

Windows 10 Pro for Workstations

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Customer Questions and Answers

Q. What are the key features of the new Windows 10 Pro for Workstations edition?

Windows 10 Pro for Workstations introduces new features to leverage the power of high-end PC hardware.

- **ReFS (Resilient file system):** ReFS provides cloud-grade resiliency for data on fault-tolerant storage spaces and manages very large volumes with ease. ReFS is designed to be resilient to data corruption, optimized for handling large data volumes, auto-correcting and more. It protects your data with integrity streams on your mirrored storage spaces. Using its integrity streams, ReFS detects when data becomes corrupt on one of the mirrored drives and uses a healthy copy of your data on the other drive to correct and protect your critical data.
- **Persistent memory:** Windows 10 Pro for Workstations provides the most demanding apps and data with the performance they require with non-volatile memory modules (NVDIMM-N) hardware. NVDIMM-N enables you to read and write your files with the fastest speed possible, i.e. the speed of the computer's main memory. Because NVDIMM-N is non-volatile memory, your files will still be there, even when you switch your workstation off.
- **Faster file sharing:** Windows 10 Pro for Workstations includes a feature called SMB Direct, which supports the use of network adapters that have Remote Direct Memory Access (RDMA) capability. Network adapters that have RDMA can function at full speed with very low latency, while using very little CPU. For applications that access large datasets on remote SMB file shares, this feature enables:
 - Increased throughput: Leverages the full throughput of high speed networks where the network adapters coordinate the transfer of large amounts of data at line speed.
 - Low latency: Provides extremely fast responses to network requests, and, as a result, makes remote file storage feel as if it is directly attached storage.
 - Low CPU utilization: Uses fewer CPU cycles when transferring data over the network, which leaves more power available to other applications running on the system.
- **Expanded hardware support:** One of the top pain points expressed by our Windows Insiders was the limits on taking advantage of the raw power of their machine. Hence, we are expanding hardware support in Windows 10 Pro for Workstations. Users will now be able to run Windows 10 Pro for Workstations on devices with high performance configurations including server grade Intel Xeon or AMD Opteron processors, with up to 4 CPUs (today limited to 2 CPUs) and add massive memory up to 6TB (today limited to 2TB).

Q. What are the device requirements to run Windows 10 Pro for Workstations?

The minimum device specifications for Windows 10 Pro for Workstations are the same as Windows 10 Pro; however, certain features in Windows 10 Pro for Workstations do require additional hardware. Persistent memory requires NVDIMM-N compatible hardware, ADR-enabled chipset and compliant UEFI; faster file transfer through SMB Direct requires RDMA capable network adapters on both endpoints of the connection: client/device and server.

Q. How can customers get Windows 10 Pro for Workstations?

Windows 10 Pro for Workstations will be available for OEMs to pre-install on PCs shipped after the release of the Fall Creators Update, which is currently planned for Fall of 2017. Windows 10 Pro for Workstations will also be available in the Windows Store as an upgrade from Windows 10 Home and Windows 10 Pro following the release of Fall Creators update.

Q. When can customers expect Intel Xeon/AMD Opteron processor based PCs to be pre-installed with the Windows 10 Pro for Workstations edition?

Windows 10 Pro for Workstations is part of our Fall Creators Update and will be available on new PCs as soon as the OEMs start installing the new release on their shipments. Depending on software image refresh schedules and manufacturing lead-times for individual OEMs, the transition to pre-installed Windows 10 Pro for Workstations could take up to 180 days after the release of Fall Creators Update.

Q. What is the licensing policy of Windows 10 Pro for Workstations? Are OEMs required to pre-install the Windows 10 Pro for Workstations edition on all Intel Xeon/AMD Opteron processors?

Starting October 1, 2017, Windows 10 Pro for Workstations is the only edition of Windows 10 available for OEMs to license as a pre-install on their Intel Xeon/AMD Opteron processors based PCs. Intel Core i, Pentium, Celeron and equivalent processor based PCs can continue to be pre-installed with Windows 10 Pro.

