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| MICROSOFT QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS, PRODUCT RELEASES, AND ENHANCEMENTS FY21 Q1 |
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| Every quarter Microsoft delivers hundreds of products, either as new releases or services or as enhancements to current products and services. These releases are a result of significant research and development investments, made over multiple years, designed to help customers be more productive and secure and to deliver differentiated value across the cloud and the edge.  Following are the major product releases and other highlights for the quarter, organized by product categories, to help illustrate how we are accelerating innovation across our businesses while expanding our market opportunities.   |
| Microsoft 365 Consumer/Commercial  |
| The [New Yammer](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/yammer-blog/the-new-yammer-is-generally-available-worldwide/ba-p/1521869) was released across web, mobile, and with integrations into Teams, Outlook, and SharePoint. Microsoft [Whiteboard integrations](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMkTrOtxJ1s&feature=youtu.be) in Microsoft Teams allows for more flexibility to either present the digital whiteboard with read-only access for users, or to allow (or adjust) user access for group collaboration. We’ve also added the option to [add sticky notes](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-365-blog/microsoft-whiteboard-in-teams-adds-sticky-notes-and-text/ba-p/1565089) and text to a canvas.[Natural Language Search and People Answers in Outlook for iOS and Android](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/outlook-blog/personalized-and-organized-search-in-outlook-mobile/ba-p/1228027) help save time when dictating a query rather than typing and when using filtering terms such as “last week,” “next appointment,” or “phone number.” Outlook also uses Microsoft Search to bring forward more relevant information about people in an organization. [Visio data visualizer add-in in Excel](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/visio-blog/data-visualizer-add-in-for-excel-now-available-in-public-preview/ba-p/973962) is a new way to create data-driven Visio diagrams directly in Excel. You can automatically create high-quality flowcharts, cross-functional flowcharts (or Swimlane diagrams), and organizational charts—all the shapes, connections, and data linking—from data in Excel tables. [Microsoft Family Safety App](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2020/07/28/microsoft-family-safety-app-helping-protect-what-matters-most/) is designed to help you protect your family’s digital and physical safety. [Transcribe in Word](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2020/08/25/microsoft-365-transcription-voice-commands-word/)can now record conversations directly in Word for the web and transcribe them automatically. [Voice commands in Dictate for Word on the web and Office mobile](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2020/08/25/microsoft-365-transcription-voice-commands-word/) can add, format, edit, and organize text.  [Cortana in Teams mobile](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-365-blog/what-s-new-with-cortana-your-personal-productivity-assistant/ba-p/1675341) helps streamline communication, collaboration, and meeting-related tasks using spoken natural language. [Book individual workspaces in Outlook on the web and Outlook mobile (iOS and Android).](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/exchange-team-blog/book-a-workspace-in-outlook/ba-p/1524560)Booking workspaces in Outlook allows an organization to better manage its available capacity and resources by assessing how many people can be in a determined space.  |
| Microsoft Teams  |
| [Together mode](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2020/07/08/reimagining-virtual-collaboration-future-work-learning/) is a new meeting experience in Teams that uses AI segmentation technology to digitally place participants in a shared background. Together mode makes meetings more engaging by helping you focus on other people’s faces and body language and making it easier to pick up on the nonverbal cues important to human interaction.[Large Gallery](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-teams-blog/what-s-new-in-microsoft-teams-september-2020/ba-p/1726562) provides a new way to view the video of up to 49 participants at once on a single screen (7x7). This feature rolled out to production with the new multiwindow experience. [Spotlight](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-teams-blog/what-s-new-in-microsoft-teams-august-2020/ba-p/1619717) allows meeting organizers and presenters to select their video as the main view for all meeting participants. This helps the presenter control the main video feed participants see during the meeting. This can be particularly useful for educators in virtual classroom scenarios.[Direct guest join for Cisco Webex meetings and devices](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-teams-blog/what-s-new-in-microsoft-teams-july-2020/ba-p/1551561)allows Teams Rooms and Cisco Webex meeting room devices to connect to each other’s meeting services via embedded web technologies. Leveraging this experience, you can use the Teams Room console to interact with the Cisco Webex app and control in-room audio and video devices. Similarly, the Microsoft Teams web experience is also available on web-enabled Cisco Webex devices, allowing you to join a Microsoft Teams meeting from a Cisco Webex Room device. [New lobby setting in Teams meeting options](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-teams-blog/what-s-new-in-microsoft-teams-july-2020/ba-p/1551561) allows meeting organizers to select “Only me" as an option to the "Who can bypass lobby?” meeting setting. Once enabled, only the organizer can join the meeting directly. Everyone else, including people from within the same organization, will be sent to the lobby. This is also available for education customers and helps maintain student safety and contains student-to-student interaction in class until the educator is present.[Microsoft Teams Rooms Premium](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2020/07/21/microsoft-teams-meetings-hybrid-workplace-options/)includes a remote management offering that enables customers to shift the operational responsibility of managing and monitoring Microsoft Teams Rooms to Microsoft. It gives you access to intelligent software, dedicated experts, and enhanced insights. This proactive and real-time management service relies on Microsoft technology experts to handle room system operations remotely.[Teams Walkie Talkie for Android](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/MicrosoftTeams/walkie-talkie) is a push-to-talk experience that enables instant and secure voice communication over the cloud, turning employee—or company-owned—Android smartphones and tablets into walkie-talkies. It reduces the number of devices an employee needs while providing clear communication free of radio interference, static, and no distance limitations in range. [Teams templates](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/MicrosoftTeams/get-started-with-teams-templates-in-the-admin-console) help your team get started faster and be more effective. Choose from common business scenarios, such as event management or crisis response, and industry-specific templates, like a hospital ward or bank branch. Each template comes with predefined channels, apps, and guidance. Administrators can also create custom templates for your organization, helping you standardize team structures, reveal relevant apps, and scale best practices. [Tasks in Teams](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/planner-blog/announcing-tasks-in-microsoft-teams-public-rollout/ba-p/1502225) brings together Microsoft Planner and Microsoft To Do into Teams, giving you one place to manage your team plans and individual tasks. [Microsoft Lists in Teams](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-teams-blog/microsoft-lists-in-microsoft-teams-is-now-generally-available/ba-p/1621979) allows teams to create a list directly in Teams as a channel tab. With ready-made templates, you can quickly create lists from directly within Teams and access them on the Teams mobile app by accessing the Lists tab you added as a channel.  |
| Windows |
| [Microsoft Edge](http://www.microsoftedge.com/) on the new Microsoft Duo showcases dual-screen scenarios for web browsing and drag-and-drop compatibility between other apps like ToDo and OneNote. Other new Edge features include:* [Collections on mobile](https://blogs.windows.com/windowsexperience/2020/07/21/whats-new-in-microsoft-edge-july-2020-microsoft-inspire-edition/) ensures you can sync your collections across your devices.
