

# MICROSOFT QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS, PRODUCT RELEASES AND ENHANCEMENTS

## FY25 Q1

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 Consumer/Commercial

[Copilot in Excel](#) is generally available and ready to assist data-driven professionals around the world. Now Copilot can reason over structured data, not just tables, and it can complete tasks such as adding filters or splitting text. Copilot can also help highlight important information with formula-based conditional formatting. We've added support for complex formulas like XLOOKUP and SUMIF. Copilot now recommends the best visual formats, like bar charts, line graphs or PivotTables and formulates the right sets of fields, layouts and filters. Additionally, Copilot can now analyze text, transforming raw textual data into actionable insights.

No one goes from an idea to a polished presentation in a single prompt. [Narrative builder](#) in Microsoft PowerPoint helps users work with Copilot like a partner, iterating together to build a great first draft in minutes while keeping them in control of the creative process.

[Copilot Pages](#) is a dynamic, persistent canvas in Copilot chat designed for multiplayer AI collaboration. With Pages, users can turn insightful Copilot responses into something durable with a side-by-side page that they can edit and, when ready, share with their team to collaborate.

[Copilot in OneDrive](#) brings the power of AI right into the OneDrive experience. With Copilot users can quickly generate concise summaries, compare files for key differences and answer any complex questions — all without having to open a single file.

The [Microsoft Copilot Dashboard](#) is included with Microsoft 365 Copilot licenses. The dashboard provides actionable insights to help organizations deploy Copilot, drive adoption based on workplace patterns and measure impact. The dashboard covers the following metric categories: Readiness, Adoption, Impact and Sentiment. Additionally, the Learning section provides a library of research and best practices to support your AI journey.

[Microsoft Copilot Academy](#) is now available to all Microsoft 365 Copilot license holders. The Microsoft Copilot Academy — curated by Microsoft experts — provides a comprehensive, structured learning experience designed to help users master the use of Copilot through hands-on learning activities and experiences. This will be available to all Microsoft 365 Copilot licenses — a paid Viva license is no longer required to access this academy. No additional registration or administrative action is required to start using Copilot Academy.

For users signed in with an Entra account, Microsoft Copilot now offers [enterprise data protection](#) at no additional cost. EDP refers to controls and commitments, under the [Data Protection Addendum](#) and [Product Terms](#), that apply to customer data for users of Microsoft 365 Copilot and Microsoft Copilot. This means that security, privacy, and compliance controls and commitments available for Microsoft 365 Copilot now extend to Microsoft Copilot prompts and responses. Prompts and responses are protected by the same terms and commitments widely trusted by our customers — not only for Microsoft 365 Copilot but also for emails in Exchange and files in SharePoint.

## Microsoft Teams

Bring more creativity and expression into conversations with [custom emojis and reactions](#) in Microsoft Teams. Upload custom emojis or reactions to personalize the conversation, reflect the team's culture, efficiently share status or share a lighthearted reaction. Once uploaded, custom emojis can only be used within the user's tenant, but once they are sent, they are visible to all members of the chat. IT admins can decide who has permission to create custom emojis and delete custom emojis or can turn off the capability altogether.

The [new meeting gallery in Microsoft Teams](#) provides a simpler, more predictable meeting presence, while enabling users to personalize the view to suit their needs. The new gallery places everyone in tiles of equal size whether their camera is turned on or off. The new meeting gallery will automatically optimize the visibility of certain participants to improve meeting engagement, like those with a raised hand and active speakers. When a Teams Room joins a Teams meeting, the video tile of the room automatically enlarges, offering a more inclusive experience for participants joining online. Remote attendees now have a clearer view into the room and can more easily spot who is speaking.

Everyone, regardless of microphone types in the room, can benefit from [precise speaker attribution in transcripts](#) in Teams Rooms on Windows. With this update, everyone can benefit from detailed meeting recaps and use Copilot, so they can find out who said what and get insightful responses to queries. Microsoft's cloud-based intelligent speaker recognition analyzes the distinct vocal characteristics of each speaker, such as pitch, tone and speaking style. First brought to Teams Rooms on Windows, the feature will expand to Teams Rooms on Android devices and the Teams desktop for bring your own device (BYOD) meeting spaces later this year.

In meetings today, there are two important conversations: the one that's spoken and the one happening in the chat. [Copilot in Teams can now review both the meeting transcript and the meeting chat](#) to give a complete picture of what was discussed. This feature is now generally available for both desktop and mobile.

[Proximity join using ultrasound](#) enables users to accurately identify and add a specific Teams Room to your meeting. Your device will detect ultrasonic signals emitted by Teams rooms and provide a precise list of nearby rooms on the pre-join screen. IT admins can configure settings for enabling ultrasound signals and automatic acceptance of the join prompt on users' laptops using XML files.

Eligible callers waiting in a call queue can [now receive a callback](#) to their phone number when an agent becomes available. Callers become eligible for a callback based on conditions configured by admins such as exceeding a certain wait time, the number of calls in the queue or the calls-to-agent ratio. Eligible callers will be given the option to request a callback after the music on hold finishes playing, and admins can customize the messaging, key press and notification email for failed callbacks.

