



BOOK OF NEWS

# Microsoft Ignite 2019

Orlando, November 4 – 8, 2019





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# Foreword by Frank Shaw

We have so much news this **Ignite** about Microsoft Azure, Power Platform, Security, Microsoft 365, Microsoft Edge and Microsoft Bing that we could fill a book — and we did!

This second edition of the Ignite Book of News is your guide to all the announcements we're making with all the detail you've come to expect since last year's Ignite, when we first started doing this. Our goal was to make it easy for you to navigate all the latest information and get key details on the topics you care about. We've created a Book of News for several big events since then, and this Ignite 2019 edition is perhaps our most in-depth one yet.

At this year's Nov. 4-8 event in Orlando, we'll welcome more than 26,000 IT implementers and decision makers, developers, data professionals and people from various industries to experience the latest technology available today — and get a peek at what's coming as we step into a new decade.

Across all our news, we're focused on the evolving needs of our customers. It's a time when every company is becoming a tech company, and that's a big consideration in all of the tools and services we create to help companies do business in smarter, more productive and more efficient ways.

You'll see AI infused into product and service updates across the company, as well as our firm commitment to security and privacy. You'll also see how our approach of investing in built-in capabilities, cloud-powered intelligence and integration is helping customers address some of their biggest security and compliance concerns.

As always, send us your feedback! We'd love to hear how we're doing at getting you all the information, executive insight and context you need.

**fxs**



## SECTION 1

# Azure





# Chapter 1 Azure Infrastructure

### Item 1.1.1 Azure Arc: Extended Azure management and security to any infrastructure

Businesses today face increasingly complex environments, including thousands of apps, diverse hardware and infrastructure, and multiple clouds. As a result, customers need to enable innovation and developer agility; govern and operate disparate environments at scale; and ensure integrated security across the entire organization.

Azure Arc enables Azure services anywhere and extends Azure management to any infrastructure for unified management, governance and control across clouds, datacenters and edge. They look and feel just like Azure resources, and they provide unified auditing, compliance, and role-based access control across multiple environments and at scale.

As a result, customers can modernize any infrastructure with cloud management and security protection. With cloud practices that work anywhere, Microsoft is delivering these resources, from cloud to datacenter to edge, and enabling cloud security anywhere.

Millions of Azure resources are managed, governed, and secured daily by thousands of customers. With Azure Arc, customers can now take advantage of Azure's robust cloud management experience for their own servers (Linux and Windows Server) and Kubernetes clusters by extending Azure management across environments. Customers can seamlessly inventory, organize, and govern their own resources at-scale through a consistent and unified experience through the Azure Portal.

Azure Arc for management of Windows and Linux servers on any infrastructure is available in preview on November 4. Azure Arc for management of Kubernetes clusters is available in preview.

Go to the [Microsoft Azure Blog](#) and the [Innovation Stories Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Arc, Azure, Azure Resource Manager

### Item 1.1.2 Azure Data Services Preview: Run Azure data services anywhere

With its preview today, Azure Arc is enabling Azure data services anywhere, so that customers can run software such as Azure SQL Database and Azure Database for PostgreSQL Hyperscale on any infrastructure. Effectively transforming the way data is managed by taking a traditionally complex process into a deployment that takes only seconds, Azure Data Services provides customers with more insights in real time, unlocking AI across the datacenter, edge and up to the cloud. Azure Arc also extends data services manageability from Azure, so customers can use Azure to manage their on-premises infrastructure, including servers and Kubernetes clusters. This provides consistent security, with automation at-scale and unified management of all data and AI assets.

Azure Data Services begins its preview November 4, starting with the ability to run Azure SQL Database and Azure Database for PostgreSQL Hyperscale on any Kubernetes and any hardware of choice, to be followed by additional Azure data services based on customer needs. With their Azure AI models deployed from cloud to edge in-database (Azure SQL Database Edge, or containerized SQL), customers don't have to custom code apps.



Customers can choose from a variety of data and analytics engines to deploy, scale, and manage workloads in the same way as in Azure, with built-in automation on operational tasks, integrated monitoring, and access to latest innovations such as evergreen SQL engine, PostgreSQL Hyperscale, and intelligent performance. They can connect to Azure for cloud resiliency on business continuity, Advanced Threat Protection, and unified views over their entire hybrid data estate. Apply Azure Policy and role-based access control for consistent governance, with flexibility for customer-defined policies such as security, upgrade time-window, and so on at the enterprise level.

Go to the [Microsoft Azure Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Arc, sqldatabase, PostgreSQL, azure, hybrid data management

### Item 1.1.3 Azure Da\_v4 and Das\_v4 virtual machines

Azure Da v4 and Das v4 virtual machines feature high performance at competitive price points suitable for enterprise-grade applications, relational databases, and application servers. These new Azure VMs feature the latest AMD EPYC™ 7452 processor and provide up to 96 vCPUs, 384 GBs of RAM, and 2,400 GBs of SSD-based temporary storage. The Das-series VMs support Azure Premium SSDs and Ultra Disks.

Customers will be able to deploy these new Azure VMs the same way they deploy any other Azure VM today via Azure Portal, CLI, or PowerShell or using ARM Templates.

Microsoft [previously announced the preview](#) of these updates in August 2019, with general availability of the Da v4 and Das v4 Azure VM-series for general purpose workloads on November 4.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** AMD, Azure Virtual Machines, Azure VMs, General Purpose VMs, DA v4 VMs

### Item 1.1.4 Serial Console for Azure Government Cloud public preview

Azure Government Cloud customers are getting access to a popular troubleshooting tool for virtual machines: [Serial Console](#). Serial Console provides access to a text-based console for Windows virtual machines and virtual machine scale set instances, regardless of the network or operating system state.

At Ignite 2019, Microsoft is announcing a public preview of Serial Console for Azure Government Cloud.

Go to [Windows-specific](#) and [Linux-specific](#) overviews of Serial Console and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Serial Console, Linux, Windows Server, Government Cloud, Troubleshooting

### Item 1.1.5 Azure Generation 2 virtual machines generally available

As we continually update Azure's underlying infrastructure, Microsoft is bringing new key features to Generation 2 virtual machines in Azure that are becoming generally available on November 4. These features include increased memory and Intel Software Guard Extensions. This new generation will also provide support for large VMs (up to 12 TBs) and allow our customers to provision OS Disk sizes that exceed 2 TBs.



Support for Generation 2 VMs makes it easier for customers to migrate their existing Gen 2 VM-based workloads to Azure. Finally, with this offering we are bringing support for UEFI boot architecture in Azure. As with any existing Azure VM, customers can choose during the provisioning and deployment process whether, and how, to deploy Generation 1 or Generation 2 VMs, depending on their needs using the Portal, CLI, or PowerShell.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Generation 2 VMs, Large memory VMs, UEFI boot architecture

### Item 1.1.6 New features for Azure virtual machine scale sets

New features for Azure virtual machine scale sets will help customers more easily manage virtual machines together while improving their runtime and performance capabilities.

Customers will now be able to create an empty virtual machine scale set and add various virtual machines belonging to different series later. That will allow them to achieve high availability by deploying a set of virtual machines to a single availability zone and/or across different fault domains in an available zone.

Additionally, customers can now provision VMs with custom images using a shared image gallery that provides an easy, quick, and scalable way to share images across different VMs. A new scale-in policy lets customers determine the order in which VMs should be scaled in, or deprovisioned. New termination notifications give customers up to 15 minutes to perform any cleanup or end tasks before VMs are deprovisioned, and new instance protection from scale-in helps customers protect designated VMs from being deprovisioned during a scale-in action.

The new features, available in public preview, will help customers get their applications up and running quickly while giving them control over how applications scale down.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** VMSS, VM scale sets, share image gallery, VMSS enhancements

### Item 1.1.7 Azure Bastion GA

Customers who connect to workloads and virtual machines on private networks face increased security risks. Exposing network assets to the public internet through Remote Desktop Protocol and Secure Shell increases the security perimeter, making it harder to manage and protect them.

Microsoft on November 4 is announcing the general availability of Azure Bastion, a fully managed PaaS service that provides more secure and seamless RDP and SSH access to virtual machines directly through the Azure Portal. Azure Bastion is provisioned directly in a customer's Virtual Network and supports all VMs in their VNet using SSL, without any exposure through public IP addresses.

**Previously available in preview**, Azure Bastion is now generally available in six Azure regions: Australia East, East US, Japan East, South Central US, West Europe and West US.

Customers can initiate a remote Azure Bastion session directly from Azure Portal (using single click). Azure Bastion then brokers a more secure RDP/SSH session to the target virtual machines in the virtual network. Azure Bastion always connects to the target VM in the virtual network over its private IP.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Bastion, Virtual Machines, Azure Lab Services, RDP, SSH



### Item 1.1.8 Azure ExpressRoute

Satellite connectivity helps bring coverage to challenging areas and remote locations, for industries like energy, transportation, farming, and remote manufacturing. Microsoft Azure ExpressRoute, with one of the largest networking ecosystems in the public cloud, now includes satellite connectivity partners that bring new options and coverage.

Azure ExpressRoute is collaborating with leading satellite providers to expand the reach of the intelligent cloud across the globe. ExpressRoute for satellites expands connectivity via Geostationary, Medium Earth Orbit, and in the future Low Earth Orbit satellites to our partners' ground stations to our global network using a dedicated private link.

A related announcement was made on the [Azure Blog](#) on Sept. 9, 2019.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** [AzureInSpace](#), [AzureExpressRoute](#), [AzureNetworking](#), [Networking](#)

### Item 1.1.9 Azure Internet Analyzer

Customers onboarding to the cloud today don't have the insight they need into the performance their end users will experience when they migrate to Azure or a new Azure service. Internet Analyzer provides clear analytics and insights into their expected end-user performance, making the decision to migrate that much simpler.

At Microsoft Ignite on November 4, Microsoft is announcing a preview of Internet Analyzer, delivering data-driven performance reporting across multiple endpoints for app migration and delivery, and internet content and app delivery. Customers can use Internet Analyzer to make informed app delivery decisions by A/B testing load balancing options between Azure and other cloud providers.

Customers embed the Internet Analyzer client into their web application and define the type of A/B test they want to conduct via the API/ CLI/ Portal. The client measures latency between the application's end users and the defined test endpoints. This data provides users with both insight into their end user's experience across the internet and guidance on which Azure services can accelerate that performance.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** [internet analyzer](#), [network performance](#), [network test](#), [Azure Front Door](#), [CDN](#)

### Item 1.1.10 Azure Peering Service

Azure Peering Service is a partnership with service providers to provide highly reliable and optimized internet connectivity to Microsoft services. It also provides internet latency telemetry and route monitoring, and alerting against hijacks, leaks, and any other Border Gateway Protocol misconfigurations.

On November 4 at Microsoft Ignite, the company will announce the preview of Azure Peering Service.

Azure Peering Service is an answer for customers looking for an internet-first network strategy when accessing SaaS services such as Office 365 or other SaaS services running on Azure. By partnering with service providers, customers get the best possible internet traffic routing for optimal and future-proof connectivity to Microsoft.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** [Peering](#); [Global Network](#); [network performance](#); [network peering](#)



### Item 1.1.11 IPv6 for Azure VNET generally available

Internet Protocol version 6 is an internet standard for communicating between computers. One of its most notable features is the exceptionally large number of IP addresses available using this protocol. The 128-bit addresses are four times the length of IPv4 addresses (32-bit) but provide  $3.4 \times 10^{38}$  addresses—enough for each person on the globe to have billions of addresses to themselves.

Most Regional Internet Registries exhausted their IPv4 address space as of 2015, so new IPv4 address space is no longer available. As a result, the cost of IPv4 address space continues to climb, and governments and industries—most notably mobile (cellular) and IoT markets—are moving to IPv6 for its vastly increased address space (over IPV4) and other features.

Microsoft is announcing that IPv6 for Azure VNet will become generally available across Azure regions worldwide shortly after the Ignite conference. Preview was announced in July 2019.

IPv6 support within the Azure Virtual Network and to the internet enables customers to expand into the growing mobile and IoT markets with Azure-based applications and to address IPv4 depletion in their own corporate networks.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** IPv6, IoT, Mobility, IPv4Exhaustion

### Item 1.1.12 Better performance with bursting enhancement and smaller size offerings on Azure Disks

Smaller sizes and burstable disks provide a lower cost of entry for customers migrating to the cloud by enabling workloads with less predictable traffic patterns to fine-tune disk performance. Azure Disks now support new 4, 8, and 16 GB sizes on Premium SSD and Standard SSD. Applicable Premium SSD disks can now burst up to 30x of the provisioned performance target, providing better tolerance for spiky workloads.

On November 4, Microsoft is announcing this new capability in preview.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Storage, Azure Disks, bursting

### Item 1.1.13 Enabling server-side encryption with customer-managed keys for Azure Disks

Azure Managed Disks now provides customers with full control on their compliance needs by enabling server-side encryption with customer-managed keys (SSE with CMK). SSE with CMK enables customers to leverage Azure Key Vault as the highly available and scalable repository for their Azure Disk encryption keys.

On November 4, Microsoft is announcing SSE with CMK is available in preview for Premium SSD, Standard SSD, and Standard HDD disk types. Customers will be able to track key usage using AKV monitoring to ensure access from trusted parties.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Disks, SSE with CMK, server-side encryption, CMK



### Item 1.1.14 Optimize data protection with incremental snapshots and direct upload on Azure Disks

Backup and disaster recovery solutions can optimize costs by capturing delta writes and moving them to low-cost object storage for long-term retention. Azure Managed Disks now offers incremental snapshots, which allow for cost-effective point-in-time backups of Azure Disks.

On November 4, Microsoft is announcing this enhancement in preview. In addition, Azure Disks now offers direct upload to copy a VHD from on-premises or backup location directly as a Managed Disk, which further simplifies restores from backups.

Go to [here](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Cost Management, budgets, governance, optimize

### Item 1.1.15 Azure Cost Management generally available for Cloud Solutions Partners

Azure Cost Management helps organizations plan by analyzing costs effectively and optimizing cloud spending to get more value out of cloud investments. ACM has not been available to partners until now.

On November 4, Microsoft is announcing the general availability of ACM for Cloud Solution Provider partners whose customers are onboarded on a Microsoft Customer Agreement. CSP partners will be able to analyze costs through dashboards that enable rich filtering, and to leverage Azure Advisor within the ACM service to optimize their workloads.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Cost management, budgets, governance, optimize

### Item 1.1.16 New governance capabilities for Azure

Microsoft has worked hard to deliver advanced governance capabilities already in Azure, and we seek to continuously improve those capabilities based on customer feedback. Microsoft on November 4 is introducing several new capabilities that help make governance easier on Azure, including:

- **Key Vault policy – public preview**  
Azure Policy is moving into Azure KeyVault in public preview. This allows the implementation of governance controls on keys and secrets inside the vault.
- **Custom RBAC support for MGs**  
Now you can apply custom RBAC at the management group level.
- **Subscription tags**  
We are enabling the ability to apply tags to subscriptions so you can track them better moving forward.
- **Azure Cost Management for partners on MCA**  
With the introduction of the Microsoft Customer Agreement type of account, Azure Cost Management is now going live for partners on MCA. This will allow partners to better monitor through tools like cost analysis, set accountability through budgets, and optimize resources to realize more value out of Azure for them and for their customers.



With these updates, customers will be able to see what Microsoft covers as part of regulatory compliance needs to create policies inside AKS and KeyVault in areas like pods, ingress, keys, and secrets, and apply custom RBAC on management groups as well as tags on subscriptions.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Governance, policy, enforce, guardrails

### Item 1.1.17 Azure HPC Cache generally available

Enterprise organizations with large high-performance computing workloads need better access to large data sets stored in on-premises network-attached storage and in Azure.

On November 4, Microsoft is announcing the general availability of the Azure HPC Cache service, a new offering that empowers organizations to more easily run large, complex high-performance computing workloads in Azure. Azure HPC Cache reduces latency for applications where data may be tethered to existing datacenter infrastructure because of dataset sizes and operational scale.

Azure HPC Cache automatically caches active data in Azure that is located both on-premises and in Azure, effectively hiding latency to on-premises network-attached storage, Azure-based NAS environments using Azure NetApp Files, or Azure Blob Storage. The cache delivers high-performance seamless network file system (NFSv3) access to files in the Portable Operating System Interface- compliant directory structures.

The [public preview of Azure HPC Cache](#) was initially announced in September.