* [Collections allows you to send your collection to Word, Excel, and now OneNote](https://blogs.windows.com/windowsexperience/2020/08/27/whats-new-in-web-experiences-for-august-2020-collections-gets-smarter-microsoft-edge-family-safety-comes-to-android-and-bing-helps-you-give-back-to-local-schools/).
* [Parental web controls on Android](https://blogs.windows.com/windowsexperience/2020/08/27/whats-new-in-web-experiences-for-august-2020-collections-gets-smarter-microsoft-edge-family-safety-comes-to-android-and-bing-helps-you-give-back-to-local-schools/) help parents have more visibility into their web habits with content filters and activity reports.
* [Picture dictionary in Edge Immersive reader](https://blogs.windows.com/windowsexperience/2020/08/27/whats-new-in-web-experiences-for-august-2020-collections-gets-smarter-microsoft-edge-family-safety-comes-to-android-and-bing-helps-you-give-back-to-local-schools/) is ideal for education settings to ensure comprehension.
* The FastTrack Ready Partner program was expanded to include [Microsoft Edge](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/fasttrack/microsoft-365/microsoft-edge?rtc=1), giving customers even more options to get help with deploying and configuring Edge within their organizations.
* PDF [improvements](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWAqNQ0xAcE&feature=youtu.be) includingread aloud, file editing, and highlighter capabilities.

With Microsoft’s [Your Phone](https://nam06.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.microsoft.com%2Fen-us%2Fwindows%2Fsync-across-your-devices%3Factivetab%3Dandroid_ios-pivot%253aprimaryr3&data=04%7C01%7Cstcart%40microsoft.com%7Cb03771e27af649ce48d408d874636500%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C637387317576804593%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=w4h35Max3FmTEKXvcXHNK214AHd4VuFeaWODM5LBRt8%3D&reserved=0) app and Link to Windows integration on select Samsung devices, you can now access and interact with your favorite Android mobile apps directly on your Windows 10 PC through the Your Phone app.  |
| Dynamics 365 |
| Dynamics 365 Fraud Protection including [account protection and loss prevention capabilities](https://cloudblogs.microsoft.com/dynamics365/bdm/2020/07/22/protect-revenue-and-reputation-with-dynamics-365-fraud-protection/) leverages AI technology to help merchants counteract account fraud as well as return and discount fraud arising from omnichannel purchases.* **Account Protection** helps merchants combat account creation and account takeover fraud with adaptive AI technology that continuously learns and adapts to evolving fraud patterns from the connected knowledge generated from customers using the service. This technology enables merchants to block fraudulent activities and protect their customers’ accounts.
* **Loss Prevention** analyzes omnichannel fraudulent patterns for anomalies and provides merchants with business intelligence reporting to increase visibility into potentially fraudulent activity of business entities. The adaptive AI technology is continuously learning to evolve patterns to help combat returns and improper discounts fraud.

[Dynamics 365 Customer Voice](https://cloudblogs.microsoft.com/dynamics365/bdm/2020/07/22/democratizing-customer-feedback-with-the-new-dynamics-365-customer-voice/) empowers organizations to capture customer feedback directly from surveys personalized for your audience and centrally collect, analyze, and distribute insights across the business. Customer Voice enables an organization to take action based on real-time feedback and integrate with other Dynamics 365 applications including [Dynamics 365 Customer Insights](https://dynamics.microsoft.com/en-us/ai/customer-insights/) and the [Power Platform](https://powerplatform.microsoft.com/en-us/). [Dynamics 365 Project Operations](https://dynamics.microsoft.com/en-us/project-operations/overview/)enables organizations across industries to drive project success and profitability. This [new application](https://dynamics.microsoft.com/en-us/project-operations/overview/) offers capabilities to:* Manage project-based deals, including pricing, costing, quotes, and pipeline management.
