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| MICROSOFT QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS, PRODUCT RELEASES, AND ENHANCEMENTS FY21 Q4 |
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| Every quarter Microsoft delivers hundreds of products, either as new releases or services or as enhancements to current products and services. These releases are a result of significant research and development investments, made over multiple years, designed to help customers be more productive and secure and to deliver differentiated value across the cloud and the edge.  Following are the major product releases and other highlights for the quarter, organized by product categories, to help illustrate how we are accelerating innovation across our businesses while expanding our market opportunities.   |
| Microsoft 365 Consumer/Commercial  |
| [Viva Insights app in Microsoft Teams](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-viva-blog/personal-productivity-and-wellbeing-what-s-next-with-microsoft/ba-p/2156158)help customers mindfully organize their workday and build better work habits. A reflection feature helps you become more aware of how you’re feeling and identify patterns over time. Praise enables you to express appreciation for your colleagues and schedule praise reminders to build a habit of sharing gratitude. Virtual commute helps you wrap up your tasks at the end of the workday, prepare for tomorrow, and transition into your personal time with peace of mind.Viva Topics was built to scale. Many of our customers have discovered thousands of topics in their content, and managing suggested and published topics over time is crucial to their success. With [the topic management dashboard](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-viva-blog/announcing-the-topic-management-dashboard-for-microsoft-viva/ba-p/2377067) for Microsoft Viva, knowledge managers can track topics discovered through AI, as well as how topics are progressing through the lifecycle. [Create space for breaks with Outlook](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2021/04/20/research-shows-your-brain-needs-breaks-outlook-and-microsoft-teams-can-help/). Our latest research ([Work Trend Index](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/en-us/worklab/work-trend-index/brain-research)) shows that much of employees’ digital overload is due to back-to-back meetings with no breaks in between. Wall-to-wall meetings increase stress and make it harder to stay focused and engaged. Settings in Microsoft Outlook make it easier and automatic to carve out these essential breaks between back-to-back meetings. Individuals can set scheduling defaults that automatically shorten the meetings they schedule, and Microsoft 365 admins can set organization wide scheduling defaults that shorten meetings and create space for breaks for everyone at the company.[New features from Cortana are now available in Outlook for iOS](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2021/06/08/three-new-voice-features-for-outlook-mobile-now-on-ios-and-coming-soon-to-android/) (with Android coming soon), enabling customers to get work done, save time, and find what they need using their voice. We’re updating [the Outlook for the web experience](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2021/04/29/view-live-transcripts-in-microsoft-teams-meetings-track-excel-changes-and-increase-hybrid-work-security-heres-whats-new-to-microsoft-365/) with a new location for core Outlook capabilities such as email, calendar, and contacts, as well as providing easy access to launch other Microsoft 365 applications like Microsoft To Do, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Yammer, and Microsoft Bookings, all from the left side of Outlook. Start a presentation after checking your mail by simply clicking PowerPoint—one click, and you’re on your way.[Show Changes in Excel for the web](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/excel-blog/collaborate-with-confidence-introducing-show-changes-for-excel/ba-p/2279187) shows the details of who changed what, where, and when, along with the previous value of the cell for quick reversion. You can narrow down the list of changes by selecting any sheet, range, or individual cell to see all changes made, including bulk edits. [Generate new insights with Excel data types and smart templates powered by Wolfram](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2021/04/07/whats-new-in-microsoft-365-for-individuals-and-families/). Microsoft 365 Personal and Family subscribers now have access to over 100 data types powered by Wolfram. Instead of using multiple apps or sites to copy and paste external data into tables, customers can import and refresh data directly into Excel. Office Scripts are a popular way for users to automate their actions in Excel regardless of their programming experience. [Office Scripts is now available for all eligible users in Excel for the web.](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2021/06/24/updates-to-microsoft-teams-meetings-search-and-more-heres-whats-new-to-microsoft-365/) Weekly meetings have increased by 148% ([Work Trend Index](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/worklab/work-trend-index/brain-research)) and the time that employees spend trying to schedule meetings both inside and outside their organization is climbing. With the average time to schedule a meeting taking 6 to 29 minutes, [Scheduler](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/outlook-blog/scheduler-a-new-microsoft-365-service-makes-scheduling-meetings/ba-p/2414794) aims to give customers back time by making it easier and faster, and being available 24/7 to schedule meetings for you. [New features in Microsoft Editor](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2021/04/07/whats-new-in-microsoft-365-for-individuals-and-families/) available to Microsoft 365 Personal and Family subscribers include: Credit your sources with Similarity checker: Customers can now check documents for plagiarism and get