Licensing Visual Studio and Azure DevOps

This handout covers four key components of Microsoft's developer tools:
- Tools for the developer including the Visual Studio Integrated Development Environment (IDE) and Visual Studio subscriber benefits
- Tools for development teams including Azure DevOps Server 2020 and the Azure DevOps services

Visual Studio IDE	Azure DevOps Server
Subscriber benefits	Azure DevOps services

Visual Studio IDE

- The Integrated Development Environment or IDE is where the developer creates their applications. It gives them access to the programming languages that they need to use, allows them to test and debug their programs, and to see what they will look like running on an iPhone for instance.
- Visual Studio Community is a free edition for individual developers to create their own free or paid apps in a business of less than 250 PCs. An unlimited number of users within an organization can use Visual Studio Community in a classroom learning environment, for academic research, or for contributing to open source projects
- The Visual Studio IDE is included in all Visual Studio Standard and Cloud subscriptions below

Visual Studio subscriber benefits

The Visual Studio Standard subscriptions include rights to the subscriber benefits:

Cloud services
- $50-$150 credit for Azure services
- Access to special Azure dev/test pricing

Software for dev/test
- Rights to install Microsoft software on home or corporate device
- Software may also be installed in Azure virtual machines
- Software may be used on mixed-use production and dev/test servers but the physical operating system environment and the production VMs must be licensed with Volume Licensing software licenses
- If System Center is used to manage a dev/test environment, this is considered normal use of the software and System Center must be licensed with Volume Licensing software licenses
- If members of an IT department assist in the setup/management of a dev/test environment then they must be licensed with a paid-for Visual Studio subscription
- End users testing an application as part of User Acceptance Testing (UAT) do not need to be licensed with a paid-for Visual Studio subscription

Software for production use
- Includes rights to Office Professional Plus 2019 and Microsoft 365 Apps for enterprise

Training and education
- Access to LinkedIn Learning, Pluralsight Learning, and CODE Magazine

Support
- Technical support incidents, communities, and concierge chat

Partner offers
- Subscriptions to Visual Studio partner offers

Visual Studio for developers

- A standalone license for Visual Studio Professional 2019 may be purchased for individual developers which includes the Visual Studio IDE but no subscriber benefits
- Visual Studio Professional and Enterprise subscriptions are available. These are assigned to individual users who then have access to the associated subscriber benefits. These subscriptions are available as Standard or Cloud subscriptions: see the table below and http://bit.ly/2mPGlpr for a comparison
- Licenses are assigned to developers by Visual Studio Subscriptions Administrators using this portal: https://manage.visualstudio.com

Azure Subscriptions for dev/test

Azure Subscriptions may be for either production workloads or for dev/test purposes

- Dev/test Subscriptions are specified when the Subscription is created and provide discounted rates on some services, such as Windows virtual machines, and access to exclusive images in the Azure Gallery
- Only users licensed with a Visual Studio subscription may access resources associated with a dev/test Subscription, unless it's for the purpose of providing feedback or performing acceptance testing
- Dev/Test Subscriptions are available through an Enterprise Agreement, azure.com, or when buying direct from a Microsoft salesperson via the Microsoft Customer Agreement

Comparing Visual Studio Standard and Cloud subscriptions

	Standard subscriptions		Cloud subscriptions	
Editions available	Visual Studio Professional	Visual Studio Enterprise	Visual Studio Professional	Visual Studio Enterprise
Purchasing mechanism	L&SA/SA offer through a Volume Licensing agreement	L&SA/SA offer through a Volume Licensing agreement	Via Visual Studio Marketplace, billed through an Azure Subscription	Via Visual Studio Marketplace, billed through an Azure Subscription
Subscription term	3 years	3 years	1 month	1 month
Perpetual use of IDE	Yes, in perpetual agreements	Yes, in perpetual agreements	No	No
Access to Azure DevOps Server	Server and CAL licenses	Server and CAL licenses	Server and CAL licenses	Server and CAL licenses
Access to Azure DevOps services	Basic plan	Basic + Test plans	Basic plan	Basic + Test plans
Subscriber benefits	• $50 Azure credit • Limited software for dev/test • No software for production use • Support, training and partner offers	• $150 Azure credit • Power BI Pro • Software for dev/test • Software for production use • Support, training and partner offers	None	None

Azure DevOps Server 2020

Collaborative software development tools for professional teams, hosted on-premises

Licensing

Licensed with a Server/CAL licensing model where a server license is assigned to the server, and Client Access Licenses (CALs) are assigned to users and/or devices. If Azure DevOps Server is installed in multiple virtual machines, then a license for each installation must be assigned to the server.

Azure DevOps services

Collaborative software development tools for professional teams, hosted in Azure data centers

Licensing

User licenses are acquired through the Azure Management Portal and linked to an Azure Subscription through which billing occurs. Users with a Visual Studio subscription are already licensed to access the Azure DevOps services.

Stakeholder licenses
- For users to check project status, and provide direction, feedback, feature ideas, and business alignment to a team
- Unlimited, free licenses available

Basic plan
- For users to create and review delivery plans, access agile tools, Azure Repos, Azure Pipelines, and Azure Artifacts
- Includes an Azure DevOps Server CAL
- First 5 users are free, and then $6 per user per month

Basic + Test plans
- Includes all Basic plan features, and test planning, tracking and execution capabilities
- Includes an Azure DevOps Server CAL
- $52 per user per month

- Organizations must license the server separately for Windows Server
- SQL Server is also required to run Azure DevOps Server but is downloadable as part of the Azure DevOps Server installation as long as it is used exclusively to support the installation of Azure DevOps Server. It may be installed on the same or a separate server
- Visual Studio subscribers receive rights to install Azure DevOps Server and to use a CAL. That CAL may NOT be taken to another organization