aws marketplace

Windows Server

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users

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Product Recap

Windows Server

Windows Server Recap

Windows Server offers enterprise-grade solutions with Active Directory, Hyper-V, and Azure integration. Known for its user-friendliness and stability, it is ideal for hosting applications and managing domains, promising scalability and seamless network management across environments.

Windows Server is integral for businesses needing reliable infrastructure for server virtualization and enterprise application deployment. It excels in integrating with Microsoft applications, providing robust support for database hosting, Active Directory management, and remote access. Users benefit from its comprehensive features supporting intense workloads, virtual setups, and efficient domain management. However, it could improve its port security, vulnerability monitoring, and interface intuitiveness. Pricing models also require adjustments to be competitive, and better integration with Linux would enhance system compatibility. Regular updates can impact stability, and the command-line interface could be more efficient compared to Linux.

What are Windows Server's key features?

- Active Directory: Facilitates user and resource management.
- Hyper-V: Enables server virtualization for enhanced efficiency.
- Azure Integration: Connects with cloud services for scalability.
- Work Folder Synchronization: Supports seamless data access across devices.
- Security: Offers robust measures for protecting enterprise data.

What benefits should users look for?

- Ease of Use: Intuitive design simplifies administration.
- Stability: Reliable performance across demanding environments.
- Integration: Seamlessly connects with Microsoft services.
- Scalability: Grows alongside business needs.

Windows Server is implemented across industries for virtual server hosting, enterprise application deployment, and managing complex IT infrastructures. Organizations use it for database hosting, Active Directory management, and leveraging Microsoft's ecosystem, supporting backend operations and enhancing communication security.

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Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:

- "Windows Server has helped maintain a more secure and efficient IT environment by enabling centralized management of user permissions and security settings, reducing administrative effort, saving time, and allowing employees to quickly access the resources they need while IT can manage systems from a single platform."

  Validated user
  IT at a retailer with 11-50 employees

- "Several years of improvements have been made to the software itself."

  Gustavo Schleider
  Manager, Information & Cloud Systems at a consultancy with 1,001-5,000 employees

- "Hyper-V has affected our resource utilization and hardware costs, and we use it extensively."

  Gardar Thorvardsson
  Managing Director at Kvikna - where software is born

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"What suits me the most is that for all my OT environment, I can manage all those devices in one secure portal from Microsoft."

Steven Warlop

Service Delivery Manager at Centric Infrastructure Solutions

"Overall, I am quite happy with my experience using Windows Server."

Jai Prakash Sharma

Executive Vice President Technology at InfoEdge India Ltd

"The Active Directory integration helps my organization manage permissions and maintain security policies effectively."

AndreyKolmakov

Sys admin at a transportation company with 10,001+ employees

"Network configuration and management in Windows Server is very easy, providing fast deployment, plug and play capability, and simplified partition creation."

VIJAY RAGAVAN

Team Manager at Waters Corporation

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What users had to say about valuable features:

"The best features of Windows Server are that it works and gives us everything we need to share files and set security permissions. It is done effectively in terms of the NTFS permissions. I can base them on AD security groups.

I have utilized the Active Directory integration in Windows Server for identity management, and they are on a domain.."

AndreyKolmakov
Sys admin at a transportation company with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

"Windows Server does what we need it to do, and security settings can be configured appropriately.

"Hyper-V has affected our resource utilization and hardware costs, and we use it extensively.."

Gardar Thorvardsson
Managing Director at Kvikna - where software is born

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"The best features of Windows Server include the interface. The interface is so easy and friendly. I know the Linux environment, but I think the user interface of Windows Server is the best.

Our customers use the Active Directory integration in Windows Server, and our application connects to this Active Directory.."

JUAN CARLOS ZAMBRANO IBERICO
Consulting Manager at Angkor Group SAC

Read full review

"I think the agentless monitoring for Microsoft Defender for IoT is suitable for me.

"The automated threat intelligence sharing feature helped me in updating security posture on emerging threats because that was what I had expected from it.

"It helped because before, it was not so easy to maintain an IoT environment apart from the rest. Now we could have a more dedicated overview for IoT.."