Go to the [Azure page](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

### Item 1.1.18 Azure HBv2 virtual machines coming soon

Azure HBv2 virtual machines are designed to deliver leadership-class performance, message passing interface scalability, and cost efficiency for a variety of real-world high-performance compute workloads.

Across a single virtual machine scale set, customers can run a single MPI job on HBv2 virtual machines at up to 36,000 cores. For our largest customers, HBv2 virtual machines support up to 80,000 cores for single jobs.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure, Virtual Machines, high performance compute

### Item 1.1.19 Azure Ea v4 and Eas v4 series virtual machines

Microsoft is committed to giving customers industry-leading performance for all their workloads.

After being the first global cloud provider to announce the [deployment of AMD EPYC™ based Azure virtual machines](#) in 2017, we've been working together to continue bringing the latest innovation to enterprises.



That includes the previously announced preview of memory optimized Ea\_v3 and Eas\_v3 Azure virtual machines, which provide up to 64 vCPUs, 432 GBs of RAM and 1,600 GBs of SSD-based temporary storage. They also support Premium SSD disk storage.

On November 4, Microsoft is announcing general availability of the Ea v4 and Eas v4 Azure VM-series for memory-intensive workloads. These new Azure VMs feature AMD's latest EPYC™ 7452 processor and provide up to 96 vCPUs, 672 GBs of RAM and 2,400 GBs of SSD-based temporary storage. The Ea v4 and Eas v4 VMs offer great performance for large in-memory business-critical workloads at competitive price points. The Eas-series VMs support Azure Premium SSDs and Ultra Disks.

With these releases, Microsoft continues to bring the latest innovation to our customers while offering a choice of Intel- and AMD-based VMs to meet a broad and diversified range of workloads.

Customers will be able to deploy these new Azure VMs the same way they deploy any other Azure VM today via Azure Portal, CLI, PowerShell, or ARM Templates.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** AMD, Azure Virtual Machines, Azure VMs, General Purpose VMs

### Item 1.1.20 Azure NVv4 virtual machine public preview

Azure offers a wide variety of virtual machine sizes tailored to meet diverse customer needs. Our NV size family has been optimized for GPU-powered visualization workloads, such as CAD, gaming, and simulation.

The Azure NVv4 virtual machine offers unprecedented GPU resourcing flexibility, giving customers more choice than ever. Customers can select from VMs with a whole GPU all the way down to 1/8th of a GPU.

With our hardware-based GPU virtualization solution built on top of AMD MxGPU and industry-standard SR-IOV technology, customers can securely run workloads on virtual GPUs with dedicated GPU frame buffer.

NVv4 will be available for preview November 4. This was previously [announced](#) in early August.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure, Virtual Machines, GPU

### Item 1.1.21 Azure NDv2 virtual machines public preview

NDv2-series virtual machine is the latest, fastest, and most powerful addition to the GPU family specifically designed for the cutting-edge demands of distributed HPC, AI, and machine learning workloads.

Microsoft is announcing general availability of NDv2 on November 4.

The VMs feature 8 NVIDIA Tesla V100 NVLINK interconnected GPUs with 32 GB of memory each, 40 nonhyperthreaded Intel Xeon Platinum 8168 processor cores, and 672 GB of system memory. The NDv2-series VMs also feature 100 Gb/sec EDR InfiniBand with support for standard Mellanox OFED drivers and all MPI types and versions.



With a total of 256 GB of GPU memory and 100 Gb/sec InfiniBand interconnect, NDv2-series VMs are ready for the most demanding ML models and distributed AI training workloads utilizing Cuda, TensorFlow, Pytorch, Caffe, and other frameworks. NVv4 will be available for preview November 4.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure, Virtual Machines, GPU

### **Item 1.1.22 Azure Monitor: Network Insights (Preview) and faster processing in Traffic Analytics**

Azure Monitor empowers customers to identify and diagnose issues, view metrics, and enable or disable logs for resources in an Azure virtual network.

At Microsoft Ignite, Microsoft is announcing two enhancements that will provide greater visibility into network activity in the cloud:

- **Network Insights**  
Introducing a single console that provides health information and other data across customer networking resources in the cloud.
- **Traffic Analytics**  
An existing solution that provides visibility and auditing support for network activity in the cloud, Traffic Analytics now provides faster insights by processing data at 10-minute intervals.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Monitor, Network Watcher

### **Item 1.1.23 Azure Monitor: New Application Insights agent, Application Change Analysis**

Azure Monitor makes it easy for DevOps teams to monitor and diagnose networking issues without logging into their virtual machines or having to touch any code.

At Microsoft Ignite, Microsoft is introducing new capabilities that enable no-code monitoring of .NET applications running on Azure virtual machines.

The new Application Insights agent includes enhancements to debugging and profiling capabilities. The agent monitors IIS and .NET processes and collects telemetry.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Monitor

### **Item 1.1.24 Azure Monitor for containers: Preview of Hybrid Monitoring, general availability of Prometheus Support**

Monitoring containers is critical, especially when running a production cluster, at scale, with multiple applications.

Azure Monitor for containers is designed to monitor the performance of container workloads deployed to either Azure Container instances or managed Kubernetes clusters hosted on Azure Kubernetes Service.



At Microsoft Ignite, Microsoft is announcing two new Azure Monitor for containers features:

- **Hybrid Monitoring**

Customers who run a hybrid Kubernetes deployment with on-premises and Azure infrastructure can now just use Azure Monitor for monitoring both environments.

- **Prometheus Support**

The capability to scrape Prometheus metrics and logs directly into Azure Monitor is now generally available.

In addition, Microsoft is unveiling multiple smaller enhancements, including cluster health roll up and live deployment metrics.

As a result of these updates, customers can now use the rich telemetry from Prometheus, get additional insights from Azure Monitor, and view and analyze all the data together in one place with Azure Monitor for containers.

Go to the [Azure page](#) overview and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags: Kubernetes, Azure Monitor**

### **Item 1.1.25 Azure Monitor Log Analytics lower costs with capacity-based pricing**

For businesses that create and process hundreds of gigabytes of data per day, costs from operation data or use cases can add up. To help lower those costs, while also providing more predictability and flexibility, Microsoft is introducing the Capacity Reservations pricing model for Azure Monitor Log Analytics customers.

The new program gives bulk data users another option for managing their data spending. With Capacity Reservations, customers can secure fees for data ingestion and get a discount of up to 25% compared to pay as you go, with pricing tiers beginning at 100 GB per day. This new offering does not impact customers who prefer to pay as they go.

This new pricing option was announced as part of Azure Sentinel and is available beginning November 1.

Go to the Log Analytics section in the [Azure Monitor pricing page](#) and the [Azure page](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags: Azure Monitor**

### **Item 1.1.26 Windows Server on Azure: Announcing Windows Admin Center version 1910 GA**

Microsoft continues to innovate to give customers the best Windows Server experience across Azure and on-premises. At Ignite, we will announce the general availability of Windows Admin Center version 1910—available for download November 4. Highlights of what's new include:

- Integration with Azure Security Center for end-to-end hybrid server environment security monitoring
- Easier extension of on-premises server environments to Azure with Azure Extended Networking and Azure NIC
- New preview of Performance Monitoring features to track and troubleshoot server and VM performance



- HCI configuration wizard to streamline setup of Azure Stack Hub HCI or Windows Server 2019 systems

Go to the [Windows Server Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure, Windows Server, Hybrid

### Item 1.1.27 Availability of BC/DR foundational pattern for Azure Stack Hub to Azure Stack Hub

Microsoft Azure Stack Hub is an extension that lets customers deliver Azure services from their own datacenter or consume them directly from a service provider. Consuming IaaS and PaaS services from Azure Stack Hub requires a modern approach to planning business continuity and disaster recovery compared to traditional on-premises solutions.

To help customers better protect their IaaS virtual machine-based applications, Microsoft is announcing the availability of BC/DR foundational pattern for Azure Stack Hub in the first half of calendar year 2020. Azure Stack Hub customers with multiple systems in different geographic locations can follow this pattern to enable failover and failback of IaaS VMs for planned maintenance, disaster avoidance, or in the event of a disaster that takes one of the systems offline.

Go to our recent [whitepaper](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** AzureStack, BCDR, Resiliency, recoverability, availability

### Item 1.1.28 Event Hubs on Azure Stack Hub (Public Preview)

Event Hubs is a fully managed, real-time data ingestion service that's simple, trusted, and scalable. Customers use it to stream millions of events per second from any source, build dynamic data pipelines, and immediately respond to business challenges, even during emergencies. It integrates seamlessly with other Azure services, enabling customers to build on-premises and hybrid applications.

On November 4, Microsoft is announcing the preview of Event Hubs on Azure Stack Hub. Customers can now install the Event Hubs service on their Azure Stack Hub platform and experience a consistent feature set and operational model to that of the Event Hubs service in Azure.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure, Hybrid

### Item 1.1.29 Azure Stack Edge: New form factors and features

Azure Stack Edge is an AI-enabled edge-computing device with network data transfer capabilities. This hardware-as-a-service cloud-managed device comes with a built-in FPGA that enables accelerated AI-inferencing and has all the capabilities of a storage gateway.

Microsoft is introducing previews of several new features and form factors that bring edge computing benefits to both net new applications such as IoT and AI as well as brownfield virtual machine-based applications:

- **Commercial Series and Rugged Series for Azure Stack Edge**, featuring two form factor options with FPGA and GPU for ML inferencing at the edge. Each will be ruggedized and portable for harsh environments such as defense, energy, and industrial use cases.



- **Virtual machine support for edge compute.** Customers can choose to run applications on VMs or containers on Azure Stack Edge. This is especially useful for migrating existing applications to Azure Stack Edge.
- **Kubernetes on Azure Stack Edge** - Supports Kubernetes clustering for containerized applications on Azure Stack Edge clusters consisting of multiple devices. Azure Kubernetes Service helps with deploying and lifecycle management of the Kubernetes cluster. Provides scaling and high availability.
- **High Availability** - Automatic fail-over—in case of a loss of a server in a cluster, the VM can automatically move to another server.

Customers can order Azure Stack Edge devices through the [Azure portal](#), paying for monthly usage and returning the device to Microsoft when finished.

Go to the [Microsoft Azure Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Edge computing, ML inferencing, Intelligent IoT gateway, Azure edge

### Item 1.1.30 Azure data services (Arc) on Azure Stack Hub

Azure Stack Hub is an ideal environment for Azure data services (Arc), its integrated support for hardware, software infrastructure, and services optimize deployment.

Developers can use a wide range of Azure-consistent resource types to develop their applications, including databases, containers, virtual machines, storage, Key Vault, and many others.

On November 4, Microsoft is announcing a preview of Azure data services (Arc) modern cloud database management capabilities on Azure Stack Hub. Azure Stack Hub customers can deploy Azure data services (Arc) on Azure Stack Hub and offer self-service provisioning and management of sql ser managed instances.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Data Services, Arc, Azure Stack Hub

### Item 1.1.31 Azure Arc-enabled API Management – Preview

Microsoft is releasing Azure Arc-enabled API Management, which helps organizations manage APIs across any environment, including hybrid and multicloud.

It consists of a containerized API gateway that can be deployed in any environment, while still allowing users to manage all their APIs within the Azure API Management plane. This capability, now available in public preview, is configured through the Azure API Management plane but keeps data localized to the deployment environment to ensure security and compliance for APIs.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** APIs, API management, hybrid, multicloud



### Item 1.1.32 Public Preview of Azure Stream Analytics support on Azure Stack Hub

With Stream Analytics support on Azure Stack Hub, customers can leverage Azure technologies from the cloud to deliver hybrid data analytics solutions at the edge. This new integration enables customers to build hybrid architectures that can analyze data close to where it is generated, with low latency and maximum insights.

On November 4, Microsoft is announcing the preview of Azure Stream Analytics support on Azure Stack Hub. Azure Stack Hub customers in a connected scenario can analyze streams of data at the edge, either coming from IoT Edge or Event Hubs on Azure Stack Hub, and output the result to a Storage Account, Event Hubs, or SQL database located on Azure Stack Hub without the data having to leave their datacenter.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Stream Analytics, Event Hubs, Azure Stack Hub

### Item 1.1.33 General availability of Kubernetes on Azure Stack Hub

Simplifying the provisioning, deployment, and lifecycle management is important for application developers and IT architects. Customers now can deploy and manage the lifecycle of their Kubernetes clusters on Azure Stack Hub with a single tool, and no longer must set up intricate orchestration for the cluster deploy, upgrade, and scale processes.

On November 4, Microsoft is announcing the general availability of Kubernetes on Azure Stack Hub. The clusters managed by the Kubernetes on Azure Stack Hub contain a certified Kubernetes Cloud Provider, which leverages Azure Resource Manager to natively create and configure compute, network, and storage resources for the cluster on-demand. It does so through an Azure-maintained VM image, so that developers and IT architects have a simplified solution for maintaining the multiple cluster nodes.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Kubernetes, Azure Kubernetes Service, Azure Stack Hub

### Item 1.1.34 Preview of Windows Virtual Desktop on Azure Stack Hub

Businesses today need both data sovereignty and data gravity. Building on the hybrid capabilities of Windows Virtual Desktop, on November 4, Microsoft will announce a preview of WVD on Azure Stack Hub. In this fully connected scenario, the management plane remains in Azure, while the Host Pools running workloads remain on Azure Stack Hub.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Windows Virtual Desktop, Azure Stack Hub

### Item 1.1.35 Extending Azure Security Center's coverage with platform for community and partners

The Microsoft Intelligent Security Association brings together technology partners in the security space to collaborate and jointly defend against increasingly sophisticated, fast-moving threats. As we continue to add new partners to this coalition, we aim to provide an integrated experience for our customers.



We use a wide variety of physical, infrastructure, and operational controls to maintain the security of Azure. At Microsoft Ignite, we are announcing that we are extending Azure Security Center so that our customers can not only receive recommendations from Microsoft but also from our new partners. They can also export Security Center recommendations to partner products.

Customers using our partner solutions on top of Security Center can now use a simple onboarding flow to view all their security posture recommendations in one place, run the same reports, and leverage all Security Center capabilities on both built-in recommendations and partner recommendations.

Microsoft is also announcing that Security Center is opening its gates for the security community to contribute to and improve its policies and configurations. Customers may now use the Azure Security Center community menu, the central hub of information for additional scripts, content, and community resources, to access:

- Azure Security Center GitHub, containing custom policies, remediation scripts, custom Logic Apps playbooks, and more, for usage and contribution
- A central location for Azure Security Center blog posts
- Central enrollment for Azure Security Center previews

Go to the [Azure Security Blog](#) and [MISA page](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Security Center, MISA, Microsoft Intelligent Security Association

### **Item 1.1.36 Azure Security Center cloud security posture management enhancements**

Misconfigurations are a top risk for cloud workloads. Azure Security Center provides you with a bird's-eye security posture view across your Azure environment, enabling you to continuously monitor and improve your security posture using the secure score. Security Center helps you manage and enforce your security policies to identify and fix such misconfigurations across your different resources and maintain compliance. At Microsoft Ignite, we continue to expand our resource coverage and the depth insights available in security posture management with the following announcements:

- Secure score simplified
- Support for custom policies in preview
- Additional regulatory compliance standards in preview
- Quick Fix for bulk resources generally available

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Security Center, secure score

### **Item 1.1.37 Support for custom policies in preview**

Many customers have sought to extend their current policy in Azure Security Center's coverage of security assessments with their own security assessments based on policies that they create in Azure Policy. Microsoft is announcing that Azure Security Center now supports custom policies in preview release. These new policies will be part of the Azure Security Center recommendations experience, secure score, and the regulatory compliance standards dashboard.



With support for custom policies, customers may now create a custom initiative in Azure Policy and then add it as a policy in Azure Security Center in a simple click-through onboarding experience and visualize them as recommendations.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Security Center, custom policies

### Item 1.1.38 Additional regulatory compliance standards in preview

The Regulatory Compliance dashboard provides insights into customers' compliance posture based on Security Center assessments. The dashboard shows how a customer's environment complies with controls and requirements designated by specific regulatory standards and industry benchmarks, and provides prescriptive recommendations for how to address these requirements. The regulatory compliance dashboard has thus far supported four built-in standards: Azure CIS 1.1.0, PCI-DSS, ISO 27001, and SOC-TSP.

Microsoft is announcing the preview release of additional supported standards: NIST SP 800-53 R4, SWIFT CSP CSCF v2020, Canada Federal PBMM, and UK Official together with UK NHS. We are also releasing an updated version of Azure CIS 1.1.0, covering more controls from the standard and enhancing extensibility.