After a meeting ends, users can [view a summary of everything that happened by opening the meeting event in calendar for Microsoft Outlook](#). The summary includes a link to the recap page, transcript, recording, notes, shared files, whiteboard and meeting details. Users licensed for intelligent meeting recap will also see highlights such as the number of speakers, number of times they were mentioned and number of AI-generated tasks. Intelligent meeting recap is available with a Teams Premium license or Copilot for Microsoft 365 license.

[AI-generated notes and tasks within intelligent meeting recap are now available in the Government Community Cloud \(GCC\) environment](#). Intelligent meeting recap streamlines post-meeting processes by providing a comprehensive recap of meeting events, identifying follow-up tasks, summarizing key points, and granting quick access to essential meeting details. This update adds to the features already available to GCC customers within intelligent recap, which include personalized timeline markers, speaker timeline markers, chapters and topics. A Teams Premium GCC license or a Microsoft Copilot for

Microsoft 365 GCC license is required.

There's no need to manually scroll and search through extensive chat histories. [Now when users activate Copilot in their chat, they can use time-based phrases like "yesterday," "last month," "6 months ago" or "December 2023" in prompts.](#) Copilot will efficiently locate and provide insights on information from the time period specified.

The [updated teams and channels onboarding flow](#) allow team owners to recommend specific channels to new members.

## Windows

[Copilot+ PCs](#) are our fastest, most intelligent Windows PCs ever. We expanded our Copilot+ PC portfolio with the introduction of new silicon technology — AMD Ryzen AI 300 series, Intel Core Ultra 200V series and Snapdragon\* X Plus 8-core platform. This growth underscores our commitment to innovation, providing customers with leading AI experiences, fast performance, long battery life, seamless connectivity, enhanced security and personalized productivity.

Qualcomm, AMD and Intel have delivered next-generation enhancements to their Snapdragon X, Ryzen AI 300 and Intel Core Ultra 200v processors. Through our deep co-engineering partnerships and updates in Windows 11, Copilot+ PCs powered by these next-gen silicon will fully realize these hardware improvements, resulting in meaningful advancements across performance, battery life, security and connectivity.

Windows App is generally [available for Windows, macOS, iOS, iPadOS and web browsers — and in public preview for Android.](#) This unified app serves as a secure gateway to connect to Windows across Windows 365, Azure Virtual Desktop, Remote Desktop, Remote Desktop Services, Microsoft Dev Box and more.

[GPU-enabled Cloud PCs are generally available for Windows 365 Enterprise and Frontline editions.](#) Users can now handle advanced workloads — that were traditionally limited by the constraints of local hardware — in the cloud with increased speed and efficiency. Sensitive data and high-value digital assets can be processed and stored securely in the cloud, mitigating the risks associated with local storage.

[AI-powered Cloud PC recommendations are generally available to all Windows 365 administrators.](#) This new AI-powered capability provides users with tailored recommendations to optimize the use and performance of Windows 365 Cloud PCs.

The new Windows 365 integration with [N-able Cloud Commander](#) provides managed service providers (MSPs) and cloud service providers (CSPs) with comprehensive management and monitoring capabilities for Windows 365 Cloud PCs. Windows 365 management capabilities are generally available on N-able Cloud Commander.

[Windows 365 Cross-region Disaster Recovery](#) creates snapshots of Cloud PCs placed in customer-defined, geographically distant locations, and they can be recovered to Cloud PCs running in the selected location during a disaster recovery event. Windows 365 Cross-region Disaster Recovery is especially relevant for highly regulated industries and organizations, or that have users or workflows which require geographic distance between primary and backup locations.

[Connection Reliability tab in Azure Virtual Desktop Insights is generally available](#). IT administrators can now monitor the connection resilience between users and Azure Virtual Desktop host pools. This gives administrators a simpler experience when it comes to understanding disconnection events and correlations between errors that affect their end users.

[Custom Shortpath settings at the host pool level are generally available in both Windows 365 and Azure Virtual Desktop](#). This allows users to granularly control how RDP Shortpath is used by configuring the networking settings of a host pool through the Microsoft Azure portal or Azure PowerShell.

## Dynamics 365

Dynamics 365 Sales includes the best of AI for sellers with Copilot available right within Sales Hub. Sellers can save time and effort associated with identifying core customer needs from lengthy request for proposal (RFP) documents with automatic AI-generated [proposal summaries](#). In addition, users can now interact with Copilot in Dynamics 365 Sales in [19 different languages](#), enabling them to prepare and interact with customers in a more personalized manner.

Dynamics 365 Field Service now includes a [new and intuitive mobile experience](#) to boost technician productivity. With a modern look and feel, easy access to critical job information such as [bookings](#), tasks, customer details, [configurable list views](#) and the ability to make quick updates, technicians can focus more on the job at hand than the time spent on their mobile application.

Dynamics 365 Customer Service enhanced unified routing capabilities to include [overflow handling](#) and [prioritizing queues](#) that improve customer wait times and ensure customer satisfaction with high-value or urgent conversations, by automatically assigning and transferring incoming requests to the service representatives available in the different queues.

[Dynamics 365 Contact Center](#) is a Microsoft Copilot-first contact center solution that delivers generative AI to every customer engagement channel. This standalone Contact

Center as a Service (CCaaS) solution enables customers to maximize their current investments by connecting to preferred customer relationship management systems (CRMs) or custom apps.

