

Azure Stack HCI vs. Windows Server

Which solution is right for your customer? Read on to see the key differences between Azure Stack HCI and Windows Server.

Modernize your edge computing environments.
Be cloud ready with hybrid.



Category	Azure Stack HCI 23H2 & 24H2	Windows Server 2025
Supported systems/hardware	Systems must be in the Azure Stack HCI catalog to be purchased. (All systems in the catalog are fully validated.)	Systems must meet Microsoft Certified for Windows Server logo requirements to be supported. Windows Server runs on new and existing servers. (Hardware Lab Kit (HLK) is used to validate.) Use the Lenovo OS Interoperability Guide to see what Windows Server versions are compatible with Lenovo servers.
Management	Management via Azure Portal or PowerShell.	Manage using Windows Admin Center, System Center Virtual Machine Manager, Hyper-V Manager, Failover Cluster Manager, PowerShell and some Azure Portal integration.
Licensing	Billed through Azure Subscription (OpEx) or Azure Stack HCI OEM Hybrid sku (CapEx).	Fixed license OR subscription: VLSC, OEM, and Retail.
Multitenancy	Not compatible with multitenancy environments.	Compatible with multitenancy environments.
Deployment	Deployment via Portal + Zero Touch Provisioning.	Deploy using setup.exe, or unattended.exe and post deploy configuration.
Updating	Update via Local Configuration Manager	Update using Windows Update, Deployment Image Servicing and Management, or Cluster-Aware Updating Failover Clusters.
Azure Connection	Must connect to Azure at least once every 30 days.	Does not need to connect to Azure but can integrate with Azure if desired.
Azure Arc	Azure Arc is optional.	Does not require Azure Arc for most features (except Hotpatching and Network HUD.)
Converged vs. Hyperconverged	Hyperconverged infrastructure.	Disaggregated (converged) or Hyperconverged or Hyperconverged + SAN.
Support	Lenovo Premium Support and Lenovo Standard Support.	Standard Support.

Learn more at: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure-stack/hci/concepts/compare-windows-server>