In addition, customers can now select which standards to onboard to their dashboard and track, depending on their specific requirements. The onboarding of a standard is powered by Azure Policy and is done by assignment of the selected regulatory compliance initiative to the scope designated by the customer. As more regulatory initiatives are released, an ever-growing list of standards and benchmarks will become available for management in the Azure Security Center regulatory compliance dashboard.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Security Center, regulatory compliance, Azure Policy

### Item 1.1.39 "Quick fix" for bulk resources generally available

Secure score reviews a customer's security recommendations and prioritizes them, so customers know which recommendations to perform first. With multiple tasks included as part of secure score, effectively remediating issues across a large fleet can be challenging and slow.

To simplify remediation of security misconfigurations and to quickly improve customer secure scores, Microsoft has introduced a new capability that allows customers to remediate a recommendation on multiple resources quickly. "Quick Fix," which had been in preview, is now generally available as part of the Security Center recommendations blade.

Go to the [Azure Security Center page](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Security Center, ASC, Secure Score

### Item 1.1.40 Enhanced threat protection for your cloud resources in Azure Security Center

Azure Security Center's threat protection enables you to detect and prevent threats across a wide variety of services from Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) layer to Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) resources in Azure such as IoT and App Service and finally with on-premises virtual machines.



Azure Security Center's in-depth threat detection findings can be streamlined to Microsoft's cloud SIEM offering—Azure Sentinel—for investigation, threat hunting, correlation with signals from other security solutions, and overall SOC level management.

Going forward, Azure Security Center continues to extend its threat protection capabilities to counter sophisticated threats on cloud platforms.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Security Center, threat protection, Azure Sentinel

### **Item 1.1.41 Azure Security Center preview of advanced data security for SQL Server on Azure virtual machines**

Strong data security is a foundational attribute of Microsoft cloud services. At Ignite, Microsoft is announcing two important security enhancements for SQL databases running on IaaS virtual machines in preview: Azure Security Center's support for threat protection and vulnerability assessment.

**Vulnerability assessment** is an easy-to-configure service that can discover, track, and help remediate potential database vulnerabilities. It provides visibility into a business's security posture as part of secure score and includes the steps to resolve security issues and enhance database fortifications.

**Advanced Threat Protection** detects anomalous activities indicating unusual and potentially harmful attempts to access or exploit a customer's SQL Server. It continuously monitors databases for suspicious activities and provides action-oriented security alerts on anomalous database access patterns. These alerts provide the suspicious activity details and recommended actions to investigate and mitigate the threat.

For a complete set of instructions, review the documentation for [Advanced data security for SQL Server on VM](#).

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Security Center, Vulnerability assessment, Advanced Threat Protection

### **Item 1.1.42 Vulnerability assessment (powered by Qualys) in Azure Security Center preview**

Applications that are installed in virtual machines can be prone to vulnerabilities that could lead to a breach of the virtual machine. We are announcing that the Security Center Standard tier includes built-in vulnerability assessment for virtual machines for no additional fee. The vulnerability assessment, powered by Qualys in the public preview, will allow you to continuously scan all the installed applications in a virtual machine to find vulnerable applications and present findings in the Security Center's portal's experience. Security Center takes care of all deployment operations so that no extra work is required from the user. Going forward we are planning to provide vulnerability assessment options to support our customers' unique business needs.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Security center, Vulnerability Assessment, Virtual Machines



### Item 1.1.43 Threat protection for Azure Kubernetes Service

Kubernetes is quickly becoming the new standard for deploying and managing software in the cloud. But few people have extensive experience with Kubernetes security.

To help customers better harness security insights and best practices, Microsoft is announcing at Microsoft Ignite that Azure Security Center is expanding support for threat protection for Azure Kubernetes Service, now in public preview.

The new capabilities in this release include:

- **Discovery & Visibility** - Continuous discovery of managed AKS instances within Security Center's registered subscriptions
- **Recommendations** - Actionable items to help customers in complying to security best practices in AKS
- **Threat Detection** - Host and cluster-based analytics

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Security, ASC Ignite Announcements

### Item 1.1.44 Azure Security Center vulnerability assessments available for Azure Container Registry

Traditional vulnerability management tools often make assumptions about host durability and app update mechanisms that are misaligned with a containerized model—for example, they often assume that a server runs a consistent set of apps over time, when in reality different application containers might run on various servers at any given time.

To address those shortcomings, Azure Security Center is expanding its support for vulnerability assessment to Azure Container Registry. The tool will scan Azure container registries within a customer's subscription and provide recommendations to address specific vulnerabilities.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** DevSecOps, container scanning, Azure Container Registry

### Item 1.1.45 Implement security faster with Azure Security Center

To enable large organizations to leverage Security Center's findings in enterprise scale, Azure Security Center also provides clear APIs, automation and management capabilities that can help customers connect Security Center to workflows, processes, and tools used across the organization.

At Microsoft Ignite, Microsoft is announcing five platform enhancements for Azure Security Center:

- Workflow automation with Azure Logic Apps (GA)
- Enabling advanced integrations with continuous export of Security Center in preview
- Improved reporting for Security Center alerts and recommendations in public preview



- Onboard on-premises servers to Azure Security Center from Windows Admin Center – GA
- Azure Security Center Community – Centralized GitHub, open for contribution, with additional scripts and content

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Security Center

### **Item 1.1.46 Workflow automation with Azure Logic Apps**

Organizations with centrally managed security and IT operations implement internal workflow processes to drive required action within the organization when discrepancies are discovered in their environments. In many cases, these workflows are repeatable, so automation can greatly reduce overhead and provide a more timely response than on-demand actions.

Microsoft is introducing a new capability in Azure Security Center that allows customers to create playbooks leveraging Azure Logic Apps and to create policies that will automatically trigger them based on specific ASC findings, such as recommendations or alerts. This Logic App can be configured to do any custom action supported by the vast community of Logic App connectors, or use one of the templates provided by Security Center, such as sending an email or opening a ServiceNow™ ticket.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Security Center, Azure Logic Apps, workflow automation

### **Item 1.1.47 Enabling advanced integrations with continuous export of Security Center in public preview**

To enable enterprise-level scenarios on top of Security Center, Microsoft is announcing that customers may now consume Security Center alerts and recommendations outside the Azure Portal or API. These can be directly exported to an Event Hub, a Log Analytics workspaces, and more. Examples of workflows customers can create around these new capabilities include:

With Export to Log Analytics workspace, customers can create custom dashboards with Power BI.

With Export to Event Hub, customers may export Security Center alerts and recommendations to third-party SIEMs or to Azure Data Explorer in real time, or trigger Azure functions.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Security Center, Event Hub, Log Analytics

### **Item 1.1.48 Improved reporting for Security Center alerts and recommendations**

Many customers would like a single report summarizing, granularly, all resources and alerts and recommendations, to facilitate sharing of this information with stakeholders in the organization.



Microsoft is announcing that Security Center now offers a new command capability item in the recommendations and alerts blade, allowing users to download an Excel/CSV report with detailed data about their Security Center alerts and recommendations, including direct links to view the alert/recommendation in the Azure Portal as part of a preview release.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Security Center, alerts, recommendations, Azure Portal

### **Item 1.1.49 Onboard on-premises servers to Security Center from Windows Admin Center**

Windows Admin Center is a management portal for Windows Servers that are not deployed in Azure, enabling several Azure management capabilities, such as backup and system updates. Until now, Windows Admin Center on-premises servers visible in the WAC portal had no ability to be protected by Azure Security Center from the WAC experience.

Microsoft is announcing a newly launched capability to onboard these non-Azure servers and enable their protection by Azure Security Center directly from the Windows Admin Center experience. Users may now onboard a WAC server to Azure Security Center and view its security alerts and recommendations directly in the Windows Admin Center experience.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Security Center, Windows Admin Center, WAC portal

### **Item 1.1.50 Azure Firewall Manager public preview**

Azure Firewall is a cloud-native firewall-as-a-service offering that enables customers to centrally govern and log all their traffic flows using a DevOps approach. The service supports both application and network-level filtering rules and is integrated with the Microsoft Threat Intelligence feed for filtering known malicious IP addresses and domains.

Azure Firewall Manager is a new service that provides enterprise customers with a single pane of glass to centrally configure multiple Azure Firewall instances in a hub-and-spoke architecture. Central IT teams can also automate Azure Firewall deployment and enforce firewall policies at the same time to ensure traffic governance and protection across the enterprise.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Firewall Manager

### **Item 1.1.51 Azure NetApp Files achieves SAP HANA certification**

Azure NetApp Files (ANF) has achieved SAP HANA certification, enabling migration and deployment of the largest of SAP environments.

ANF is a powerful file-storage service capable of running the most demanding file workloads in Azure, without the need for code modification. SAP HANA is a relational database management system used primarily for storing and receiving data requested by applications.



SAP and HANA cloud deployments often face performance issues and latency limitations due to sub-optimal storage performance in Azure. But with the high performance and sub-milliseconds latency enabled with ANF, migration of the largest SAP deployments can now be accelerated.

Contact [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** File storage, SAP, HPC, Azure Storage

### **Item 1.1.52 Azure Storage offers customers significant discounts with Reserved Capacity program**

Azure Storage customers now can get significant discounts versus pay-as-you-go pricing by buying Azure Storage Reserved Capacity. The new program will offer one-year or three-year tenure options and 100TB or 1PB capacity sizes. Storage capacity can be purchased for a subscription and can be used across Block Blobs and ADLS Gen2. It's available for all Standard Storage access tiers and redundancy options.

Contact [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Reservations, Reserved Capacity, Azure Storage, Pricing



# Chapter 2 Azure Apps

### Item 1.2.1 Revamped Azure API Management developer portal – generally available

The newly refreshed Azure API Management developer portal makes it easier to compose user interfaces with a visual editor and to access APIs for automating development, management and deployment. The portal, which is now generally available, allows users to easily manage and catalog all APIs within their organizations, making it easier to find and reuse existing services. Additionally, it is open sourced and can be easily extended by development teams to meet bespoke requirements.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure, API Management

### Item 1.2.2 Azure App Service managed certificates

Azure App Service now offers managed certificates that make it easy for customers to secure their sites with Transport Layer Security (TLS). TLS is a cryptographic protocol that provides end-to-end communications security for networks. The managed certificates, which are now available in preview, provide additional TLS security for customers at no additional cost.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure App Service, TLS, web apps, security

### Item 1.2.3 Web apps migration experience in Azure Migrate

Azure Migrate now provides a dedicated experience for migrating .NET and PHP web applications running on Windows to Azure App Service. It provides tooling in the form of a local agent that performs app discovery and general assessment of your app's configuration settings, runs readiness checks and then walks you through the migration process.

Go to the [Azure Migrate page](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** migration, web applications, web server, IIS server, ASP.NET

### Item 1.2.4 Azure Event Grid brings the event-driven productivity to IoT solutions

Event Grid on IoT Edge is now available in preview, allowing customers to adopt event-driven architectures on solutions created for disconnected environments or hybrid setups, bringing a powerful cloud application pattern to the edge. Using containers, the solution enables the pub-sub semantics available in Azure to work between modules within the same edge device and also between edge devices for disconnected environments, as well as sending events from the edge to the cloud for hybrid solutions.

Go to the [Azure Updates page](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** serverless, event-driven, edge computing, IoT, hybrid



### **Item 1.2.5 Azure Functions eliminates cold-start and serverless automation for enterprise workloads**

The Azure Functions Premium plan — now generally available — allows you to build high-demanding solutions in production benefiting from a productive programming model and dynamic, automatic scale. This plan eliminates cold-starts using pre-warmed instances, enables network isolation through VNET connectivity, and runs on more powerful instances with customized deployments.

With PowerShell support in Azure Functions, now generally available, you can take advantage of an event-driven approach for building automation scenarios and automate operational tasks, such as scheduling management tasks or automatically responding to events or alerts raised in different resources. Using PowerShell in Azure Functions simplifies modules management, with automatic inclusion of modules and updates for critical and security updates.

Go to the [Azure Updates page](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** serverless, enterprise, networking, cold start, event-driven, automation, PowerShell, IT Pro

### **Item 1.2.6 Streamlined developer experience for Azure Kubernetes Service**

With the new Connect capability in Dev Spaces, developers can run and debug services locally while remaining connected to other cloud services in the context of an application running on Azure Kubernetes Service. This feature is now available in preview.

With the integration of GitHub Actions, now available in preview, Dev Spaces allows developers to automatically create review applications before any changes are merged into the repository's main branch. Integration testing on a review app allows team members to confidently approve pull requests after ensuring that the new changes will behave as expected without negatively impacting other parts of the application.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Kubernetes Service, GitHub Actions, Dev Space

### **Item 1.2.7 Kubernetes clusters with Azure Availability Zone, Cluster autoscaler and multiple node pools**

Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) manages hosted Kubernetes environments, making it easy to quickly deploy and manage containerized applications without container orchestration expertise. Today we are announcing the general availability of Azure Availability Zones, multiple node pools and cluster autoscaler features in AKS, making it even easier to deliver reliable and scalable Kubernetes clusters.

Azure Availability Zones help AKS customers protect applications and data against hardware failures and during planned maintenance events.

The multiple node pools feature helps customers better manage compute resources. It allows customers to use different virtual machine sizes in each pool to run various workloads in a single AKS cluster.

Cluster autoscaling allows customers to precisely tune the cluster scaling behavior of their environments to meet workload demand.



For customers who need to operate at global scale, AKS is now available in four additional regions — the North United Arab Emirates, North Switzerland, West Switzerland and West-Central Germany.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure, AKS, autoscaler, Azure Availability Zones, multiple node pools

### Item 1.2.8 Improved Azure Kubernetes Service security with authenticated IP

Authenticated IP for Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS), now generally available, provides an extra layer of security by allowing customers to restrict access to their Kubernetes API server to trusted network locations.

In Kubernetes, the API server — the central way of interacting with and managing a cluster — receives requests to perform actions in the cluster, such as creating resources or scaling the number of nodes. With the [Authenticated IP](#) feature, the API server would only be accessible from a limited set of IP address ranges; any request made to the server from an IP address that is not among those would be blocked.

Go to the [Azure Documentation page](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** AKS, Kubernetes, Authenticated IP for AKS

### Item 1.2.9 Azure Kubernetes Service – easier diagnostics and logging

One of the top challenges of running Kubernetes today is understanding the cause of issues with your Kubernetes cluster and coming up with a valid fix.

Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) [diagnostics](#), now available in preview, provides a guided and interactive experience to help customers diagnose and solve potential issues with AKS clusters. AKS diagnostics analyzes backend telemetry from AKS clusters and then benchmarks that information with specific AKS domain knowledge and best practices. It's all packaged in a user-friendly interface that allows customers to easily isolate the issue and determine next steps. We are also releasing a CLI-based tool, [AKS Periscope](#), that you can use to easily collect node and pod logs, and export them into Azure Blob Storage.

Go to the [Azure Updates page](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Kubernetes, logging, diagnostics

### Item 1.2.10 On-demand pricing and Azure Monitor Log Analytics integration for Azure Red Hat OpenShift

With new hourly pricing for Azure Red Hat OpenShift, customers can now spin up and down clusters without committing to reserved instances for a full year in advance.

Additionally, in preview, Azure Red Hat OpenShift clusters are now integrated with Azure Monitor Log Analytics so that customers can view their application and cluster logs in one integrated platform.

Go to the [Azure Updates page](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Monitor, Azure Red Hat OpenShift



### Item 1.2.11 Open Container Initiative artifacts support in Azure Container Registry

In addition to storing Docker container images and Helm charts, Azure Container Registry, generally available, can now store Open Container Initiative (OCI) artifacts and images built to the OCI Image Format Specification. Customers will now be able to use a single registry for all their container-related artifacts.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** OCI artifacts, OCI distribution, Open Container Initiative, Azure Container Registry

### Item 1.2.12 Azure Security Center vulnerability assessments available for Azure Container Registry

Traditional vulnerability management tools often make assumptions about host durability and app update mechanisms that are misaligned with a containerized model — for example, they often assume that a server runs a consistent set of apps over time, when in reality different application containers might run on various servers at any given time.

