework of tools, components and abstractions that makes it easier to build applications which leverage the capabilities of LLMs, such as OpenAI's GPT models. Customers can use this integration to efficiently manage fast and accurate data retrieval with greater ease in JavaScript applications. This new LangChain.js integration makes the most of Azure Cosmos DB scalability and efficient vector search capabilities, simplifying applications development and large language model (LLM) orchestration tasks.

[Azure Database for MySQL Business Critical server tier is now zone-resilient by default](#), ensuring seamless server recovery in the face of zonal outages by hosting data and logging files in zone-redundant storage at no additional cost. This new enhancement is critical for maintaining business continuity on mission-critical MySQL workloads, even without configuring high availability. Existing servers configured for zone-redundant HA continue to benefit from the 99.99% uptime service level agreement (SLA) provided by built-in zonal redundancy and hot standby. In addition, servers configured for same-zone HA and non-HA also benefit — they can recover quickly from zonal outages using the zone-redundant backups.

Accuracy of the information retrieval pipeline plays a key role in the quality of advanced Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) applications. Using the new [Semantic Ranker Solution Accelerator](#), customers can extend Azure Database for PostgreSQL with a semantic ranker model and use it directly in PostgreSQL queries to boost accuracy of the vector search results. This solution accelerator provides automated deployment scripts that customers can use to provision a semantic ranker model as an Azure Machine Learning inference endpoint, as well as SQL user-defined functions for PostgreSQL that can be used

to integrate the semantic ranker model into SQL queries. This solution accelerator requires azure_ai extension.

[Mirroring Azure SQL Database in Fabric](#) is a simple, free and frictionless way to replicate a snapshot of incremental data changes in Azure SQL Database to Fabric OneLake. Delta tables keep data in sync in near real time. Mirroring is a low-cost, zero-code, zero-ETL solution that brings data together, driving faster time to insight.

Now generally available, [instance pools](#) give customers a flexible way to deploy compute resources for Azure SQL Managed Instance. Customers can deploy cost-effective, two-vCore instances, providing an ideal platform as a service (PaaS) target for small instances when migrating SQL Server to Azure or when running existing Azure SQL Managed Instance fleet. Customers can also resize an instance pool, use it to contain instances of different sizes, or move instances in or out of pools.

[DiskANN in Azure Cosmos DB for NoSQL](#), developed by Microsoft Research, is a powerful algorithm for low-latency, cost-effective and highly accurate vector search at scale. It uses an SSD-based index to handle large datasets efficiently, making it ideal for AI applications requiring fast and precise search capabilities.

Azure Analytics

[Healthcare data solutions in Microsoft Fabric](#) help organizations accelerate time to value by addressing the critical need to efficiently transform healthcare data into a suitable format for analysis. With these solutions, organizations can conduct exploratory analysis, run large-scale analytics, and power generative AI with their healthcare data. By using intuitive tools such as data pipelines and transformations, organizations can easily navigate and process complex datasets, overcoming the inherent challenges associated with unstructured data formats.

[Fabric Real-Time Intelligence](#) delivers instant insights and analytics to drive faster, data-informed decisions.

[The Fabric Workload Development Kit](#) enables developers to build and deploy workloads seamlessly within the Fabric ecosystem.

[Fabric OneLake Catalog](#) serves as a centralized platform to explore and manage the entire Fabric data estate, enhancing data discovery and governance.

[API for GraphQL](#) is a data access layer in Microsoft Fabric that enables quick and efficient querying of multiple data sources with a widely adopted and familiar API technology. The API allows developers to abstract the specifics of backend data sources so they can

concentrate on the application's logic and provide all the data a client needs, efficiently, in a single API call.

[Sustainability data solutions in Microsoft Fabric](#) provide unique capabilities to ingest, harmonize and process disparate data for specific sustainability scenarios.

[Azure Private Link](#) is now generally available for Databricks serverless and Mosaic AI Model Serving workloads across 60+ Azure services.

[Materialized Views and Streaming Tables for Databricks SQL](#) enable simple, fast and efficient ingestion and transformation for Databricks SQL.

[Publish to Microsoft Power BI Service from Unity Catalog](#) is an integration that makes it easy for customers to create Power BI web reports from their Unity Catalog data in just a few clicks. This feature enables seamless catalog integration and data model sync, allowing customers to publish datasets directly to Power BI Service without leaving the Databricks UI.