options for how to properly cite. Save time with text predictions: Text Predictions help customers write more efficiently by predicting text quickly and accurately.Get writing assistance in LinkedIn, WordPress, and Gmail: We’ve added new capabilities to the Microsoft Editor Browser extension including multilingual support and additional website support. You can now choose up to three languages to check spelling and grammar on the web at once and use Microsoft Editor on additional websites, including LinkedIn, Gmail, WordPress, and Quip. We commissioned [five original, custom fonts](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2021/04/28/beyond-calibri-finding-microsofts-next-default-font/): Tenorite, Bierstadt, Skeena, Seaford, and Grandview. One of these new fonts will replace Calibri as the next default font. We have asked customers for their input to choose the future default font.More and more businesses rely on virtual desktops to help ensure their employees can remain productive and secure wherever they work. We’ve updated the [Microsoft Remote Desktop for Mac](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2020/12/15/4-ways-microsoft-365-is-improving-the-experience-for-mac-users/)to add native universal support for macOS, making it easier for those using M1-powered Macs to have an optimized remote desktop experience. This update also provides Kerberos integration and support for East Asian keyboard input.[The Microsoft Office and OneNote apps](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2021/04/27/microsoft-365-apps-now-available-for-amazon-fire-tablets/) are now available for Amazon Fire tablets in the Amazon Appstore. Combined with the Outlook and OneDrive apps already available for Amazon Fire tablets, these apps extend your Microsoft 365 benefits across even more devices. |
| Microsoft Teams  |
| [Presenter mode](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/create-more-engaging-meetings-with-a-new-presenter-mode-a3599bcb-bb35-4e9c-8dbb-72775eb91e04) empowers presenters to customize how their video feed and content appear to the audience with powerful professional layouts. The first layout, Standout, shows the speaker’s video feed as a silhouette in front of shared content. That way, you can easily direct your audiences’ attention through hand gestures and facial cues, without making the viewer choose between the speaker and the content. [Dynamic view](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/customize-your-meeting-view-95aaeaf8-0f22-46cf-a6f9-34ca9b04a1b2) automatically arranges the elements of your meeting for an optimal viewing experience. As people join, turn on video, start to speak, or begin to present in a meeting, Microsoft Teams auto-adjusts and personalizes your layout.A virtual [laser pointer and ink annotations](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/laser-point-or-draw-on-powerpoint-slides-in-a-teams-meeting-8eebe227-6d28-4b05-8156-f7bb63da4de4?ui=en-US&amp;rs=en-US&amp;ad=US) are now available in PowerPoint Live in Microsoft Teams. Presenters can engage more with their audience by drawing attention or clarifying certain sections of the presentation. Just as you would use a physical laser point in a room, PowerPoint Live in Teams allows you to point at different places in the presentation so the audience can easily follow along what’s on the slide. Only the active “in control” presenter can make annotations via the annotation toolbar. [Intelligent speakers](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-teams-blog/introducing-intelligent-speakers-for-microsoft-teams-rooms/ba-p/2428305) are designed for Microsoft Teams Rooms and use Microsoft’s voice recognition technology to identify who is speaking and apply their name to the meeting transcript. This is great when you need to catch up on a meeting asynchronously and want to understand who in the Teams Room said what during the meeting. The first two partners to launch intelligent speakers are EPOS and Yealink. Chat with up to 250 participants across multiple organizations in a single chat. This makes it easy to start a chat with external partners, just like how it’s done today within an organization. [External group chat](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-teams-blog/what-s-new-in-microsoft-teams-microsoft-ignite-2021/ba-p/2118226) is expanding on the existing ability for Microsoft Teams users to find, participate in 1:1 chat, calls, and set up meetings with external Teams users in federated organizations. An “[Invite-only](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/change-participant-settings-for-a-teams-meeting-53261366-dbd5-45f9-aae9-a70e6354f88e?ui=en-us&amp;rs=en-us&amp;ad=us)” meeting setting automatically sends people not originally invited by the organizer to the lobby. For example, if a meeting invitation was forwarded to a colleague not on the original invite list, that person will be directed to wait in the lobby upon joining until the host selects to admit them. This helps prevent those uninvited from joining the meeting. We’ve added the ability to [manage attendee audio and video permissions in Teams meetings](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/manage-attendee-audio-and-video-permissions-in-teams-meetings-f9db15e1-f46f-46da-95c6-34f9f39e671a?ui=en-US&rs=en-US&ad=US) to help prevent disruptions and create a safer meeting environment. Now, meeting organizers can configure settings to have all attendees’ video enabled or disabled before the meeting. During a meeting, organizers and presenters can also enable or disable the video of individual attendees. Similarly, individual attendees can be muted by the organizer during the meeting. You are now able to [follow up with webinar participants via Dynamics Marketing](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2021/05/11/introducing-webinars-in-microsoft-teams-easy-professional-webinars-to-engage-customers/) through the attendance tab after a webinar, if you as a webinar organizer have a Dynamics 365 Marketing license. From there, you can