* Enhance project management and empower project managers, track projects, and foster teamwork through integration with Microsoft Teams.
* Optimize resource scheduling with maximizing resource utilization, match people based on skills and anticipate future resource needs.
* Simplify time tracking and expense management with mobile and automated expense captures. Maintain complete visibility and control of your organization’s expenses using policies, approvals, and reporting.
* Drive business performance and streamline financial management by on-time recognizing of revenue and improved cashflow by increased speed to invoicing. Built-in integration to [Dynamics 365 Finance](https://dynamics.microsoft.com/en-us/finance/overview/) or APIs to other ERP systems enables integration to accounts receivable, payable, and general ledger.
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| Microsoft Power Platform   |
| Microsoft [Power Platform Return to Workplace solution](https://powerplatform.microsoft.com/en-us/return-to-the-workplace) helps customers safely prepare for the return to physical workplaces. Designed for fast deployment and customization, the end-to-end components provide location readiness and safety tools for facility managers, self-service health and safety tools for employees, and case management tools for health and safety leaders.Direction integration between Azure API Management and Power Apps enables the [increasing trend of low-code and code-first fusion projects](https://powerapps.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/achieve-your-app-development-goals-with-power-platform-and-azure/). Developers can create custom connectors, expose them through Azure APIM to unlock access to any Microsoft cloud-hosted data source, and seamlessly publish the connectors for easy discovery in Power Apps. These apps can also be distributed and used through Microsoft Teams. Power BI Premium customers will be able to deploy content to new regions [in Germany, China, Switzerland, and Norway](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/power-platform-release-plan/2020wave1/business-intelligence/new-power-bi-geos--germany-china-switzerland-norway), in addition to the already-supported regions. These new geos will enhance customers’ ability to meet data residency requirements.[Deeper integration with Azure](https://powervirtualagents.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/power-virtual-agents-bot-framework-enabling-everyone-to-build-intelligent-chatbots/) Bot Framework as dialogs coded in Azure Bot Framework will be directly embeddable and executable from inside Power Virtual Agents. Customers will have access to an intuitive, fully extensible SaaS bot development experience that they can easily enhance with code when needed. In addition, we’ve added support for new [HIPAA, SOC, and ISO standards](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/power-virtual-agents/admin-certification) for Power Virtual Agents, enabling a broader set of virtual agent use cases across industries, including healthcare.  |
| LinkedIn |
| LinkedIn rolled out a [new redesign](https://nam06.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.linkedin.com%2Fpulse%2Fhow-our-new-look-embodies-linkedins-warm-welcoming-community-joann-wu%2F%3Fpublished%3Dt&data=04%7C01%7Cstcart%40microsoft.com%7Cf6418e12f74d425548fe08d871290a46%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C637383768410237826%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2BxUpZW0FSar1Pxzu8qmARt07IydLzaDOvjclnAkBeSU%3D&reserved=0), updates to [messenger](https://nam06.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fblog.linkedin.com%2F2020%2Fseptember%2F24%2Fnew-features-to-make-your-linkedin-messaging-experience-even-better&data=04%7C01%7Cstcart%40microsoft.com%7Cf6418e12f74d425548fe08d871290a46%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C637383768410237826%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=PozT6Zee2OwTlVKG63tVqz6QVsCqf2ZRp7y1XqHGT%2Bs%3D&reserved=0) and [search experiences](https://nam06.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.linkedin.com%2Fpulse%2Fintroducing-more-intuitive-streamlined-linkedin-search-alice-xiong%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cstcart%40microsoft.com%7Cf6418e12f74d425548fe08d871290a46%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C637383768410247785%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=3s0Lm6EGRFrGeajSeAnNIXdgmY8%2B3pROTemnWIpM8IA%3D&reserved=0), and the launch of [Stories in the US and Canada](https://nam06.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fblog.linkedin.com%2F2020%2Fseptember%2F24%2Fshare-your-professional-story&data=04%7C01%7Cstcart%40microsoft.com%7Cf6418e12f74d425548fe08d871290a46%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C637383768410247785%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=SCBq487nSZt5lgtOfqTN0jlT7toqaGr4dWgNBKYpV80%3D&reserved=0). A new [name pronunciation feature](https://nam06.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fblog.linkedin.com%2F2020%2Fjuly%2F2%2Fhelp-others-pronounce-your-name-correctly&data=04%7C01%7Cstcart%40microsoft.com%7Cf6418e12f74d425548fe08d871290a46%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C637383768410217909%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=2I1Yr82pH1JWr6lMD3Tf4TImAydyl2cTuFRpMCtrF9g%3D&reserved=0) was added to the LinkedIn profile, so members can create an audio recording of their name pronunciation and allow other members visiting their profile to better understand the pronunciation preference and correctly say their name. The [LinkedIn Fairness Toolkit (LIFT)](https://nam06.