Q. Does this licensing policy apply to all OEMs?

Yes, all OEMs, worldwide, are required to comply with the licensing policy for Windows 10 Pro for Workstations under their OEM agreement with Microsoft.

Q. How will Windows 10 Pro for Workstations be licensed? Per device or per user?

Windows 10 Pro for Workstations will be licensed per device.

Q. Will Windows 10 Pro customers who are on Intel Xeon/AMD Opteron processors based PCs be upgraded to Windows 10 Pro for Workstations?

Customers who have an Intel Xeon/AMD Opteron processor based PC from OEMs that is manufactured after October 1, 2017, may be entitled to an upgrade to Windows 10 Pro for Workstations, even if their PCs came pre-installed with Windows 10 Pro due to OEM lead times in transitioning to Fall Creators Update. Following the release of Fall Creators update, these customers will be upgraded to Windows 10 Pro for Workstations upon accepting the Fall Creators Update through Windows Update or other mechanism used in the end-users' IT environment for delivering updates to Windows devices.

Q. Does Windows 10 for Workstations cost more than Windows 10 Pro? Why?

Yes, Windows 10 Pro for Workstations will be priced higher than Windows 10 Home or Windows 10 Pro. Windows 10 Pro for Workstations has more features compared to Windows 10 Pro, as stated above. Microsoft invests significant R&D effort in ensuring that Windows efficiently scales across all the cores packaged in advanced, high-core density processors, such as Intel Xeon/AMD Opteron. Our customers benefit from these R&D investments and the comprehensive testing that we carry out for supporting new generations of silicon on our operating system.

Q. How much will Windows 10 Pro for Workstations cost?

For customers who are interested in buying a retail copy of Windows 10 Pro for Workstations, we will provide an upgrade from Windows 10 Home and Windows 10 Pro through Windows Store, following the release of the Fall Creators Update. The upgrade from Windows 10 Home to Windows 10 Pro for Workstations is expected to cost ~\$205 and upgrade from Windows 10 Pro to Windows 10 Pro for Workstations is expected to cost ~\$125. Pricing is tentative and subject to change till product launch.

For customers looking to purchase an Intel Xeon/AMD Opteron processor based PC with Windows 10 Pro for Workstations pre-installed, please contact your OEM for a device price quote.

Q. For any Intel Xeon/AMD Opteron processor based PCs pre-installed with Windows 10 Pro for Workstations, will the cost of the PC increase?

Starting October 1, 2017, Windows 10 Pro for Workstations is the only edition available for OEMs to license as a pre-install on their Intel Xeon/AMD Opteron processors based PCs. The licensing costs for Windows 10 Pro for Workstations is higher than Windows 10 Pro. OEMs set their PC prices based on software costs, which includes the operating system, and hardware component costs. For specifics on PC pricing, please contact your OEM directly.

Q. Will Volume Licensing customers have access to Windows 10 Pro for Workstations?

Currently Windows 10 Pro for Workstations is not available as a standalone Volume Licensing product. All Windows 10 Pro for Workstations edition features are included in Windows 10 Enterprise, which our VL customers already have access to.

Q. Is Windows 10 Pro for Workstations a Qualifying Operating System (QOS) for VL?

Yes, Windows 10 Pro for Workstations will be the QOS (Qualifying OS) for Volume Licensing customers purchasing Intel Xeon/AMD Opteron processors based PCs from OEMs.

Q. Why is it required for VL customers to get Windows 10 Pro for Workstations pre-installed on Intel Xeon/AMD Opteron based PCs when they will re-image these PCs with their Windows 10 Enterprise images anyways?

While Windows 10 Enterprise includes all the capabilities of Windows 10 Pro for Workstations, the rights to use those capabilities and Windows 10 on Intel Xeon/AMD Opteron processors based PCs is provided through the license of Windows 10 Pro for Workstations. Since we have made Windows 10 Pro for Workstations a QOS, VL customers can upgrade from Windows 10 Pro for Workstations to Windows 10 Enterprise without any loss of functionality. To be properly licensed for using Windows 10 Enterprise on Intel Xeon/AMD Opteron based PCs, a base license of Windows 10 Pro for Workstations is required.