In [Dynamics 365 Business Central](#), more than [170 countries/regions](#) can now benefit from our cloud-based ERP designed specifically for small and medium-sized businesses. [Sustainability features](#) enable integration with third-party software to manage greenhouse gas emissions data. Additionally, the [Field Service Integration](#) application on AppSource simplifies setup and prepares for future scalability.

In [Dynamics 365 Supply Chain Management](#), the user experience is streamlined with Copilot summarizations in the [vendor](#), [product](#), [purchase order](#) and [sales order](#) forms. These summarizations provide quick insights and key details, allowing users to make faster, data-driven decisions without having to manually sift through information. This helps reduce time spent on administrative tasks and improves overall efficiency in managing supply chain processes.

In [Dynamics 365 Finance](#), the advanced [vendor invoice automation workspace](#) provides a comprehensive view of pending invoices, helping AP clerks manage exceptions more efficiently, while the Copilot summarizations in workflow approvals and customer page improve user experiences. Additionally, [global](#) electronic invoicing support expands with new capabilities for LATAM countries and Germany to meet local regulatory requirements.

In [Dynamics 365 Human Resources](#), a new summarization feature provides employees with a consolidated view of their time-off data, helping them quickly understand and plan their leave without needing to switch between pages.

## Microsoft 365 Copilot for Sales

[Microsoft 365 Copilot for Sales](#) brings together Microsoft 365 Copilot with a role-based agent that enhances sales experiences, streamlines business processes and automates repetitive tasks. It works with Microsoft Dynamics 365 Sales and Salesforce Sales Cloud CRM platforms and keeps sellers right in their flow of work in Microsoft Teams, Outlook and Word. Features made generally available this quarter include:

[Suggest updates to CRM opportunity](#) – Copilot for Sales detects and recommends the relevant updates to opportunity records, including stage, close date and estimated revenue, directly from emails or meetings.

[AI-powered planner tasks](#) – Copilot for Sales provides an intelligent and automated task-creation solution in Teams that includes automated prompting of potential tasks, task creation and assignment, and a centralized view of all tasks.

## Microsoft 365 Copilot for Service

[Microsoft 365 Copilot for Service](#) extends Microsoft 365 Copilot with a role-based agent that enhances service experiences. Seamlessly connect to existing contact center and CRM solutions, and access the Copilot service agent in Microsoft 365 apps — like Outlook and Teams — or embed in desktops for customer service reps.

[Features made generally available this quarter](#) are aimed at supporting service reps working in their CRM of choice:

Email assistance – Using the context of customer records and actions, such as cases and emails, the Copilot service agent can provide an email draft written in the voice of the organization to help service reps respond to customer queries.

Context-aware multiturn chats – The Copilot service agent identifies the service rep's intent and understands the context of CRM data, including customer records and cases, so it can provide answers tailored to service scenarios and better support the resolution of customer issues.

Case summarization – With case summarization capabilities, the Copilot service agent understands which case a service rep may be working on and summarizes the details for them, so service reps can ramp up on their assigned cases faster.

Real-time streaming – When service reps use the Copilot service agent to write an email response or ask a question, including multiturn questions, they can read the generated responses incrementally, without having to wait for the entire response to be generated.

## Microsoft Power Platform

[Agents built in Copilot Studio can now be published directly into Microsoft 365 Copilot.](#)

This enhances Copilot's capabilities by connecting to an organization's knowledge and data sources, making it significantly smarter about the business. These agents can integrate with existing business systems, enabling end users to take action in their current flow of work through common apps like Microsoft Teams.

Users can now also [create agents from within SharePoint and Microsoft 365 Copilot Business Chat](#) using natural language. After explaining what the agent should accomplish, users can choose which knowledge sources they'd like to integrate from across their organization's data, and when ready decide who will be able to use the agent.



[Co-authoring in Power Apps](#) now enables multiple makers to work on different parts of a canvas app simultaneously and see those changes in real time, speeding up development and making collaboration seamless and efficient.

[Power Catalog](#) allows makers to share and install customized, reusable components and templates, providing more useful starting points than generic templates. Built on the Solutions framework, it supports easy installation, updates and accessibility from authoring experiences like Canvas Studio. With enterprise-level security, Catalog items require approval before publication, and access controls ensure secure management of assets across the tenant.

Power Automate now enables users to [open two action panes side by side](#) to compare and paste values across the panes. With the use of a simple pinning gesture, makers can now create flows in a more efficient manner.

## Microsoft Industry Cloud

### Microsoft Cloud for Education

[Speaker Progress, AI-powered Learning Accelerator](#) is available worldwide and helps students develop confidence in their presentation skills. It reduces presentation-anxiety by providing AI-powered real-time feedback and coaching on public speaking skills like pace, pitch, filler words and more. Speaker Progress can also save educators time and create more opportunities for independent practice for class presentations.

[Microsoft Teams Assignments LMS integration](#) is available for Canvas and PowerSchool Schoology Learning. Teams Assignments integration brings the power of [Microsoft Learning Accelerators](#) and generative AI-powered educator tools to popular Learning Management systems (LMS) that schools use. It also brings other engaging activities such as Auto-graded Forms, MakeCode projects, Whiteboards and Reflect check-ins. Grades and feedback are automatically returned to the LMS gradebook, which simplifies process and saves educators time.

