

Extended Security Updates: Windows Server 2012

Extended Security Updates overview

Windows Server 2012/2012 R2 reached end of support on October 10, 2023. This means that no more security patches are released to protect workloads running these versions of Windows Server.

The Extended Security Updates (ESU) program is a last resort option for customers who need to run these legacy Microsoft products past the end of support.

Extended Security Updates include security updates for three years from the end of support date and are available free of charge for servers hosted in Azure, and available to purchase for servers not hosted in Azure.

Extended Security Updates in Azure

Windows Server ESUs are provided free of charge for workloads running in Azure.

This includes:

- Azure VMs
 - PAYG
 - BYOL
- Azure Dedicated Host
- Azure Stack HCI
- Azure Stack Hub
- Azure VMWare Solution
- Nutanix Cloud Clusters on Azure

Purchasing Extended Security Updates

ESUs must be purchased for Windows Server 2012 workloads running on a customer's servers, or in a partner infrastructure.

Choices:

- Buy 1-year Extended Security Updates licenses through CSP
- PAYG monthly subscriptions via Azure Arc paid through an Azure Subscription

Qualifying licenses:

- Licenses with active Software Assurance acquired through ANY Volume Licensing agreement
- Software Subscriptions acquired through CSP



ESUs: 1-year licenses

Licensing:

- Equivalent to the price of a license each year
- Available in multi-core packs for Standard and Datacenter editions
- You can choose to license the VM (minimum of 8 Core licenses) or the physical server (minimum of 16 Core licenses), but it must match the way the underlying operating system is licensed
- The edition of the ESU must match the underlying operating system
- You don't need to purchase ESUs to cover CALs and External Connector licenses, but all CALs and External Connector licenses providing access to servers covered with ESUs must have active SA or be subscription licenses

Coverage eligibility:

- You must have at least one month of SA coverage or Software Subscription term left before you can purchase the ESUs
- Coverage must be continuous – you can't buy Year 2 licenses without buying Year 1 licenses too

ESU software:

- Multiple Activation Keys are available from the Microsoft 365 Admin Center
- ESU software may be used on dev and test servers covered by Visual Studio subscriptions, and on Disaster Recovery servers

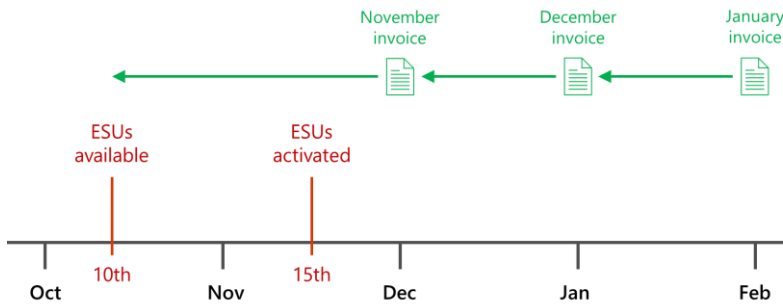
ESUs: Azure Arc

Licensing:

- Equivalent to the price of a license each year
- You can choose to license the VM (minimum of 8 Core licenses) or the physical server (minimum of 16 Core licenses) regardless of how the underlying operating system is licensed
- If you choose to license by VM, the Standard edition rate is automatically used
- Available in multi-core packs for Standard and Datacenter editions

Coverage eligibility:

- Customers must have active SA coverage or an active Software Subscription before they can purchase the ESUs
- Coverage must be continuous – customers will be back-billed for any gaps in coverage as shown below



Customers who enroll in ESUs enabled by Azure Arc after the end of support date, are billed a one-time upfront charge for the months they missed after the end of support date, with billing at the end of the month via an Azure Subscription

ESU software:

- Azure Arc ESUs don't require the acquisition or activation of keys
- ESU software may be used on dev and test servers covered by Visual Studio subscriptions, and on Disaster Recovery servers

Using ESUs with partners

Customers can purchase ESUs for any correctly licensed Windows Server workload as per the table below:

Hosted by a partner

• Authorized Mobility partner	None: BYOL not possible
• Authorized Outsourcer	Buy ESUs and take to this partner
• CSP Hoster partner	Buy ESUs and take to this partner
• Listed Provider	None: BYOL not possible*
• SPLA partner	Buy ESUs and take to this partner



** Note that all Listed Providers are currently SPLA partners, and customers licensing Windows Server 2012/2012 R2 workloads with a Listed Provider before October 1, 2019 may purchase ESUs for those workloads*