Steven Warlop
Service Delivery Manager at Centric Infrastructure Solutions

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"From my personal perspective, the most beneficial functions and features of Windows Server are predominantly its services for Active Directory, as well as its support for SQL Server and any .NET or ASP.NET applications that we have hosted using the IIS server.

"Windows Server helps with our data protection strategies through Microsoft security services. On top of Microsoft Server, we have to use certain third-party applications; while Microsoft server services provide good host-level security, external application level security often requires additional third-party solutions.."

Jai Prakash Sharma
Executive Vice President Technology at InfoEdge India Ltd

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"The best features of Windows Server are Active Directory Group Policy, centralized management, security controls, and seamless integration with other Microsoft services. These features simplify administration and improve security.

"Centralized management helps me administer user computers and policies from a single location instead of configuring each device individually. For example, when a new employee joins, I can create their account in Active Directory, assign the required permissions, and apply security policy through group policy in just a few minutes. Security controls improve protection by enforcing password policy, account lockout settings, and access across the organization. This reduces the risk of unauthorized access and ensures compliance with company security standards. Another valuable feature is the integration between Windows Server Active Directory and Microsoft services, which simplifies user management and troubleshooting while maintaining a secure and reliable IT environment.

"Windows Server has had a significant positive impact on my organization by improving IT efficiency, security, and user management. Active Directory and Group Policy allow me to centrally manage user permissions and security settings, which reduces administrative effort and saves time. From a security perspective, features such as password policies, access control, and account management help protect company resources and reduce the risk of unauthorized access. In terms of productivity, employees can quickly access the resources they need while the IT team can deploy changes, troubleshoot issues, and manage systems from a centralized platform. Overall, Windows Server has helped maintain a more secure and efficient IT environment.."

Validated user

IT at a retailer with 11-50 employees

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Other Solutions Considered

"Windows Server has been the primary server platform used in my organization during my time. Therefore, I have not been directly involved in a migration from another server solution.."

Validated user
IT at a retailer with 11-50 employees

Read full review

"I assess the impact of Hyper-V technology on our resource utilization and hardware costs as very attractive after Broadcom killed VMware for small companies. That's why I'm looking at other technologies and what people say about them.."

AndreyKolmakov
Sys admin at a transportation company with 10,001+ employees

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"I was not directly involved in the evaluation process, but alternatives such as Linux-based server solutions were likely considered. Windows Server was chosen because of its Active Directory integration, centralized management, security features, and compatibility with the Microsoft environment.."

Validated user
IT at a retailer with 11-50 employees

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"I am looking for something else because I am not satisfied with my current solution.

"I am generally satisfied, but now it is getting outdated and not suitable anymore, though it is an old model.."

Gardar Thorvardsson
Managing Director at Kvikna - where software is born

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"I am familiar with Hyper-V technology but I tested it some years ago. I am currently using Oracle VM VirtualBox, and the other option is VMware.

I am referring to Hyper-V technology within Windows Server.."

JUAN CARLOS ZAMBRANO IBERICO
Consulting Manager at Angkor Group SAC

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"I am looking for a new solution for a NAS.

"I do not have experience with Dell PowerStore or TrueNAS X-Series. I have limited experience with an old Synology. I am currently considering TrueNAS and Dell PowerScale. Pure Storage might be considered but will likely not be selected.."

Gardar Thorvardsson
Managing Director at Kvikna - where software is born

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ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

I get the features I am looking for from the price, despite it being a bit expensive. I benefit from Microsoft 365, Azure, and the features and services I need.

Mustafa Farhat
Systems technician. IT Office at LNU

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"Windows Server offers excellent value for money, particularly when compared to alternatives. Despite price increases, it remains a cost-effective choice.."

Dan Campeanu
Security Engineer at ProVision

Read full review

We calculate ROIs for several solutions, including Windows Server, and propose the results to our customers to convince them why they should upgrade. Our company manufactures both hardware and software, and we use our previous experiences for these calculations to maximize the utilization of resources available.

VIJAY RAGAVAN
Team Manager at Waters Corporation

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"It's easy to get support. It's well known, so we can find answers anywhere. The tool supports many applications. It's simple. It's not cheap, but it works. The ROI is pretty good.."