export your attendance data into Dynamics 365 Marketing, so you can create customer journeys and send personalized follow-up emails to your webinar attendees.To streamline workflows, out-of-the-box [approval templates](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-teams-blog/streamline-requests-with-new-approval-features-in-microsoft/ba-p/2259871) provide a repeatable structure for common approvals like filling out expense reports or requesting overtime. Admins and team owners can use these as is, customize, or create new templates for their organization and teams to use. Use the structured form to input all the necessary information and eliminate back-and-forth on missing data for a faster approval. [New personal features](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2021/05/17/microsoft-teams-now-brings-family-and-friends-together-to-call-chat-and-make-plans/) in Microsoft Teams make it easy to stay connected with family and friends, stay organized, and better manage life between work and home, all in one place. Make video calls entertaining and expressive using live emoji reactions and GIFs, and make it feel like you’re together in the same space with new Together Mode scenes. Coordinate and manage plans using group tasks in chat, where you can assign tasks to others in the group and ensure notifications are sent to everyone. Chat with friends and family even if they’re not using Teams today with group two-way SMS, making it easy to continue the conversation from anywhere. Finally, whether you’re using Teams for work or personal use, swipe to switch between accounts, making it easy to keep accounts separate and accessible across one app.   |
| Dynamics 365 |
| Dynamics 365 Supply Chain Management [cloud scale units](https://cloudblogs.microsoft.com/dynamics365/it/2021/05/18/enable-business-resilience-with-cloud-and-edge-scale-units-in-dynamics-365-supply-chain-management/) ensure warehouse resilience by placing scale units at, or near, each warehouse. The scale units operate independently and allow the warehouses to remain operational during a connectivity failure, maintenance outage, and other events that might disrupt operations.[Dynamics 365 Marketing integration with Teams](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2021/05/11/introducing-webinars-in-microsoft-teams-easy-professional-webinars-to-engage-customers/?OCID=usoc_TWITTER_MicrosoftTeams_M365_spl100002060954826) enables Teams webinar hosts to export attendee data directly from Teams to automatically create campaigns and customer journeys for ongoing nurture streams so webinar hosts can easily continue engaging with registrants after each webinar.[Support for globalization operations](https://cloudblogs.microsoft.com/dynamics365/bdm/2021/04/29/reduce-complexity-across-global-operations-with-dynamics-365/), including [electronic invoicing](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dynamics365/finance/localizations/e-invoicing-service-overview), enables organizations to meet new government regulations (requiring eInvoicing to reduce tax fraud and accelerate the invoicing process), lower costs, and reduce manual data entry while also improving traceability and reducing end-to-end processing time. Dynamics 365 Customer Service [unified routing](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dynamics365/customer-service/overview-unified-routing) is an intelligent, scalable, and enterprise-grade routing and assignment capability that can direct each incoming work item to the best-suited queue and agent by adhering to work item requirements and matching them with the agent’s capabilities. Unified routing ensures customer issues are handled quickly by the best available agent resulting in increased customer satisfaction and retention. |
| Microsoft Power Platform   |
| Power Automate [process advisor](https://flow.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/reduce-process-bottlenecks-with-process-advisor-for-power-automate-now-generally-available/) is a mining capability that provides insights into how people work and takes the guesswork out of automation. Map workflow tasks, discover organizational bottlenecks, and identify which time-consuming tasks are best suited for automation all from within Power Automate. New capabilities offered in the Power Platform enable developers to build and test with Power Apps, Power Automate, and Microsoft Dataverse more collaboratively by providing [the ability to share apps with team members for development and testing purposes](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/powerapps/maker/developer-plan#improvements-from-the-previous-power-apps-community-plan). |
| LinkedIn |
| LinkedIn [announced both organic and paid features](https://nam06.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbusiness.linkedin.com%2Fmarketing-solutions%2Fblog%2Flinkedin-news%2F2021%2F-boost-your-organic-content-and-promote-your-events-with-new-lin&data=04%7C01%7Cstcart%40microsoft.com%7C4863c58b698947c6f56408d9489b90e5%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C637620655255054881%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=uClP1IfE2JRacEdSyMMX1vziw280Gz7XsFOrb%2BkATy0%3D&reserved=0), including Boosting, new Events Ads and Analytics, and Custom Streaming, to support marketers in easily expanding their audience reach. |
| Security, Compliance, & Identity |
