

AZURE LICENSING





Azure Licensing

Software Licensing can be confusing at the best of times, throw in a desire to move to Microsoft's Azure and it's a regular Rubik's cube of what you can do, where you can go, and what licenses you can take with you. At [MetrixData 360](#), we have almost a decade of experience dealing with Azure and we know how confusing the licensing around it can be, so today we'll go over some of your most pressing questions regarding Azure licensing.

How Does Licensing in Azure Work?

Before you jump headfirst into those tempting Azure waters, there are a few things you need to establish first, most importantly, which licensing model best suits your business's needs and objectives. There are [four license methods](#) that you can pick from when planning on migrating to Azure.

Pay-As-You-Go Subscription Licenses

The most flexible and by far the most popular, [the pay-as-you-go method](#) offers customers a no-strings attached approach with no minimum commitments and the availability to cancel at any time. Customers are notified via email about any new services that they can opt into and will be given a 30-day notice if there are any changes to their rates.

Open Licensing

Buying Azure through Microsoft's Azure [Open Licensing Program](#) is a great way to access simple and flexible cloud services. This option is appealing for organizations as it includes a valuable partner that can then deploy their Azure solution.

Enterprise Agreements

If you are already a large organization with an EA, you can purchase your Azure platform [through your EA](#) at a significant discount. Upfront commitments will earn you additional benefits such as flexible billing structure and optimal rates.

Cloud Solution Provider

Purchasing your Azure solution through a registered [Cloud Solution Provider](#) offers you the ability to work with a partner who will provide you with strategic billing, support, and a single point of contact for any questions you might have with



Azure Licensing

How Much Does Azure Cost? Is it Cheaper than On-Prem?

To fully understand how much Azure will potentially cost you, it's important to understand how [Azure pricing](#) works. Azure is essentially a collection of services and apps piled together, and how each of those services are priced for you could be banked on numerous factors; the main one being how many services you use at any given time. Azure pricing tiers for each service also mean that the more resources you use, the more you can expect to pay.

However, here are some of the ways you can [cut your costs in Azure](#):

- Pay for only the minimum amount of space
- Switch off anything you aren't using
- Scale your software environment up or down depending on the flow of business
- If you prepay for Azure services, you can access the discounts Microsoft offers for different prepay models
- If you have the option, consider switching Azure regions, one might be cheaper than the other.
- Pick the right pricing tier in accordance with the number of resources you expect to consume.

Of course, all of these cost cutting strategies will be difficult, if not impossible, if you don't have a way to monitor your company's software environment. Being able to track your company's usage will be difficult without a tool in place - a tool like MetrixData 360's Azure Usage tool. Our tool can make your Azure move easy and cost effective.



Want to get your Azure Environment Under Control?

[Check out our Tool Page on our Website!](#)



Azure Licensing

What is Azure Active Directory?

The Active Directory is an extremely popular element of Azure, even before it was completely on the Cloud (back in the day). The Active Directory helps businesses to organize and keep track of their users, groups, and objects within their licensing environment. Since many businesses already have an Active Directory on-prem, Azure has become quite appealing as it offers a familiar experience to customers.

However, [the Active Directory is not simply the Cloud version of the on-prem AD](#), although it still performs many of the same functions. It is a secure authentication store with users having usernames and passwords that can be used to sign into applications that use Azure AD. Azure AD also manages the access to applications that use modern authentication mechanisms, such as SAML and OAuth. Azure AD can also connect you to Microsoft Online Services and thousands of SaaS applications like Salesforce, Slack, and ZenDesk.

Azure AD cannot completely replace AD, as it is not as effective at managing traditional on-premises infrastructure and applications. For instance, with Azure AD, you can't join servers to it, there's no group policy, no LDAP, MTLM or Kerberos. It also has a flat directory structure, with no OU's or Forests.

Can I Bring My Own Licenses to Azure?

The process of [Bringing Your Own License \(BYOL\)](#) to the Cloud involves deploying software that you already have a license for onto the Cloud. In the case of BYOL, you'll be responsible for managing your own licenses, including any true ups or renewals that your license requires.

BYOL is permitted in Azure, so long as you have Software Assurance (SA), which grants License Mobility to the license in question. [License Mobility](#) is also available to Volume License customers with eligible application server licenses. If you want to make the move to Azure, you will need to complete a license verification process, in which Microsoft will approve your eligibility. This process may very easily be cheaper than simply buying new licenses in the Cloud, but it is important to calculate the difference before committing to one method.



Azure Licensing

Is Azure Safe to Use?

Uploading all your precious data onto your platform in Azure is not exactly as reckless as leaving your toddler to play by the roadside where Chance is all that stands between them and misfortune. Azure has top-of-the-line security in regards to [network infrastructure, hardware, firmware, testing and monitoring](#), with more than [3,500 security experts](#) worldwide helping to create a safe environment for your data to reside in.

However, storing anything on the Internet is always a risk, so it would be inaccurate to say that your data is totally secure on the Cloud. Azure is particularly targeted by hackers, especially when it comes to [Azure's Blob storage](#). Hackers have been known to use SharePoint to stage malware-based attacks and malicious links to compromise Office 365 accounts.

For this reason, some software licenses even forbid mobility to the Cloud, since they'd rather not be held liable for any loss or damage to your data. So, make sure you double-check that any software you plan on moving to the Cloud will even allow it.

For More Information

Before taking off to Azure, it is important to understand the licensing that goes along with it. This knowledge will prevent any unexpected spikes in spending or issues in license compliancy, both of which could mean a potential drain on your IT budget if handled incorrectly.

At MetrixData 360, our goal is to make sure that you are spending only the minimum amount on software and only on what you need. If you would like to learn more about how you can transition safely and with minimum damage to the Cloud, you can contact us using the information below.

[Contact Us Today:](#)