

BYOL Licensing Terms

	Windows Server	SQL Server (PaaS)
Editions / versions	SE, DC cpu & core licenses entitle for <i>any</i> cloud edition/version	SE / EE core licenses entitle for respective cloud service tiers (GP/HS, BC)
Software assurance needed?	+	+
90-days binding to Azure?	+	+
License model change?	+	-
Migration period	180 days	180 days
Restrictions	Min. 8 core licenses per VM	-
Dual use rights	DC: 1 cpu or 8 core lic. → 8 Azure cores	-
Dedicated hosts?	Yes ... there are 2 options: Licensing the <i>virtual</i> layer → works like <i>shared host</i> licensing Licensing the <i>host</i> layer → unlim. virtualiz. with DC/EE (no <i>dual</i> use rights)	

Recommendations



1. Assess needs and define strategy

- Software products – Wind Server & SQL Server ENT/STD
- BYOL eligibility - Software Assurance and License Mobility
- Price check – Pay per use vs BYOL



2. Optimize on Hardware level

- VM type – general purpose, hyperscale, business-critical
- Consider cores – right-size on compute, storage, networking for max. efficiency
- Consider regions – cost vs latency
- Dedicated vs shared host – license terms



3. Optimize on Software level

- Idle/zombie VMs – reassign BYOL to active VMs
- Reserved instances – match RI with BYOL
- License reassignment – consider the 90 days rule



4. Ongoing tracking and governance

- Collaborate across teams (SAM, Devs, etc.)
- Know your available licenses and exp/ren dates
- Track costs regularly (HW vs SW+SA)
- Track VMs with AHB and utilization rate
- BYOL distribution by cost center/regions
- Know your compliance position