[Azure Databricks + Azure Cobalt 100 VM](#) are now available to run on Azure Cobalt 100-powered VMs, enhancing performance for its users. ADB customers can choose Cobalt SKUs in the following 13 regions: Canada Central, Central US, East US 2, East US, Germany West Central, Japan East, North Europe, Southeast Asia, Sweden Central, Switzerland North, UAE North, West Europe, West US 2, and Mexico Central.

Digital and App Innovation

[Sidecar extensibility for App Service Linux](#) enables developers to extend existing applications for scenarios such as monitoring, logging and caching without making complex changes to the primary application code. Sidecar extensibility also enables adding AI capabilities to existing applications, for instance, adding vector database providers. With automatic scaling, App Service will automatically scale out the number of running instances to keep up with the flow of incoming requests and when incoming request traffic slows down, automatically scale in application by reducing the number of running instances.

With the general availability of Vaulted Backup support in [Azure Backup for Azure Kubernetes Service \(AKS\)](#), organizations can easily meet compliance requirements, enhance operational resilience, and protect cloud-native applications from regional disasters. Cross-Region Restore supports critical failover capabilities, ensuring business continuity and disaster recovery compliance, while long-term retention (LTR) for up to 10 years enables customers to meet global compliance frameworks. Finally, immutable vaults

and role-based access control protect backup data from ransomware and unauthorized access.

[Trusted Launch enabled nodes](#) are now generally available on AKS. [Trusted launch](#) improves the security of generation 2 virtual machines (VMs) by protecting against advanced and persistent attack techniques. It enables administrators to deploy AKS nodes, which contain the underlying virtual machines, with verified and signed bootloaders, OS kernels and drivers. By using secure and measured boot, administrators gain insights and confidence of the entire boot chain's integrity.

[Advanced Container Networking Service](#) for Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) is a cloud native purpose-built solution to enhance security and observability for Kubernetes and containerized environments. It focuses on delivering a seamless and integrated experience that enables customers to maintain robust security postures, ensure comprehensive compliance, and gain deep insights into their network traffic and application performance. Advanced Container Networking Service offers network metrics at node-level, pod-level and at L4 with DNS and TCP statistics ensuring that no aspect of the network goes unnoticed. These metrics are critical for identifying performance bottlenecks and resolving network issues before they impact services.

Customers can now [leverage the enhanced capabilities of .NET 9](#), such as significant performance improvements, adaptive garbage collection and support for ARM64 optimizations, to build and deploy cloud-native and AI-powered applications more efficiently, fully supported by Azure PaaS services. They can also take advantage of seamless integration with Azure services to scale and manage their .NET 9 applications with improved observability and reduced cloud costs.

[Azure Functions Flex Consumption](#) is a new Azure Functions hosting plan that builds on the consumption pay-per-second serverless billing model with automatic scale down to zero when not in use for cost efficiency. The Flex Consumption plan allows developers to seamlessly integrate with enterprise virtual networks at no extra cost, ensuring secure and private communication. New capabilities include fast and large elastic scale, instance size selection, private networking, longer running executions, and concurrency control. Customers can run their serverless enterprise apps with negligible cold-start latency using always-ready Flex Consumption instances.

[Azure Container Apps Dynamic Sessions](#) are a fast, sandboxed, ephemeral compute, suitable for running AI-generated, untrusted code at scale in hostile multitenancy scenarios. Each session has full compute isolation using Hyper-V. To build AI agents or copilots, large language models (LLMs) are paired with a code interpreter. A code interpreter enables an agent or copilot application to extend an LLM's abilities to perform complex tasks such as solving mathematical and reasoning problems, analyzing data, and generating graphics and charts. With Dynamic sessions, developers can build their own

custom copilots by adding code interpreter sessions to popular frameworks like LangChain, LlamaIndex and Semantic Kernel in just few lines of code.

Developer Tools, Services and GitHub

[GitHub Copilot Free Tier](#) is now available to empower Visual Studio Code developers with AI-assistance at no cost to them. Every [Visual Studio Code user can now leverage](#) 2,000 code completions and 50 chat interactions per month, multi-line edits, and model switcher with GPT-4o and Sonnet 3.5

[GitHub Enterprise Cloud with data residency in the EU](#) is generally available. GitHub Enterprise Cloud offers customers a robust, enterprise-grade development platform designed to enhance productivity, collaboration, and agility in software development, while providing the flexibility and control to choose where your code is stored, starting with the European Union (EU) and expanding to more regions in the future. Customers will also be able to monitor the status and availability of our services by region via the GitHub status webpage.