To address those shortcomings, Azure Security Center is expanding its support for vulnerability assessment to Azure Container Registry, in preview. The tool will scan Azure container registries within a customer's subscription and provide recommendations to address specific vulnerabilities.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** DevSecOps, container scanning, Azure Container Registry

### Item 1.2.13 Public and project-scoped feeds for Azure Artifacts

Azure Artifacts, designed for storing and sharing reusable code packages for .NET, Java, Python and JavaScript, now allows teams to create public feeds accessible by anyone on the internet without authentication. Additionally, teams can also create Artifact feeds that are restricted to individual projects, whereas previously they were always open to the entire organization a project belonged to.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Artifacts, CI/CD, DevOps

### Item 1.2.14 New features and updates for Azure Pipelines

Azure Pipelines is a continuous integration and continuous delivery platform built into Azure. We are announcing new features and updates including:

- **New deployment strategies and caching**

Customers can leverage new deployment strategies for their Continuous Delivery pipelines, including canary for Kubernetes, and rolling for VMs as well as Kubernetes. Additionally, we are announcing the General Availability of caching inside Azure Pipelines, so customers can speed up the execution of their pipelines by caching intermediate build artifacts.

For more details, visit the [Azure Blog](#)



- **Enforce artifact policies for Azure Pipelines**

Azure Pipelines now allows the creation and enforcement of artifact policies, in preview. By defining policies inside an environment, customers can trace an artifact from source control to production, by leveraging metadata that is automatically attributed to build artifacts. This enables teams to have more control over the software supply chain, from development to the applications running in the production environment, giving more tools to audit and secure applications.

For more details, visit the [Azure Blog](#)

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Pipelines, CI/CD, DevOps

### **Item 1.2.15 Microsoft shares stories and guidance to support DevOps transformations**

Customers often struggle to adopt DevOps practices and therefore are looking for guidance and insights from companies that have successfully undergone a transformation.

To that end, we are sharing the stories of Microsoft teams that have experienced DevOps transformations, along with our lessons learned and guidance to drive organizational change with support for people, processes and tools. The stories are aimed at providing practical information about DevOps adoption to developers, IT professionals and organization leaders.

Go to the [DevOps journey at Microsoft page](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** DevOps, DevOps adoption, DevOps at Microsoft

### **Item 1.2.16 Azure Spring Cloud preview**

We are announcing the preview of Azure Spring Cloud, a fully managed Spring Cloud service jointly built and operated with Pivotal.

Spring Cloud provides tools for developers to quickly build some of the most common patterns in distributed systems. To build Spring-based applications, Java developers typically use Spring Boot to get started with minimal upfront configuration and Spring Cloud to bring resilience, reliability and coordination to their microservices.

But that still requires lots of infrastructure management. Azure Spring Cloud makes it quick, safe and easy to deploy and operate Spring Boot applications in the cloud.

Go to the [Azure Spring Cloud page](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Java, Spring, microservices

### **Item 1.2.17 New Azure SDKs signify move toward unified set of standards**

A new set of software development kits (SDKs) for Azure Storage and Azure Key Vault are built on a common core for easy use of Azure services, with a focus on consistency, familiarity and language idiomaticity. This is Microsoft's first step toward applying a new set of standards across Azure SDKs.



The SDKs are available in four languages: C#, JavaScript, Java and Python, and are designed to make the Azure libraries easier to learn and integrate into your solutions.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure, SDK, developer, cloud

### **Item 1.2.18 New version of Azure CLI provides features to build containers, images and more**

The latest version of Azure CLI includes new features and capabilities that allow you to build and manage your own containers, images, cloud platforms and other extensions within the tool. Other improvements include support for third-party platforms, new CLI commands and support for multiple CLI local contexts.

Go to the [Azure Updates page](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure CLI, management, dev tools, cloud

### **Item 1.2.19 Azure Cloud Shell adds regional storage support and Office 365**

Based on customer feedback, the latest release of Azure Cloud Shell removes storage account region restrictions, allowing you to use a storage account that is in a different region than the Cloud Shell compute. The new capability unblocks customers that have restrictions on where their data can be stored.

The new release also adds integrations with other Microsoft products — namely, previews of Windows Admin Center (WAC) and the Office 365 administration portal, enabling customers to manage their resources seamlessly from a browser.

Go to the [Azure Updates page](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Cloud Shell, management, dev tools, cloud

### **Item 1.2.20 Visual Studio 2019 version 16.4 Preview 3**

The latest preview of Visual Studio 2019 version 16.4 is now available and includes improvements to app development using containers, CMake project guidance and code analysis using C++, and vertical layout for document tabs, as well as general performance improvements and bug fixes.

[Visual Studio Preview](#) gives you early access to the latest features and improvements not yet available in the main release channel. By trying Preview, you can take advantage of new builds and updates that ship on a frequent cadence.

Go to the [Visual Studio Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Visual Studio, developer

### **Item 1.2.21 Visual Studio for Mac version 8.4 Preview 2**

The latest preview of Visual Studio 2019 for Mac version 8.4 is now available. It includes performance, accessibility and stability improvements to application development using .NET Core, as well as general bug fixes.



Visual Studio for Mac Preview provides early access to the latest features and improvements not yet available in the main release channel. Users can take advantage of new builds and updates that ship on a frequent cadence.

Go to the [Visual Studio Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Visual Studio for Mac Preview, Visual Studio for Mac

### Item 1.2.22 Visual Studio Online preview

Visual Studio Online brings together Visual Studio, cloud-hosted developer environments and a web-based editor that's accessible from anywhere to help developers be more productive than ever.

As development becomes more collaborative and open source workflows, like pull requests, become more pervasive, developers need to be able to switch between codebases and projects quickly without losing productivity. Visual Studio Online enables a developer to spin up a powerful, isolated, pre-configured development environment for a repo and be productive in minutes from anywhere.

Visual Studio Online's cloud-hosted environments, as well as extension support for Visual Studio Code and the web UI, are now available in preview. Support for Visual Studio 2019 is in private preview, which you can also sign up for through the Visual Studio Online web portal.

Developers can create Visual Studio Online environments directly from Visual Studio Code or from <https://online.visualstudio.com>, using common templates or cloning from a GitHub repo. These environments are provisioned in Azure and securely connected to development environments. You can also attach your own physical or virtual machines to your Visual Studio Online account.

Go to the [Visual Studio Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Visual Studio, Visual Studio Code, Visual Studio Online

### Item 1.2.23 Preview 2 of long-term support for .NET Core 3.1

The second preview for .NET Core 3.1 long-term support is now available, including bug fixes and a host of improvements.

The upgrades include Windows Forms and WPF support, full-stack C# web development with ASP.NET Core Blazor, better memory footprint and performance for containers in the cloud and on small devices, new C# 8.0 language features and more.

Go to the [.NET Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** .NET

### Item 1.2.24 ML.NET 1.4 now available

ML.NET is an open-source and cross-platform framework that makes machine learning accessible for .NET developers.

The latest release adds image classification training with the ML.NET application program interface (API), as well as a relational database loader API for reading data used for training models with ML.NET. A new preview of the Visual Studio Model Builder extension supports image classification training from a graphical user interface.



In addition, we are releasing a preview of Jupyter support for writing C# and F# code for ML.NET scenarios.

Go to the [.NET Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** .NET, Machine Learning, Jupyter

### **Item 1.2.25 New Microsoft AppSource criteria helps customers quickly identify certified apps**

Microsoft 365 customers can quickly identify partners participating in the Microsoft 365 App Certification Program through new verification criteria in Microsoft AppSource.

Customers can now search for and identify apps that have been validated through the certification program, minimizing the time-consuming process of reviewing apps before approving them for use. Participating apps will be identified on their product detail pages in Microsoft AppSource and links will be provided to extensive compliance, security and privacy details and status of each app.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 Developer Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Microsoft 365, Microsoft AppSource

### **Item 1.2.26 Create and share collections of trainings on Microsoft Learn**

Users can create, manage and share custom collections of trainings on Microsoft Learn, allowing them to develop personalized learning plans and track their progress.

All users, with no restrictions, can create, name and manage their collections on Microsoft Learn. All they need to do is sign up for a profile to get started.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Microsoft Learn, certifications

### **Item 1.2.27 Microsoft Assessments offers help with Azure**

Microsoft Assessments is a new product aimed at helping customers evaluate their business strategies and workloads to better use Azure.

Three assessments are now available — a cloud journey tracker, a governance benchmark assessment and an Azure architecture review assessment. The platform provides tools to help businesses of various sizes on their cloud journeys, offering customized recommendations based on their current processes, workloads and employees.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure, assessment

### **Item 1.2.28 Microsoft Learn homepage gets an update**

The new homepage on Microsoft Learn makes it easier to navigate and find relevant content, including what's trending in the community.



The revamped page includes links to trending and featured content, helping users start learning more quickly. Future changes will include links to personalized content on the homepage by role, proficiency and product, based on the information users provide in their profiles.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags: Microsoft Learn, training**

### **Item 1.2.29 Microsoft Learn is the centralized hub for certifications**

Information about Microsoft Certifications is moving to Microsoft Learn, making it easier for users to choose the best approach for them.

When prepping for a certification exam, users can choose hands-on interactive training on Microsoft Learn or training with an instructor. Microsoft Learn displays modules and learning paths relevant to each certification, making it easy to find everything users need in one place.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags: Microsoft Learn, certifications**

### **Item 1.2.30 New Microsoft exams and certifications offered**

Microsoft continues investing in role-based training and certifications. Users will find a new certification type, specialty, and eight new Microsoft Certifications, covering a range of skills and concepts needed for specific cloud-focused job roles.

Microsoft Learn and updated instructor-led training content are a part of Microsoft's shift from product-based to [role-focused training](#) to help equip workers for positions in an ever-changing tech environment. Since making the change last year, we have introduced over 20 new certifications for positions ranging from beginner to expert level.

Go to the [Microsoft Learning Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags: Microsoft Learn, certifications**



# Chapter 3 Azure Data & AI

### Item 1.3.1 Accelerating the machine learning lifecycle

Preview of new Azure Machine Learning capabilities that help streamline the building, training, and deployment of machine learning models. The new capabilities include ML designer, automated ML enhancements, and built-in notebooks that help customers of all skill levels build and deploy models using Python and now also R. New MLOPs capabilities help customers accelerate the end-to-end machine learning lifecycle. New security, governance, and responsible AI capabilities such as role-based access control, quota, cost management, fairness and interpretability help enterprises build machine learning models with confidence.

Availability of ONNX Runtime 1.0 allows machine-learning engineers to use their tools of choice. Machine-learning models trained using various frameworks, such as scikit-learn, PyTorch, TensorFlow, Keras and others, are often challenging to deploy, maintain, and operationalize for latency-sensitive customer scenarios. ONNX Runtime 1.0 provides a flexible and high-performance solution to streamline this work, allowing ML engineers and data scientists to use the tools they want to enable diverse production scenarios.

Go to the [Microsoft Azure Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** ONNX, Machine Learning

### Item 1.3.2 Autonomous systems limited preview and partnership

We are expanding the limited preview of our autonomous systems platform and inviting more developers and engineers to test the platform, as well as enterprise customers and partners interested in creating intelligent systems that operate in the real world with trusted autonomy.

Through [machine teaching](#), the platform allows engineers with little or no expertise in data science to specify desired outcomes or behaviors, concepts to be taught and safety criteria that must be met. The platform uses simulations to generate synthetic data to train state-of-the-art reinforcement learning models using machine teaching inputs, while also orchestrating the management and deployment of these AI models to bring about autonomous operations of real-world systems.

We are also announcing a new partnership with MathWorks, whose simulators MATLAB and Simulink are used by engineers worldwide. The partnership will bring MathWorks' simulators to the cloud, for ease of use and unprecedented scalability needed in environments such as autonomous systems. Together, MathWorks and Microsoft will enable a seamless experience and allow customers to use MathWorks' familiar simulation tools to build AI with our autonomous systems platform without having to deal with interoperability or licensing issues.

Other partnership announcements and collaboration include simulation software makers AnyLogic, CGTech, solution providers Fresh Consulting, Neal Analytics, and enterprise drone software maker 3D Robotics.

Go to the [AI Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Autonomous systems, machine teaching, AI, simulation



### Item 1.3.3 Azure Blockchain portfolio announcements

Democratizing complex technologies and empowering anyone with an idea to build software have been central to our blockchain investment road map. Our announcements at Ignite are designed to accelerate blockchain adoption in the enterprise. These include a new managed service to simplify tokenization, investments in off-ledger data management, and expansion of ledger choice and developer productivity.

Tokenization is the mechanism that allows enterprises to take advantage of blockchain. Microsoft is enabling blockchain developers to create, manage, and define tokens within Ethereum blockchains, such as those found in Azure Blockchain Service.

Azure Blockchain Tokens, now in preview, provides a way to tokenize physical and/or digital assets, manage these tokens, and share them across multiple blockchain platforms. With Azure Blockchain Tokens, blockchain developers can access tools to compose bespoke tokens based on Token Taxonomy Initiative (TTI) standards or use templates to create the four most common tokens. The service exposes a set of open APIs to enable interaction with the tokens.

We are also announcing enhancements to Azure Blockchain Service. These include the preview of Azure Blockchain Data Manager, which enables the capture, transformation and delivery of data to off-chain data stores like Azure SQL DB or Azure Cosmos DB. Azure Blockchain Service is also investing in ledger choice with the preview of managed Corda Enterprise support to Azure, joining existing support for Ethereum. A new Hyperledger template in the Azure Marketplace gallery accelerates Hyperledger deployments.

Finally, we are announcing updates to the Azure Blockchain Development Kit for Ethereum, now in preview, to improve productivity for public and private Ethereum developers. These include OpenZeppelin integration for smart contract integration and native Infura integration, all available via integrations with Visual Studio Code.

Visit the [Azure Blockchain Service](#) web page and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags: blockchain, Azure**

### Item 1.3.4 Azure Cloud Databases investments in limitless performance and scale

In today's data-driven world, driving digital transformation increasingly depends on our ability to manage massive amounts of data and harness its potential. Developers building intelligent and immersive applications should not have to be constrained by resource limitations that ultimately impact their customers' experience.

We are pleased to expand the limitless data estate with the announcement of the general availability of Azure Database for PostgreSQL Hyperscale. Hyperscale (powered by Citus Data technology) brings high-performance scaling to PostgreSQL database workloads by horizontally scaling a single database across hundreds of nodes to deliver blazingly fast performance and scale. This allows more data to fit in-memory, parallelize queries across hundreds of nodes, and index data faster. Hyperscale is an extension to PostgreSQL, so applications do not have to be rearchitected, and developers can use their existing skills.

Azure SQL Database also gets more powerful with the addition of new hardware options with greater memory and compute. Maximum memory increases by over 400%. Additionally, citizen developers can accelerate their application development with the integration of Azure SQL Database with Power Apps and Azure Stream Analytics. Now low-code apps can be created with more speed.

Go to the [Microsoft Azure Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags: Azure, Database, Hyperscale, PostgreSQL, SQL DB**



### Item 1.3.5 Azure Cloud Databases launch more flexible purchasing options to maximize TCO

We are announcing more flexible purchasing options across our relational and nonrelational databases to provide the best value for cloud workloads, irrespective of choice of database.

Azure SQL Database serverless is now generally available. Offered as a new compute tier, Azure SQL DB serverless simplifies performance management for databases with intermittent and unpredictable usage. Compute is automatically paused during periods when the database is inactive, with only storage being billed, saving compute costs. The database automatically resumes when activity returns.

Autopilot mode for Azure Cosmos DB is now in preview. With autopilot mode, customers get automatic scaling of provisioned throughput based on workload patterns, without compromising our industry-leading SLA. Customers no longer have to preplan their provisioned throughput and overestimate capacity required, as scaling will be automatic.

Finally, Azure Database for PostgreSQL, MySQL, and MariaDB are launching a Reserved Capacity pricing option.

Go to the [Microsoft Azure Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags: Azure, Database, Cosmos DB, SQL DB**

### Item 1.3.6 Azure Cognitive Search updates help enterprises enhance the developer experience

Azure Cognitive Search offers built-in AI capabilities that enrich all types of content to easily identify and explore relevant content at scale. Formerly called Azure Search, Azure Cognitive Search is making it easier for enterprises to ingest, enrich, and search their structured and unstructured information.

New updates include data connectors (Azure Data Lake Store, MongoDB, Cassandra APIs), additional built-in skills (built-in translation skill, power skills) and expanded region availability (GA of Government Cloud).

Go to the [Microsoft Azure Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags: Azure Cognitive Search, AI, content understanding**

### Item 1.3.7 Azure Cognitive Services innovation

General availability of Personalizer, industry's first AI service based on reinforcement-learning that allows businesses to create rich customer interactions by prioritizing relevant content and experiences.

Preview of new Speech capabilities. These include Custom Neural Voice, which enables customers to create personalized voices, using deep neural networks and their own training audio. Custom Speech will allow customers to use their Office 365 data to create custom speech models optimized for organization-specific terms. Additional new capabilities such as Custom Commands, Custom Speech and Custom Voice containers, Speech Translation with automatic language identification, and streamlined integration with Bot Framework are making it easier to quickly embed advanced speech capabilities into your apps.

