Microsoft Azure Stack is an extension of Microsoft Azure, bringing the agility and fast-paced innovation of cloud computing to on-premises environments. Working together, Azure and Azure Stack deliver a truly consistent hybrid cloud platform for building modern applications.

Pay-as-you-use model

Azure Stack brings the cloud economics model to on-premises environments. You begin running services with no upfront licensing fees and you pay only for what you use, just like in Azure. Because you take on the hardware and operating costs, Azure Stack service fees are typically lower than Azure prices.

Azure Stack pay-as-you-use pricing

| Service | Price |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Base virtual machine | \$0.008/vCPU/hour (\$6/vCPU/month) |
| Windows Server virtual machine | \$0.046/vCPU/hour (\$34/vCPU/month) |
| Azure Blob Storage | \$0.006/GB/month (no transaction fee) |
| Azure Table and Queue Storage | \$0.018/GB/month (no transaction fee) |
| Azure App Service (Web Apps, Mobile Apps, API Apps, Functions) | \$0.056/vCPU/hour (\$42/vCPU/month) |

The pay-as-you-use model is licensed by Microsoft via the Enterprise Agreement (EA) or Cloud Service Provider (CSP) programs. The pay-as-you-use model can be added to your existing Azure agreement, enabling you to use the same subscriptions, monetary commitment, and invoice for both Azure and Azure Stack.

Using existing licenses with Azure Stack

You may use existing licenses (for example, Windows Server, SQL Server, MSDN subscription software) with Azure Stack. You may use licenses from any channel (EA, SPLA, Open, and others), as long as you comply with all software licensing and product terms.

If you use existing licenses, you will pay only the base virtual machine consumption fee. In the pay-as-you-use model, this means you have the option of deploying Windows Server virtual machines using either Azure Stack's native Windows Server virtual machine hourly meters or using your existing licenses in conjunction with hourly base virtual machines.

Azure Stack billing

Azure Stack contains metering technologies similar to the ones used in Azure. On a periodic basis, a summary of this information will be transmitted to the Microsoft commerce systems that provide invoicing for Azure. You will be billed for Azure Stack usage as part of your regular Azure invoice. Azure Stack services will be denoted with a distinct region to differentiate them from Azure service charges.

Integrated system purchase

Azure Stack is delivered as an integrated system, with software installed on hardware. You purchase Azure Stack hardware and hardware support directly from hardware partners. You purchase Azure services and services support from Microsoft.

Capacity model

If you need to use Azure Stack in a disconnected mode, Microsoft offers a capacity model pricing package, which allows you to license all the physical cores in your deployment with a fixed fee annual subscription. Two capacity packages are available to meet your workload needs: the App Service package, which includes App Service, base virtual machines, and Azure Storage (\$400/core/year), and the laaS package, which includes base virtual machines and Azure Storage (\$144/core/year.) With the capacity model, you use your existing on-premises licenses to deploy Windows Server and SQL Server virtual machines.

The capacity model is available via EA only. It is purchased as an Azure Plan SKU via normal volume licensing channels. For typical use cases, Microsoft expects the pay-as-you-use model to be the most economical option.

Support

Azure Stack support is a consistent, integrated, hybrid support experience that covers the full system lifecycle. To fully support your Azure Stack system, you need two support contracts—one with Microsoft or your Cloud Solution Provider for cloud services support and one with your hardware provider for system support. Our integrated support experience provides coordinated escalation and resolution, so you get a consistent support experience no matter whom you call first. If you already have Premier, Azure, or Partner support with Microsoft, your Azure Stack software support is included.

Acquiring Azure Stack through a service provider

Service providers may offer Azure Stack as part of their portfolio, enabling Azure-consistent hybrid cloud services. The service provider will license Azure Stack from Microsoft through the Cloud Solution Provider channel, and then provide you with finished services, value-add offerings, and support, just like they do in Azure.

FAQ

Can I use MSDN, Free Trial, or Biz Spark with Azure Stack?

Only EA and CSP subscription IDs may be used with Azure Stack. Azure MSDN, Free Trial, and Biz Spark subscription IDs cannot be used in conjunction with Azure Stack. However,

MSDN software (for example, MSDN Windows Server, MSDN SQL Server) may be used in conjunction with Azure Stack. If you bring you own license, you will be charged only the Azure Stack base virtual machine fees. For example, if you bring an MSDN Windows Server license and deploy a Windows Server virtual machine on Azure Stack, your consumption would be metered only at the base virtual machine rate. MSDN software used in conjunction with Azure Stack must comply with all MSDN licensing terms.

I am an EA customer. Can my monetary commitment be used for Azure Stack?

Your monetary commitment can be applied toward both your Azure and Azure Stack consumption as long as the subscriptions you use fall under the same enrollment. US Government, Germany, and China systems will be handled separately.

Do I need Azure Hybrid Use Benefit to use my onpremises Windows Server license with Azure Stack?

Azure Hybrid Use Benefit is not required for using Windows Server on Azure Stack because Azure Stack is an on-premises hardware system. Azure Stack systems need only to be properly licensed.

Do I need SQL Server License Mobility to use my onpremises SQL Server license with Azure Stack?

SQL Server License Mobility is needed only if you are using a multi-tenant system shared with multiple entities. For example, if you are a hosting provider operating a multi-tenant Azure Stack system, your customers would need to have SQL Server License Mobility to bring their own SQL Server licenses to Azure Stack. However, if you are operating a single-tenant Azure Stack, or a multi-tenant system within a single enterprise, you do not need SQL Server License Mobility.

I already have Azure Standard, Azure Pro, or Premier—do I need to buy additional support for my Azure Stack?

Support for Azure Stack consists of two parts—one contract with the hardware partner for hardware and system support, and one contract with Microsoft for Azure Stack services support. If you already have an Azure or Premier support contract with Microsoft, your existing Azure or Premier support contract extends to cover Azure Stack at no additional cost. You will, however, still need a support contract with the hardware partner.

Learn more at

azure.microsoft.com/en-us/overview/azure-stack

