



Data Sheet

Azure Stack HCI, version 23H2

Table of Contents

1.	Microsoft Azure Stack HCI Overview.....	2
2.	Microsoft Azure Stack HCI, version 23H2 Overview.....	2
2.1	Product Update Schedule.....	2
2.2	“Server with Desktop Experience” & “Server Core” Installations.....	2
2.3	Language Settings	2
2.4	License and Support Life Cycles	2
2.4.1	OS Support Life Cycles.....	3
2.5	Minimum Hardware Requirement.....	3
2.5.1	Active Directory (AD)	3
2.5.2	Secured-Core Server	3
2.6	New Features of Azure Stack HCI, version 23H2.....	3
2.6.1	Cloud-based deployment	3
2.6.2	Azure Monitor	4
2.6.3	Azure Virtual Desktop.....	4
2.6.4	Azure Arc VM management.....	4
2.6.5	ReFS deduplication and Compression.....	4
3.	Fujitsu Server Systems for Azure Stack HCI	5
3.1	Supported Guest Operating Systems	5
3.2	Fujitsu ServerView	5
3.3	Restrictions	5
3.4	Server Support Life Cycles	5

1. Microsoft Azure Stack HCI Overview

Microsoft Azure Stack HCI is a hyperconverged infrastructure operating system delivered as an Azure service providing latest and up to date security, performance, and feature updates.

There is no edition for Azure Stack HCI, and the version goes up once a year.

For more information about Azure Stack HCI, please see:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure-stack/hci/overview>

For a configuration and solution overview, please refer to the following URL:

<https://www.fujitsu.com/emeia/products/computing/integrated-systems/azure-stack-hci.html>

2. Microsoft Azure Stack HCI, version 23H2 Overview

Azure Stack HCI, version 23H2 enhances cluster operations with capabilities such as cloud-based monitoring, Site Recovery, and VM backups. These services also provide a central view of all your Azure Stack HCI deployments in the Azure portal. You can manage the cluster with your existing tools including Windows Admin Center, System Center, and PowerShell.

2.1 Product Update Schedule

For Azure Stack HCI release information, please see:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure-stack/hci/release-information-23h2>

2.2 "Server with Desktop Experience" & "Server Core" Installations

Desktop Experience is not available for Azure Stack HCI, because GUI installation is not possible. Server Core is available for Azure Stack HCI.

2.3 Language Settings

You can change the language of Azure Stack HCI in the following ways:

- Microsoft Edge
- Server Core

For more information, please see:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure-stack/hci/manage/languages>

2.4 License and Support Life Cycles

Azure Stack HCI is an Azure service that goes on your Azure subscription bill just like any other Azure service. It's priced on a per core basis on your on-premises servers. Customers need to connect to Azure once a month for license verification.

Please refer to the URL for details:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure-stack/hci/concepts/billing>

When using Windows Server VMs on Azure Stack HCI, licenses can be Windows Server subscriptions or bring-your-own-license (BYOL).

For more information, please see

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure-stack/hci/manage/vm-activate?tabs=azure-portal>

2.4.1 OS Support Life Cycles

Azure Stack HCI is supported for six months after the new version is generally available and must be updated to the latest Azure Stack HCI on an ongoing basis.

2.5 Minimum Hardware Requirement

Minimum hardware requirements are set by Microsoft.

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure-stack/hci/concepts/system-requirements-23h2>

2.5.1 Active Directory (AD)

You must have an Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS) domain available for the Azure Stack HCI system to join.

2.5.2 Secured-Core Server

Secured-Core Server provides Hardware root-of-trust, Firmware protection, and Virtualization-based security (VBS).

- Secured-Core Server comes standard with TPM 2.0, which provides a secure location for data and helps protect BitLocker functionality.
- If you use Secured-Core Server, TPM 2.0 is required.
- Protects your firmware with security critical hypervisor from security vulnerabilities reported in the firmware area using Dynamic Root of Trust of Measurement (DRTM) technology processor support and DMA protection.
- Protects against overall vulnerabilities by supporting VBS and HVCI.

You can proactively defend against and disrupt many of the paths attackers use to exploit systems by protecting firmware and drivers.

For more information, please see:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server/security/secured-core-server>

2.6 New Features of Azure Stack HCI, version 23H2

Below are the major new features. For other new features, please see:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure-stack/hci/whats-new>

2.6.1 Cloud-based deployment

For servers running Azure Stack HCI, version 23H2, you can perform new deployments and updates via the cloud.