Preview of new Text Analytics capabilities. These include the ability to detect and extract personally identifiable information in documents, enhancements to its sentiment analysis capability with significant improvements in text categorization and scoring, and expanded entity type support for more than 100 named entity types in five languages and more than 20 named entity types in 16 other languages.



Preview of feedback loop capability in Form Recognizer, which enables customers to create custom tags in the form extraction process.

Expanded language coverage and new capabilities for Language Understanding. Support for Hindi and Arabic and the new capabilities to help support complex dialogs that contain multiple entities and intents.

Preview of VNET support for all Cognitive Services to help ensure maximum security for sensitive data.

Go to the [Microsoft Azure Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Neutral text to speech, speech synthesis

### Item 1.3.8 Azure Data Share now generally available

Azure Data Share, a safe and simple service for sharing big data with other organizations, is now generally available. It allows you to determine what you share, who receives the data and terms of use through a single, user-friendly interface that requires no infrastructure to manage or code to write.

Azure Data Share supports sharing from SQL Data Warehouse and SQL DB, in addition to Blob and ADLS (for snapshot-based sharing). It also supports in-place sharing for Azure Data Explorer (in preview). It gives full visibility into data-sharing transactions and leverages underlying Azure security measures such as access controls, authentication and encryption to protect your data.

Go to the [Azure Data Share blog](#) and contact [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure, Data, Shar

### Item 1.3.9 Azure SQL Database Edge preview

[Azure SQL Database Edge](#) is now available in preview, which customers can download in the Azure portal in regions where Azure IoT Edge is available.

The simplicity of incorporating data streaming, time series analytics, and storage with AI capabilities in a small-footprint container greatly reduces the complexity in edge architecture and implementation. Users can develop their application once and deploy it anywhere across the edge, their datacenter, and Azure.

Go to the [Microsoft Azure Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** SQL Server, SQL Database, Azure IoT, Azure, database, IoT Edge

### Item 1.3.10 Azure Synapse Analytics

Azure Synapse Analytics, a limitless analytics service, brings together traditional data warehousing and big data analytics. It gives enterprises the freedom to query data on their terms, using either serverless on-demand or provisioned resources—at scale. Azure Synapse brings these two worlds together with a unified experience to ingest, prepare, manage, and serve data for immediate BI and machine learning applications.

Simply put, Azure Synapse is Azure SQL Data Warehouse evolved. We have taken the [same industry leading data warehouse](#) to a whole new level of performance and capabilities. Businesses can continue running their existing data warehouse workloads in production today with Azure Synapse and will automatically benefit from the new capabilities when they become generally available



With Azure Synapse, data professionals of all types can collaborate, manage, and analyze their most important data with ease—all within the same service. From integrating Apache Spark with the powerful and trusted SQL engine, to code-free data integration and management, Azure Synapse is built for every data professional.

Go to the [Microsoft Azure Blog](#) and the [Innovation Stories Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Analytics, big data, data lakes, streaming analytics, business intelligence, data insights, data warehouse, data platform

### Item 1.3.11 Bot Framework and Azure Bot Service updates deliver increased developer productivity

- **Bot Framework SDK 4.6** – This release of the open source Bot Framework brings new capabilities to help developers easily build and deliver bots across more channels. Capabilities include SDK for Microsoft Teams, new language support with Java SDK, and skills integration for Power Virtual Agents.
- **Bot Framework Composer** – New low-code tool to simplify the process of building a bot, enabling developers to create a bot using a graphical user interface. It also simplifies the ability to add Azure Cognitive Services, such as Language Understanding, Speech, and QnA Maker.
- **Bot Service Direct Line Speech GA** – A channel within Azure Bot Service to simplify the creation of end-to-end solutions for voice-first conversational experience.
- **Bot Service VNET support in preview**

Go to the [Microsoft Azure Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Bot Framework, Azure Bot Service, bots

### Item 1.3.12 Microsoft and Warner Bros. store classic Superman movie on glass with Project Silica

Microsoft and Warner Bros. have created a proof of concept representing the next generation of storage with [Project Silica](#), which stores data on glass. Warner Bros. has stored the entire classic Superman movie on a 75 x 75 x 2 mm thick piece of glass (roughly the size of a coaster).

This Microsoft Research achievement makes huge gains on previous glass storage concepts and is part of a larger investment by Azure to [develop the next generation of storage](#) for customers.

Storage capabilities have hit a peak, and companies must bear the costs of constantly keeping storage media scrubbed and refreshed. For the media and entertainment industry, film is still the current long-term storage solution—not digital. Glass storage provides a viable, virtually indestructible, and truly long-term storage solution, and Microsoft is eager to be pursuing this new technology as a cloud provider.

Go to the [Innovation Stories Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** cloud, storage, research, Azure, data



### Item 1.3.13 SQL Server 2019 delivers intelligence over all your data

SQL Server 2019 enables enterprises to gain intelligence over all their data, both structured and unstructured, by combining the power of the new Big Data Clusters capability with enhanced data virtualization.

These powerful additions to the product enable enterprises to not only store and query big data at scale, but also combine it with customer data wherever it may reside (SQL Server, Oracle, Mongo, PostgreSQL, etc.). SQL Server also includes built-in AI capabilities to enable a comprehensive analytics and AI solution for all a company's data needs. The key new capabilities in SQL Server 2019 include:

- **Big Data Clusters** – Big Data Clusters gives enterprises the ability to combine structured and unstructured data in SQL Server with the power Apache Spark and HDFS built into the SQL Server engine to gain transformative insights from your data.
- **Data Virtualization** – Query across data stored in Oracle, Teradata, other SQL servers, Azure SQL Database, Azure SQL Data Warehouse, Azure Cosmos DB, Cloudera, Azure Data Lake, or the Hadoop Distributed File System without moving or replicating the data.
- **Intelligent Query Processing** – Intelligent database features such as Intelligent query processing improve query performance with no application change. Customers will see performance benefits without any application change just by upgrading to SQL Server 2019. Further improve performance for mission-critical workloads with in-memory database capabilities like persistent memory support and memory-optimized tempdb.
- **Secure Enclaves** – Always Encrypted with secure enclaves protects sensitive customer data while allowing richer operations on secured database columns. A secure enclave extends client applications' trust boundary to the server side. While it is contained by the SQL Server environment, the secure enclave is not accessible to SQL Server, the operating system, or the database or system administrators. These properties allow the secure enclave to safely perform operations on sensitive data in plaintext.
- **Accelerated database recovery** – Enable fast and consistent database recovery irrespective of the number of active transactions in the system or their sizes.

Go to the [SQL Server Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags: SQL Server 2019, Microsoft Azure**



# Chapter 4 Azure IoT & Quantum

### Item 1.4.1 Ansys Twin Builder and Azure IoT platform integration

Ansys Twin Builder runtimes will be integrated with Azure IoT services to provide a solution for simulation-based digital twins in the cloud and at the edge.

By using the Ansys physics-based simulation engine with the Azure IoT platform, customers can confidently build a full digital twin of their assets, augmenting the IoT real-time data with simulation. This will allow them to take advantage of physics- and simulation-based predictions to reduce unplanned downtime and optimize asset performance. This approach also helps organizations to do real-time prescriptive analytics and improve future product development.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** digital twin, simulation, Azure IoT, Ansys Twin Builder, digital transformation

### Item 1.4.2 Azure FarmBeats in preview

The world's population is expected to reach nearly 10 billion by 2050. To keep up with the growing demand, farmers and other food producers must find ways to sustainably grow and deliver ever larger quantities of nutritious food. Digital technology could help, but its adoption is limited because many farms lack the power, internet connectivity, or the technical savvy to implement it.

To accelerate data-driven farming, Microsoft is pouring years of industry-leading research into an Azure-based offering called [FarmBeats](#). The goal of FarmBeats is to augment farmers' knowledge and intuition about their own farm with data and data-driven insights.

FarmBeats ingests, normalizes, and contextualizes data from different sources, such as sensors, satellites, drones, and weather stations. It uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to combine the different data sources into actionable information. FarmBeats also enables developers to build new AI and machine learning algorithms for additional insights.

FarmBeats will be available in preview through Azure marketplace as of Nov. 4, and it can be installed in Azure subscriptions by ISVs or partners.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Agriculture, sustainable farming, IoT



### Item 1.4.3 Introducing Azure Quantum

Azure Quantum is a full-stack, open cloud ecosystem that will bring the benefits of quantum computing to developers and organizations around the world. Azure Quantum assembles one of the most diverse selections of quantum solutions, software, and hardware across the industry. Through a single, familiar experience in Azure, customers will be able to easily discover the impact quantum computing will have on their business.

Azure Quantum will launch in private preview in the coming months.

Go to the [Microsoft Quantum Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure, quantum



## SECTION 2

# Power Platform





# Chapter 1 Microsoft Power Automate

### Item 2.1.1 Microsoft Power Automate, preview of robotics process automation feature

Power Automate, previously Microsoft Flow, is a unified platform with API- and UI-based automation for enterprise customers, including business, technical, and end users. It includes a new set of robotic process automation capabilities called UI flows, now available in public preview.

UI flows enables enterprise businesses to automate repetitive tasks and legacy applications to simplify workflows in a scalable, secure way.

Go to the [Dynamics 365 Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags: Power Automate, UI flows, robotic process automation, business process automation, digital process automation**



# Chapter 2 Microsoft Power Virtual Agents

### Item 2.2.1 Public preview of Microsoft Power Virtual Agents

Power Virtual Agents, a low-code and no-code bot-building solution, is now in public preview. It enables anyone in an organization, regardless of technical ability, to create and deploy intelligent virtual agents, which can be external- or internal-facing.

Built on the Azure Bot Framework, the solution includes AI-driven insights to help users create and improve conversational agents for personalized customer service. Power Virtual Agents will be generally available Dec. 1.

Go to the [Dynamics 365 Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** virtual agents, conversational bots, conversational agents, bots, chatbots



# Chapter 3 AI Builder Updates

### Item 2.3.1 AI Builder updates

**AI Builder** is introducing a new set of prebuilt models that add intelligence to the Power Platform and are accessible via Power Apps and Power Automate.

For business users, having prebuilt AI models means they don't have to gather data, build, or train their models.

Available in preview at Ignite:

- **Key phrase extraction** identifies the main talking points in a text document
- **Language detection** identifies the predominant language of a text document
- **Text recognition**, which uses OCR detection of embedded printed and handwritten text
- **Sentiment analysis**, which detects positive or negative sentiment in social media, customer reviews, or any text data

AI Builder will also be powering AI in Dynamics through Customer Insights to predict missing data in customer segments and SharePoint, through the extraction of metadata and business processes.

Go to the [Dynamics 365 Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** AI, AI models, model training, Azure AI services, Low-code AI



# Chapter 4 Power BI Data Security Updates

### Item 2.4.1 Power BI data security updates

Power BI users can access new security capabilities that enable sensitivity labeling and governance policy enforcement, even when data is exported from Power BI. Organizations can also monitor user activity and access, and better protect data with real-time risk analysis.

Now in public preview, the capabilities are engaged when Power BI is paired with Microsoft Information Protection and Cloud App Security.

Go to the [Dynamics 365 Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** data protection, data security, secure BI, data classification, GDPR



## SECTION 3

# Security, Compliance, and Identity





# Chapter 1 Security

### Item 3.1.1 Application Guard security in Office

The capabilities of Application Guard, a virtualization based isolation solution in Windows 10 that has been [integrated in Microsoft Edge](#), will now be integrated in Office 365 ProPlus. That means Office users will be able to open an untrusted Word, Excel, or PowerPoint file in a virtualized container—and print, edit, and save changes — while protected with hardware-level security.

If an untrusted file is malicious, the attack is contained and the host machine untouched. A new container is created every time a user logs in, providing a clean start and peace of mind.

When a user wants to consider a document “trusted,” files are automatically checked against the Microsoft Defender Advanced Threat Protection threat cloud using the Safe Documents feature before being allowed to open outside the container.

The capabilities are currently in limited preview. General availability is expected in summer of 2020.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** application guard, security, office

### Item 3.1.2 Azure Sentinel new features and updates

Azure Sentinel, a cloud-native security solution, has new features that will help security analysts save time and be more effective.

The work of threat hunters got much easier with the addition of built-in hunting queries for Linux and network events and the ability to launch Azure Notebooks directly from Azure Sentinel. New built-in analytics and investigation tools expand detection and offer deep insights into suspicious URLs. Additional built-in connectors from security partners will make it easier to collect data across different sources including Azure, on-premises, and other clouds. These new connectors support integration of endpoint, network, and identity data from third-party security vendors.

New Graph Security API integrations enable customers to sync alerts from Azure Sentinel, as well as other Microsoft solutions and additional third-party ticketing and security management solutions.

The improvements are now available in preview.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Sentinel



### Item 3.1.3 Endpoint detection and response for Mac

Endpoint detection and response capabilities in Microsoft Defender Advanced Threat Protection (ATP) will be available for Mac users in private preview this week.

The preview follows the release of [Microsoft Defender ATP for Mac](#) earlier this year, which enabled security for many more business customers.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** MDATP, Microsoft Defender, Security

### Item 3.1.4 Introducing remote deployment guidance for Microsoft Defender ATP and Office 365 ATP

We know customers have a number of challenges getting their security posture up-to-date. As a leading security provider, Microsoft wants to help streamline this process.

In addition to the support already available for securing identity, Microsoft FastTrack now provides remote deployment guidance for customers that want to secure their email and endpoint devices.

FastTrack Center will support Microsoft Defender ATP and Office 365 ATP at no cost for eligible customers in North America, in English only. Worldwide availability is scheduled for the start of 2020.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** MDATP, OATP, security

### Item 3.1.5 Microsoft Safe Documents

Microsoft Safe Documents, generally available by spring 2020, brings the power of Microsoft Office Advanced Threat Protection to the desktop.

Since first introduced in Microsoft Office 2010, Protected View has brought a level of additional security for untrusted documents from outside the organization. However, many Protected View sessions are exited quickly and without great consideration, leaving environments vulnerable to security risks. With Microsoft Safe Documents, the power of Office ATP extends to the desktop to ensure the document is secure when a user exits Protected View and before opening in unprotected mode.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** microsoft365, security, safedocuments, Microsoft Office Advanced Threat Protection

### Item 3.1.6 Office 365 Advanced Threat Protection automation capabilities

[Automated Incident Response](#), a new capability in Office 365 Advanced Threat Protection, enables security teams to efficiently detect, investigate, and respond to security alerts. Now generally available, the solution builds on detailed security playbooks modeled on typical workflows of security teams when responding to threats.

The automation enhances the security of organizations, by drastically reducing the time and effort required to respond to threats. It allows security teams to scale better and reduce the potential impact of a breach.



Another new capability—**enhanced compromise detection and response**—amplifies an organization's ability to detect breaches. Now in public preview, the solution leverages the breadth of signal across Office 365, including email flow patterns and other activities, to detect suspicious users and alert security teams.

Automated playbooks automatically investigate the alerts, look for possible sources of compromise, assess impact, and recommend actions for remediation. The automation also integrates other identity signals to improve confidence of the detection and offers a comprehensive assessment.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Office 365 Security, Office 365 ATP

### Item 3.1.7 Secured-core PCs shipping now

Secured-core PCs combine deeply integrated hardware, firmware, and software to provide enhanced security for devices, identities, and data in highly targeted industries, such as financial services, government, and health care. They're built with new silicon and device requirements that protect devices from firmware vulnerabilities, shield the operating system from attack, prevent unauthorized access to devices and data, and protect identity and domain credentials. The requirements also ensure that devices boot securely.

Secured-core PCs from Microsoft partners are shipping now. The Surface Pro X will ship this holiday season.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Security, devices, operating system

### Item 3.1.8 Secure score updates and Azure Security Center integration

Microsoft Secure Score is significantly updating its scoring system to make it easier for users to understand, benchmark, and track their progress in improving their security posture. Other updates include new planning capabilities that help users set goals and predict score improvements, and new CISO Metrics & Trends reports for showing progress.

An integration with Microsoft Teams, Microsoft Planner, and ServiceNow provides new collaboration capabilities to help users move from planning to execution. And integration with Azure Security Center will give users centralized visibility and more options for improvement actions.