Neill-Walker
Agile Consultant at MSOLdigi

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"Working with Windows Server does save me time and money. The return on investment is evident as having efficient resources to manage our infrastructure means we are less dependent on costly external support from Microsoft. An in-house team can manage things quite efficiently without needing additional assistance.

"In terms of ROI, it saves us roughly 10 to 20% in terms of time and resources.."

Jai Prakash Sharma
Executive Vice President Technology at InfoEdge India Ltd

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"I have seen a positive return on investment for Windows Server. One clear example is the time saved through centralized management with Active Directory and Group Policy. Tasks such as user provisioning, permission management, and policy deployment that required manual configuration can now be completed much faster. I have also seen a reduction in access-related support requests because security policies and permissions are managed centrally. While Windows Server has not necessarily reduced the number of IT employees required, it has enabled the IT team to support more users and systems effectively without needing additional staff. Overall, the gains in productivity, security, and operational efficiency have provided a strong return on investment.."

Validated user

IT at a retailer with 11-50 employees

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Use Case

I use Windows Server to run our IT infrastructure. Almost everything is located on Windows Server, including our SQL database, our system, web server, and virtualization via Hyper-V.

Mustafa Farhat
Systems technician. IT Office at LNU

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"Windows Server serves the primary use case of Active Directory administrator, user and groups management, file and print service, management service, maintenance, and IT infrastructure support.."

Validated user
IT at a retailer with 11-50 employees

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"At the office, the main use case for Windows Server involves different functions, for example, file server or firewall and the IIS server, Microsoft Internet Server, Internet Information Services. Basically, we use it as a file server for other applications on the server.."

JUAN CARLOS ZAMBRANO IBERICO
Consulting Manager at Angkor Group SAC

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"The main use cases for Windows Server involve file sharing, such as file server and network shares. We are not a big organization using Windows Server. We are in the transportation industry, and we have a data center. We have approximately 15 servers and 50 machines, some of them are virtual.."

AndreyKolmakov
Sys admin at a transportation company with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

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"My purpose for using Windows Server is mostly for Microsoft workloads, which includes ERP, NAV, NAVISION, and for 365 Dynamics, as we have recently migrated to 365 Dynamics from an on-prem Microsoft Dynamics solution. We utilize Active Directory, Windows Server for MS SQL Server, and SharePoint, and we are already a customer for Azure cloud as well.."

Jai Prakash Sharma
Executive Vice President Technology at InfoEdge India Ltd

Read full review

"I administer Windows Server. We have Windows 10 and are migrating to Windows 11 under my organization. The people who work with me are handling the migration right now.

We have several servers, most of them Windows Server. We have a couple of Linux servers, but most of our servers are Windows Server. We maintain the normal infrastructure, including domain controller. We still have a file server and other specific servers. We have an Exchange Server that is only for hybrid purposes as we use Exchange Online. For specific tasks, we need a server to be managed. ."

Gustavo Schleider
Manager, Information & Cloud Systems at a consultancy with 1,001-5,000 employees

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Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

The initial setup process for Windows Server is very straightforward and easy. There is plenty of documentation and tutorials available online to aid in the setup.

Khalid Mgahed

System Engineer at Alnajat charity

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"I haven't done any initial setup on it. Whatever we are getting from our vendor, I'm using the same application. We don't have access to install and setup.."

NirajSingh

Relationship Manager at Cognizant

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"The initial setup of Windows Server is straightforward in my opinion. It comes with lots of features or things by default. It's already set up with a certain level of security and other things that require hardening based on our company policies, but it's straightforward. It's doing its job and comes ready to continue the setup.."

AndreyKolmakov Read full review

Sys admin at a transportation company with 10,001+ employees

"My experience with Windows Server pricing, setup cost, and licensing has been positive overall, although licensing can sometimes be complex to understand and manage. The initial investment for server hardware, Windows Server licenses, and client access licenses can be significant for growing organizations. The main challenge is understanding license requirements and selecting the most cost-effective licensing model for the organization's needs. A clearer licensing and pricing structure would make planning easier for IT teams.."

Validated user Read full review

IT at a retailer with 11-50 employees

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"When it comes to the implementation and configuration, it is straightforward for Windows Server.

"You find easily guidelines and technical documents on how to configure and what to configure.."