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fengineering.linkedin.com%2Fblog%2F2020%2Flift-addressing-bias-in-large-scale-ai-applications&data=04%7C01%7Cstcart%40microsoft.com%7Cf6418e12f74d425548fe08d871290a46%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C637383768410227868%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=JzMx3YLKWtQIN55f4GEfCFzIv0l9gxA8iJ1wc7ES4f8%3D&reserved=0) is an open-source software library designed to analyze the bias and fairness of datasets and machine learning algorithms. It is the latest in a series of broader companywide efforts to avoid harmful bias on our platform. To support the LinkedIn [Sales Navigator Quarterly Product Release](https://nam06.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.linkedin.com%2Fbusiness%2Fsales%2Fblog%2Fproduct-updates%2Fcontinue-to-put-buyers-first-with-new-sales-navigator-features&data=04%7C01%7Cstcart%40microsoft.com%7Cf6418e12f74d425548fe08d871290a46%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C637383768410217909%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=BaIv3YzijOJkb9A5sEwf8UndEXlrTq6rXAVDqlW2BNE%3D&reserved=0), we announced new features that help customers put their buyers first through intelligent action, simplified day-to-day activities, and consistent insight into keeping relationships warm. [New tools help members keep it professional](https://nam06.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fblog.linkedin.com%2F2020%2Fseptember%2F29%2Fnew-features-help-keep-it-professional&data=04%7C01%7Cstcart%40microsoft.com%7Cf6418e12f74d425548fe08d871290a46%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C637383768410247785%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=o1jeSnABgloPNV2MVhTDzgBxE4tDUVw7PXIO%2BjBcRrs%3D&reserved=0) on the platform, including feedback loops on content reports, conversation kindness reminders, in-line warnings on harassment, and updated Professional Community Policies.[New features on LinkedIn Pages](https://nam06.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbusiness.linkedin.com%2Fmarketing-solutions%2Fblog%2Flinkedin-company-pages%2F2020%2Fnew-features-my-company-tab&data=04%7C01%7Cstcart%40microsoft.com%7Cf6418e12f74d425548fe08d871290a46%7C72f988bf86f141af91ab2d7cd011db47%7C1%7C0%7C637383768410257742%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=WCOfDF9d0W04SVn5xpI4J8Jf8HTBnLzffn3cdumkcwk%3D&reserved=0) help organizations stay connected to the communities that matter most to them. These updates help Page Admins connect with their employees, highlight upcoming events, and gain invaluable insights about their brand’s followers.  |
| Security, Compliance, and Identity |
| [Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (Android](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-defender-for-endpoint/microsoft-defender-for-endpoint-adds-depth-and-breadth-to-threat/ba-p/1695824)) delivers capabilities including phishing and web protection, malware scanning, and additional breach prevention through integration with Microsoft Endpoint Manager and Azure AD Conditional Access. These capabilities offer protection against some of the most sophisticated malware threats we’ve seen on the platform.[Azure Defender](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/protect-multicloud-workloads-with-new-azure-security-innovations/) now has a unified dashboard that shows which resources are protected. The new protections include Azure Key Vault now generally available, Azure Kubernetes now generally available, and SQL Servers on-premises in preview.[Compliance Manager](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-security-and/announcing-general-availability-of-microsoft-compliance-manager/ba-p/1679846) simplifies compliance and helps reduce risk. It offers a vast library of assessments for expanded regulatory coverage, built-in automation to detect tenant settings, and step-by-step guidance to help you manage risk. Compliance Manager translates complex regulatory requirements to specific technical controls and, through Compliance Score, provides a quantifiable measure of risk assessment. It brings together the existing Compliance Manager and Compliance Score solutions in the Microsoft 365 compliance center.[New security and compliance features in Microsoft Teams include](https://www.microsoft.com/security/blog/2020/09/22/enable-secure-remote-work-address-regulations-microsoft-compliance/):* Advanced eDiscovery supports live documents and links shared in Microsoft Teams.
* Auto-apply retention policies for Microsoft Teams meeting recordingallow an organization to retain and delete recordings with in-place governance, which means the retention policies apply wherever the recordings are saved without the need to export elsewhere.
* We now include Teams-specific actions in Compliance Manager, which provide guidance around improvement and implementation of actions you can take to help align with protection regulations and standards.
* Microsoft helps keep Teams data safe by encrypting it while at rest in Microsoft datacenters; we’re extending this capability to enable customers to add a layer of encryption using their own Customer Key for Teams, similar to Exchange Online, SharePoint Online, and OneDrive.
* Insider Risk Management now offers native integration with Microsoft Teams to securely coordinate, collaborate, and communicate on a case with relevant stakeholders in the organization.