|  MicrosoftDefender for Endpoint customers can now take advantage of [new network discovery capabilities](https://www.microsoft.com/security/blog/2021/04/13/secure-unmanaged-devices-with-microsoft-defender-for-endpoint-now/) available as part of Device inventory. Once network connected devices are discovered, security administrators will receive the latest security recommendations and vulnerability information. Discovered endpoints (such as workstations, servers, and mobile devices) can be onboarded to Microsoft Defender for Endpoint, and we also provide integrated workflows to secure discovered switches, routers, WLAN controllers, firewalls, and VPN gateways. Microsoft Defender for Endpoint includes [support for Windows 10 on ARM devices.](https://www.microsoft.com/security/blog/2021/04/05/microsoft-defender-for-endpoint-now-supports-windows-10-on-arm/)  These devices are designed to take full advantage of the built-in protections available in Windows 10 such as encryption, data protection, and next-gen antivirus and antimalware capabilities. Microsoft Defender for Endpoint complements these security features with an industry-leading, unified, cloud-powered enterprise endpoint security platform that helps security teams prevent, detect, investigate, and respond to advanced threats, while delivering secure and productive end-user security experiences.[Intel Threat Detection Technology (TDT) integration](https://www.microsoft.com/security/blog/2021/04/26/defending-against-cryptojacking-with-microsoft-defender-for-endpoint-and-intel-tdt/) is an addition for Microsoft Defender for Endpoint that enhances the detection capability and protection against cryptojacking malware. This builds on our existing partnership and prior collaboration to integrate Intel’s Accelerated Memory Scanning with Defender. [Microsoft’s Threat and Vulnerability Management (TVM) capabilities now cover Linux operating systems](https://www.microsoft.com/security/blog/2021/05/11/threat-and-vulnerability-management-now-supports-all-major-platforms/) in addition to macOS and Windows—with support for Android and iOS coming soon. Organizations can now review recently discovered vulnerabilities within installed applications across the Linux OS and issue remediation tasks for all affected devices. Initial support is available for RHEL, CentOS, and Ubuntu, with Oracle Linux, CentOS, SUSE, and Debian being added shortly.The [converged portal for Microsoft 365 Defender](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/security/defender/overview-security-center?view=o365-worldwide) unifies and simplifies XDR capabilities for endpoints, email, and collaboration.Customers can configure Android Enterprise-enrolled devices with [Azure AD-shared device mode in Microsoft Endpoint Manager](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/active-directory/develop/msal-shared-devices)**.**This new capability provides a simplified and more secure experience on devices shared across multiple users. With single sign-in, single sign-out, and data clearing across applications, shared device mode increases privacy between users and reduces the steps frontline workers must take to access their work apps.Organizations can use the [Microsoft Compliance Extension for Chrome to extend Data Loss Prevention (DLP) policies](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/security-compliance-and-identity/microsoft-announces-the-general-availability-of-the-microsoft/ba-p/2389371) configured in the Microsoft 365 Compliance Center to the Chrome browser. This extension also provides insights leveraged by Insider Risk Management to further protect organizations from malicious/unintended insider risks. In addition, an alerts management dashboard is now available and provides customers with the ability to holistically investigate DLP policy violations across Exchange, SharePoint Online, OneDrive, Teams, Devices, Cloud apps, and on-premises file shares.[Microsoft Teams retention policies are available to all paid Microsoft 365 and Office 365 licenses with Microsoft Teams](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/security-compliance-and-identity/announcing-multi-stage-disposition-in-microsoft-records/ba-p/2361849). Administrators can also now manage Yammer user and community messages with retention and deletion policies. In addition, the records disposition process in Microsoft Records Manager can now be customized to include multiple stages and multiple groups of people.[Outlook for iOS and Android supports two scenarios for classifying and/or protecting content](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/exchange/clients-and-mobile-in-exchange-online/outlook-for-ios-and-android/sensitive-labeling-and-protection-outlook-for-ios-android): sensitivity labeling and Secure/Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension (S/MIME). They are supported with Microsoft 365 or Office 365 accounts using the native Microsoft sync technology.[BitLocker](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/intune-customer-success/configuring-bitlocker-encryption-with-endpoint-security/ba-p/2283101) has several enhancements, such as comprehensive modern management with Microsoft Endpoint Manager, role-based access controls for BitLocker recovery passwords, recovery password search, and recovery password auditing. [Azure Active Directory staged rollout to cloud authentication](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/azure-active-directory-identity/confidently-modernize-to-cloud-authentication-with-azure-ad/ba-p/1994709) makes it easier for organizations to upgrade to modern authentication methods—pass-through authentication (PTA) or password hash sync (PHS)—and unify user and device identity management with Azure AD. With the staged rollout customers can selectively test cloud authentication methods for groups of users, and migrate from federation services, such as AD FS, Ping Federate, Okta, or any other service, at their own pace. They can also monitor users and groups added or removed from the staged rollout using the new Hybrid Authentication workbooks in Azure portal. Azure Active Directory Conditional Access is an adaptive access policy engine that consolidates organizational access policies and threat signal to make real-time access decisions. We’ve released additional capabilities to enable more granular access decisions:* [Named locations at scale](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/azure-active-directory-identity/new-azure-ad-capabilities-for-conditional-access-and-azure-vms/ba-p/1942482): It’s now easier to create and manage IP-based named locations with support for IPv6 addresses, increased number of ranges allowed, and additional checks for malformed addresses.