The collaboration capabilities are available now; most of the other features will be generally available later this year. Azure-related improvement actions will start to surface in Microsoft Secure Score by early 2020.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** security, secure score, MDATP, Microsoft Defender



# Chapter 2 Compliance

### Item 3.2.1 Microsoft Compliance Score and Microsoft 365 compliance center

Staying up to speed on constantly evolving regulations is a challenge. According to Thompson Reuters, it is estimated that on an average, 220+ regulatory updates are released every day by more than 1,000 global regulatory bodies. It is becoming increasingly difficult for our customers to assess compliance with applicable regulations and standards. The process of tracking and updating controls is also typically very manual and time-consuming.

New and available now in public preview, Microsoft Compliance Score helps organizations simplify and automate risk assessments for Office 365 and Azure and provides recommended actions to address the risks. With Microsoft Compliance Score, customers can continuously monitor their compliance posture instead of relying on point-in-time assessments. To help customers better prepare for upcoming privacy regulations, we now include assessment for California Consumer Privacy Act and [ISO 27701](#).

Go to the [Microsoft 365 Compliance blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** [compliance](#), [compliancescore](#), [privacy](#), [Microsoft Compliance Score](#), [Microsoft 365 Compliance Center](#)

### Item 3.2.2 Microsoft Information Protection and Governance

Digital transformation has dramatically increased productivity and collaboration across organizations, yet managing and monitoring sensitive and business-critical data growth has remained a challenge. Organizations struggle to identify where their sensitive and business-critical data is located and then protect and govern how this data is accessed and shared across devices, apps, and cloud services. Microsoft 365 provides customers with a simple interface to classify, protect and govern their data, fostering secure collaboration within the organization.

With Microsoft Information Protection and Governance, your organization can intelligently configure and apply labels and policies for protection and governance to data wherever it lives in a way that is more accurate, efficient, and cost-effective.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 Compliance blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** [Microsoft Information Protection and Governance](#), [Microsoft 365](#), [data](#)

### Item 3.2.3 Insider Risk Management

Corporate insiders (employees, contractors, etc.) who inadvertently or maliciously violate internal policies and commit intellectual property theft or breach confidentiality are of great concern to organizations. Identifying and investigating these and other types of insider risks is critical.



Insider Risk Management is a new Microsoft 365 solution that intelligently correlates signals, including file activity, communications sentiment, and abnormal user behaviors, to identify hidden patterns and risks that traditional or manual methods might miss. It also includes a robust set of configurable playbooks tailored specifically for risks—such as digital IP theft, confidentiality breach, and potential security violations— that uses machine learning and intelligence to correlate the signals to identify hidden patterns and risks that traditional or manual methods might miss. We have also designed for privacy, so display names for risky users can be anonymized by default to maintain privacy at this level of the investigation and prevent conflicts of interest like seeing a friend or your boss on the list. Finally, end-to-end integrated workflows ensure that the right people across security, HR, legal, and compliance are involved to quickly investigate and take action once a risk has been identified.

You can sign up for a private preview at Microsoft Ignite.

**Go to the [Microsoft 365 Compliance blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.**

**Tags: Microsoft 365 Insider Risk Management, Microsoft 365, AI, corporate compliance, insider risks**



# Chapter 3 Identity

### Item 3.3.1 Azure Active Directory MyApps portal updates with new look and features

A revamped look and more capabilities for the Azure Active Directory MyApps portal give users a simplified experience with all apps in one place.

The new features, now in preview, include a mobile-first launching experience for all enterprise apps, workspaces for administrator-curated apps, and a unified app launching experience with Microsoft 365 surfaces across the Office.com portal, Office 365 search, and Office navigation.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Active Directory, MyApps, Office 365, identity and access management

### Item 3.3.2 Azure Active Directory Connect cloud provisioning

Azure Active Directory Connect cloud provisioning allows customers to easily consolidate disconnected on-premise Active Directory forests and eliminate the need for on-premises sync servers, all while enabling greater availability of connectivity (such as multiple deployments to disconnected forests for redundancy) and lowering costs.

The solution provides a lightweight, on-premises agent that will enable provisioning from multiple, disconnected on-premises Azure Directory forests and move all the sync complexity and data transformation logic to the cloud. The capability was designed to address one of the top needs for large enterprise customers managing complex organizations or merger and acquisition scenarios.

Azure Active Directory Connect cloud will become available for preview soon.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Active Directory, cloud, hybrid identity, identity and access management

### Item 3.3.3 Azure Active Directory secure hybrid access with partners

Azure Active Directory has integrated with networking partners to help organizations simplify secure access to applications that use header-based, Kerberos, and other legacy authentication protocols.

The new partners—Citrix, Akamai, and Zscaler—follow Azure AD's recent [integration with F5 Networks](#). The integrations enable customers to centralize access management with Azure AD and leverage its benefits, including Conditional Access policies and passwordless authentication for legacy-auth based applications.

Go to the [Secure Hybrid Access page](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** secure hybrid access, access gateway, application delivery networks, application delivery controllers, on-premises apps, legacy authentication, identity and access management



### Item 3.3.4 Entitlements management for Azure Active Directory

Thirty four percent of security breaches involve inside access, according to a 2019 Verizon report on data breaches.

Microsoft is helping organizations manage access to information with entitlements management for Azure Active Directory, now generally available. Entitlements management simplifies employee and partner access requests, approvals, auditing, and workflows.

Additionally, it allows organizations to create access packages that make it easier for employees and partners to request access to the information they need—and ensures that only the right people have access to the appropriate resources.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags: Azure Active Directory, access, security, identity and access management**

### Item 3.3.5 New features provide easier sign-in and better security for firstline workers

New identity features in Microsoft 365 will help empower firstline workers to access company resources and work securely, whether on a personal or shared device.

There are more than 2 billion firstline workers worldwide, but most have been underserved by technology in the workplace. The new sign-in and user management capabilities, built specifically for scenarios firstline workers are likely to encounter, were also designed to address security and compliance requirements. The features, in private preview and available later this year, include:

SMS sign-in that allows workers to sign in with their phone number and an SMS code for authentication, eliminating the need for passwords

Global sign-out, rolling out later this year for Android devices, that enables workers to sign out of all their apps with just one click and help ensure that nobody else can use the same devices under their account

Delegated user management that will enable scale and reduce stress on IT support by allowing firstline managers to manage users and credentials—for example, helping employees reset their passwords without having to call an IT help desk for assistance

The capabilities will also be available on Teams, which will also see the rollout of off-shift access for firstline workers, which will allow companies to grant Teams app access to firstline workers and still comply with designated work hours.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags: Azure Active Directory Identity, Microsoft 365, firstline workers, compliance, identity, Single Sign-On, SSO, identity and access management**



### Item 3.3.6 Passwordless authentication for more Azure Active Directory customers

Customers with any Azure Active Directory plan can now use Microsoft Authenticator to securely access their apps without a password. Previously, only customers with a paid plan could use the app for passwordless authentication. Customers with more than 150 seats can also now contact Microsoft to set up the capability via FastTrack.

As of Nov. 1, 2019, there will be no charges for using multifactor authentication or passwordless authentication. The passwordless authentication methods feature in Azure Active Directory launched in public preview last year; general availability is expected in 2020.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Azure Active Directory, passwordless authentication, identity and access management

### Item 3.3.7 Proof of concept for a decentralized identity system

Microsoft has developed a proof of concept for a [decentralized identity system](#) with the National Health Service in the UK. The health system is sponsoring the project—a new approach to identity management—to help graduating doctors spend more time with patients, and less time onboarding and managing credentials.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** decentralized identity, DID, digital identity, self-sovereign identity, distributed ledger technology (DLT), blockchain, identity and access management



## SECTION 4

# Microsoft 365





# Chapter 1 Knowledge

## Item 4.1.1 New innovations in Microsoft Search

**Microsoft Search** helps people find the information they need, when they need it, across the apps and services they use every day. New innovation in Microsoft Search delivers AI-powered experiences across Microsoft 365, Bing, Windows, and Microsoft Edge, with several features immediately available at Ignite and more that are accessible through public and private previews.

These experiences deliver insights on people and information whether in Microsoft 365 or connected to disparate systems using new content connectors. Microsoft Search powers intelligent experiences across Microsoft 365 to include SharePoint, OneDrive, Office Delve, and more.

Generally available at Ignite:

- **People search with attributes.** This makes it easy for people to query a name, title, or other individual attributes for that person, such as building locations and more, without knowing their entire name and correct spelling. This experience is available across Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Search in Bing.
- **Acronym search.** These results are mined using AI as well as being editorially generated. Users will be able to view acronyms that currently live in their email, SharePoint, OneDrive, and publicly shared documents within their company. This experience is available across Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Search in Bing.
- **Floorplan search.** Floorplan search allows you to pinpoint a person's office location or search across building maps. This experience is available across Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Search in Bing.
- **Bing mobile (iOS & Android).** Enables organizations to sign into the Bing mobile app with the Azure AD credentials and discover content within Microsoft 365.

Available through private preview at Ignite:

- **Find expertise** in your organization based on individual skills derived from insights available in the Microsoft Graph. User profiles are generally out of date and do not provide enough detail; and there is no consistent construct for reputation—implicit, attributed, or certified skills, expertise, and experience. Using signals, relationships and how individuals work together—as well as what they're working on—Microsoft Search delivers recommendations for who has particular skills.
- **Use the search bar in Microsoft Edge** to find workplace information **with Microsoft Search in Bing.** There's nothing to learn—search like you're used to in the browser and get workplace results with the quality you expect from the world wide web. Get quick results, including people, acronyms, and floorplans.
- **Semantic search.** With intelligent, natural language search capabilities in Microsoft Search, users can now type out their search as if they were having a normal conversation and the engine can better understand the semantic meaning or user intent of this search, bringing back the most relevant documents and information. This experience is available across Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Search in Bing.



- **Microsoft Graph API for Microsoft Search** allows customers and partners to build and monetize (if desired) search-driven applications built on Microsoft Search.

Available through public preview at Ignite:

- **Content connectors**, which allow customers to discover information across disparate systems with Microsoft Search to include File Shares, Structured Data, ServiceNow, Media Wikis, Salesforce, and more. This experience is available across Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Search in Bing.
- **Bing Enterprise Homepage & Industry News – Public Preview:** The enterprise-focused Bing Homepage experience offers company branding, Office content, quick links to top queries, and company updates. Industry news gives users news search results specific to their company and industry.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Search, intelligence, Microsoft Search, Bing, Microsoft Search in Bing, Microsoft Edge

#### Item 4.1.2 New MyAnalytics features help you improve meeting and management skills

MyAnalytics will use AI to automate setting your out of office message, notifying your top collaborators of your leave, resolving meetings you'll miss, and scheduling catch-up time with colleagues when you're back. New meetings insights will also show progress on sticking to best practices like booking meetings promptly, adding an agenda, or following up with attendees. This will begin rolling out to Microsoft 365 commercial customers by the end of 2019.

MyAnalytics will also help managers improve skills by showing insights like frequency of 1:1s or the amount of after-hours communication with direct reports. It will also flag missed emails or to-dos from people you manage. This will be available in preview for Microsoft 365 commercial customers with MyAnalytics and Workplace Analytics by early 2020.

IT admins now have granular-level controls for MyAnalytics, easing its deployment. These controls are available now.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** MyAnalytics, wellbeing, collaboration, emails, meetings, IT admins

#### Item 4.1.3 Microsoft 365 knowledge vision and introducing Project Cortex

With the rise of automation and in the face of a global skills shortage, harnessing knowledge, learning faster, and upskilling employees are new competitive advantage for businesses.

Given the vast content repository in Microsoft 365, signals from the Microsoft Graph, and advancements in AI, Microsoft is able to help our customers tap into their knowledge, to empower their people, fuel innovation, accelerate learning, and protect intellectual capital.



As part of this we are introducing Project Cortex, a new service in Microsoft 365 that empowers people and teams with knowledge, learning, and expertise, in the flow of their everyday work. It uses AI to automatically classify all your content into topics to form a knowledge network. It improves individual productivity and organizational intelligence, helping identify experts on specific topics, and surfacing knowledge through interactive experiences across Microsoft 365, such as in the Office apps, Outlook, and Microsoft Teams.

Project Cortex is now in private preview and will be generally available in the first half of 2020.

In addition to Project Cortex, several new capabilities in Microsoft 365 spanning Microsoft Search, Microsoft Stream, the new Yammer, and Workplace Analytics advance our knowledge vision and will strengthen our customers' knowledge networks.

**Go to the [Microsoft 365 Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.**

**Tags: Microsoft 365, Project Cortex, knowledge management, AI, knowledge network**



# Chapter 2 Core Productivity

### Item 4.2.1 Briefing email from Cortana

Cortana can now send daily, heads-up emails that help you prepare for meetings, stay on top of tasks, and manage your time. Cortana can detail your tasks—based on commitments you have made in previous emails—and provide a convenient way to mark them as “done” or book focus time.

Based on AI models for task management, Briefing email provides a comprehensive look at your day and is now available in preview.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** microtasks, Cortana, task management

### Item 4.2.2 Cortana can now book your meetings with Scheduler

Cortana can seamlessly coordinate and schedule meetings with Scheduler, now available in preview. With natural language and artificial intelligence, the service can look at calendars, find or propose available times, and manage meeting details—all to help you save time and be more productive.

When everyone agrees on a time, Cortana can book a meeting room, add call-in details, and send a calendar invite from the meeting organizer.

Scheduler is available to commercial Microsoft 365 users and, during preview, is compatible with MSA and Google calendars via authentication.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** task management, Cortana, Outlook

### Item 4.2.3 Email transport improvements in Office 365

The Exchange Transport team is announcing the arrival of critical improvements to Message Recall, proxy address sending, and customizable recipient limits.

With Message Recall, users will be able to recall messages they’ve already sent. With proxy address sending, a frequent request from customers, users can specify mail to be sent displaying an additional email address they have configured on their mailbox. Another frequent request from customers, recipient limits, will be configurable at a user level by IT admins.

The public release of the features begins after Ignite, rolling out through the end of the year.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Exchange, administration, Office 365, email, messages



#### **Item 4.2.4 Excel Sheet View allows Excel users to sort and filter without disrupting others in shared files**

Sheet View, generally available in the next few months, allows Excel users to sort and filter data and then save the results to use later as a separate view, without disrupting others' view of the data on a shared file. Views can be saved to be viewed, sorted and filtered by other users in the document when collaborating in real time, avoiding disruptions in workflows across teams. This feature is web-only.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Collaboration, office on the web, online, filter, sort

#### **Item 4.2.5 Exchange Online PowerShell cmdlets for public preview**

A new set of Exchange PowerShell cmdlets will be available for public preview November 5. These cmdlets are built on REST APIs and are significantly faster and more reliable than their predecessors.

PowerShell for Exchange Online is a key management tool for Exchange Online, which administrators can use to manage many day-to-day tasks. PowerShell for Exchange Online hasn't been updated since the earliest days of Office 365; the new architecture and modules improve the speed and reliability of administering one of the organization's biggest workloads.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact [Microsoft Media Relations](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Exchange PowerShell, administration, cmdlets

#### **Item 4.2.6 Manage conversations, tasks, and files across Microsoft 365 within Teams with new updates**

Several new Teams capabilities make it easier to manage files, tasks, and conversations from across Microsoft 365, right within Teams.

A new Files experience in Teams powered by SharePoint that is rolling out now enables you to sync files from Teams to a PC or Mac, see rich previews across more than 320 file types, and work with metadata, among other actions. In addition, it is now easier to set permissions when sharing a file from Teams to ensure the recipient can access the file within Teams. Additional capabilities enabled by deeper SharePoint integration with Teams include the ability to view relevant People cards and recent files alongside chats, and Teams activity will now appear in SharePoint team site activity feeds.

A new Tasks experience in Teams coming in the first quarter of 2020 provides a unified, cohesive view of tasks created in Teams, Planner, or To Do, allowing you to stay organized and focused on all your tasks from within Teams.

A capability to roll out this quarter allows you to move conversations from Outlook into Teams with just a click. In addition, the collaboration tool Yammer will soon be accessible within Teams, making it easy to participate in Yammer communities within your hub for teamwork. The new Yammer capability will be available in a private preview by the end of this year and is due to roll out to all customers in 2020.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Teams, Microsoft 365, Yammer, Tasks, Notes, SharePoint, Outlook



### Item 4.2.7 Microsoft Stream features make video a more powerful vehicle for knowledge and sharing

New Stream features powered by AI and intelligent search make knowledge sharing easier, so now anyone can create and personalize videos, optimize audio, and make video content more discoverable.