[Copilot Chat on GitHub is now generally available for all users](#). Users can access an immersive chat at github.com/copilot, offering smarter and faster responses tailored to their needs. Users interact with their codebase in real-time, generate and refine code effortlessly, and navigate GitHub using natural language. They can also leverage a variety of models, find and return to previous chats, and leverage these capabilities across their codebase without limits on how many repos may be indexed.

[GitHub Copilot Metrics API is now available](#) to all customers of GitHub Copilot Business and GitHub Copilot Enterprise. The GitHub Copilot Metrics API provides information about GitHub Copilot usage within your GitHub enterprise, organizations, and teams. Data from the API can be combined with an organization's own data to create greater visibility into how Copilot fits into the bigger picture of your software development cycle.

[Copilot secret scanning is now generally available](#). Copilot secret scanning, which detects generic passwords using AI, offers greater precision for unstructured credentials that can cause security breaches if exposed.

[Content exclusion for GitHub Copilot](#) is now generally available for all Copilot Business and Copilot Enterprise users! This feature, previously available only in beta, allows you to control which code GitHub Copilot can access to generate suggestions. When you exclude content from Copilot:

- Code completion will not be available in the affected files.

- The content in affected files will not inform code completion suggestions in other files.
- The content in affected files will not inform GitHub Copilot Chat's responses.

Azure AI

[Azure AI Foundry management center](#), now available in Azure AI Foundry portal, provides cross-functional teams with simplified, centralized management and governance controls for GenAI applications. Now, AI development, operations and compliance teams can easily create, manage and audit their organizations' hubs, projects and resources from within the Azure AI Foundry portal, reducing the need to visit Azure Portal or different areas of Azure AI Foundry portal for day-to-day administrative tasks. From management center, users get insight into key subscription details, such as access privileges, quota usage and connected resources, to help ensure projects are compliant. For deeper insights, like network configurations and latency, management center also provides IT admins with links to relevant areas of Azure Portal.

[Data and service connections in Azure AI Foundry](#) enable IT admins and developers to easily create secure data and service references within their Azure AI Foundry projects. These connections provide [seamless access](#) to Azure AI services, such as Azure AI Search, Azure OpenAI Service and Azure AI Content Safety, and multiple data sources, such as Microsoft OneLake, Azure Blob Storage and Azure Data Lake Gen2, without the need to duplicate data within a project. Instead, connections provide a reference to the existing service or data source, enhancing collaboration and productivity. Connections also ensure users won't need to include sensitive secrets in scripts or code, thereby enhancing security and simplifying connection management.

[Azure AI model inference API](#) provides developers with a unified and consistent way to consume predictions from diverse foundational models deployed on Azure AI. Accessible through the Azure AI Foundry SDK and REST endpoints, the API supports multiple modalities, including text embeddings, chat completions and image embeddings. This offering enables developers to integrate different models seamlessly without changing their underlying code, ensuring flexibility in selecting the best model for specific tasks. The API also supports extensibility, [allowing additional model-specific parameters](#) to be passed through for advanced use cases.

[Evaluations for quality metrics](#) are now [generally available](#) in Azure AI Foundry, accessible through the code-first Azure AI Foundry SDK experience and no-code Azure AI Foundry portal. These evaluators provide a scalable way to assess text-based models and applications against key performance and quality metrics. This update also includes improvements to preexisting AI-assisted metrics as well as explanations for evaluation results to help ensure they are interpretable and actionable.

[Azure OpenAI Service Model Updates and Customization Enhancements](#) allow customers to create more comprehensive training datasets that include visual elements, enhancing the model's ability to understand and generate content based on images. Azure OpenAI models fine-tuning is now generally available in Azure AI Foundry portal. This means that all customers can fine-tune Azure OpenAI models, such as GPT-4, GPT-4o and GPT-4o mini, directly within Azure AI Foundry. This integration provides a seamless experience for managing and deploying fine-tuned models, with enhanced reliability and performance improvements over the preview version.