* [Search, sort, and filter policies:](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/azure-active-directory-identity/new-azure-ad-capabilities-for-conditional-access-and-azure-vms/ba-p/1942482) As the number of access policies increases with most organizations moving toward hybrid work, we’ve made it easier to find and manage individual policies. Organizations can search by policy name and sort and filter policies by creation/modified date and state.

[Azure Active Directory login for Azure Windows 10 and Windows Server 2019 virtual machines](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/azure-active-directory-identity/new-azure-ad-capabilities-for-conditional-access-and-azure-vms/ba-p/1942482) makes it easier protect such VMs from being compromised or used in unsanctioned ways. Organizations can leverage capabilities like role-based access control, multifactor authentication, and Conditional Access policies to secure access to their critical infrastructure.  |
| Azure |
| Following is a select list of generally available Azure products, services, and enhancements for the quarter. A full list can be found at <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/>. |
| Azure Security and Management |
| [Azure Monitor for Azure Virtual Desktop](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/general-availability-azure-monitor-for-windows-virtual-desktop/) provides a 360-degree view of Azure Virtual Desktop environment. Customers can easily find and troubleshoot problems in the deployment, view the status and health of host pools, diagnose session issues, and understand resource utilization. General availability comes with many improvements, including improved data collection and setup experience and cost optimizations.Azure Data |
| Azure Defender provides security alerts for anomalous activities to help detect potential threats and respond to them as they occur. When customers enable [Azure Defender for Azure Database for MySQL – Single Server](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-defender-for-azure-database-for-mysql-single-server-now-generally-available/), or for [PostgreSQL – Single Server](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-defender-for-azure-database-for-postgresql-single-server-in-general-availability/), Azure Defender for open source relational databases provides alerts when it detects anomalous database access and query patterns as well as suspicious database activities. These alerts appear on the Azure Defender security alerts page.Available on all APIs (Core (SQL), API for MongoDB, Cassandra, Gremlin, and Table), [Azure Cosmos DB serverless](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-cosmos-db-serverless-now-in-general-availability/) is a cost-effective pricing model that charges only for the resources consumed by your database operations. It is ideally suited for applications with moderate performance requirements and frequent periods with little to no traffic. |
| Azure Analytics |
| [Support for SQL Server in data flows using Azure Data Factory and Azure Synapse](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-data-factory-announces-general-availability-for-sql-server-in-data-flows/)connects customers to their on-premises and VM-based SQL Server natively within data flows. Data Flows are a low-code visual data transformation tool that executes at scale with just-in-time Spark compute in Azure Data Factory and Azure Synapse.  |
| Azure Serverless and App Dev Services |
| [Azure Static Web Apps](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-static-web-apps-is-now-generally-available/)is a turnkey service for modern full-stack web apps with prebuilt and prerendered static front ends, and serverless API backends. Customers can develop with popular front-end frameworks or static site generators, quickly build and test apps locally, and deploy with a simple check-in.[Azure Kubernetes Services (AKS) on Azure Stack HCI](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-kubernetes-service-aks-on-azure-stack-hci-is-now-generally-available/) simplifies the Kubernetes cluster deployment on Azure Stack HCI, offers hybrid capabilities and consistency with Azure Kubernetes Service for ease of app portability and management. Customers can take advantage of familiar tools and capabilities to modernize both Linux and Windows .NET apps on-premises with built-in security enabling deployment of modern applications anywhere—cloud, on-premises, and edge.[Logic Apps will now run on a new containerized runtime](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/general-availability-logic-apps-with-new-hosting-options/), the same runtime powering Azure Functions, providing hosting flexibility to run on Functions, App Service, Kubernetes, Docker, and any cloud. This update also allows customers to deploy multiple workflows to a single Logic App simplifying automated deployments with support for CI/CD pipelines, enterprise features such as private endpoints, simpler and more cost- effective VNET access, deployment slots, and more.[Enabling IBM WebSphere Application Server on Azure Virtual Machines](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/general-availability-enabling-ibm-websphere-application-server-on-azure-virtual-machines/) enables easy migration of WebSphere workloads to Azure by automating most of the boilerplate resource provisioning tasks to set up a highly available cluster of WebSphere servers on Azure Virtual Machines. The solution is part of a broader partnership between IBM and Microsoft to enable the WebSphere product portfolio on Azure. The partnership covers a range of use cases from mission-critical existing traditional workloads to cloud-native applications. [The Microsoft Build of OpenJDK](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/the-microsoft-build-of-openjdk-is-now-generally-available/) is a Long-Term Support (LTS) distribution of OpenJDK, the free and open-source reference implementation of the Java SE Platform. The Microsoft Build of OpenJDK is open-source and free for anyone to deploy anywhere and is fully supported by Microsoft for customers with qualifying Azure support plans. It includes binaries for Java 11 based on OpenJDK 11.0.11, on x64 server, and desktop environments on macOS, Linux, and Windows. |