For deployment, you can deploy an Azure Stack HCI cluster in one of the two ways - via the Azure portal or via an Azure Resource Manager deployment template.

For more information, please see:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure-stack/hci/deploy/deploy-via-portal>

For update, Azure Update Manager is an Azure service that allows you to apply, view, and manage updates for each of your Azure Stack HCI cluster's nodes. You can view Azure Stack HCI clusters across your entire infrastructure, or in remote/branch offices and update at scale.

For more information, please see:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure-stack/hci/update/azure-update-manager-23h2>

2.6.2 Azure Monitor

Monitoring Azure Stack HCI involves the regular collection and analysis of data from all components of your system to promptly identify and address any potential issues. Routine monitoring is crucial for maintaining the health and functionality of your Azure Stack HCI system.

For more information, please see:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure-stack/hci/concepts/monitoring-overview>

2.6.3 Azure Virtual Desktop

Azure Virtual Desktop is a desktop and app virtualization service that runs on Azure. The service allows you manage desktops and apps from different Windows and Windows Server operating systems with a unified management experience. It also allows you to host desktops and apps on-premises in a hybrid configuration with Azure Stack HCI.

For more information, please see:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-desktop/azure-stack-hci-overview>

2.6.4 Azure Arc VM management

Azure Arc VM management lets you provision and manage Windows and Linux VMs hosted in an on-premises Azure Stack HCI environment. This feature enables IT admins create, modify, delete, and assign permissions and roles to app owners thereby enabling self-service VM management.

Administrators can manage Arc VMs on their Azure Stack HCI clusters by using Azure management tools, including Azure portal, Azure CLI, Azure PowerShell, and Azure Resource Manager (ARM) templates. Using Azure Resource Manager templates, you can also automate VM provisioning in a secure cloud environment.

For more information, please see:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure-stack/hci/manage/azure-arc-vm-management-overview>

2.6.5 ReFS deduplication and Compression

ReFS deduplication and compression is a storage feature designed specifically for active workloads, such as Azure Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) on Azure Stack HCI, to help optimize storage usage and reduce storage costs. The feature operates in three modes: deduplication only, compression only, and deduplication and compression (default mode), allowing optimization based on your needs. It deduplicates only new or changed data as opposed to scanning the entire volume every time, optimizing job duration, and reducing impact on system performance.

For more information, please see:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure-stack/hci/manage/refs-deduplication-and-compression?tabs=windowsadmincenter>

3. Fujitsu Server Systems for Azure Stack HCI

Servers that support 22H2 are evaluated sequentially because they support 23H2.

For supported servers, please see:

<https://sp.ts.fujitsu.com/dmsp/Publications/public/osrel-py.pdf>

To use Azure Stack HCI, version 23H2, servers must have the Windows Server 2022 certified logos "SDDC Premium AQ" and „Secured Core Server AQ".

3.1 Supported Guest Operating Systems

- Generation 1 virtual machine
Windows Server 2012/2012 R2, Windows Server 2016, Windows Server 2019, Windows Server 2022, Windows 8.1, Windows 10, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8.6, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 9.0, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 9.1, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 9.2, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 9.3
- Generation 2 virtual machine
Windows Server 2012/2012 R2, Windows Server 2016, Windows Server 2019, Windows Server 2022, Windows 8.1, Windows 10, Windows 11, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8.6, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 9.0, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 9.1, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 9.2, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 9.3

3.2 Fujitsu ServerView

The Fujitsu ServerView Suite — consisting of ServerView Installation Manager, ServerView Agentless Service, and Integration in Windows Admin Center— supports Azure Stack HCI.

The ISO image for Fujitsu ServerView Suite that is compatible with Azure Stack HCI 23H2 is available at:

<https://www.fujitsu.com/global/products/computing/servers/server-management/index.html>

On the Fujitsu ServerView Suite page, click "ServerView ISO Images" under "Downloads". Download the ISO from the "ServerView-ServerView Suite CDs/DVDs/ISO-Images" tab.

3.3 Restrictions

For restrictions, please see the support site ([Fujitsu Technical Support pages from Fujitsu EMEA](#)) > select target server > select "Azure Stack HCI OS" > select "Documentation" tab > select "List of support machines and restrictions for Azure Stack HCI".

3.4 Server Support Life Cycles

Fujitsu supports the hardware platform for 5+ years for the Azure Stack HCI solution.

Contact

Fujitsu

Website: <https://www.fujitsu.com/emeia>

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