[Insider Risk Management and Communication Compliance in Microsoft 365](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2020/07/21/meeting-experiences-teams-security-capabilities-microsoft-365/) has significantly expanded the quality of signals that Insider reasons over to intelligently flag potentially risky behavior. [New connectors, APIs, SDK, and built-in customizations](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-security-and/extending-the-microsoft-compliance-ecosystem-with-new-connectors/ba-p/1506992) help customers reason over their entire data landscape—not just their Microsoft data—and integrate Microsoft compliance value within their existing security, compliance, and identity-related investments. With the [integration between Azure AD and SAP SuccessFactors](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/azure-active-directory-identity/automated-user-provisioning-from-sap-successfactors-is-now-ga/ba-p/1257370), you can now automate user access to applications and resources so that a new hire can be up and running with full access to the necessary applications on day one. The integration also helps reduce dependencies on IT helpdesk for onboarding and offboarding tasks. The [Azure AD Conditional Access API](https://www.microsoft.com/security/blog/2020/09/22/microsoft-identity-ignite-rising-challenges-secure-remote-access-employee-productivity/) helps simplify Conditional Access policies configuration and management at scale. [Publisher verification](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/azure-active-directory-identity/publisher-verification-and-app-consent-policies-are-now/ba-p/1257374) allows developers to assure administrators and end users that their applications are authentic. Applications are marked as publisher verified when the publisher has verified its identity using a Microsoft Partner Network associated with its application registration. The [app consent policies](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/azure-active-directory-identity/publisher-verification-and-app-consent-policies-are-now/ba-p/1257374) help administrators establish granular roles around applications type and access level that end users can consent to without an administrator review. New [Azure AD partner integrations](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/azure-active-directory-identity/top-7-microsoft-identity-partnership-announcements-at-ignite/ba-p/1257352) enable secure and seamless access to virtually all applications. Expanded secure hybrid access partner integrations enable single sign on and consistent Azure AD Conditional Access policies to legacy on-premises applications. New partners include Cisco AnyConnect, Fortinet, Kemp, Palo Alto Networks, and Strata, extending previously available integrations with Akamai, Citrix, F5, and Zscaler. Deep provisioning integrations with Adobe and ServiceNow SaaS applications automate user lifecycle. |
| Azure |
| Following is a select list of generally available Azure products, services, and enhancements for the quarter. A full list can be found at <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/>. |
| Azure Hybrid Infrastructure |
| [Azure Arc-enabled servers](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-arc-enabled-servers-is-now-generally-available/) for Windows and Linux Servers for production workloads includes inventory, organization, and governance where customers can tag their servers, organize in hierarchies, search from a single location, and set guardrails on server configurations through Azure Policy. Customers can also leverage Azure management capabilities like Azure Security Center, Azure Monitor, or Update Management to further modernize their management practices from a single control plane. [Azure VMware Solution](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/the-new-azure-vmware-solution-is-now-generally-available/) enables customers to extend or migrate VMware workloads to the cloud seamlessly. Organizations can maintain existing VMware skills and operational processes, running VMware Cloud Foundation technologies, and leverage the benefits of Azure—all at the same time.  |
| Azure Data |
| Locally redundant storage (LRS) and zone-redundant storage (ZRS) options have been added to [backup storage redundancy for Azure SQL Managed Instance](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/configurable-backup-storage-redundancy-option-for-azure-sql-managed-instance-2/), providing more flexibility and choice. [Global virtual network peering support for Azure SQL Managed Instance](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/global-virtual-network-peering-support-for-azure-sql-managed-instance-now-available/) provides for easier network configuration. All managed instances created in empty subnets will be hosted on virtual clusters enabled for access over [global virtual network peering connections](https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/virtual-network/virtual-network-peering-overview). This enables you to pair managed instances in [failover group configuration](https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/azure-sql/database/auto-failover-group-overview?tabs=azure-powershell#enabling-geo-replication-between-managed-instances-and-their-vnets), in an easy and performant way, by simply connecting virtual networks in different regions. [Azure SQL Managed Instance can host catalog databases for all supported versions of SQL Server Reporting Services (SSRS)](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/hosting-catalog-databases-for-all-supported-versions-of-ssrs-in-azure-sql-managed-instance/). This is especially useful for fast migration of the existing solutions to SQL Managed Instance, without the need to test and adopt the latest version of SSRS. [Major performance improvements for Azure SQL Managed Instances](https://aka.ms/sqlmiperfdocs) help migrate performance-hungry database workloads to Azure SQL Managed Instance. These improvements include better transaction log write throughput for general purpose and business-critical instances and superior data/log IOPS for business-critical instances. Increased performance predictability and stability for general purpose service tier through better integration and enhanced tempdb performance are also included. Azure Database for PostgreSQL-Hyperscale (Citus) reserved capacity is now available to [reserve compute power for your existing and future Hyperscale (Citus) server groups](https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=2129085&clcid=0x409). The new pricing option enables savings up to 45 percent for one year, and up to 65 percent for three-year reserved capacity compared with the regular pay-as-you-go payment option for your Hyperscale (Citus) vCores.  |
| Azure Analytics |