| Developer Tools, Services, and GitHub |
| [Python support is improved in Visual Studio Code with Pylance](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/general-availability-improved-python-support-in-visual-studio-code-with-pylance/#:~:text=The%20May%202021%20release%20of%20the%20Python%20extension,better%20performance%2C%20improved%20IntelliSense%2C%20and%20other%20new%20features.). Pylance is a new language server based on Microsoft’s Pyright static-type checking tool. Pylance leverages type stubs and lazy type inferencing to provide a highly-performant development experience. Pylance supercharges your Python IntelliSense experience with rich type information, helping you write better code, faster. The Pylance extension is also shipped with a collection of type stubs for popular modules to provide fast and accurate auto-completions and type checking.[Developer Velocity Lab (DVL)](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/introducing-developer-velocity-lab-to-improve-developers-work-and-wellbeing/) is a new research initiative that includes contributions across Microsoft, its research labs and GitHub. DVL’s mission is to discover, improve, and amplify developer work and well-being. Much of DVL’s work will be open source. DVL will collaborate, sponsor, and encourage contributions from the best in the world. [Developer Velocity Lab](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/group/developer-velocity-lab/) works through socio-technical investigations in productivity, community, and well-being. Developer productivity is about more than activity levels or the efficiency of software engineering systems, and it cannot be measured by a single metric. Azure AI |
| [Azure Cognitive Services Text Analytics for Health](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/general-availability-azure-cognitive-services-text-analytics-for-health/) detects words and phrases mentioned in unstructured text as entities in the healthcare and biomedical domain. When translating large documents, users must parse the documents to extract text, split them into smaller sections, and translate them separately. This process is simplified with [Azure Cognitive Service Translator Document Translation](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/general-availability-azure-cognitive-services-translator-document-translation-feature/). It pulls each document, applies right parsing technique, and translates the textual content into target languages while preserving layout and format from the source documents.[New features in Azure Machine Learning](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-machine-learning-general-availability-announcements-build-may-2021/) include: * Data Labeling-Image Instance Segmentation in Azure Machine Learning gives you a central place to create, manage, and monitor labeling projects. Use it to coordinate data, labels, and team members to efficiently manage labeling tasks. It supports image classification, either multilabel or multiclass, object identification with bounded boxes, and Image Instance Segmentation (polygon).
* MLflow Support: Azure Machine Learning supports managing the end-to-end machine learning cycle using open MLFlow standards, enabling existing workloads to move from local execution to execution in the intelligent cloud and edge; use MLflow tracking and logging API’s; track experiments and metrics with both services; track models in the MLflow and Azure Machine Learning model registry; and deploy MLflow tracked models using the azureml-mlflow package to ACI and AKS.

[Azure Health Bot adds new regions and languages for its systems checker](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/generally-available-azure-health-bot-adds-new-regions-and-languages-for-it-s-systems-checker/). Azure Health Bot moved from a Marketplace offering to Azure in January 2021, further empowering organizations to benefit from Azure’s enhanced tooling, security, and compliance offerings. This quarter we added eight new regions: West US 2, South Central US, UK South, Southeast Asia, Australia East, East US 2, North Europe, and India Central. Health Bot is now generally available in 10 regions across three continents.Azure IoT |
| [Azure IoT Edge for Linux](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-iot-edge-for-linux-now-generally-available/) on Windows (EFLOW) allows you to manage and deploy your IoT Edge Linux workloads, such as Azure SQL Edge and Azure Live Video Analytics on PC-Class Windows IoT devices using your existing Microsoft management resources and technology. Manage and deploy your Linux workloads on devices using your existing Microsoft management resources and technology to efficiently optimize all your computing assets as well as deploy Linux-based workloads on Windows, leveraging existing Windows expertise and investments.  |
| Azure Datacenter |
| [Microsoft Azure available from new cloud regions in Arizona](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/microsoft-azure-generally-available-from-new-cloud-regions-in-arizona/). We are launching our newest sustainable datacenter region in Arizona, known as “West US 3.” The new West US 3 datacenter region includes Azure Availability Zones, which offer customers additional resiliency for their applications by designing the region with unique physical datacenter locations with independent power, network, and cooling for additional tolerance to datacenter failures. For customers looking to leverage the new region and Availability Zones, Azure offers region portability for multiple resources with Azure Resource Mover. |