Microsoft is enabling [Khan Academy to provide free educator access to Khanmigo for Teachers](#) for all educators in 40+ countries. Khanmigo for Teachers is an AI-powered teaching assistant that frees up teachers' time so they can focus on what matters most — engaging with and supporting their students. Microsoft is donating access to Azure AI-optimized infrastructure to increase the availability of Khanmigo for Teachers, which will now be powered by Microsoft Azure OpenAI Service.

### Microsoft Cloud for HLS

Microsoft announced the launch of [unlocking next-generation AI capabilities with healthcare AI models](#), a collection of cutting-edge multimodal medical imaging foundation models available in the Azure AI Studio Model Catalog. Developed in collaboration with



partners like NVIDIA and Paige.ai, these AI models enable healthcare organizations to integrate and analyze diverse data types — ranging from medical imaging to genomics and clinical records.

[DAX Copilot: New customization options and AI capabilities for even greater productivity](#) was designed to further enhance, improve or ease workflows and how clinicians capture and create patient-related documentation, these capabilities simplify and streamline processes — giving clinicians more time to focus on taking better care of their patients, and themselves.

## Microsoft Security

The [Microsoft Entra Suite](#) is a comprehensive solution designed to deliver unified Zero Trust user access. It secures employee access to any cloud or on-premises application and resource from any location, consistently enforces least privilege access, and improves the employee experience.

Microsoft Sentinel is now available within the [Microsoft unified security operations platform](#), which delivers unified threat protection and posture management.

[Microsoft Purview Data Governance](#) is designed to help data leaders address key governance and security challenges with an AI-powered, business-friendly and unified approach.

## 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 Container Storage](#) now supports production-level stateful container workloads, simplifying storage management while increasing scalability and cost efficiency. Integrated with Kubernetes, it enables seamless storage operations through the Kubernetes API, with two storage options: Ephemeral Disks (Local NVMe/Temp SSD) and Azure Disks.

[Azure NetApp Files cross-zone replication](#) enables asynchronous replication from one Azure availability zone to another within the same region.

[Azure NetApp Files storage with cool access for all service levels](#) is a new capability, allowing Azure customers to configure a capacity pool with cool access, that moves cold (infrequently accessed) data transparently to an Azure storage account to help optimize costs.

[Azure NetApp Files Double encryption at-rest](#) feature provides multiple independent encryption layers, protecting against attacks to any single encryption layer.

The [Azure NetApp Files zone volume placement enhancement – Populate existing volume](#) feature lets users deploy new volumes in the availability zone of their choice, in alignment with Azure compute and other services in the same zone. With this enhancement users can now obtain and, if desired, populate previously deployed, existing volumes with the logical availability zone information. This feature will not move any volumes between zones.

[Access-based enumeration and nonbrowsable shares for SMB and dual-protocol Azure NetApp Files volumes](#) ensure users only see those files and folders in directory listings that they have permission to access.

[Azure NetApp Files Reserved Capacity](#) is available in stackable increments of 100TiB and 1PiB on Standard, Premium and Ultra service levels in a given region. Azure NetApp Files reserved capacity benefits are automatically applied to existing Azure NetApp Files capacity pools in matching region and service level.

The [Azure Data Box 80 TB is now generally available at Azure China](#) and is Azure's offline data transfer solution that lets you copy petabytes of data into or from Azure Storage in a quick, inexpensive and reliable way. The secure data transfer is accelerated using a proprietary Azure Data Box storage device. Customers in China can order a device to import or export data to/from any of the Azure China regions.

[Azure Storage Mover with Bandwidth Management](#) supports setting bandwidth management schedules for Storage Mover agents to optimize file migrations while ensuring a smooth network performance. This feature helps Storage Mover agents act as a "good neighbor" in on-premises data centers by limiting how much WAN link upload bandwidth they may consume at any point of the day.

Support to [forcibly detaching zone redundant \(ZRS\) data disks during zone outage](#) is now generally available for standalone virtual machines or virtual machine affected by zone failure. Customers will now be able to detach the ZRS data disks and attach them to another VM, decreasing the recovery time objective.

[NCC H100 v5 confidential VMs with NVIDIA H100 Tensor Core GPUs](#) offer a powerful combination of hardware-based data-in-use protection capabilities of the 4th generation AMD EPYC™ processor with the performance of NVIDIA H100 Tensor Core GPUs, ensuring the protection of data in GPU memory. These confidential VMs are ideal for inferencing, fine-tuning or training small to medium-sized models such as Whisper, Stable diffusion and its variants (SDXL, SSD), and language models such as Zephyr, Falcon, GPT2, MPT, Llama2, Wizard and Xwin.

The [attach and detach VMs on Virtual Machine Scale sets for a single fault domain](#) feature enables users to easily bring existing VMs outside a VM scale set in to a VM scale set with Flexible Orchestration Mode and a fault domain count of 1. After attaching a VM to the VMSS, it's considered part of the scale set and benefits from scale set features like autoscale, Instance Repair, Automatic OS Upgrades and more. Attaching the VM to the VMSS requires no downtime. Users can also remove specific VMs from the scale set easily, giving users more flexibility to manage VM scale sets.