| With [Azure Private Link in Azure Data Factory (ADF)](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-private-link-support-in-azure-data-factory-now-available/), customers can interact with ADF service as a private endpoint in their Virtual Network, ensuring that management operations are completely isolated. Traffic between customers’ Virtual Network and ADF goes through Azure Private Link, which provides private connectivity between the two. It simplifies the network architecture and secures the connection between endpoints in Azure by eliminating data exposure to the public internet.[Azure Stream Analytics](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/stream-analytics/) jobs can now output to an existing SQL pool table in [Azure Synapse Analytics](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/synapse-analytics/), and can [process throughput rates even higher](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/high-throughput-output-from-stream-analytics-to-azure-synapse-analytics-general-availability/) than 200 MB/s. This will support the most demanding real-time analytics and hot-path data processing needs of Azure customers depending on their Data Warehouse for workloads such as reporting and dashboarding.[Azure Data Explorer’s open source Kafka Connect Kusto sink connector has been enhanced](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-data-explorer-kafka-connector-improved-delivery-guarantees-schema-registry-support-and-confluent-certification/) from version 1.0 to include support for schema registry, configurable behavior on error, configurable retries, support for additional Kafka Connect converters, dead letter queue, and improved reliability with “At least Once” delivery guarantees. The connector has passed stringent review for quality, best practices, standards, and performance by Confluent, is now Confluent gold certified, and is available in the [Confluent Connector Hub](https://www.confluent.io/hub/microsoftcorporation/kafka-sink-azure-kusto). [Azure Data Share In-place Sharing for Azure Data Explorer](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-data-share-inplace-sharing-for-azure-data-explorer-now-generally-available/) enables you to share big data between internal departments, with external partners, vendors, or customers for near-real-time collaboration. Customers will be able to share data in place with Azure Data Share at no additional cost. The [COPY command feature in Azure Synapse Analytics](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/copy-command-now-generally-available-in-azure-synapse-analytics/) provides users with a simple, flexible, and fast interface for high-throughput data ingestion for SQL workloads. With this announcement, we’ve added performance improvements with file splits, ease of use with Parquet auto-schema discovery and complex data type support, and support for the COPY command within our data integration partner ecosystem, including Databricks, Informatica, Streamsets, Panoply, and Talend.[Object replication](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-blob-storage-object-replication-is-now-generally-available/) is a new capability for block blobs that lets you replicate your data from your blob container in one storage account to another anywhere in Azure. Object replication unblocks a new set of common replication scenarios: * Minimize latency – Users consume the data locally rather than issuing cross-region read requests
* Increase efficiency – Compute clusters process the same set of objects locally in different regions
* Optimize data distribution – Data consolidated in a single location for processing/analytics and then distribute only resulting dashboards to your offices worldwide
* Minimize cost – Tier down your data to Archive upon replication completion using lifecycle management policies to minimize the cost
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| Azure Serverless and App Dev Services |
| [App Service has introduced the new Premium v3 (Pv3) plan](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/app-service-introduces-the-new-pv3-sku-for-windows-and-linux-customers/) with configuration options from 2 vCPU/8GB to 8 vCPU/32GB, supporting more apps per instance as well as larger, memory-intensive enterprise apps and content management systems. Pv3 is available for both Linux and Windows App Service customers, and can be used to host both source-code and container-based web applications.The [App Service Deployment Center support](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/app-service-integration-with-github-actions-now-ga/) for [GitHub Actions](https://github.com/features/actions)-based automated continuous integration (CI) and continuous deployment is now generally available for use on production workloads. You can now run an automated [workflow](https://docs.github.com/en/actions/configuring-and-managing-workflows/configuring-a-workflow) whenever there is a new pull request, commit, or other event in your GitHub repository.[Support for the latest .NET Framework version on Azure App Service](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/app-service-net-framework-48-support-now-available/) allows customers to take advantage of the updated .NET Framework 4.8 and security features on a fully managed .NET app hosting environment.Customers can use [Azure Spring Cloud](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-spring-cloud-is-now-generally-available/) to bring modern microservice patterns to Spring Boot apps, eliminating boilerplate code to quickly develop robust Java apps and easily deploy, operate, and scale Spring Boot apps in a fully managed environment. |
| GitHub |
| [GitHub CLI](https://github.blog/2020-09-17-github-cli-1-0-is-now-available/) enables developers to run their entire GitHub workflow from the terminal, from a GitHub Issue to a release. In addition, developers can script nearly any action or set custom aliases by calling the GitHub API. Lastly, GitHub CLI is available to connect to both GitHub Enterprise Server and GitHub.com.[GitHub Code Scanning](https://github.blog/2020-09-30-code-scanning-is-now-available/) helps prevent vulnerabilities from reaching production by analyzing every pull request, commit, and merge—recognizing vulnerable code as soon as it’s created. Code Scanning is available to Enterprises with GitHub Advanced Security and is free for public repositories.Azure AI |
| [Azure Machine Learning](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/machine-learning/) is an enterprise-grade service for rapidly building and deploying machine learning models. [Azure Machine Learning customers now get all the Enterprise Edition capabilities in the Basic Edition at no extra charge](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-machine-learning-offers-new-capabilities-at-no-added-cost/), to help adopt and scale machine learning more cost effectively. Enterprise Edition capabilities such as the drag-and-drop [designer](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/machine-learning/designer), no-code [automated machine learning](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/machine-learning/automatedml/), and ML-assisted labeling are now generally available in the Basic Edition. You pay only for Azure resources used, such as compute and storage. There is no additional charge to use Azure Machine Learning.Developers can embed inclusive capabilities into their apps by using [Immersive Reader](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/immersive-reader-is-now-generally-available/), an Azure Cognitive Service, to enhance reading and comprehension of text for users of any age and learning ability. No machine learning expertise required. Immersive Reader helps users unlock knowledge from text and achieve more in the classroom and office by offering features that read the text aloud, translate, focus user attention by design, and more. Millions of users already rely on Microsoft’s immersive reading technologies in Word, Outlook, and Teams. Now developers can deliver this proven literacy-enhancing experience to their users, too.[Azure Cognitive Services received updates](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-cognitive-services-general-availability-updates/)including:* In the Decision category, [Anomaly Detector](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/cognitive-services/anomaly-detector/) service helps organizations spot unusual behavior in time-series data.
* In Speech, the service has expanded language coverage and regional availability. Specifically, Neural Text to Speech has added 18 new locales and 32 new voices, totaling 49 locales with 68 voices. Across Standard and Neural Text to Speech, we now offer 151 voices. In addition, Speech to Text added 11 new EU locales, now covering all 24 EU parliament-specified official languages. For the full list of supported languages, see [Language and voice support](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/cognitive-services/speech-service/language-support).