| Surface |
| [Surface Laptop 4](https://blogs.windows.com/devices/2021/04/13/introducing-surface-laptop-4-and-new-accessories-for-enhanced-meeting-experiences/) brings significantly more speed and multitasking power than before, with a choice of 11th Gen Intel® Core™ Processor or exclusive AMD Ryzen™ Microsoft Surface® Edition processor on both the 13.5” or 15” versions and up to 19 hours of battery life. Now certified for Microsoft Teams, [Surface Headphones 2+ for Business](https://blogs.windows.com/devices/2021/04/13/introducing-surface-laptop-4-and-new-accessories-for-enhanced-meeting-experiences/) provides an even more robust meeting experience with on-ear Teams controls and improved remote calling with the included dongle. It’s built for business and education customers and perfect for the transition to a mix of in-person and remote working and learning.We introduced new [Microsoft Teams-certified accessories](https://blogs.windows.com/devices/2021/04/13/introducing-surface-laptop-4-and-new-accessories-for-enhanced-meeting-experiences/) to our lineup, all certified for Microsoft Teams and built to enhance virtual meetings. The Microsoft Modern USB and Wireless Headsets enable greater focus and call privacy with a dedicated Teams button, mute button, and LED mute indicator. The Microsoft Modern USB-C Speaker is a compact, portable, and powerful speaker with dual microphones, intuitive Teams controls and indicators, and integrated cord storage. And the Microsoft Modern Webcam delivers high-quality, reliable videoconferencing to enhance or add to your existing PC setup, providing 1080p video, HDR, a 78-degree field of view, and a privacy shutter. All these Microsoft accessories will help customers work, learn, and connect from anywhere. Lastly, the Microsoft Bluetooth Mouse in all-new special edition camo designs and exclusive theme packs pair fashion with functionality for consumers. |
| Gaming |
| [“MLB: The Show 21”](https://www.xbox.com/en-US/games/mlb-the-show-21) launched on Xbox and with Xbox Game Pass for the first time as a multiplatform release. During launch week, “MLB: The Show 21” was the biggest sports game of the past year on Xbox and the second biggest sports game of all time on Xbox. Xbox Game Pass added millions of new fans and grew Major League Baseball’s player base significantly.[Xbox Cloud Gaming](https://www.xbox.com/en-US/play) (Beta) for Windows 10 PCs and Apple phones and tablets became available to all Xbox Game Pass Ultimate members across 22 countries. We also announced Xbox Cloud Gaming is now powered by custom Xbox Series X hardware—bringing faster load times and improved frame rates to players.[World Update IV](https://news.xbox.com/en-us/2021/04/13/microsoft-flight-simulator-world-update-iv-france-belgium-netherlands-and-luxembourg-available-now/) launched for “Microsoft Flight Simulator” on the Microsoft Store and Steam. The free update features visual enhancements of France, Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg as well as high-resolution photogrammetry of Paris and Amsterdam. [World Update V](https://news.xbox.com/en-us/2021/06/17/microsoft-flight-simulator-world-update-v-nordics-now-available-for-free/) also launched on June 17, bringing updates to Europe’s Nordic countries.The [Hidden Depths DLC](https://www.minecraft.net/en-us/dungeons/dlc/hidden-depths) launched for “Minecraft Dungeons,” an underwater level that includes both free and paid content, including a new enemy called Raid Captains. Additionally, in celebration of Sonic’s 30th anniversary, the [Sonic the Hedgehog DLC](https://www.minecraft.net/en-us/article/sonic-hedgehog-dlc-here) released on the Minecraft Marketplace. The DLC includes familiar characters from the Sonic franchise, a gameplay map, and a limited-time free birthday server.Xbox launched the first part of the highly anticipated [Minecraft Caves & Cliffs Update](https://www.minecraft.net/en-us/article/the-caves-cliffs-update-here) on Xbox Series X|S, Xbox One, PlayStation 5, PlayStation 4, Nintendo Switch, iOS, Android, and Windows 10. Caves & Cliffs: Part I introduces new mobs and blocks such as pointed dripstone, dripleaf, and copper. Xbox launched [Xbox Series X](https://www.xbox.com/en-US/consoles/xbox-series-x) and [Xbox Series S](https://www.xbox.com/en-US/consoles/xbox-series-s) in China. Xbox Series X is the fastest, most powerful Xbox console ever, and Xbox Series S delivers next-generation performance at an affordable price in the smallest Xbox ever. The launch marked a long-awaited milestone for Xbox fans in China. Gamers can now take advantage of the advanced features and innovative functions of Xbox Series X|S, including Quick Resume, DirectX Raytracing, Smart Delivery, and support for up to 120 FPS.[Xbox Design Lab](https://xboxdesignlab.xbox.com/) relaunched with our newest generation of Xbox Wireless Controllers, allowing players to color customize with 18 available colors for most parts on the controller such as the body, back case, D-pad, and triggers. Xbox Design Lab is available in the US, Canada, and most Western European countries for $69.99 USD, with optional laser engraving for an additional $9.99 USD. [Xbox Cloud Gaming](https://www.xbox.com/en-US/play) (Beta) for Windows 10 PCs and Apple phones and tablets became available to all Xbox Game Pass Ultimate members across 22 countries. We also announced Xbox Cloud Gaming is now powered by custom Xbox Series X hardware— bringing faster load times and improved frame rates to players. |
| Microsoft Search, Advertising, News  |
| Recent Microsoft Edge features include:* With startup boost and sleeping tabs, [Microsoft Edge launches more quickly and optimizes performance](https://blogs.windows.com/msedgedev/2021/05/25/whats-new-edge-build-2021/) by freeing up system resources from unused tabs.