[VMSS Automatic Instance Repairs \(Reimage and Restart Repair Actions\)](#) help Virtual Machine Scale Set customers achieve high application availability by automatically detecting and recovering unhealthy VM instances at runtime. Customers can now choose between Replace, Reimage (New) or Restart (New) as the default repair action performed in response to an "Unhealthy" application signal. These new options provide a less-impactful repair process, ensuring higher application availability while preserving VM properties and metadata for customers with sensitive workloads.

## Azure Strategic Workloads

[Azure VMware Solution supports portable VCF subscriptions](#) so now VMware customers with a portable VCF subscription may use it with Azure VMware Solution.

We [announced that Oracle Database@Azure enhancements](#) are now live, including 6 multizone regions, general availability of Oracle Zero Data Loss Autonomous Recovery Service for Exadata Database Service, and the general availability of the PayGo option for Oracle Autonomous Database service from the Azure Marketplace.

[Introducing Mv3 High Memory and Very High Memory virtual machines](#), the next-generation VMs that give customers lower total cost of ownership and improved price-performance for their most demanding SAP workloads. Mv3 HM VMs are supported for both native and RISE with SAP customers. This makes Microsoft the only public cloud provider that can provide HANA certified VMs from around 1TB memory to around 32TB memory, all powered by 4th generation Intel® Xeon® processors (Sapphire Rapids).

## Azure HPC + AI

[Azure ND H200 v5 Virtual Machine Series](#) are purpose-built AI VMs that represent the latest in Azure supercomputing capabilities to power training and inference of the most sophisticated AI models in the world. With these Azure VMs, thousands of NVIDIA H200 GPUs are connected to form specialized AI supercomputing clusters deployed to some of today's leading AI innovators, and offer maximum efficiency and performance for Azure's own AI services. The new Azure ND-series virtual machines (VMs) are optimized by taking a complete AI systems approach, and a single VM combines eight NVIDIA H200 SXM 141GB Tensor Core GPUs. The new supercomputing clusters built on ND H200 VMs will

also be used to scale the Azure inference fleet around the world, quadrupling the number of countries where Azure AI Services are available today.

## Azure Data

[Dynamic autoscale](#) helps customers save costs in database workloads by independently scaling nonuniform workloads per database partition and per Azure region.

[vCore-based Azure Cosmos DB for MongoDB integration with Semantic Kernel \(.NET\)](#) makes it even easier to get started using Azure Cosmos DB for vector search and retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) in your generative AI applications.

Customers can now choose to dynamically scale up IOPS based on workload needs with [IOPS scaling for Azure Database for PostgreSQL - Flexible Server](#). This helps ensure optimal performance during high-demand operations and gives the ability to scale down to save costs when demand decreases.

[Azure SQL Database Hyperscale elastic pools](#) enables customers to deploy their Hyperscale database into an [elastic pool](#), allowing them to share resources between databases within the pool and optimize costs for multiple databases with varying usage patterns.

[Dev Containers templates for Azure SQL Database](#) provide preconfigured development environments tailored for Azure SQL Database, making it easier for developers to integrate and work with Azure SQL Database in their projects.

[Increased cache sizes for Azure Cache for Redis](#) introduces its [highest-performance E200 and E400 SKUs \(GA\)](#), offering up to 400 GB of memory and 240 vCPUs, optimized for real-time data processing, large-scale caching and high-volume transactions.

## Azure Analytics

[Serverless compute for workflows](#) allows customers to run their Azure Databricks jobs without configuring and deploying infrastructure.

[Mosaic AI Vector search support for Hybrid search](#) on Azure Databricks is a powerful feature that combines the strengths of pretrained embedding models with the flexibility of keyword search.

[Database Mirroring for Snowflake](#) provides a seamless, no-ETL experience for customers integrating existing Snowflake data with the rest of their data in Microsoft Fabric.

[Microsoft OneLake shortcuts for Google Cloud Services \(GCS\) and S3 compatible sources](#) allow customers to seamlessly connect to their GCS and S3 compatible sources in OneLake without data movement or duplication. These shortcuts also support the on-premises data gateway, which customers can use to connect to their on-premises S3-compatible sources and GCS buckets protected by a virtual private cloud.

[Copilot in Microsoft Fabric for the Data Factory experience](#) allows customers to express their requirements using natural language when creating data integration solutions with Dataflows Gen2.

[Advanced network security features](#) bring enhanced features with the addition of private links, managed private endpoints and trusted workspace access. These features allow users to secure inbound access to Fabric from select virtual networks, connect securely to data sources behind firewalls, and ensure secure access to firewall-enabled Azure storage accounts.

Our Apache Spark-based big data execution engine, [Microsoft Fabric Runtime 1.3](#), optimized for both data engineering and data science workflows, has been fully updated and seamlessly integrated into the Fabric platform, along with all our components. With this announcement, all new workspaces will, by default, be based on the latest GA runtime version.

[Fast Copy support in Dataflow Gen2](#) will enhance the Dataflow Gen2 experience by adding support for large-scale data ingestion through the Copy Activity feature in pipelines. This upgrade significantly boosts Dataflow Gen2's data processing capabilities, enabling high-scale ELT (Extract-Load-Transform) operations.

[Git integration enhancements](#) will enable customers to now sync Fabric workspaces with Git repositories, leverage version control, and collaborate seamlessly using Azure DevOps or GitHub.