Video is changing the way employees communicate and learn. These new Stream features drive more knowledge sharing and learning, especially given the tendency to create, edit, and upload videos using mobile devices. This aligns to the shift in how people are learning on the job—moving from “macrolearning” (formal training, classroom learning, courses) to “microlearning” (learning in context, community knowledge sharing, video, user-generated content).

Video content is as reusable and shareable as the words, images, and numbers contained within a traditional document.

Now it is easier than ever to create and edit screen recordings in Stream on the web or the mobile app, including the ability to customize videos with emojis, images, and text (available at Ignite through private preview).

**New Voice enhance** (generally available in 2020) leverages AI to eliminate background noise and sharpen the speaker's voice in noisy environments. Once created, videos can be easily shared to Teams, Yammer, and Outlook. Stream videos can now be used within Power Apps (generally available at Ignite).

Stream brings to everyone tools that make it easy to share information in new ways, with six new languages supported in Stream for transcription, enabling automatic transcripts for Chinese (simplified), French, German, Italian, Japanese and Portuguese (Brazilian)—which are all generally available at Ignite.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Stream, videos, knowledge sharing, learning, search, AI

### Item 4.2.8 Microsoft Whiteboard integration with Teams makes collaboration easier

Whiteboard is now integrated into Teams, allowing people to ideate and collaborate on a range of workplace scenarios.

Integrating **Whiteboard** with Teams enables people to bring ideas to life together, whether they're in the same room or working remotely. All you need to do is turn on a button in Teams meetings for real-time Whiteboard collaboration within the flow of Teams.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Whiteboard, Office 365, Teams, Surface, collaboration

### Item 4.2.9 Microsoft Whiteboard templates enable easier workplace collaboration

We are adding five new Whiteboard templates to help people more easily collaborate on workplace scenarios like brainstorming, sprint planning, and product planning.

Users of PC, Surface Hub, and iOS can access the templates by tapping the Insert button in the toolbar—the templates will then appear in the templates gallery, enabling immediate collaboration.



Created in response to feedback from users, the templates are now available in public preview.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Whiteboard, Office 365, Teams, Surface, collaboration

#### **Item 4.2.10 Microsoft Whiteboard web app available across devices, no install required**

The Whiteboard web app is now available across all devices, enabling users to collaborate faster than ever before.

There is no app to deploy or install. No updates to download. Users can get started immediately and use Whiteboard across their organization's devices, regardless of platform or operating system.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Whiteboard, Office 365, Team, Surface, collaboration

#### **Item 4.2.11 Natural language query gives Excel users insight into data without having to write formulas**

A natural language query function, rolling out now to Office Insiders, will allow Excel users to ask a question of their data and get quick answers, without having to write a formula. The new feature uses the intelligence that powers Ideas in Excel. Once a user enters a question in the query box at the top of the pane, Ideas will provide answers supported by formulas, charts, or pivot tables, helping users get a better understanding of their data without needing to write complex formulas or create charts themselves.

Natural language query is another step toward making data insights and visualization more approachable and accessible to users with various levels of Excel experience. Novice users will not need to know how to write a formula to gain useful insights from their data, while power users will be able to save time by automating the data discovery process by simply asking the right questions and quickly adding charts and tables they need for better and faster decisions.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Intelligence, ideas, data analysis, excel data

#### **Item 4.2.12 New content migration resources for moving files to SharePoint and OneDrive**

A new web-based, self-service capability for moving content from various cloud storage providers into SharePoint and OneDrive will soon be available to Microsoft 365 customers. A preview of the service is expected to be available in early 2020.

Also coming in early 2020, a new SharePoint Migration orchestration center will provide a single admin console for managing migrations from SharePoint Server 2010, SharePoint Server 2013, and file shares.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** SharePoint, OneDrive, file migration, cloud migration



### Item 4.2.13 Office app for mobile devices

A new mobile experience for Office combines three of the suite's most popular apps—Word, Excel, and PowerPoint—into a single app designed to be your go-to app for mobile productivity.

This app aims to be the primary place where you can easily access and create content by harnessing the advantages of mobile devices. With the Office app, users will also be able to do a variety of common on-the-go tasks, such as converting images to text, creating and signing PDFs, and sharing files between devices.

It launches in public preview for Android and iOS on November 4.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** OfficeApp, OfficeforMobile, Office, mobile

### Item 4.2.14 OneDrive and SharePoint file enhancement updates make file management easier

New updates in SharePoint and OneDrive make it easier to manage, sync, and share files.

Upload bigger files, up to 100 GB per file, to OneDrive and SharePoint, including files you use in Teams. The SharePoint site collection limit is also increasing from 500,000 site collections to 2 million site collections per tenant.

The differential sync capability will allow you to sync only the updated parts of large files, instead of the entire file, for faster uploads and downloads. The new Request Files feature enables you to collect files from multiple people without showing them each other's submissions, so you can maintain confidentiality when needed, such as when collecting business proposals.

The updates will roll out starting in December and into the first half of 2020.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more

**Tags:** SharePoint, OneDrive, file management, Microsoft 365

### Item 4.2.15 OneNote

Microsoft is extending mainstream support for OneNote 2016. Users who prefer it should continue using it.

Office 365 subscribers will begin to see more features rolling out, starting with Dark Mode. The team is working hard to bring additional premium value features to OneNote for Office 365 subscribers next year, such as collaboration capabilities you're used to in other Office apps, like @mentions for quickly pulling collaborators into your notebooks.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to find out more.

**Tags:** OneNote, Modern Workplace, O365, ProPlus



#### **Item 4.2.16 Outlook for Mac updates enhance performance and deliver intelligent experiences**

The Outlook for Mac experience has been updated to enhance performance and deliver intelligent experiences that elevate productivity. The new Outlook for Mac includes an updated design and user experience, along with new tools that will simplify how users organize their day, including suggested options in search, email replies with tools that scale based on a user's preferences, and connections with Office 365 apps for modern collaboration.

Built on the same Microsoft sync technology used across other Outlook experiences and the Microsoft Cloud, the new Outlook for Mac is now faster and more reliable. It leverages powerful and simple design principles that give users control to customize their experiences, focus on what matters, and get things done quickly.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Outlook, Outlook for Mac, Office 365, Microsoft cloud

#### **Item 4.2.17 Outlook introduces new calendar features to help users better stay on top of their day**

Outlook is introducing new calendar features to help users better stay on top of their day, right from their inbox. The Meeting Insights, Up Next, and inferred locations features on Outlook for iOS and Android and the suggested replies feature and the ability to add a personal calendar on Outlook on the web will all be available by the end of the year.

The new features will enable users to see more events and daily commitments directly in their inbox, helping them take quick action, schedule meetings faster, account for travel time, and be better prepared for the next meeting with relevant email conversations and files at their fingertips. And by adding a personal calendar account, users can see their full schedule in one view to help respect work-life balance and to help coworkers avoid scheduling over personal commitments.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Outlook, Outlook calendar

#### **Item 4.2.18 Outlook mobile for iOS and Android can better protect personal and company data**

New features for Outlook mobile will help further delineate work and personal information and accounts so end users have peace of mind knowing their privacy, along with confidential information, is protected. A new email notification experience is also being rolled out that protects sensitive information by encrypting data on the lock screen of a mobile device until the authorized user unlocks the device. With built-in support for app protection policies, the compliant Exchange backend and Microsoft Intune, identity and information protection capabilities, Outlook is the gold standard as a secure mobile email and calendar app.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) or contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Outlook, Outlook mobile, security, privacy



#### **Item 4.2.19 Outlook Search uses intelligent technology to bring relevant results to the top of devices**

Outlook continues to invest in the Search function to drive consistent and intelligent experiences. The Coming Soon option in Outlook for Windows will be brought back starting in November to allow customers to preview changes, such as moving Search to the top of the desktop experience and adding intelligence with suggested emails that are relevant to users as a query is typed, providing the same experience in Search in other Office apps. Top results in Outlook mobile will reduce the effort for customers to find what they need on the go and, if using a tablet, will optimize for the increased screen surface to show more by using two panes.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Outlook, search, intelligent technology, outlook for windows, outlook mobile

#### **Item 4.2.20 Play My Emails feature in Outlook**

A new Outlook feature that intelligently reads out emails when connected to a Bluetooth or audio device, or on demand, will be generally available November 4 for iOS.

Play My Emails is a voice-forward feature that intelligently reads out your email and shares changes to your day—ideal for commuting or multitasking—helping you get time back so you can focus on other things. You can reply to emails with simple voice commands and easily navigate messages with new, larger tap targets optimized for mobile use.

You can also customize your digital assistant, Cortana, even more with a new voice option. It uses neural voice technology, providing more natural and conversational interactions.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Cortana, voice, Outlook, task management

#### **Item 4.2.21 Preview of Ideas in Word for the web**

A preview of Ideas in Word for the web—an AI-powered editor in the cloud—is rolling out now for Office 365 commercial users. It includes intelligent suggestions for correcting spelling and grammar, and for refining style, clarity, conciseness, and more. The seamless interface makes it easier to view recommendations.

Contact [Microsoft Media Relations](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Microsoft Word, Microsoft 365, Ideas, writing assistance, edit, M365

#### **Item 4.2.22 SharePoint intelligent intranet features**

SharePoint Home Sites, rolling out now, lets you create landing sites that bring news, events, content, conversations and videos into a single, branded page. Multilingual support for translating intranet content and publishing in different languages is also rolling out now.



A new SharePoint UX built with Fluent design will roll out in the first half of 2020, providing a fresh, modern experience. Also coming soon are the ability to associate hub sites for easy navigation and updates to the Yammer web part for SharePoint, which will include rich text and @mentions.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** [SharePoint](#), [intranet](#), [Microsoft 365](#)

#### **Item 4.2.23 SharePoint list enhancements**

Rolling out in early 2020, SharePoint lists will offer the ability to create beautiful card layouts with simple actions. The inline card designer makes it easy to choose content, links, and images to visually showcase information, with no code or separate apps required.

Also, native SharePoint form configuration will give you a powerful way to highlight data by adjusting what information appears in a SharePoint list.

Go to the [SharePoint Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** [SharePoint](#), [lists](#), [Microsoft 365](#)

#### **Item 4.2.24 Teams calling features now include emergency calling and music while on hold**

Microsoft Teams Phone System now offers Dynamic Emergency Calling (E911) for users in the US, providing the caller's current location to emergency responders. The current version supports Microsoft Calling Plan users, and support for Direct Routing users is expected later this year.

Music on Hold offers the option to play music for callers when they are placed on hold. This feature works for Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN)-to-Teams calls in addition to calls made to a call queue. Location-Based Routing allows customers to restrict the routing of calls between VoIP endpoints and PSTN endpoints based upon configurable rules.

In addition, several new capabilities make it easier for large customers to choose and deploy Direct Routing for their calling needs. PSTN reporting for Direct Routing makes supporting user calls easier.

New configuration testing tools allow customers to immediately validate their new deployments and quickly fix any issues. Customers with complex global networks can now choose the closest Microsoft media processors to use for their calls, improving performance. Ring Bot provides distinctive rings to callers so they can understand the status of their connection.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

#### **Item 4.2.25 Teams enhancements in Microsoft Teams Rooms**

Starting next year, Microsoft Teams Rooms (MTR) will be able to connect to Cisco WebEx and Zoom meetings, using a new embedded web-based technology pioneered by Microsoft. In early 2020, Cisco will be onboarded as a Cloud Video Interop solution making it easier for MTR customers to reliably interoperate with Cisco WebEx meetings.

Microsoft is also introducing a new category of certified Teams meeting devices by Yealink and Poly to support smaller workspaces, with integrated audio, video and cameras running on Android.



Finally, Microsoft is launching Managed Meeting Rooms, a cloud-based IT management and security monitoring service for MTR, which will offer expert management, enhanced insights, and leverage a trusted network of partners for onsite services. Managed Meetings Rooms is now available in limited private preview and will become generally available in spring 2020.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Teams meetings, videoconferencing, meeting device

#### **Item 4.2.26 Teams features help IT administrators securely manage Teams users**

Several new security, compliance, and IT management features in Teams provide additional protection and make it easier to manage content.

Microsoft Advanced Threat Protection now safeguards Teams messages from harmful links in real time, protecting organizations against unknown malware and viruses. The ability to apply an information barriers policy to prevent individuals or groups from communicating with each other now extends to files stored in the SharePoint site attached to a team. Data retention options for Teams now allow administrators to set retention policies as short as one day. And enhancements to PowerShell make it faster and easier to assign policies for large groups of Teams users.

New features in the Teams Admin Center make it easier to manage devices, usage, and deployment of Teams. The new device management portal capabilities will soon enable IT admins to manage Microsoft Teams Rooms devices in one place. A new certified app catalog in the admin center makes it easy to see all Teams-certified apps in one place. Finally, to support Teams deployment at organizations, a new Advisor for Teams feature will enable customers to select their desired workloads and provides structured guidance on how to implement them to ensure a successful rollout that aligns with the deployment team's goals.

Go to the [Microsoft Teams Tech Community blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Teams compliance, Teams security, Teams deployment, Teams IT management

#### **Item 4.2.27 Teams features now allow for more ways to customize conversations and Teams experience**

New features in Microsoft Teams provide more ways to customize your conversations and Teams experience.

Private channels are now generally available, enabling people to create channels within their teams that can be viewed and accessed by a specified subset of that team's members.

The Teams client for Linux will be available in public preview later this year.

The multiwindow feature, expected to roll out in the first quarter of 2020, will enable you to pop out chats and meetings into a separate window.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Teams, private channels, multiwindow, Linux



#### Item 4.2.28 Teams features make meetings more inclusive and flexible

Microsoft Whiteboard is now generally available in all Teams meetings, giving teams an infinite digital canvas for meeting participants to work together directly.

Live captions will make meetings more accessible and easier to follow along.

Presenter and attendee controls, available this fall, will enable meeting organizers to set controls for a meeting before it takes place, ensuring that presenters have sole control over screen sharing, admitting and muting participants, and meeting recordings.

Later this year, background blur will be available in Teams for iOS to minimize distractions in the background when participating in a meeting on an iPhone or iPad.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Teams meetings; videoconferencing; Whiteboard in Teams; Live captions; customized backgrounds

#### Item 4.2.29 Teams for firstline workers updates

New capabilities in Teams will provide firstline workers with new ways to access and sign into Teams and give organizations the ability to integrate Teams with their workforce management systems.

Off-shift access, available early next year, is a new setting that can be enabled by IT administrators to provide a notification to firstline workers when they access the Teams app on a personal device outside payable hours.

Out-of-the-box, open-source connectors on [GitHub](#) enable customers to integrate Teams' Shifts scheduling module with workforce management systems. These connectors are now available for JDA and will be available for Kronos early next year.

New authentication capabilities in Microsoft 365 make it easy for firstline workers to sign into Teams and other Microsoft 365 apps. Firstline workers can use a mobile phone number and a one-time SMS passcode to authenticate into Teams on a personal device, while Global Sign-Out lets employees log out of all their apps at one time in shared-device environments, which will be available initially on Android.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Teams, Firstline Workers, compliance, off-shift access, connectors, workforce management systems

#### Item 4.2.30 Teams for virtual consultation scenarios across industries

Virtual Consults offers a simple way to schedule and conduct virtual consultations with Microsoft Teams, such as healthcare patient consults, customer service calls, client meetings, or job candidate interviews. During the consult, customers can take advantage of Teams meetings features such as background blur, meeting transcription and cloud recording. Attendees can easily join the virtual consultation via their web browser or mobile app. Virtual Consults is now available in private preview.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Virtual Consults, Teams



### Item 4.2.31 Tools and capabilities from Power Platform are becoming more discoverable in Teams

Tools and capabilities from Power Platform—Microsoft’s suite of low-code development and business intelligence tools—are becoming more discoverable in Teams.

Power Apps creators can now publish their apps as Teams apps for easy use when working in Teams. Admins can also publish these custom apps directly to their company’s app library in Teams, making them more discoverable to users. New updates also improve the experience of adding these apps to Teams. By the end of 2019, users will be able to pin custom apps built in Power Apps to their Teams left rail, providing easy access to regularly used apps.

New triggers and actions for Power Automate (previously known as Flow) will be available soon within Teams. These capabilities streamline the completion of common team and personal tasks, such as setting custom message actions and sending notifications.

New features coming to Power BI in 2020 include the ability to create interactive cards in Teams conversations, which help users see and act on their data. An improved Power BI tab experience in Teams will also make selecting the correct reports easier than ever.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags: Teams, Power Platform, Power Apps, Power Automate, Power BI**

### Item 4.2.32 Visio updates help visualize data more clearly and enable robust real-time collaboration

New Visio features and updates will help users collaborate more effectively and work more efficiently.