* Customers can now access [Bing Rebates when shopping on Microsoft Edge](https://blogs.windows.com/windowsexperience/2021/05/27/new-shopping-features-to-help-you-save-money-for-summer-fun-and-all-your-back-to-school-needs/). Customers can also plan their next online purchase by looking at historical trends with price history in Microsoft Edge.
* [Kids Mode](https://blogs.windows.com/windowsexperience/2021/04/15/introducing-microsoft-edge-kids-mode-a-safer-space-for-your-child-to-discover-the-web/) is an easy-to-use browser mode built natively into Microsoft Edge designed to help children discover the web safely, giving parents peace of mind. Kids Mode defaults to the strictest tracking prevention level, and Bing SafeSearch. Children can also customize their browsing experience with several fun browser themes, including Disney and Pixar themes.
* Microsoft Edge will automatically [interrupt downloads](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/deployedge/microsoft-edge-security-downloads-interruptions) that could harm your computer if those downloads are started without user interaction and are not supported by SmartScreen Application Reputation check. Admins can disable via policy.
* [Password Monitor](https://blogs.windows.com/windowsexperience/2021/04/15/keeping-your-family-safer-online-with-microsoft-edge-and-celebrating-1-year-of-give-with-bing/) lets you know when your saved credentials have been compromised and will prompt you to update your passwords.
* Microsoft Edge introduced new ways to [personalize your browser experience](https://blogs.windows.com/windowsexperience/2021/05/27/new-shopping-features-to-help-you-save-money-for-summer-fun-and-all-your-back-to-school-needs/), with new browser theme colors and the ability to tailor the news and headlines customers see on the informational view of the Microsoft Edge New Tab Page. In June, we also introduced brand new Pride themes inspired by the many flags of the LGBTQI+ community.
* [Progressive Web Apps](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-edge/progressive-web-apps-chromium/microsoft-store) built on the Microsoft Edge platform are now available in the Microsoft Store.
* [MacOS now has single Sign On (SSO) for Azure Active Directory accounts and Microsoft Account](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/deployedge/ms-edge-security-conditional-access#accessing-conditional-access-protected-resources-in-microsoft-edge). A user signed in on Microsoft Edge on macOS will now be automatically signed into websites configured to allow single sign on with work and Microsoft accounts.
* To reduce the effort required to add bookmarks, Microsoft Search can evaluate your organization’s SharePoint links and [recommend bookmarks](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoftsearch/manage-bookmarks#create-bookmark-answers). No setup is needed for recommended bookmarks; they’re enabled and set to auto-publish by default.

Microsoft Advertising recently released products include: * Import for Facebook makes it easy for marketers to import their Facebook campaigns right into the Microsoft Advertising platform, enabling them to scale in nonsocial environments and increase customer engagement rates.
* [Smart Campaigns](https://nam06.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fabout.ads.microsoft.com%2Fen-us%2Fsolutions%2Ftools%2Fsmart-campaigns&data=04%7C01%7Cmeg.manazir%40microsoft.com%7Cbddc356118764fc9e26c08d940b4f916%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C637611968317235963%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=yw9B3uCqtkHkG2YroGsD%2FEdKz9WOQ2OCEYHPgj%2Bsv%2F8%3D&reserved=0) provides small businesses with a simple, efficient, and easy way to get started with advertising, helping them expand their reach to connect with the high-value audience on the Microsoft Search Network.
* [Dynamics 365 Customer Insights integration with Microsoft Advertising](https://nam06.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fabout.ads.microsoft.com%2Fen-us%2Fblog%2Fpost%2Fmay-2021%2Fmicrosoft-advertising-dynamics-365-customer-insights-new-integration&data=04%7C01%7Cmeg.manazir%40microsoft.com%7Cbddc356118764fc9e26c08d940b4f916%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C637611968317245916%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Tfbm1n6SftWpFX6z9soJWSXUaRIhBVenB%2BzGu8OX%2BLA%3D&reserved=0) gives marketers the power to easily take action with their own data through the Microsoft Advertising platform. This integration helps marketers boost performance through better targeting, makes it easy to manage customer segments, and enables efficient scaling across the Microsoft Search Network and Microsoft Audience Network.

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