## Digital and App Innovation

[Model fine-tuning support for Kubernetes AI Toolchain Operator \(KAITO\)](#) is a Kubernetes operator that automates the AI/ML model inference or tuning workload in a Kubernetes cluster. The target models are popular open-sourced language models such as [falcon](#) and [phi-3](#). With parameter-efficient fine-tuning (PEFT) support, you can now customize pretrained models from the KAITO repository to your data and use cases directly in your cluster, while maintaining the data compliance rules for your organization. This allows developers to serve their fine-tuned model and simplify LLM lifecycle management directly from the AKS cluster.

[The Azure Kubernetes Service \(AKS\) Visual Studio Code extension has been updated](#) to support the ability to attach an Azure Container Registry (ACR) to your cluster, generate Kubernetes deployment files, generate dockerfiles and generate GitHub Actions.

[AKS in-place migration of Linux OS and security patches](#) allows operators and developers to trigger a node image OS upgrade between one Linux SKU (e.g., Ubuntu) to another (e.g., Azure Linux) on an existing AKS nodepool, simplifying the upgrade process and reducing resource utilization. The AKS OS security patch channel for Linux is also now GA, providing timely security updates for Linux at the node OS level and reducing the risk of OS vulnerabilities as an attack vector.

[Java application support in Azure Container Apps](#) is a fully managed serverless container service that enables developers to build, deploy and scale containerized applications easily. With the new Java experiences in Azure Container Apps, Java developers can now use fully managed Java components for Spring application development, without worrying about the operational details. In addition to this, Azure Container Apps now offers peer-to-peer Transport Level Security (TLS) encryption for all network traffic within the Container Apps environment.

With the general availability of [workspaces in Azure API Management](#), API teams have a new level of autonomy to create, manage and publish APIs faster, in a reliable and secure fashion. By providing isolated administrative access and API runtime, workspaces empower API teams, while allowing the API platform team to retain oversight with central monitoring, enforcement of API policies and compliance, and publishing APIs for discovery through a unified developer portal.

[Azure Red Hat OpenShift \(ARO\)](#) offers increased scalability, supporting clusters of up to 250 nodes. This significant increase from the previous limit of 62 nodes opens new possibilities for enterprises running large-scale Kubernetes workloads.

## Developer Tools, Services and GitHub

[Metered Billing for GitHub Enterprise and GitHub Advanced Security is now available on Azure](#) for purchase to customers on Microsoft Azure as metered offerings. This integration means Azure customers can now sign up and access the entire GitHub platform — including [GitHub Enterprise](#), [GitHub Copilot](#), [GitHub Advanced Security](#) and more — easily as any other Azure service. Together, GitHub and Azure can help transform the software development experience, providing a unified DevOps and cloud platform solution that accelerates innovation, streamlines code-to-cloud workflows, and optimizes developer collaboration and productivity.

[Copilot Autofix in GitHub Advanced Security](#) is an AI-powered remediation that analyzes vulnerabilities in code, explains why they matter, and offers code suggestions that help developers fix vulnerabilities as fast as they are found. During the public beta, we found that developers were fixing code vulnerabilities more than three times faster than those who do so manually, a powerful example of how AI agents can radically simplify and accelerate secure software development.

[GitHub Models](#) enables our more than 100 million developers to become AI engineers and build with industry-leading AI models. From Llama 3.1, to GPT-4o and GPT-4o mini, to Phi 3 or Mistral Large 2, you can access each model via a built-in playground that lets you test different prompts and model parameters, for free, right in GitHub. If customers are getting value on the playground, we've created a glide path to bring the models to our customers developer environment in Codespaces and VS Code.

[Copilot Extensions](#) available in public beta to all Copilot users and open for any developer or organization to create extensions. Alongside, we're introducing a comprehensive [Copilot Extensions Toolkit](#), designed to equip developers by centralizing the information they need to build quality extensions. This announcement isn't just about wider availability; it's about the open nature and democratization of AI-assisted development tools.

[EU Data Residency for GitHub Enterprise Announced that GitHub Enterprise Cloud to enable data residency](#), starting with the European Union (EU) on October 29, 2024, to address a critical desire from customers and enable an optimal, unified experience on GitHub for our customers.

## Azure AI

[Azure AI Studio – Models-as-a-Service](#) features serverless API capabilities to access leading models within the Azure AI model catalog.

The largest and most powerful open models available with context length of 128K from Meta, [Azure AI Model Catalog – Meta Llama 3.1 405B Model](#), are available on Azure AI. This model is focused on synthetic data generation and distillation to enable training and fine-tuning of smaller models.

The second release of [Azure AI Model Catalog – Mistral Large v2 Model \(GA\) and Mistral Nemo](#) is an advanced LLM with state-of-the-art reasoning, knowledge and coding capabilities and is multilingual by design, supporting dozens of languages.



Microsoft Entra ID and [Azure Machine Learning - Secure AI deployment with Microsoft Entra ID and managed online endpoints](#) provide a secure and efficient way to deploy and consume AI/ML models.

[Azure Machine Learning - Guided experience for submitting training jobs](#) will improve the getting started experience, provide consistency, and enable settings not previously supported in the UI. It also establishes an infrastructure that will reduce repetitive overhead when making updates to the submission experiences in the future, allowing us to move more quickly.

[Azure Machine Learning - Create and manage prompt flow compute sessions](#) offers an interactive authoring experience for developing LLM applications, while the compute session provides a managed computing environment that can reduce costs and enhance the authoring process.

