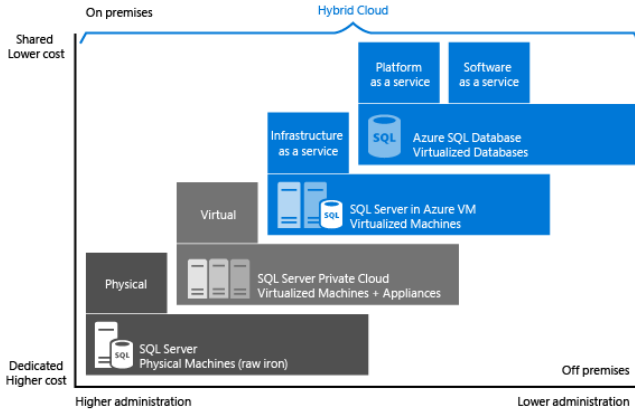


# Licensing SQL Server in Azure: IaaS solutions

## Customer options for using SQL Server in Azure

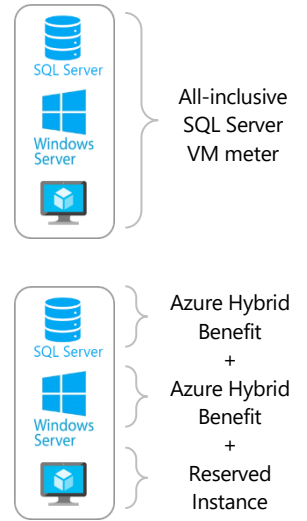
Customers can choose to run SQL Server in individual virtual machines as an IaaS (*Infrastructure as a Service*) solution, or to take advantage of SQL Server running as a managed database-as-a-service as a PaaS (*Platform as a Service*) solution.

Find information on choosing the right SQL option here: <http://bit.ly/SQLOptions>:



## Options for SQL Server virtual machines

- Customers with short-term or variable workloads are likely to pay for a SQL Server virtual machine on an all-inclusive meter
- Customers with longer-term or predictable workloads are likely to use a Reserved Instance to pay for the base compute component, and to utilize the Azure Hybrid Benefit to license both the Windows Server and SQL Server components



*The "Licensing Windows Server in Azure" module gives details of Reserved Instances and the Azure Hybrid Benefit for Windows Server.*

## Azure Hybrid Benefit

### Overview

The Azure Hybrid Benefit allows customers to assign existing SQL Server licenses to license the SQL Server component of an Azure virtual machine.

### Eligibility

- Customers with SQL Server Standard or Enterprise Core licenses with active Software Assurance acquired through a Volume Licensing agreement
- Customers with 1 or 3-year Server Subscriptions for SQL Server Standard or Enterprise Core licenses acquired through CSP

### Using SQL Server licenses

- A minimum of 4 Core licenses must be assigned to an Azure virtual machine, and additional Core licenses must be assigned to larger virtual machines
- For example, a 2-core virtual machine would require 4 Core licenses, and a 16-core virtual machine would require 16 Core licenses
- SQL Server Standard and Enterprise licenses may be assigned to virtual machines running either edition, as below:
  - **SQL Server Enterprise virtual machine**
    - Enterprise: 1 Core license = 1 vCore
    - Standard: 4 Core licenses = 1 vCore
  - **SQL Server Standard virtual machine**
    - Enterprise: 1 Core license = 4 vCores
    - Standard: 1 Core license = 1 vCore

## Dual use rights

- The Azure Hybrid Benefit allows customers to choose where they use their licenses: EITHER on-premises OR for SQL Server virtual machines in Azure
- The only exception is for customers who are migrating existing workloads to Azure when the licenses may be applied to both environments for a period of up to 180 days

## Activating the SQL Server Azure Hybrid Benefit

SQL Server licenses are not automatically applied to virtual machines.

- Customers can provision a virtual machine by using a bring-your-own-license SQL Server image from the Azure Marketplace. Note, however, that this option is available only for customers who have an Enterprise Agreement
- Alternatively, customers can provision a virtual machine by using a pay-as-you-go SQL Server image from the Azure Marketplace, and then activate the Azure Hybrid Benefit with no service disruption:

*Once the Azure Hybrid Benefit is activated for a virtual machine, the charges for SQL Server are immediately stopped.*