Steven Warlop

Service Delivery Manager at Centric Infrastructure Solutions

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"The setup complexity depends on your training. You need to understand what you're doing. I've seen many people trying to set up Windows Server as if it were Windows desktop. They don't properly manage permissions or understand the difference between local permissions and domain permissions. If you are properly trained and understand how permissions work, then setting up Windows Server isn't problematic. The installation itself is simple, as they have improved it significantly. However, the challenge lies in knowing which services, roles, and features to add afterward. Training is essential for these aspects.."

Gustavo Schleider

Manager, Information & Cloud Systems at a consultancy with 1,001-5,000 employees

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Customer Service and Support

Support is okay, but sometimes it takes time to get assistance unless it is opened as a security issue. I would rate Microsoft tech support seven out of ten.

Validated user
AVP at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

Read full review

"I have not dealt with Microsoft customer service or technical support directly. My colleague worked with them, and they were available and helped fix the issue. It worked.."

AndreyKolmakov
Sys admin at a transportation company with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

I had one experience with Microsoft's technical support, which was very good. I would rate them nine or ten. I don't have extensive experience with IT support because I don't often need it. Most issues can be resolved through public websites and forums. When I had an issue with Hyper-V, the support was excellent.

Mustafa Farhat
Systems technician. IT Office at LNU

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"I have not used their technical support much at all, and it is usually difficult to reach the right personnel.

"The first level support is not adequate and requires significant time.."

Gardar Thorvardsson
Managing Director at Kvikna - where software is born

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"The technical support from Microsoft is one of the best, though there can be challenges when it comes to priority zero or critical issues, where the queue can be longer.

"If I were to rate Microsoft support from one to ten, I would rate it around eight to eight plus.."

Jai Prakash Sharma
Executive Vice President Technology at InfoEdge India Ltd

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"Overall, I would rate Microsoft support for Windows Server as good. While I have not frequently needed to open support cases with Microsoft directly, I have relied on Microsoft documentation, knowledge-base articles, community forums, and technical resources for troubleshooting and best practices. For more complex issues, direct Microsoft support can be valuable because of their deep product expertise. However, response times and issue resolution can vary depending on the complexity of the problem and the support plan in place. Overall, the combination of official documentation, community knowledge, and Microsoft support provides strong support for Windows Server administrators.."

Validated user

IT at a retailer with 11-50 employees

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Other Advice

“My advice would be to clearly understand your organization's requirements before deploying Windows Server and to invest time in learning core technologies such as Active Directory, Group Policy, DNS, and security management. Proper planning, documentation, and regular maintenance are key to a successful deployment. I would also recommend implementing strong security policies, keeping systems updated, and monitoring server health proactively. Taking advantage of centralized management features can reduce administrative effort and improve consistency across the environment. For organizations already using Microsoft technology, Windows Server offers excellent integration, reliability, and security. When properly configured and maintained, it can provide a stable and efficient foundation for business operations. Overall, Windows Server is a mature and dependable platform that can support organizations of all sizes, from small businesses to large enterprises. I would rate this product a 9 out of 10..”

Validated user
IT at a retailer with 11-50 employees

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"I have also been dealing with Windows Server.

"I have been dealing with Windows Server from the beginning of the 2000s until now.

"I have utilized Active Directory integration in Windows Server for identity management.

"It goes rather fine to manage permissions and maintain security policies in Windows Server.

"I think Windows Server is the best on the market for the moment regarding their competition. I would rate this product an eight overall.."

Steven Warlop
Service Delivery Manager at Centric Infrastructure Solutions

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"Maintenance of Windows Server varies by organization, but for us, it's not very difficult as we have in-house resources managing these tasks. However, it can become a bit tricky when we want to see a collated view of our security posture.

"Regarding AI integrations with Windows Server, Copilot adoption is progressing, though I have only experienced it on endpoints and not on the server side. We operate significant workloads on AI, but we consume those primarily on Linux rather than Windows Server.

"I don't have much experience regarding integration capabilities in Windows Server for AI workloads, so I may not be the right person to provide insights on that.

"Overall, I am quite happy with my experience using Windows Server. I don't have many constraints or concerns, so I would rate it eight out of ten.."

