Azure Hybrid Use Benefit
with Windows Server

FAQ

What is the Azure Hybrid Use Benefit?

The Azure Hybrid Use Benefit helps you get more value from your Windows Server licenses and save up to 40 percent* on virtual machines. You can use the benefit with Windows Server Datacenter and Standard edition licenses covered with Software Assurance. Depending on the edition, you can convert or re-use your licenses to run Windows Server virtual machines in Azure and pay a lower base compute rate (Linux virtual machine rates).

What is the base compute rate?

The base compute rate that is used to calculate the Azure Hybrid Use Benefit is equal to the Linux rate for virtual machines.

Who is eligible for this offer?

The Azure Hybrid Use Benefit is available if you own Windows Server Standard or Datacenter edition licenses with active Software Assurance. It is not restricted to any specific licensing program.

Can I use my Windows Server licenses both on-premises and in the cloud?

Datacenter Edition customers can use licenses both on-premises and in Azure. Standard Edition customers can convert the license; once you assign the Azure Hybrid Use Benefit to Azure, however, you cannot use the Standard Edition license on-premises.

How do I use the Azure Hybrid Use Benefit?

There are three ways to use the Azure Hybrid Use Benefit

    I.   Customers can deploy Windows Server virtual machines pre-configured with the Azure Hybrid Use Benefit in three easy steps
1. Go to Azure Marketplace.
2. Select **Get it now.**
3. Deploy your workload in the Azure Portal.

    II.   You can also upload a custom virtual machine.

    III.   You can migrate existing workloads with Azure Site Recovery (free for first 31 days).

* Actual savings may vary based on region, instance type, or usage.

Do I need to use Azure Marketplace gallery images for virtual machines that match my Standard and Datacenter licenses?

Azure Marketplace offers four images that you can use with either Datacenter or Standard licenses—no need to match the image with your edition. If you own Standard Edition, for example, you can use the Datacenter Edition images. Here is a list of the images:

- Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1
- Windows Server 2012 Datacenter
- Windows Server 2012 R2 Datacenter
- Windows Server 2016 Datacenter

When will the Azure Hybrid Use Benefit be available?

The Azure Hybrid Use Benefit has been available for new Azure workloads as of February 2016.

Can I apply this benefit to Azure virtual machines retroactively?

No, you may not apply this benefit retroactively.

Is the Azure Hybrid Use Benefit available in my region?

The Azure Hybrid Use Benefit is available in all Azure cloud regions.

Can I apply the Azure Hybrid Use Benefit to products other than Windows Server?

No, the Azure Hybrid Use Benefit is applicable only to Windows Server Standard and Datacenter editions. Separately, you can use License Mobility to deploy existing SQL Server licenses in the cloud without additional fees.

Does the 90-day license reassignment rule in the Product Terms apply to the Azure Hybrid Use Benefit?

Yes, there is a 90-day assignment rule for Windows Server, which requires licenses to stay assigned to the same hardware for a minimum of 90 days. This rule also applies to Azure virtual machines.

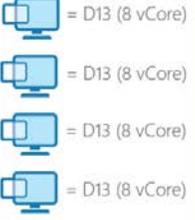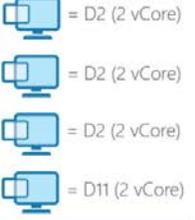## How many Azure virtual machines do I receive for my on-premises licenses?

For every 2-processor Windows Server license or Windows Server license with 16-cores covered with Software Assurance, you will receive either of the following:

- Up to two virtual machines with up to 8 cores or
- One virtual machine with up to 16 cores.

Can I run virtual machines with more than 16 cores?

Yes, you may run virtual machines with more than 16 cores by stacking licenses. For example, for two 2-processor licenses or two 16-core licenses, you may run a virtual machine with up to 32 cores. The following example shows some configuration options.

[1]Three virtual machines unused

[2]Two virtual machines unused

[3] 24 cores unused

Is Windows Server licensed through the Core Infrastructure Suite program eligible for the Azure Hybrid Use Benefit?

If you licensed Windows Server through Core Infrastructure Suite (CIS), you can use the Azure Hybrid Use Benefit. The System Center component in CIS, however, is not covered.

If I purchased Azure via a Microsoft partner (such as a Cloud Solution Provider), am I eligible for the Azure Hybrid Use Benefit?

Yes, you are eligible for the Azure Hybrid Use Benefit for purchases through partners that resell Azure Infrastructure, provided you have active Software Assurance coverage. For example, if you purchase Azure via a Cloud Solution Provider, you are eligible for the Azure Hybrid Use Benefit.