* For containers, the following are generally available: for Speech service, [speech-to-text](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/cognitive-services/speech-service/speech-container-howto?tabs=stt%2Ccsharp%2Csimple-format) (standard and custom), [text-to-speech](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/cognitive-services/speech-service/speech-container-howto?tabs=tts%2Ccsharp%2Csimple-format) (standard), and then [Anomaly Detector v1](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/cognitive-services/anomaly-detector/anomaly-detector-container-howto).

[Form Recognizer](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/form-recognizer-is-generally-available/) accelerates business processes by automating information extraction. You can now extract text, tables, and key value pairs quickly and accurately from documents. With just a few samples, Form Recognizer tailors its understanding to your documents, both on-premises and in the cloud. It supports multipage documents (images, PDFs, and Tiff files) and extracts a structured representation output of the document and its contents.Azure IoT |
| [The cellular-enabled guardian device](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/att-powered-guardian-device-for-azure-sphere-is-now-generally-available/) powered by AT&T combines the fully supported multilayered security of AT&T’s core network with Azure Sphere’s integrated silicon, software, and cloud services. [Azure Time Series Insights Gen2](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-time-series-insights-gen2-is-now-generally-available/), our pay-as-you-go IoT Analytics offering, features a number of new capabilities: built for industrial IoT scale to ingest data from millions of devices producing billions of events; retention-based warm and near-infinite BYO cold stores; support for Azure Blob and Azure Data Lake Gen2 storage; native support for highly efficient Apache Parquet file format on cold storage; time Series model to contextualize IoT data for asset-centric analytics; native connections to Azure IoT Hub and Event Hubs for ingestion of IoT data streams; first-class web experience featuring time series modeling, interpolation, scalar and aggregate functions, categorical variables, scatter plots, and time shifting of time series signals to analyze the data; rich query APIs that support interpolation, scalar and aggregate functions, categorical variables, and new conditional logic; PowerBI connector to enable you to take your time series queries directly into PowerBI for a unified view of your data estate.A [unified and enhanced Azure Certified Device](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/announcing-the-unified-azure-certified-device-program/) program expands on previous Microsoft certification offerings that validate IoT devices, meet specific capability needs, and are built to run on Azure. This program enables device builders to quickly and easily differentiate their IoT device capabilities and reduce time to market by increasing visibility for their products. With its release, three certifications are currently available for device submission: Azure Certified Device, IoT Plug and Play, and Edge Managed for Azure connected devices.[Azure Certified for Plug and Play](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/updates/azure-certified-for-plug-and-play-is-now-available/)democratizes the language used to declare IoT device capabilities and simplifies solution development. Device builders can make existing IoT devices compatible with IoT Plug and Play, [currently available in public preview](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/internet-of-things/add-quot-plug-and-play-quot-to-your-iot-solutions/ba-p/1548531), by authoring the open modeling language that describes the interaction model of the device, making target code updates, and sharing the model when the devices connect to the cloud. |
| Azure Datacenter |
| [Canada Central](https://news.microsoft.com/en-ca/2020/09/22/azure-availability-zones-launch-in-canada-offering-canadian-customers-additional-capabilities-to-innovate-with-data-and-the-cloud/) and [Australia East](https://news.microsoft.com/en-au/features/australias-digital-capability-surges-helps-keep-3-2-million-people-working-through-the-pandemic/)regions now feature Azure Availability Zones, which enable customers to create resilient, highly available applications for mission-critical workloads that can offer protection and isolation from localized failures. We continue to support increased demand with our [road map](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/global-infrastructure/geographies/) to provide Availability Zones in more of our existing and newly announced regions.  FastTrack for Azure |
| [Windows Virtual Desktop (WVD) was added as a supported migration scenario in FastTrack for Azure and Azure Migration Program (AMP)](https://azure.microsoft.com/updates/fasttrack-for-azure-now-supports-windows-virtual-desktop). WVD helps companies enable a secure, remote desktop experience from any device.[ASP.NET web app migration scenarios are now supported in Azure Migration Program (AMP).](https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/migrate-to-the-cloud-with-confidence/) FastTrack for Azure and our specialized partners will now assist customers in scaling their websites and reducing operational burden with innovative, fully managed services like Azure App Service and Azure SQL. |
| Surface |
| [Surface Duo](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/surface/devices/surface-duo), our all-new dual-screen mobile device, launched in the US. It brings together the power of Microsoft 365 experiences and the full ecosystem of Android mobile apps into one device, with two screens that you can take anywhere.The new configuration option for [Windows 10 Pro and Enterprise on Surface Hub 2](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/surface-it-pro-blog/announcing-the-availability-of-windows-10-pro-and-enterprise-on/ba-p/1624107?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter) brings the full Windows 10 desktop experience to the Surface Hub 2S 50”. It enables customers to use any application on their Surface Hub and brings large screen productivity to any location, including personal offices and learning spaces. |
| Gaming |
