

Modern Work FAQ – On-prem Office

Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated July 29, 2024

This document is for informational purposes only. MICROSOFT MAKES NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, IN THIS SUMMARY.

Microsoft provides this material solely for informational and marketing purposes. Customers should refer to their agreements for a full understanding of their rights and obligations under Microsoft's Volume Licensing programs. Microsoft software is licensed not sold. The value and benefit gained through use of Microsoft software and services may vary by customer. Customers with questions about differences between this material and the agreements should contact their reseller or Microsoft account manager. Eligibility for Software Assurance benefits varies by offering and region and is subject to change. The terms and conditions of your Volume License Agreement and the terms and conditions under which any specific Software Assurance benefits are offered take precedence in the case of any conflict with the information provided here. For eligibility criteria and current benefit program rules, see the Microsoft Product List.

On-prem Office

Office LTSC

1. What is Office LTSC 2024?

Office LTSC 2024 is the current on-premises version of Office for commercial, government, and academic customers, a device-based license available as a one-time, "perpetual" purchase for Windows or Mac.

2. What does LTSC mean?

LTSC stands for Long-Term Servicing Channel. Office LTSC is designed for devices and scenarios in which the key requirement is that functionality and features don't change over time. This may include medical systems, industrial process controllers, or air traffic control devices.

3. What did we announce on September 18 about the next on-premises version of Office?

On September 18, 2024, Microsoft announced that Office LTSC 2024 was now available to existing commercial and government volume-licensed customers, along with new on-premises versions of Project and Visio. We also announced that Office LTSC 2024, Project 2024, Visio LTSC 2024, and Office 2024 for consumers would become generally available to all customers on October 1.

4. If I have Microsoft 365 Apps for enterprise (or any other version of Microsoft 365), do I need to get the next on-premises version of Office?

No. Microsoft 365 Apps provides the most up-to-date, feature-rich versions of Microsoft's core productivity apps. Microsoft 365 Apps already includes all the features that will be "new" to Office LTSC 2024, and offers cloud-backed features (e.g., PowerPoint Designer, Data Types in Excel) and additional services (e.g., OneDrive storage) that are not included in on-premises versions of Office.

5. What is the difference between Microsoft 365 Apps and Office LTSC 2024?

[Microsoft 365 Apps for enterprise](#) (or, for smaller businesses, [Microsoft 365 Apps for business](#)) delivers the most productive and most secure versions of apps like Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook—with the lowest total cost of ownership for deployment and management. Microsoft 365 Apps can be installed on up to 5 PCs or Macs, 5 tablets, and 5 phones per user, and come with services like 1 TB of OneDrive storage, full-featured web apps, and Microsoft chat and phone support.

Office LTSC 2024 is a one-time release that comes with classic versions of apps like Word, Excel, and PowerPoint for one PC or Mac, and does not include any of the services that come with a Microsoft 365 subscription.

Several Microsoft 365 and Office 365 plans include Microsoft 365 Apps alongside additional cloud-based services, features, and workloads such as Microsoft Loop, Microsoft Exchange Online, Microsoft SharePoint Online, Microsoft Defender threat protection, and more—to help users stay secure and productive from virtually anywhere. Learn more about Microsoft 365 service plans: [Microsoft 365 and Office 365 platform service description - Service Descriptions](#).

6. What support will come with the next perpetual version of Office for commercial users?

Office LTSC 2024 will have 5 years of support under the [Fixed Lifecycle Policy](#).

7. Why is Microsoft launching Office LTSC 2024 when it has shifted its strategy to the cloud?

Our cloud-powered services offer faster innovation, flexible resources, and economies of scale. However, we recognize that some customers cannot move all their devices and users to the cloud in the near term – or perhaps ever. We want to support all our customers on their journey to the cloud at the pace that makes the most sense to them while continuing to recognize that some customers may require a different approach.

8. What is the on-premises version of Office currently in the market?

Office LTSC 2024 is the current on-premises release of Office for commercial customers, and Office 2024 is the current on-premises version for consumer customers.

9. When will Office LTSC 2024 be generally available?

Office LTSC 2024 will be generally available to all VL and CSP customers on October 1, 2024. It was made available to existing customers with an Enterprise agreement or entitled to the next version through pre existing Software Assurance on September 18, 2024.

10. Are there any changes to the licensing or use rights for Office LTSC 2024?

No. The licensing and use rights for Office LTSC 2024 will be the same as for Office LTSC 2021.

11. Who is the target audience for Office LTSC 2024?

Like Windows LTSC, Office LTSC 2024 is designed for devices and scenarios where the key requirement is (a) that functionality and features don't change over time or (b) total disconnection from the internet – or both. These may include medical systems, industrial process controllers, or air traffic control devices. For this reason, both Windows LTSC and Office LTSC are governed by the [Fixed Lifecycle Policy](#).

12. My customer has privacy concerns, is Office LTSC 2024 the right choice for them?

The Software Assurance upgrade path does not change for Office LTSC. Customers under Software Assurance have rights to Office LTSC, including Office LTSC Standard and Office LTSC Professional Plus.

Office LTSC 2024 is designed for devices and scenarios where the key requirement is (a) that functionality and features don't change over time or (b) total disconnection from the internet – or both. If customers believe transitioning to Office LTSC 2024 would be a way to mitigate concerns around how diagnostic data is sent to Microsoft and/or to limit the use of connected experiences that send information to Microsoft for processing, they should know Microsoft 365 offers [privacy controls](#) that address these concerns.

Customers can use Microsoft 365 privacy controls to lock down diagnostic data and connected experiences based on local requirements and review how Microsoft processes information on a customer's behalf. As they become more comfortable with processor-based services, they can reenabling diagnostic data and connected experiences at that time. This approach allows customers to reap most of the benefits of using Microsoft 365 while addressing local privacy concerns.

13. My customer has a scenario (e.g., a computer lab) that needs device-based licensing. Is Office LTSC 2024 the right choice for them?

Office LTSC 2024 is designed for devices and scenarios where the key requirement is (a) that functionality and features don't change over time or (b) total disconnection from the internet – or both. Customers looking to Office LTSC 2024 for device-based licensing should be aware that this type of licensing is also available for Microsoft 365. For more information, see:

- [INTERNAL Microsoft 365 Apps device-based subscription FAQ](#)
- [Microsoft 365 Apps device-based subscription Customer Presentation](#)
- [Device-based licensing for Microsoft 365 Apps for enterprise](#)

14. My customer has a scenario (e.g., a submarine) that requires the ability to remain disconnected for long periods of time. Is Office LTSC 2024 the right choice for them?

Office LTSC 2024 is designed for devices and scenarios where the key requirement is (a) that functionality and features don't change over time, (b) total disconnection from the internet – or both. Customers looking to use Office LTSC 2024 for infrequently connected scenarios should be aware that Microsoft 365 offers an option for extended offline access. For more information, see:

- [INTERNAL Microsoft 365 Apps device-based subscription FAQ](#)
- [Microsoft 365 Apps device-based subscription Customer Presentation](#)
- [Device-based licensing for Microsoft 365 Apps for enterprise](#)

15. Where can I find more information about Office LTSC 2024?

- Public announcement: [Office LTSC 2024 is now available](#)
- Additional field resources: [Office Perpetual and Office End of Support \(seismic.com\)](#)
- Guidance for IT Admins: [Overview of Office LTSC 2024 - Office | Microsoft Learn](#)