



# Windows Server Premium Assurance SQL Server Premium Assurance

## FAQ

### Overview

#### What are Windows Server Premium Assurance and SQL Server Premium Assurance?

Windows Server Premium Assurance and SQL Server Premium Assurance are two new offerings that enable customers to focus on digital transformation initiatives by helping them keep legacy applications running for six years past the end of Extended Support. Premium Assurance provides security updates and bulletins rated "Critical" and "Important" for Windows Server and SQL Server, starting with the 2008 versions of these products. Purchase Premium Assurance as an Add-on to Software Assurance to receive updates for an additional six years after the end of Extended Support, as long as you maintain Premium Assurance and active Software Assurance coverage.

#### What products and versions are covered by Premium Assurance?

You can purchase Premium Assurance for Windows Server 2008 systems and later versions and for SQL Server 2008 systems and later versions.

#### Which Windows Server and SQL Server editions are covered by Premium Assurance?

Windows Server Premium Assurance will be available for the Standard, Enterprise, and Datacenter editions. You can cover Windows Server Enterprise Editions by purchasing two of the Windows Server Standard Edition SKUs for each Enterprise Edition server. SQL Server Premium Assurance will be available for the Standard, Datacenter, and Enterprise editions.

#### Do I have to purchase Premium Assurance for both Windows Server and SQL Server?

You have the option to purchase either Windows Server Premium Assurance or SQL Server Premium Assurance, or both offerings.

## Will I receive similar benefits on related products for Windows Server and SQL Server?

When you purchase Windows Server Premium Assurance or SQL Server Premium Assurance:

- You will receive security updates for certain .NET frameworks, starting with .NET 3.5, for no additional fee. These .NET security updates will be available for an additional six years during the Premium Assurance support timeline.
- You will not receive updates on Microsoft System Center. Microsoft, however, will ensure that the most recent version of System Center will be able to manage the older versions of Windows Server covered under Windows Server Premium Assurance. The exception is if you are using System Center Virtual Machine Manager (SCVMM) in a host scenario. Microsoft will provide "Critical" and "Important" updates for the SCVMM host scenario for six additional years after the end of Extended Support. The table below illustrates the approach used for the different System Center components.

If you are using this version of Windows Server	Use this version of System Center	
	System Center Virtual Machine Manager (Host)	System Center Virtual Machine Manager (Guest) and Configuration Manager
Windows Server 2008/R2	System Center 2008/R2	System Center 2016  (Configuration Manager requires Current Branch for Business)
Windows Server 2012/R2	System Center 2012/R2	
Windows Server 2016	System Center 2016	

## Which .NET versions are supported by Premium Assurance?

You must be using .NET 3.5 Service Pack (SP) 1 or later to receive .NET security updates under the Premium Assurance offerings. Earlier versions of .NET are not in scope for the Premium Assurance offerings. However, because .NET 2.0 SP2 is a component of .NET 3.5 SP1, customers on .NET 3.5 SP1 will receive support on .NET 2.0 SP2 if they have installed .NET 2.0. You are not required to pay extra for .NET support.

## Will Windows Server Update Services be supported under Windows Server Premium Assurance?

All Windows Server Update Services (WSUS) versions starting with WSUS 3.2 (WSUS 3.0 SP2) will be supported as part of Windows Server Premium Assurance. However, this will not include backporting improved functionality or standards of architecture such as Secure Hash Algorithm 2 (SHA2) for WSUS 3.2.

## Is there a hardware policy for servers covered under Premium Assurance?

You need to use servers certified for the operating system versions covered by Premium Assurance. For example, if you purchase Windows Server Premium Assurance for a server running Windows Server 2008, that server must have been certified for use with Windows Server 2008.

## Will Internet Information Services be supported under Windows Server Premium Assurance?

Yes, all inbox Internet Information Services (IIS) components will be supported under Windows Server Premium Assurance.

## Will I receive security updates on applications that run on Windows Server or SQL Server?

You will not receive security updates for applications running on either Windows Server or SQL Server as part of the Premium Assurance offerings. Please work with your application vendors to determine extended support for those third-party applications.

## Does Premium Assurance include product enhancements for Windows Server or SQL Server that help maintain the latest security standards?

Premium Assurance does not include product enhancements, including enhancements related to updated security standards. For example, support for a new Transport Layer Security encryption standard will not be available for older SQL Server versions covered under SQL Server Premium Assurance. Premium Assurance offerings provide security updates rated "Critical" and "Important" only.

## Availability and timing

### When can I purchase Premium Assurance?

You can purchase Premium Assurance starting in March 2017.

### Is there a deadline for customers to purchase the offerings?

There is no deadline to sign up. However, to receive benefits for a specific product version, sign up before the end of Extended Support for that product version. For example, to receive benefits for Windows Server 2008, you must purchase Premium Assurance through December 31, 2019. To receive benefits for SQL Server 2008, you must purchase Premium Assurance through June 30, 2019.