Real-time co-editing brings Visio desktop capabilities to Visio for the web. Users will now be able to watch diagram changes from their colleagues live and enable real-time collaboration within Teams and across Microsoft 365. Since everyone can make changes in the same version of the diagram, co-editing also reduces version-control issues and editing conflicts.

Unified Modeling Language 2.5 diagrams are generally available for Visio for the web, which means users can now start with a blank UML template or modify a UML starter diagram. UML is a standard way to draw software models, sketch out designs, or document existing designs and systems.

The Visio Data Visualizer add-in for Excel brings visualization capabilities into Excel, allowing users to automatically convert Excel data into Visio diagrams within Excel, keep the diagrams in sync with the data, and do even more with Visio for the web.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags: Visio for the web, Modern workplace, Collaboration, Generally available, Unified modeling language, Software diagrams, IT diagrams, Visio, Data Visualizer, Excel, basic flowcharts, cross-functional flowcharts**



### Item 4.2.33 Workplace Analytics

We're making Workplace Analytics even more actionable and relevant to a broader set of roles across your organization. New capabilities include enhanced productivity insights, which alongside AI-driven business process and people network analysis help leaders identify patterns that lead to success and take action to improve employee experience, organizational agility, and customer focus.

AI gives analysts insight into the time and resources invested across specific business topics, revealing opportunities to optimize. In addition, business leaders can now contextualize their organization's insights about meeting culture, focus time and employees' ability to unplug outside working hours with industry benchmarks.

These new features will begin rolling out to Microsoft 365 commercial customers in December.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Workplace Analytics, managers, AI, leadership, insights

### Item 4.2.34 XLOOKUP for Excel makes the spreadsheet search experience faster and easier

Excel users will be able to find and retrieve data faster and easier with the XLOOKUP feature, generally available in the next few months. The successor to VLOOKUP and HLOOKUP, which were some of the most widely used functions in working with spreadsheets, XLOOKUP overcomes some of the key limitations of both, such as the inability to look up values to the left or not supporting column insertions or deletions. XLOOKUP delivers a search experience that is more useful than ever and eliminates the need for workarounds.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Vlookup, hlookup, xlookup, excel, spreadsheet

### Item 4.2.35 Yammer reimagines communities, knowledge sharing, and communication in Microsoft 365

Yammer has been completely redesigned, with dozens of new capabilities that power leadership engagement, company-wide communication and communities in Microsoft 365. The new Yammer delivers a beautiful, intelligent experience across devices and deep integration with Microsoft Teams, SharePoint, and Outlook. And, as part of Microsoft 365, people can connect and share knowledge across the organization with open conversation backed by enterprise-grade privacy, security, and compliance.

As Microsoft's first app built from the ground up with the Fluent Design System, the new Yammer provides an engaging and easy-to-use experience on the web and in the Yammer app for Android and iOS. In addition, Yammer can be integrated with Microsoft Teams, as an app in the left rail, enabling you to access organization-wide communities without leaving the hub for teamwork. Integration with Outlook lets you read, like, and reply to Yammer conversations within your Outlook inbox. And the Yammer web part for SharePoint introduces Yammer's new design and features, including questions and answers, to power a social intranet.

Building on a decade of customer success and feedback, the new Yammer delivers many top customer requests. A new, personalized conversation feed powered by AI connects you with conversations across the organization. Each community can be given a unique identity with branding and cover photos. Communicators can highlight conversations with pinned posts, and close discussions to prevent replies. Leaders can broadcast live and on-demand events with a new, simpler production option using webcams and desktop sharing. You can also share experiences and messages with short videos posted directly from the Yammer mobile app.



In addition, the organization can better manage compliance with e-Discovery, data governance, and centralized administration of Yammer within the Microsoft 365 admin center.

Select customers can see the new Yammer in a private preview scheduled for December. It's due to roll out to all customers in 2020.

Go the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations](#).

**Tags: Yammer, YearOfYammer, Microsoft365**



# Chapter 3 Management

### Item 4.3.1 Global reader role in Microsoft 365 admin center

We are thrilled to announce that the Global reader role in Azure Active Directory—a top request from customers—will be generally available and rolling out to Microsoft 365 tenants beginning November 4.

The Global reader role enables you to reduce the number of Global admins in your organization because it gives users the ability to view all settings and administrative information across their Microsoft 365 environment without requiring Global admin permissions.

The Global reader role is especially useful for planning, audit, and investigation activities, and it can be used in combination with other roles, such as Exchange admin, to make it easier to get work done without requiring Global admin permissions.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 management blog post](#) or contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** RBAC, global admin, least permissive role, Microsoft 365 admin center

### Item 4.3.2 Microsoft 365 admin center recommendations

Starting the week of Ignite, new AI-powered recommendations in the Microsoft 365 admin center will begin rolling out to Microsoft 365 customers to help them improve their security and compliance posture.

These recommendations help organizations and their administrators identify potential areas of concern and take action to address them through guided experiences. These recommendations cover Microsoft Information Protection, Advanced Threat Protection, Self-Service Password Reset and include guidance for compliance with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation.

Security and compliance recommendations are customized to your organization and based on signals from the Microsoft Graph. You can see top recommendations for your organization in the Microsoft 365 admin center's Onboarding Hub (Setup area), and as inline suggestions in other admin center areas.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 management blog post](#) or contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Microsoft 365 admin center, onboarding, setup

### Item 4.3.3 Microsoft Endpoint Manager

Introducing Microsoft Endpoint Manager, the convergence of Intune and Configuration Manager functionality and data, plus new intelligent actions, offering a seamless, end-to-end management solution without the complexity of a migration or disruption to productivity. Microsoft Endpoint Manager features and experiences will appear in the product over the coming months.



System Center Configuration Manager and Intune have more than 200 million users. SCCM and Intune provide on-premises and cloud management tools, and unique co-management options to provision, deploy, manage and secure endpoints and applications across their organization.

Increasingly, IT is moving to the cloud to manage their endpoints. Microsoft Endpoint Manager provides transformative modern management and security that meets customers where they are and helps them move to the cloud.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 management blog post](#) or contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** microsoft365, ConfigMgr, Intune, SCCM, modernmanagement, MEMpowered, MEM

#### **Item 4.3.4 Microsoft Productivity Score improves technology experiences**

Microsoft Productivity Score empowers organizations with insights that transform how work gets done and help drive business impact. Productivity Score includes visibility, insights, and actions for the business in Employee Experience and for IT in the Technology Experience to drive culture change and productivity through new ways of working.

Technology Experience gives the IT pro visibility to benchmark, provides insights by assessing policies, device settings, and hardware and application performance within the organizational environment, and recommends actions to take in Microsoft Endpoint Manager. IT pros can improve their scores by identifying best practices and ideal configurations to ensure technology and employee experiences are mutually supported.

Customers are invited to sign up for Productivity Score private preview starting in November.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 management blog post](#) or contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Microsoft Productivity Score, Technology Experience Score, IT, IT pro, Microsoft Endpoint Manager

#### **Item 4.3.5 Introducing Surface firmware management with Microsoft Endpoint Manager**

Device Firmware Configuration Interface (DFCI) allows Microsoft Endpoint Manager (Microsoft Intune), a cloud-based enterprise mobility management tool, to manage the Surface Unified Extensible Firmware Interface or complete device management in the cloud. The feature brings new intelligent features for provisioning, security, quality, and streamlined updating all in a single console. Now, IT administrators have visibility and insights and can take action on all endpoints and applications across their environments.

DFCI support will now ship with all Surface for Business devices. DFCI management capabilities in Microsoft Endpoint Manager will be available in public preview starting November 2019.

Go to [Manage DFCI](#) or contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Microsoft Surface, modern manageability, Microsoft Endpoint Manager, Surface UEFI

#### **Item 4.3.6 Windows Virtual Desktop**

Windows Virtual Desktop now includes support for MSIX app attach and support for Linux devices through Microsoft's ecosystem partners. Hardware partners like IGEL and others are also providing new devices to provide a satisfying Windows Virtual Desktop experience for users.



Windows Virtual Desktop is the only service that delivers simplified management, a multisession Windows 10 experience, optimizations for Office 365 ProPlus, and support for Windows Server Remote Desktop Services desktops and apps. By adding MSIX app attach, the user experience for WVD increasingly gets better and easier for IT pros to manage. With it, you can mount an application or user profile dynamically to reduce storage and improve the user experience.

IT pros are now able to provide the full WVD experience on Linux devices, adding to broad support across platforms that include Windows, iOS, MacOS, and HTML5.

Support for Linux devices is available now, and hardware partner devices will be available soon. Support for MSIX app attach is coming soon.

Go to the [Microsoft 365 management blog post](#) or contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** WindowsVirtualDesktop, MSIX App attach, Linux



# Chapter 4 Developer Tools

### Item 4.4.1 Microsoft Fluid Framework offering instantaneous collaboration with Microsoft 365

Fluid Framework, a technology for building a new class of shared, interactive experiences on the web for Microsoft 365, will be available to developers through a private preview and to end users through an example experience in public preview, coming soon.

End users will be able to try real-world scenarios to experience instantaneous collaboration that transcends traditional document boundaries and app-specific workflows across the Microsoft 365 ecosystem. Developers will be able to start leveraging the flexibility of the rich component model and adapt these end-user scenarios in new verticals for the organization.

Go to the [Microsoft M365 Blog](#) or contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** fluid framework, collaboration, fluid framework preview

### Item 4.4.2 Microsoft Graph now includes mobile push notifications

Microsoft Graph notifications now offer a simplified onboarding story, refreshed look, improved SDK, and more reliable service, following a series of updates based on recent public feedback.

Developers can use Microsoft Graph to create powerful productivity solutions that are user-centric. With the addition of mobile push notifications, developers can include Windows, iOS, Android, and web notifications in their Graph solutions while remaining compliant at scale.

Microsoft Graph notifications are available in public preview.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** notifications, push notifications, mobile notifications, Microsoft Graph

### Item 4.4.3 MSIX app attach preview

MSIX app attach introduces dynamic delivery of MSIX packages in virtual environments and is now available in preview. Applications are separate from the OS image and dynamically attached to a virtual machine at user login.

The solution enables developers to use a single package type across physical and virtual desktops for on-demand app availability, reduced network traffic, and improved user login times. It optimizes application and OS image management for virtual environments, with no need to bloat VM images with unused applications or manage app streaming infrastructure. A single VM image can be used across different user and app groups.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** MSIX app attach, VDI, WVD



#### **Item 4.4.4 Office Scripts enables automation and workflows in Excel, no programming required**

Office Scripts, a new feature for Excel, allows users to record actions performed in workbooks, enabling automation and workflows to be created without programming experience.

Customers can create and share scripts, connect spreadsheets to over 300 types of connections and actions, and include powerful workflow capabilities that are automatically integrated with Microsoft Flow. Administrators can centrally manage and facilitate the sharing of created scripts.

Office Scripts allows customers to create a new script and use a recorder to capture their actions in a workbook. When they're finished, the recording stops and the script is stored in OneDrive. Customers can then choose to run actions manually or schedule them using Flow.

Office Scripts will be in public preview for Excel on the web by the end of the year.

Go to the [Tech Community Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Excel

#### **Item 4.4.5 React Native for Windows**

React Native for Windows v0.60 is now available with added support for light and dark modes, keyboard handling, and signature Windows features like Acrylic.

Launched at Build 2019 and fully open source, [React Native for Windows](#) brings an up-to-date, native (C++) and high-performance implementation of React Native for web-first developers to build rich Windows applications with JavaScript.

You can get started with this [simple guide](#); new daily builds are published on [npm](#).

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** React Native for Windows, React Native, JS, React

#### **Item 4.4.6 Teams platform improvements empower customizations for developers**

With over two dozen new improvements in the Microsoft Teams platform, developers can bring their apps to every facet of work in Teams. New features include mobile app extensions in personal chat, new mobile development experiences, and more flexibility with ambient bots. In addition, updates to Activity Feed integrations and new Visual Studio tools enable a tailored productivity experience for every team.

Go to the [Microsoft Teams Developer Blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Microsoft Teams, Developer, Microsoft 365, Microsoft Graph, customization

#### **Item 4.4.7 Windows Subsystem for Linux 2**

We added improved localhost support, so you can now access your Linux networking apps from Windows using localhost instead of the WSL 2 VM's IP Address. We also added memory reclamation, which means your WSL 2 distro will now grow and shrink in memory size as you use it.



These features improve the usability of WSL 2. Before localhost support, if you were developing a web application, you would need to find and then enter the IP address of your WSL 2 distro into your web browser to connect to your site. Now you can simply use localhost. With memory reclamation, when your Linux process is finished with the memory it will be returned to the Windows host and available for use in other applications.

This is available now to Windows Insiders and will be part of the general release of WSL 2 in the first half of 2020.

Go to the [Command Line blog](#) and contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Linux, memory, subsystem, network, WSL

#### **Item 4.4.8 WinUI 3.0 Alpha preview**

WinUI 3.0, an upcoming full-stack UI solution for building apps for Windows 10, is now available as an early preview. Additional previews for Windows 10 desktop and Windows 10X will be available in 2020.

WinUI 3.0 brings the same native controls and features found in the UWP XAML framework for any Windows application, from UWP to Win32 desktop apps, and whether you're a .NET Core developer or writing in pure, native C++. Developers can add WinUI 3.0 Alpha to new and existing UWP app projects via NuGet, just as they would with WinUI 2.x.

The release is part of a goal to evolve WinUI into a full UI stack for all Windows developers.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** WinUI, Fluent, XAML, UWP XAML, desktop development, application development



## SECTION 5

# Microsoft Edge & Microsoft Bing





# Chapter 1 Microsoft Edge & Microsoft Bing

### Item 5.1.1 – InPrivate for Microsoft Edge and Microsoft Bing provides privacy and control over data

Together, InPrivate search with Microsoft Bing and InPrivate browsing with Microsoft Edge keep online searches and identities private, furthering our mission of giving users more control over their data.

When you browse InPrivate, Microsoft Edge will delete your browsing info once you have closed all InPrivate windows. Now, Microsoft Bing takes InPrivate a step further by making your searches private too. When searching InPrivate, your search history and personally identifiable data will not be saved nor be associated back to you. Users' identities and search histories are completely private.

InPrivate browsing for Microsoft Edge is available now, and InPrivate search will be available to Microsoft Edge Insiders soon.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Microsoft Edge, Microsoft Bing, privacy, InPrivate, search history, private search, anonymous

### Item 5.1.2 Microsoft Edge, FastTrack, and App Assure

The new Microsoft Edge for Windows and macOS has hit a milestone in enterprise readiness: The release candidate for the general availability build in December is ready for [download](#) for enterprises that want to pilot it before general availability.

The browser offers world-class compatibility and performance, with control and security from Microsoft and built-in productivity tools for the web. It recognizes the need of enterprise customers for a modern web, while respecting their investment in legacy apps. It also manages for security concerns in today's online world and addresses the data overwhelm of modern employees.

There will also be a new security baseline for the all-new Microsoft Edge. Security baselines are preconfigured groups of security settings and default values that are recommended by the relevant security teams. Microsoft Edge has its first security baseline now in preview, making it fast and easy for IT professionals to have a recommended starting point for security and compliance policies. These announcements build on top of a comprehensive Microsoft approach to control and security on Microsoft Edge, which utilizes core security architecture that IT professionals are already using and are familiar with.

To help customers transition to the new Microsoft Edge, we are also announcing the expansion of the FastTrack and App Assure programs to include Microsoft Edge in the first quarter of 2020.

With App Assure, Microsoft is committed to making sure customers' web apps and sites work on the browser. If your site works on Internet Explorer 11, Google Chrome, or the current version of Microsoft Edge, it will work on new Microsoft Edge.



These deployment investments build on the recently announced [expansions of FastTrack to deploy Windows 10](#) and other deployment support.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** announcements, compatibility, availability, release candidate, App Assure, FastTrack

### **Item 5.1.3 New versions of Microsoft Edge: new icon, GA date announced**

The next version of Microsoft Edge, which will feature a new icon, is now available for download as a release candidate. We are targeting for general availability in January, and remain focused on ensuring we have a quality experience ready for our users.

The icon symbolizes the major changes in Microsoft Edge, built on the Chromium open source project. It will appear in an Easter egg hunt designed to reward the Insider community.

Contact the [Microsoft Media Relations team](#) to learn more.

**Tags:** Microsoft Edge, icon, general availability, release candidate