[The Phi-4 research model is now available on Azure AI Foundry](#). The 14B parameter SLM, known for its exceptional complex reasoning capabilities in areas such as mathematics and conventional language processing, has been released on Azure AI Foundry. This model operates under a Microsoft Research License Agreement (MSRLA), with a more open model expected soon. Phi-4 competes with other small models like GPT-4o mini, Gemini 2.0 Flash and Claude 3.5 Haiku, making it a remarkable addition to the Phi family that continues to push the boundaries of size versus quality.

Azure Essentials

[Azure Essentials](#) helps customers improve the reliability, security and ongoing performance of their cloud and AI investments by providing a single place to access a comprehensive set of resources including tooling, skilling, guidance, reference architectures and best practices. Within Azure Essentials, the new AI scenario within the Cloud Adoption Framework equips technical decision-makers with prescriptive guidance to help prepare organizations to deploy AI workloads in production. Similarly, the new AI workload within the Azure Well-Architected Framework supports architects in decision-making when designing their AI workloads.

Azure Datacenter

Microsoft launched two new datacenter regions in Q2. The [New Zealand North](#) region launched in December, making Microsoft the first hyperscale cloud provider in the country. The [Taiwan North](#) region launched in November, enabling Taiwan's highly regulated industries the opportunity to enjoy secure and compliant cloud services.

Gaming

Xbox [launched](#) the Xbox Wireless Controller – Ghost Cipher Special Edition, the [refreshed Xbox Wireless Headset](#), the [Xbox Series X – 1TB Digital Edition](#), [Xbox Series X – 2TB Galaxy Black Special Edition](#), and the [Xbox Series S – 1TB \(White\)](#).

Xbox also introduced [new AI solutions to protect players from unwanted messages](#) and rolled out an AI-powered [Support Virtual Agent](#) to help players more efficiently solve their support-related gaming issues.

"Call of Duty: Black Ops 6" [launched](#) for Xbox Series X|S, PC, and on day one with Game Pass, which set records for the biggest "Call of Duty" launch ever.

Xbox [announced](#) Xbox Cloud Gaming (Beta) support for "Call of Duty: Black Ops 6," "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare III" and "Call of Duty: Warzone." It also [launched](#) the "Call of Duty: Black Ops 6" collection in Xbox Design Lab and the [Xbox Series X Console Wrap – "Call of Duty: Black Ops 6."](#)

"Call of Duty" shared a [community update](#) regarding its efforts on Ricochet Anti-Cheat plans, including how it prepared for the launch of "Call of Duty: Black Ops 6," and a [blog post](#) highlighting the full details of "Call of Duty: Mobile" Season 10 and fifth anniversary content, including 1 billion total downloads stat.

Xbox broadcasted the [Xbox Partner Preview](#), featuring a mix of 15 new and upcoming games from third-party partners including Remedy, Sega and several independent developers.

"Sea of Thieves" Season 14 [launched](#).

"Diablo IV"'s first expansion, "Vessel of Hatred," [launched](#) globally with new accessibility features along with Season 6.

"Diablo Immortal" update 3.2 [went live](#) with the return of Diablo to the franchise, including a massive fight against Diablo, a new zone, new story and several updates.

"StarCraft: Remastered and StarCraft 2: Campaign Collection" [went live](#) on PC Game Pass.

The new Arena of the Gods mode [launched](#) in "Age of Mythology: Retold."

"Crash Team Racing Nitro-Fueled" [launched](#) on Game Pass, adding an additional Activision title in the Game Pass catalog.

"Indiana Jones and the Great Circle" [launched](#) for Xbox Series X|S and on day one with Game Pass.

"Spyro Reignited Trilogy" [launched](#) on Game Pass, adding an additional Activision title in the Game Pass catalog.

"S.T.A.L.K.E.R. 2: Heart of Chornobyl" [launched](#) for Xbox Series X|S, PC, and day one with Xbox Game Pass.

"Hearthstone 31.2: Battlegrounds Season 9" [launched](#).

"Overwatch 2: Season 14" [launched](#) with a new hero, Hazard, an "Avatar: The Last Airbender" collaboration, and the limited return of 6v6 matches.

Xbox [released](#) "Microsoft Flight Simulator 2024" for Xbox Series X|S, PC, and day one with Game Pass. Additionally, the T.Flight Hotas One Microsoft Flight Simulator Edition flight stick peripheral [launched](#).

Minecraft released a [Dr. Seuss DLC](#), a [Moana 2 DLC](#) and an [Avatar: Rites of Passage DLC](#) in the Minecraft Marketplace. It also released [The Garden Awakens](#) game drop debuting the new Pale Garden biome and Creaking mob.

