

Azure VMware Solution

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Overview

Q. What is Azure VMware Solution?

A. [Azure VMware Solution](#) (AVS) is a native Azure service providing a VMware virtual private cloud software stack running on dedicated bare-metal servers in Azure regions. Azure VMware Solution enables a fast path for customers to extend or migrate VMware on-premises workloads to Azure without the cost, effort, or risk of re-architecting applications or retooling operations.

Q. What are the top customer use cases for Azure VMware Solution?

- A. Enterprises large and small are using Azure VMware Solution for:
- Data center expansion by scaling out to Azure on-demand to meet seasonal, temporary, or regional needs
 - Disaster recovery protection for VMware infrastructure using Broadcom or partner solutions in Azure
 - Data center footprint reduction and migration to meet demanding schedules imposed by data center closures or cloud migration mandates
 - Application modernization at your own pace using native Azure services and VMware cloud-native solutions
 - Cloud desktop virtualization for capacity expansion or disaster resiliency using Omnissa Horizon or other virtual desktop infrastructure solutions

Q. Who develops Azure VMware Solution?

A. Broadcom and Microsoft have jointly engineered Azure VMware Solution.

Q. Who supports Azure VMware Solution?

A. Microsoft supports Azure VMware Solution customers and can call on Broadcom customer support experts and technical resources when needed.

Q. Who sells Azure VMware Solution?

A. Azure VMware Solution is sold by Microsoft and Microsoft partners. Customers considering Azure VMware Solution can work with their Broadcom account teams to learn more about the solution and to be connected to Microsoft and Microsoft partners.

Q. What VMware technologies are included with this solution?

A. Azure VMware Solution deploys VMware Software-Defined Data Center (SDDC) clusters comprising VMware vSphere for compute virtualization, VMware vSAN for hyperconverged storage, VMware NSX for software-defined networking, and vCenter for management. VMware HCX Enterprise is also included for workload migration and extension of on-premises networks to Azure VMware Solution. See [Microsoft documentation for the specific VMware software versions](#) deployed with Azure VMware Solution.

Q. How does Azure VMware Solution simplify extending operations or migrating to Azure?

A. By providing a fully consistent VMware infrastructure platform on the Azure cloud, Azure VMware Solution lets you run VMware workloads in the cloud without replatforming or refactoring of VMs or applications. Its use of vCenter for management means no retraining of IT teams, and operational processes like runbooks, automation, Disaster Recovery (DR), and backups work without major changes.

Q. What hardware does Azure VMware Solution use?

A. An Azure VMware SDDC is deployed in clusters with a minimum of three hosts. Hosts are bare-metal servers in Azure data centers dedicated to each customer. Currently available host types are 36-core AV36P, 52-core AV52, and 64-core AV64. Storage and networking are included with each host. Refer to Microsoft documentation for [detailed host specifications](#).

Q. Can VMware workloads running in Azure VMware Solution integrate with other native Azure services?

A. Yes. Azure VMware Solution is a native Azure service and VM workloads can integrate with Azure's broad ecosystem of over 200 services including DR, backup, storage, Entra ID (Azure Active Directory), Azure management and security services, Azure AI Services, and more.

Q. Where is Azure VMware Solution available today?

A. The service is currently available in 33 Azure Commercial and Government regions with more added regularly.

To view the most up-to-date information on availability, please visit <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/global-infrastructure/services/?products=azure-vmware>.

Q. What is the pricing for Azure VMware Solution?

A. The service can be consumed on-demand on an hourly basis along with 1-, 3-, and 5-year reserved instances.

To view current pricing, please visit <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/pricing/details/azure-vmware/>.

Through June 30, 2025, Microsoft is offering 20% discounts on 1-year reserved instances as part of their [VMware Rapid Migration Plan](#).

Q. What savings are available with Azure VMware Solution?

A. Customers can save on Azure VMware Solution costs using these Microsoft offerings:

- 1-year reserved instances provide savings up to 29% and 3- and 5-year reserved instances save up to 50% compared to hourly on-demand costs.
- [Azure Hybrid Benefit](#) can save up to 85% over pay-as-you-go rates for Windows Server and SQL Server in Azure VMware Solution VMs for customers with licenses covered by Microsoft Software Assurance. Azure Hybrid Benefit savings are also available for Red Hat Linux and SUSE Linux.
- [Free Extended Security Updates](#) for Windows Server 2012 and SQL Server 2012 and 2014 are available for those Microsoft products deployed in Azure VMware Solution VMs.

- Customers with [Microsoft Azure Consumption Commitment](#) (MACC) receive credit for Azure consumption from their Azure VMware Solution subscriptions.