[Azure Machine Learning – VS Code extension](#) features capabilities that allow for pro-code development scenarios within the Azure Machine Learning environment for universal code experiences.

[Text to Speech \(TTS\) Avatar](#) is a capability of Azure AI Speech service, which brings natural-sounding voices and photorealistic avatars to life.

A new feature in [Azure AI Language is Conversational PII Detection Services](#) can evaluate conversations to extract sensitive information (personally identifiable information, PII) in the content across several predefined categories and redact them.

We are introducing a new model to the Phi family, [Phi-3.5 models for mini and MoE \(Mixture of Experts\)](#) model. This new model combines 16 smaller experts into one, which delivers improvements in model quality and lower latency.

[Azure AI Content Safety – Protected Material Detection](#) is a feature that detects known text content (song lyrics, recipes, articles, web content) and prevents generative AI applications from outputting that content.

Announcing two new models from partner AI21 into the Azure AI model catalog [AI21 Jamba 1.5 Large and Jamba 1.5 mini](#). These models are based on the Jamba architecture, which combines Mamba and Transformer layers to achieve performance and efficiency for long-context processing tasks.

[Azure OpenAI Service - GPT-4o fine-tuning and GPT-4o-mini fine-tuning](#) offers cost-effective and advanced AI multimodal capabilities, as was previously offered with GPT-3.5-Turbo.

[Securely use Azure AI Studio's playground chat on data](#) to set up private endpoints to resources such as AI Search, AI Services, Azure OpenAI and Storage and enable managed VNET for AI Hub.

## Surface

Surface Pro (11th Edition) and Surface Laptop (7th Edition) for Business — both Copilot+ PCs — are now available for our business customers. These new Copilot+ PCs, powered by Snapdragon X Plus and Elite processors and Windows 11 Pro, deliver more performance and AI acceleration than the MacBook Air M3 while also providing all-day battery life. On top of that, these devices are even easier to repair, ensuring minimal downtime and maximum productivity for your employees. [Learn more here](#).

Surface Pro with 5G (11th Edition) is also now available in retail. [Learn more here](#).

## Gaming

"Microsoft Flight Simulator" released City Update IX: Northeastern United States. The update also included Local Legend 17: The Curtiss C-46 Commando and temporarily added fireworks into the simulator to celebrate Independence Day.

Xbox announced that Game Pass Ultimate members in over 25 countries can play games directly from the Xbox app on Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Max (2023) and Fire TV Stick 4K (2023) devices through cloud gaming.

Xbox announced a new Game Pass option for console players, called Xbox Game Pass Standard. Game Pass Standard is based on player feedback and brings together features that players love about Game Pass Core and Game Pass for Console, like a library of hundreds of high-quality games and online console multiplayer.

"Overwatch 2" announced a new in-game collaboration with the Transformers franchise.

Blizzard launched Season 7 of "Warcraft Rumble," adding more Cenarion Minis, two new Leaders, and three new Troops, with new rewards to unlock.

Boosteroid [announced](#) a new account-linking feature allowing players to link their Xbox profile to their Boosteroid account.

Xbox [announced](#) a partnership with the blockbuster film "Deadpool & Wolverine" to collaboratively design custom Xbox Wireless Controllers, appropriately named the Cheeky Controllers modeled after the two hero's much-discussed, perfectly rounded tushes. The controllers were available via giveaway.

Xbox [began enabling](#) direct access to the NVIDIA GeForce NOW game streaming service on applicable PC games via the Xbox.com game pages.

"Dungeons of Hinterberg and Flintlock: The Siege of Dawn" launched for Xbox Series X|S, PC and on day one with Game Pass.

"Microsoft Flight Simulator" added World Update XVII: United Kingdom & Ireland. The update also included Local Legend 18: Westland Scout & Wasp.

"Overwatch 2" introduced Mythic Weapon Skins with unique sound and visual effects compatible with matching Hero Skins.

"Call of Duty: Modern Warfare III" [launched](#) on Game Pass, becoming the second Activision or Blizzard title and first "Call of Duty" installment in the Game Pass library.

Season 5 of "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare III" and "Call of Duty: Warzone" launched, featuring new multiplayer maps, gear, the return of the Superstore and the introduction of WWE bundles.

Season 7 of "Call of Duty: Mobile," titled "Eternal Ghost," launched with new modes, a fresh Ground War map, new weapons, scorestreaks and themed events.

"Diablo IV" fifth season, "Season of the Infernal Hordes," launched, featuring new missions, team-based activities, over 50 new unique items and new rewards.

"Minecraft" released the Tetris DLC in the Minecraft Marketplace.

"Crash Bandicoot N. Sane Trilogy" [launched](#) on Game Pass, becoming the third Activision or Blizzard title in the Game Pass library, and the first available to stream via Xbox Cloud Gaming (Beta).

Xbox [launched](#) the Xbox Wireless Controller – Sky Cipher Special Edition.

Xbox [announced](#) that Compact Mode is now available for Xbox Insiders in Game Bar on Windows PC.

"Overwatch 2 Season 12: New Frontiers" launched bringing new maps, heroes and gameplay features.

"Minecraft" released the SpongeBob Add-on in the Minecraft Marketplace, the second IP partnership in this new marketplace category.

