

Licensing SQL Server in Azure: PaaS solutions

Customer options for using SQL Server in Azure

Customers can choose to run SQL Server in individual virtual machines as an IaaS (*Infrastructure as a Service*) solution, or to take advantage of SQL Server running as a managed database-as-a-service as a PaaS (*Platform as a Service*) solution.

Find information on choosing the right SQL option here: <http://bit.ly/SQLOptions>.

Reserved Capacity

Overview

A way of paying for Azure SQL infrastructure vCores with a great price and flexibility by making a commitment to a 1 or 3-year term, a deployment type (Azure SQL Database Single/Elastic Pool or Azure SQL Managed Instance), a performance tier (Business Critical, General Purpose, or Hyperscale) and an Azure region (US East, for example).

- Payment may be made either upfront or monthly for the 1 or 3-year term
- Reserved Instances may be assigned to a single or all Azure Subscriptions, or to a Resource Group

Making changes to Reserved Capacity

Reassign: Reserved Capacity may be reassigned at any time to a different Azure Subscription or to all Azure Subscriptions, or to a different Resource Group.

Exchange: Reserved Capacity can be exchanged for alternative capacity in another data center. The unused duration of the original Reserved Capacity is pro-rated, and credit is applied to a new 1 or 3-year term.

Cancel: Reserved Capacity may be cancelled at any time, and refunds are prorated. No cancellation fee is currently charged, but the total of canceled Reservation commitment must not exceed \$50,000 in a 12-month period for a single customer.

Using Reserved Capacity

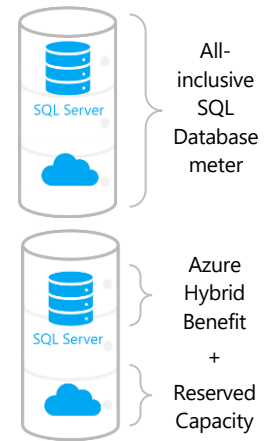
- Customers do not need to assign Reserved Capacity to a specific database or Managed Instance. Matching existing deployments that are already running or ones that are newly deployed automatically get the benefit
- For example, a purchase of 16 vCores of Reserved Capacity for Azure SQL Managed Instance could be assigned to a single 16-core database or two 8-core databases. If a deployment changes over time, the Reserved Capacity is automatically assigned

Dual use rights

- The Azure Hybrid Benefit allows customers to choose where they use their licenses: EITHER on-premises OR for Azure SQL databases
- The only exception is for customers who are migrating existing workloads to Azure when the licenses may be applied to both environments for a period of up to 180 days

Options for Azure SQL

- Customers with short-term or variable workloads are likely to pay for an Azure SQL solution on an all-inclusive meter
- Customers with longer-term or predictable workloads are likely to use Reserved Capacity to pay for the infrastructure component, and to utilize the Azure Hybrid Benefit to license the SQL Server component



Azure Hybrid Benefit

Overview

The Azure Hybrid Benefit allows customers to assign existing SQL Server licenses to license the SQL Server component of an Azure SQL solution.

Eligibility

- Customers with SQL Server Standard or Enterprise Core licenses with active Software Assurance acquired through a Volume Licensing agreement
- Customers with Server Subscriptions for SQL Server Standard or Enterprise acquired through CSP

Using SQL Server licenses

The Azure Hybrid Benefit gives rights to Azure SQL vCores as below:

General Purpose / Hyperscale

Enterprise: 1 Core license = 4 vCores

Standard: 1 Core license = 1 vCore

Business Critical

Enterprise: 1 Core license = 1 vCore

Standard: 4 Core licenses = 1 vCore

The [Azure Hybrid Benefits Savings Calculator](#) can assist in calculating the rights of existing licenses to Azure SQL vCores: <http://bit.ly/2CJWpOf>.

Activating the SQL Server Azure Hybrid Benefit

SQL Server licenses are not automatically applied to Azure SQL databases. Licenses are manually allocated by enabling the Azure Hybrid Benefit at any time for new or existing databases, which immediately stops the charges for SQL Server.