# Windows Server

Return to Operating Systems

**Windows Server** is a brand name for a group of server operating systems released by Microsoft. It includes all Windows operating systems that are branded “Windows Server”, but not any other Microsoft product. The first Windows server edition to be released under that brand was Windows Server 2003. However, the first server edition of Windows was Windows NT 3.1 Advanced Server, followed by Windows NT 3.5 Server, Windows NT 3.51 Server, Windows NT 4.0 Server, and Windows 2000 Server. Windows 2000 Server was the first server edition to include Active Directory, DNS Server, DHCP Server, Group Policy, as well as many other popular features used today.

Users of Windows Server may choose to deploy either on-site or using a cloud computing service. Each provides different advantages.

By delegating the managing and upkeep of the server to a cloud computing service such as Microsoft Azure or Amazon Web Services, users get the benefit of paying monthly based on usage rather than a large fixed cost. Furthermore, infrastructure tends to be more reliable and it is easier to scale up as necessary. However, buying and running a server in-house may be a better choice in certain cases when it is more cost effective. Other use cases such as using a Windows server to manage client computers in a facility are also appropriate for running a physical server.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_Server

| Datasheet | |
|---|---|
| **Developer** | Microsoft |
| **Written in** | |
| **OS family** | |
| **Working state** | Current |
| **Source model** | Closed-source, Source available through Shared Source initiative |
| **Initial release** | April 24, 2003; |
| **Latest release** | Windows Server, version 2004 (10.0.19041) / 27 May 2020; |
| **Available in** | |
| **Platforms** | |
| **Kernel type** | |
| **Default user interface** | PowerShell (Command line), Windows shell (Graphical, optional) |
| **License** | Trialware, SaaS or volume licensing |
| **Official Website** | http://windowsserver.com/ |

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Last update: **2020/11/30 20:02**