Xbox [announced](#) that four new Xbox accessibility offerings will be added to the Xbox lineup: the Xbox Adaptive Joystick, 3D printable files for adaptive thumbstick toppers, the Designed for Xbox Proteus Controller by ByoWave, and the Designed for Xbox Lite SE 2.4G Wireless Controller by 8BitDo.

"Call of Duty: Modern Warfare III" and "Call of Duty: Warzone" Season 5 midseason content update went live, including a new multiplayer map, new modes, new Zombies story missions and challenges.

"Microsoft Flight Simulator" released World Update XVIII: Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Additionally, the update also added Local Legend 19: The Focke-Wulf FW 200 Condor.

"World of Warcraft: The War Within" expansion launched. "The War Within" is the 10th expansion for "World of Warcraft," celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, and is the first chapter of "The Worldsoul Saga."

Xbox [shared](#) that Game Pass Ultimate members in over 25 countries can play games directly from the Xbox app on more Amazon Fire TV devices, now including the Fire Stick 4K Max (2021) and Fire TV Cube (2022) devices through cloud gaming.

The [Xbox August Update](#) spotlighted new Discord integration on Xbox Consoles, two new cloud gaming compatible Amazon Fire TV devices, the ability to choose where to install games on Xbox or PC, and additional feature updates across Xbox consoles, wireless controllers, PC Gaming and Xbox Cloud Gaming (Beta).

"Age of Mythology: Retold" [launched](#) on Xbox Series X|S and Windows PC, and was available on day one with Game Pass.

Xbox and Forza teamed up with the iconic Jordan brand and NBA All-Star Luka Dončić to [unveil](#) new in-game content (in both "Forza Motorsport" and "Forza Horizon 5" inspired by the latest Jordan sneaker, the Jordan Luka 3, and the new Motorsport colorway.

"Forza Horizon 5" [introduced](#) a new Hide & Seek mode.

Game Pass Standard became [available](#) for players globally.

"Hearthstone" launched the "Traveling Travel Agency" event with 38 new cards, new vacation-themed content, special rewards quests, and new cosmetic items including card backs and hero skins.

Xbox [announced](#) the new Xbox friends and followers experience.

"Diablo Immortal" launched its latest major update, Crucible of Justice. This update added a continuation of the storyline, a new co-op mode and new legendary gems.

"Call of Duty: Modern Warfare III" and "Call of Duty: Warzone" Season 6 launched, featuring The Haunting event with iconic horror-themed content and IP crossovers.

"Candy Crush Saga" launched an in-game Music Season Tournament in partnership with emerging musicians Kimbra, Laszewo, and TOKiMONSTA.

Xbox [announced](#) "War Game: The Making of S.T.A.L.K.E.R. 2," a documentary that chronicles GSC Game World's journey to make its highly anticipated sequel in the midst of and during Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Xbox announced the final season of the Xbox Ambassadors program, along with details on how it will bring the learnings and values of the Ambassador community into different player engagement programs going forward. The news was shared via the [Xbox Ambassadors Community blog](#).

Xbox announced that it has contributed to Microsoft's goals of becoming a carbon negative, water positive and zero waste company by 2030 with interventions to reduce energy from console usage. These interventions, which include greening game code and players opting into energy saver modes, have prevented over 1.2 million metric tons of CO2e, compared to usage without interventions.

"Ara: History Untold" launched on PC via Steam and Windows PC, as well as PC Game Pass on day one.

Xbox announced the launch of translucent top cases for the Xbox Elite Series controllers in Xbox Design Lab, along with a rainbow D-pad and paddles.

"Minecraft" released the Transformers DLC in the Minecraft Marketplace.

"Microsoft Flight Simulator" released the Famous Flyer 10: The Boeing 707-320C.

Xbox [announced](#) that several features from the Xbox Game Pass app on mobile will be moved to the Xbox app on mobile to simplify the player experience.

Xbox announced that Compact Mode is now available in Game Bar on Windows PC and is rolling out worldwide.

# Microsoft Search, Advertising and News

[Organizational branding](#) customization helps create a unified experience. Admins can customize the look and feel (organization name and logo, accent color, taskbar icon overlay) for Edge for Business through the Microsoft Edge management service.

Performance Max is the new key campaign type for driving more results with less effort on Microsoft Advertising, and we released new significant [updates](#) such as brand exclusions, campaign-level auto-generated asset settings, search term insights reports, and more to give advertisers more controls in their Pmax campaign.

Microsoft Advertising expanded its collaboration with [Integral Ad Science](#), a leading global media measurement and optimization platform, to provide post-bid third-party brand safety and suitability, viewability, and invalid traffic measurement across our solutions, including the Microsoft Advertising Platform and Microsoft Invest. For the first time, advertisers can benefit from verification reporting on Microsoft's proprietary audience data, including in-market audiences.

Audience ads help make display, native and video even more relevant to an audience and more efficient for advertisers using industry-leading machine learning technology and signals. We continue to introduce new features to help advertisers improve performance and measure results, including more performance features on display and video, and more engaging ads with logos and call to actions.

Digital buyers can now harness the power of Microsoft media in new ways to drive value for their brand, through three brand new packages: Fall and Holiday Seasonal Moments packages, Product Launch packages, and Cross-Screen Gaming packages (CTV + Gaming).



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