# Licensing and pricing

## How much does Premium Assurance cost?

Premium Assurance works under a phased pricing model based on the time of purchase. If you purchase between March and the end of June 2017, you can save up to 58 percent compared to purchasing later. The following table details pricing for the four purchase periods, known as pricing series.

Series	Purchase Date	Annual unit cost (% of current product license price is indicative only)	Savings vs. Series 4
Series 1	March 2017 – June 2017	5%	58%
Series 2	July 2017 – June 2018	7%	42%
Series 3	July 2018 – June 2019	9%	25%
Series 4	July 2019 onward	12%	n/a

Your first purchase of Premium Assurance enables you to lock in your purchase price across future renewals, for as long as you maintain the Premium Assurance for that product—either Windows Server or SQL Server—and Software Assurance.

For example, if you purchase Windows Server Datacenter Edition in March 2017, your annual Premium Assurance cost is \$31 per 2-core license, which you can maintain for all future renewals as long as you maintain Premium Assurance and Software Assurance.

## Do you offer any discounts on Premium Assurance?

Yes, purchasing by June 2017 will help you secure Windows Server Premium Assurance or SQL Server Premium Assurance at the lowest pricing, which translates to 58 percent savings compared to purchasing later.

## How can I purchase the offerings?

Windows Server Premium Assurance and SQL Server Premium Assurance will be sold worldwide as Add-on SKUs to Software Assurance for these programs and enrollments: Enterprise Agreement, Enterprise Agreement Subscription, Enrollment for Education Solutions, and Server and Cloud Enrollment.

## Which licensing models apply to this offering?

Windows Server Premium Assurance will be available under the core-based model. If you are currently on the processor-based model, you may purchase processor-based Add-on licenses, but will move to core-based Add-on licenses at Software Assurance renewal.

SQL Server Premium Assurance will be sold under the core-based and server + CAL (Client Access License) model.

## Can I receive Premium Assurance benefits on servers that are not covered under Software Assurance?

You can receive Premium Assurance benefits on servers by repurchasing licenses and Software Assurance for these servers.

## What are all the requirements for Premium Assurance?

Here's what you need to receive Premium Assurance updates for Windows Server or SQL Server:

- Active Software Assurance on your servers for all eligible licenses. Eligible licenses are those purchased under these programs and enrollments: Enterprise Agreement, Enterprise Agreement Subscription, Enrollment for Education Solutions, and Server and Cloud Enrollment (SCE).
- Active Premium Assurance Add-on for all eligible licenses with Software Assurance.
- Servers must be certified by the hardware vendor to run the product.
- Servers must be running the latest service packs.

## Is there an advantage to purchasing mid-term before Software Assurance renewal?

Yes, Premium Assurance Add-on pricing is lowest from March 2017 until the end of June 2017, and then increases with time.

## How do licensing requirements vary if I am enrolled in different licensing programs?

You must purchase the Premium Assurance Add-on for all servers with active Software Assurance coverage purchased under these four licensing programs and enrollments: Enterprise Agreement, Enterprise Agreement Subscription, Enrollment for Education Solutions, and Server and Cloud Enrollment (SCE). If you have server licenses purchased via other licensing programs, you are not required to purchase the Add-on for those licenses. For example, if you have 20 servers with Software Assurance purchased via Enterprise Agreement and 20 servers with active Software Assurance purchased via Open, you will cover only the 20 servers under the Enterprise Agreement.

## Is there a minimum period required to maintain Premium Assurance?

Although there is no minimum period for which you are required to purchase the offerings, you may discontinue Premium Assurance only at the time of Software Assurance renewal.

You can increase the number of servers covered by Windows Server Premium Assurance or SQL Server Premium Assurance at any time. Any increase in Windows Server Premium Assurance or SQL Server Premium Assurance will require a corresponding increase in Software Assurance costs. You can decrease the number of servers covered by Premium Assurance only during Software Assurance renewal, which will result in a corresponding decrease in Software Assurance costs, based on program rules.

## I'm currently on a processor-based licensing model for Windows Server. What happens when I renew and move to a core-based licensing model?

When you transition from a processor-based model to a core-based model, you will purchase a core-based Premium Assurance Add-on. Premium Assurance will follow the processor-to-core transition guidelines for Windows Server licensing at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/cloud-platform/windows-server-pricing>.

## Will I be paying more for Windows Server Premium Assurance in Server Cloud Enrollment, because the Cloud Infrastructure Suite includes the price of System Center?

No. The Windows Server Premium Assurance Add-on is tied to the price of only the Windows Server portion of the Cloud Infrastructure Suite SKU and will incorporate the programmatic discount that Server Cloud Enrollment (SCE) customers receive over non-SCE Enterprise Agreement customers. To purchase the Add-on for CIS, you must choose the "Suite" (SKUs marked with "Ste") SKUs created for the two offerings.

## Will I receive phone or email support as part of this offering?

Customers who purchase Premium Assurance offerings will be able to convert their Software Assurance spend based on existing Software Assurance terms and conditions to incident hours that they can apply to Premium Assurance products. These incident hours will entitle them to Customer Service and Support (phone and email support) with 2-, 4-, or 8-hour response times.