

# Azure Hybrid Benefit for Azure Stack HCI



*Azure Hybrid Benefit is a program that enables you to significantly reduce the costs of running workloads in the cloud. With Azure Hybrid Benefit for Azure Stack HCI, you can maximize the value of your on-premises licenses and modernize your existing infrastructure to Azure Stack HCI at no additional cost.*

## What is Azure Hybrid Benefit for Azure Stack HCI?

If you have [Windows Server Datacenter licenses](#) with active [Software Assurance](#), you are eligible to activate Azure Hybrid Benefit for your Azure Stack HCI cluster. To activate this benefit, you'll need to exchange 1-core license of Software Assurance-enabled Windows Server Datacenter for 1-physical core of Azure Stack HCI. For detailed licensing requirements, see [Azure Hybrid Benefit for Windows Server](#).

This benefit waives the Azure Stack HCI host service fee and Windows Server guest subscription on your cluster. Other costs associated with Azure Stack HCI, such as Azure services, are billed as per normal. For details about pricing with Azure Hybrid Benefit, see [Azure Stack HCI pricing](#).

## Activate Azure Hybrid Benefit for Azure Stack HCI

You can activate Azure Hybrid Benefit for your Azure Stack HCI cluster using the Azure portal.

### Prerequisites

The following prerequisites are required to activate Azure Hybrid Benefit for your Azure Stack HCI cluster:

- Make sure your Azure Stack HCI cluster is installed with the following:
  - Version 22H2 or later; or
  - Version 21H2 with at least the September 13, 2022 security update [KB5017316](#) or later
- Make sure that all servers in your cluster are online and [registered](#) with Azure
- Make sure that your cluster has Windows Server Datacenter licenses with active Software Assurance. For other licensing prerequisites, see [Licensing prerequisites](#)
- Make sure you have permission to write to the Azure Stack HCI resource. This is included if you're assigned the [contributor or owner role](#) on your subscription

### Activate Azure Hybrid Benefit

Follow these steps to activate Azure Hybrid Benefit for your Azure Stack HCI cluster via the Azure portal:

1. Use your Microsoft Azure credentials to sign in to the Azure portal at this URL: <https://portal.azure.com>.
2. Go to your Azure Stack HCI cluster resource page.
3. Under **Settings**, select **Configuration**.
4. Under **Azure Hybrid Benefit**, select the **Activate** link.
5. In the **Activate Azure Hybrid Benefit** pane on the right-hand side, confirm the designated cluster and the number of core licenses you wish to allocate, and select **Activate** again to confirm. **NOTE:** You can't deactivate Azure Hybrid Benefit for your cluster after activation. Proceed after you have confirmed the changes.
6. When Azure Hybrid Benefit successfully activates for your cluster, the Azure Stack HCI host fee is waived for the cluster. **IMPORTANT:** Windows Server subscription is a way to get unlimited virtualization rights on your cluster through Azure. Now that you have Azure Hybrid Benefit enabled, you have the option of turning on Windows Server subscription at no additional cost.

7. To enable Windows Server subscription at no additional cost, under the Windows Server subscription add-on feature in the same **Configuration** pane, select **Activate benefit**.
8. In the **Activate Azure Hybrid Benefit** pane on the right-hand side, check the details and then select **Activate** to confirm. Upon activation, licenses take a few minutes to apply and set up automatic VM activation (AVMA) on the cluster.

## Maintain compliance for Azure Hybrid Benefit

After you activate your Azure Stack HCI cluster with Azure Hybrid Benefit, you must regularly check status and maintain compliance for Azure Hybrid Benefit. An Azure Stack HCI cluster using Azure Hybrid Benefit can run only during the Software Assurance term. When the Software Assurance term is nearing expiry, you need to either renew your agreement with Software Assurance, disable the Azure Hybrid Benefit functionality, or de-provision the clusters that are using Azure Hybrid Benefit.

You can perform an inventory of your clusters through the Azure portal and [Azure Resource Graph](#) as described in the following section.

### Verify that your cluster is using Azure Hybrid Benefit

You can verify if your cluster is using Azure Hybrid Benefit via Azure portal, PowerShell, or Azure CLI.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How does licensing work for Azure Hybrid Benefit?

For more information about licensing, see [Azure Hybrid Benefit for Windows Server](#).

### Can I opt-in to Azure Hybrid Benefit for an existing cluster?

Yes.

### Is there any additional cost incurred by opting in to Azure Hybrid Benefit for Azure Stack HCI?

No additional costs are incurred, as Azure Hybrid Benefit is included as part of your Software Assurance benefit.

### How do I find out if my organization has Software Assurance?

Consult your Account Manager or licensing partner.

### When would the new pricing benefit for Azure Hybrid Benefit take effect?

The pricing benefit for Azure Stack HCI host fees takes effect immediately upon activation of Azure Hybrid Benefit for your cluster. The pricing benefit for Windows Server subscription takes effect immediately after you activate both Azure Hybrid Benefit and Windows Server subscription.