Minecraft in partnership with Warner Bros. released the [first official trailer for "A Minecraft Movie."](#)

Blizzard hosted a [special presentation](#) on its social channels celebrating 30 years of "Warcraft," including launching the remastered versions of "Warcraft 1" and "Warcraft 2" and updates added to "Warcraft 3: Reforged."

"The Remarkable Life of Ibelin," a documentary about a World of Warcraft (WoW) player, premiered on [Netflix](#). In addition, the annual WoW Charity Pet program to support Cure Duchenne, the organization researching a cure for the rare muscular disorder, featured in the documentary.

King hosted the "[Candy Crush Saga": R U Crush Proud? Event](#) where New Yorkers could get free, colorful Candy-inspired hairstyles to showcase their individuality and love for "Candy Crush."

Candy Crush Saga celebrated Warcraft's 30th anniversary with *Candy Crush Warcraft Games*, a special in-game tournament, with exclusive rewards.

"Candy Crush Soda Saga" celebrated its 10-year anniversary with a variety of activations.

Xbox [announced](#) that Game Pass Ultimate members can stream select games they own through TVs and browsers on supported devices like smartphones, PCs and tablets, in all 28 countries where Xbox Cloud Gaming (Beta) is available.

Blizzard hosted the [Overwatch Champions Series](#) at Dreamhack Sweden.

Xbox [announced](#) several new remapping options for the Xbox Adaptive Controller and Elite Series 2 Controller to support players with disabilities, and celebrated accessibility features in "Call of Duty: Black Ops 6" and "Diablo IV."

Xbox [launched](#) the 2024 Xbox Year in Review, allowing players to get a deep dive into their gaming style with personalized data.

Xbox [announced](#) a partnership with Netflix and SCUF Gaming, unveiling two limited-edition "Squid Game"-inspired controllers, celebrating the launch of "Squid Game" season 2. The pink controller was available for purchase with limited availability, while the green one was created for promotional purposes.

Xbox [rolled out](#) a new Home experience to all players. This announcement included the addition of 400 Xbox games beyond the Game Pass catalog now available for purchase in the Xbox app on Windows PC.

Microsoft Search, Advertising and News

The Copilot Consumer app, an [AI companion for everyone](#), was refreshed with a new simplified user experience with brand new features like Copilot Voice and Copilot Daily. Copilot Pro customers gained additional access to Copilot Voice and Copilot Daily, and the ability to access unreleased features like [Copilot Vision, through Copilot Labs](#).

[Copilot Vision is a new way to browse](#). With user permission, Copilot can now understand the full context of their online activity. When Copilot Vision is enabled, it sees the page the user is on, reads along, and can talk through the problem with the user. Vision is the first AI experience of its kind, available only on Microsoft Edge. We are taking the first step to make this a reality by rolling out Copilot Vision as a preview for a limited number of Pro subscribers through [Copilot Labs](#).

Microsoft Edge for Business [now natively supports enforcing data loss prevention](#) (DLP) controls via Microsoft Information Protection (MIP) sensitivity labels in Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents. This new feature allows users to protect sensitive information in browser scenarios, closing the document protection gap and providing seamless security for Office online documents.

The new [streamlined ads experience for Copilot](#), below Copilot's organic response, now includes a higher focus on relevancy, with fewer ad annotations and extensions. Ads are now triggered considering the whole conversation within a single session, not just the last prompt. A feature called ad voice is a summary that acknowledges the organic response and introduces the message from advertisers.

[Copilot in the Microsoft Advertising Platform](#) now includes two new capabilities: Diagnostics — giving users an extra set of eyes to inspect campaign setup, assess account health, diagnose where attention is needed, and propose what to do next; and Performance Snapshot — allowing advertisers to use natural language to obtain an

account or campaign-specific performance overview with a summary of key insights, trends and anomalies.

[Video ads](#) introduced performance features to allow advertisers to reach and engage their audience across desktop, mobile and tablet while they are browsing the web and watching online videos. A variety of bid strategies are now available, and advertisers can also layer on audience targeting. Audience targeting is also available for Connected TV ads. Shopping Audience campaigns were also improved with enhancements to the setup workflow and the ability to create Product Groups.

[Household attribution on Microsoft Invest](#) offers deeper insights into how audiences engage with ads across multiple screens.



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