Q. Where can I get more information about Azure VMware Solution?

A. Find in-depth details here:

- [VMware Azure VMware Solution Web page](#)
- [VMware Azure VMware Solution Resource Center](#)
- [Microsoft Azure VMware Solution Web page](#)
- [Microsoft Azure VMware Solution documentation](#)

Q. How do I contact Broadcom Sales about Azure VMware Solution?

A. Contact a Broadcom representative to get more information and to take the next steps with Azure VMware Solution [here](#).

VMware Cloud Foundation License Portability to Azure VMware Solution

Q. Can I bring VMware Cloud Foundation subscriptions I have purchased to Azure VMware Solution?

A. Broadcom and Microsoft [announced](#) an agreement to support VMware Cloud Foundation license portability for Azure VMware Solution in May 2024 and [made license portability generally available](#) in September 2024. To be eligible for license portability, the VMware Cloud Foundation license must be version 5.1 or above purchased after December 13, 2023.

Q. What purchase options are now available for Azure VMware Solution?

A. Azure VMware Solution subscriptions can now be purchased in two ways:

- Integrated Offering: This is the existing subscription offering from Microsoft that provides the VMware software stack of vSphere, vSAN, and NSX delivered in an as-a-service model integrated on dedicated hosts in Azure regions. Microsoft has announced plans to upgrade this VMware software stack to VMware Cloud Foundation in the near future.

- VCF License Portability to AVS: Customers port eligible VMware Cloud Foundation licenses purchased from Broadcom or a Broadcom partner to an AVS “VCF BYOL” subscription that they purchase from Microsoft. The same VMware software stack used by the current Integrated Offering is deployed by Microsoft even though it is the customer’s VCF subscription that provides the license entitlement to the VMware software components. To be eligible for license portability, the VMware Cloud Foundation license must be version 5.1 or above purchased after December 13, 2023.

Refer to the [Microsoft documentation of the VCF license portability to AVS process](#).

VMware Cloud Foundation Components and Add-On Services for Azure VMware Solution

Q. Which VMware Cloud Foundation components are supported with Azure VMware Solution?

- A. [VMware Cloud Foundation Operations](#), [Operations for networks](#), and [Automation](#) (formerly Aria) on-premises installations can connect to and manage AVS SDDCs.

Broadcom and Microsoft are validating installations of those components and [VMware Cloud Director](#) on AVS SDDCs. Contact your Broadcom sales team to inquire about the status of those validations.

[VMware HCX Enterprise](#) provides flexible workload migration and network extension options and is included with Azure VMware Solution.

Q. Which VMware Cloud Foundation add-ons are supported with Azure VMware Solution?

- A. [VMware Live Site Recovery](#) is supported with Azure VMware Solution to enable an AVS SDDC to act as a disaster recovery site to protect VMware infrastructure on-premises or in the cloud. VMware Live Site Recovery also provides disaster recovery protection for workloads in AVS.

[VMware vDefend Firewall](#) is included with Azure VMware Solution and integrates with NSX to protect workloads in AVS.

[VMware AVI Load Balancer](#) enhances application delivery from Azure VMware Solution.

VMware Tanzu Application Service, a component of [Tanzu Platform](#), is supported in AVS to accelerate application development and delivery with Cloud Foundry.

Q. What other VMware products are supported with Azure VMware Solution?

- A. [VMware VeloCloud SD-WAN](#) can run in Azure to streamline WAN connectivity to apps on AVS.

For virtual desktops, [OmniSSA Horizon](#) and other VDI solutions can be installed on AVS SDDCs to extend on-premises desktop infrastructure to Azure.

Azure VMware Solution in Azure Government

Q. What is Azure Government?

- A. [Azure Government](#) is Microsoft’s mission-critical cloud for U.S. government customers and their partners. Azure Government provides world-class security and compliance in dedicated cloud regions with physically isolated data centers and networks in the U.S. Customer data stays in the U.S. and is managed by screened U.S. citizens.

Q. Is Azure VMware Solution available in Azure Government?

- A. Yes, Azure VMware Solution is offered in the Azure Government Virginia and Arizona regions.

Q. Who would use Azure VMware Solution in Azure Government?

- A. Public sector agencies and their partners required to operate in a cloud complying with U.S. government requirements can simplify and accelerate migration of VMware workloads to the cloud with Azure VMware Solution in Azure Government. In addition to cloud migration, it supports use cases for data center expansion, disaster recovery to the cloud, application modernization, cloud virtual desktops.

Q. What U.S. government certifications has Azure VMware Solution in Azure Government obtained?

A. Azure VMware Solution in Azure Government has [received approval](#) to be added the Azure Government FedRAMP High provisional authorization to operate (P-ATO) by the FedRAMP Joint Authorization Board (JAB). DoD Impact Level (IL) 4 approval has also been granted and work is underway on additional U.S. government certifications.

Q. Where can I get more information about Azure VMware Solution in Azure Government?

A. Refer to the [announcement from Microsoft](#) and this Azure VMware Solution in Azure Government [Solution Brief](#).