| Halo: The Master Chief Collection for PC added two new installments: [*Halo 3*](https://www.xbox.com/en-US/games/halo-the-master-chief-collection-pc) and [*Halo 3:*](https://www.xbox.com/en-US/games/halo-the-master-chief-collection-pc) *ODST*. Both installments are optimized for PC at 60 frames-per-second (or greater) with up to 4K UHD support and numerous PC-specific enhancements.  Obsidian and Xbox Game Studios launched [*Grounded*](https://www.xbox.com/en-US/games/grounded) into Xbox Game Preview on Xbox One and Windows 10 PC with Xbox Game Pass, and also on Steam Early Access. Players are shrunk to the size of an ant and can explore a world where insects react to your actions, and constructing bases, tools, and equipment are important to your survival.  Built on the power of Azure AI and Bing Maps, Microsoft released a new iteration of [Microsoft Flight Simulator](https://www.xbox.com/en-US/games/microsoft-flight-simulator) for Windows 10 PC, Xbox Game Pass for PC, and Steam. The technology behind Microsoft Flight Simulator provides a 1:1 digital representation of the globe bringing it to life and allows users to travel the world with access to over 37,000 airports and 2 million cities, with exceptional detail, fidelity, and visual quality.    Rare launched its newest iteration of [*Battletoads*](https://www.xbox.com/en-US/games/battletoads) on Xbox One and Windows 10 PCs with Xbox Game Pass. Rash, Zitz, and Pimple have returned for an all-new adventure. The game’s unique cartoon-style design is packed with chaos, characters, and locations that together offer a novel approach to couch co-op gameplay.  Xbox Game Studios and DONTNOD Entertainment released [*Tell Me Why*](http://www.tellmewhygame.com) on Xbox One, Windows 10 PCs with Xbox Game Pass, and Steam. The narrative adventure explores the mystery of reunited twins Tyler and Alyson Ronan and their loving but troubled childhood. The game discusses themes related to race, gender identity, and representation.   Deep Silver released [*Wasteland 3*](https://www.xbox.com/en-US/games/wasteland-3), developed by Xbox Game Studios’ InXile Entertainment, on PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Windows 10 PC with Xbox Game Pass, and Steam. *Wasteland 3* is a party-based role-playing game featuring the series’ signature focus on story reactivity and strategic combat in a post-apocalyptic world.   Microsoft launched [cloud gaming (Beta) with Xbox Game Pass Ultimate](https://www.xbox.com/en-US/xbox-game-pass/cloud-gaming/home), which makes more than 100 games available for members to play on Android devices at no additional cost. Cloud gaming, which is currently available in 22 countries, opens the world of Xbox to people who may not own a console or PC. Gamers can also purchase a suite of [optional external controllers](https://www.xbox.com/accessories#mobile) and other accessories for choosing how they play.   Microsoft launched the [Xbox Family Settings app](https://www.xbox.com/en-US/apps/family-settings-app) across Android and iOS. The app empowers parents to quickly create child accounts and set customizable user controls for their children’s gaming on Xbox. This app also helps facilitate important conversations among families about balancing gaming with other responsibilities.  |
| Microsoft Search, Advertising and News, Content Services |
| The new [Microsoft News video hub](https://blogs.msn.com/microsoft-news-app-tiles/) brings together videos from thousands of media brands into a single, easy-to-use browsing and viewing experience. The video hub supports auto-play, custom video queues, and a mini-player for picture-in-picture mode. Content is easily searchable by video category.The Microsoft News app on Windows 10 now supports [secondary Live Tiles](https://blogs.msn.com/microsoft-news-app-tiles/), empowering users to quickly track breaking news and stay abreast of your favorite topics, right from your Start menu. A new version of [Microsoft News, specifically developed for Surface Duo](https://devblogs.microsoft.com/surface-duo/enhance-microsoft-news-dual-screen/), gives users a range of new content experiences. **Users can open an article without losing their place on a list of headlines, drag and drop to save videos to a playlist, or make an article or gallery full-screen across both displays. Microsoft News for Surface Duo also includes a new “book mode” where one article is sized just right for reading across both screens, just like the pages of a book.**[MSN Esports Hub](https://blogs.windows.com/windowsexperience/2020/10/08/whats-new-in-web-experiences-for-october-2020-microsoft-edge-is-the-best-browser-for-shopping-this-holiday/%22%20/) is a one-of-a-kind destination that brings Esports news, streams, tournaments, and matches together in a fast, intuitive experience on desktop or mobile. It’s powered by “Watch For”—an AI system from Microsoft Research that uses real-time machine vision to analyze tens of thousands of streams simultaneously to identify details like streamers playing a specific character. This same AI engine also can flag malicious content to filter it out, keeping your family safer online. [Give with Bing](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/rewards/give-mode-overview) is an extension of Microsoft Rewards, which lets you earn points simply by searching on Microsoft Bing, and Give with Bing lets you automatically donate those points to nonprofits you care about. You can choose from 1.4 million organizations. Give with Bing is now available in the US, UK, Canada, Australia, France, Italy, Germany, and Spain. [Bing Rebates](https://www.bing.com/rebates) lets users earn cash back when they shop on Microsoft Bing. Shoppers on Microsoft Bing can find deals easily from participating merchants right from the search results page. While you are searching for stores near you, Bing shopping shows [in-store deals](https://blogs.bing.com/search/2020_08/Bing-shopping-Nearby-product-search) on the right side of the search results page to help you save money.Bing Shopping supports [image-based shopping](https://blogs.bing.com/search/2020_06/Bing-shopping-Introducing-new-image-based-product-search), allowing you to upload or capture any product image to find the best price across all sellers in our platform. Also, Bing Shopping now suggests what visually “goes well with” the items you are searching for on our platform.[Bing Wallpaper](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/bing/bing-wallpaper) includes a collection of beautiful images from around the world that have been featured on the Bing homepage. Not only will you see a new image on your desktop each day, but you can also browse images and learn where they’re from. |
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