Jai Prakash Sharma
Executive Vice President Technology at InfoEdge India Ltd

Read full review

"I do not have experience with Azure products or Citrix. I'm getting to know what other people are saying about the product.

I do not deal with any other types of products such as Cisco, Fortinet, Palo Alto, or testing tools. I just work with Windows Server.

I do not deal with other products such as Windows Server AppFabric or WSUS, Windows Server Update Services. It's an old-style pure server, on-premises, physical.

I use patch management, such as the update services. We do have it, but it's not me who's taking care of it.

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I see lots of new features that Microsoft brings into Windows Server 2025. I understand it's not ready for a general release yet. It's definitely very interesting with the new features and focused a lot on the cloud part of it, so it's something to explore.

I can't say which specific feature I'm most looking forward to seeing since I don't deal with cloud. I don't have it in my environment, but I'm trying to learn it. I'm keeping up with my reading about it, so once I have a better understanding, maybe we can try something.

I am still a system administrator with TFI International.

On a scale of 1-10, I rate Windows Server a 9.."

AndreyKolmakov
Sys admin at a transportation company with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

"We are a Lenovo administrator and purchased a Lenovo server five or six years ago.

In the company, we have five servers with Windows Server and we are users of Microsoft 365, and we use other Microsoft Office software.

The main cloud provider for Windows Server is Nexus.

Some customers use enterprise version, while others are standard version users.

We have services for other companies in different business sectors including finance, education, and manufacturing.

We are not managing the Active Directory services; we are just users for this security. Our application connects to the customer's Active Directory and validates

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credentials with this service.

We have Windows Defender on laptops without needing any other tools.

We have sensitive information at our organization, and we maintain a backup on Amazon for this information.

For documentation, I find resources on the internet, YouTube, and Microsoft Docs, as there is extensive information available online.

I receive help from colleagues in the office, as some collaborators and employees manage this information and administration.

My company acts as resellers for Microsoft. For selling licenses for Windows Server or other Microsoft products, we contact Nexus, which is the big partner for Microsoft.

I would rate Windows Server eight out of ten.."

JUAN CARLOS ZAMBRANO IBERICO
Consulting Manager at Angkor Group SAC

Read full review

"I am not dealing with any Dell products in my system.

"I have not worked with any all-flash storage arrays before, only with Synology.

"My experience with Windows Server is fairly nice.

"We will stay with Microsoft solutions.

"I have been working with Microsoft, specifically with Windows Server and others, more on the programming side than on the system admin side, for 20 to 30 years. Windows Server is one of the two best options in the market. Either Linux or

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Windows Server is used, but if your software uses Windows, there are no alternatives.

"I have faced some problems with Windows Server over many years of use, but they are typically solvable.

"We have been a customer and partner of Microsoft, as we have been part of the Microsoft Partner Program.

"I have not used Windows containers and Kubernetes for deploying cloud-native applications.

"I would rate Windows Server 8 out of 10.."

Gardar Thorvardsson
Managing Director at Kvikna - where software is born

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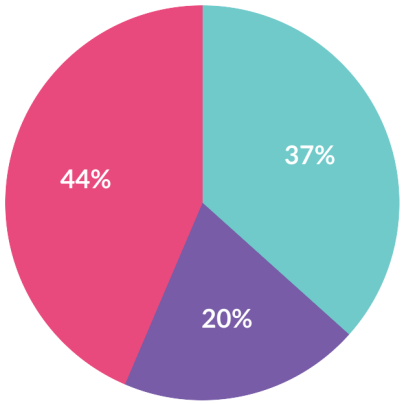
Company Size

by reviewers



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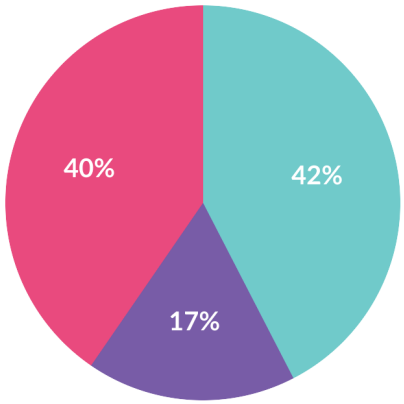

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