

# Intel® Data Center Systems (Intel® DCS) for HCI,

certified for Microsoft Azure Stack Hyper-Converged Infrastructure (ASHCI),  
optimized for Storage Spaces Direct (S2D), Software-Defined Storage (SDS)

## Accelerate Your Path to the Cloud with Software-Defined Storage (SDS) and Intel® DCS for HCI, certified for Microsoft ASHCI



### Intel® Data Center Systems for HCI

**Certified Intel® Data Center Systems offerings** save time and money, freeing up resources to focus on value-add and competitive differentiation.

**Simplify SDI market access** with systems designed for Storage Spaces Direct.

**Unbranded systems** allow resellers to incorporate products into their branded portfolios.

**Intel quality and reliability** with world-class integration, validation, certification and support.

**Includes standard Intel 3-year warranty** with 5-year warranty options available to ensure customer satisfaction.

**Intel® Data Center Systems** are workload-optimized and verified reference architectures, and provide resellers a simplified path to marketing program participation.

Modern enterprises require more scalable, reliable, and secure data and cloud infrastructures. Today's cloud infrastructures are often critical for the improved performance of business applications, but can prove expensive, siloed, and challenging to scale. If you're planning to refresh aging hardware, consolidate virtualized workloads, and connect to Microsoft Azure for hybrid cloud services, then Microsoft Azure Stack Hyper-Converged Infrastructure (ASHCI) is the right choice for you.

Microsoft ASHCI is a hybrid cloud solution built on Intel partner hardware that includes virtualization (Hyper-V), software-defined storage (Storage Spaces Direct), and software-defined networking. It also has the flexibility of optional OS-integrated Azure services, such as offsite backup, site recovery, cloud-based monitoring, and more. Because it's a Microsoft-validated solution, you can get up and running without lengthy design and build times.

To help you with this transformation, Intel and Microsoft have collaborated across the areas of compute, storage, networking, and security to deliver server system configurations that optimize the features and performance of Microsoft ASHCI and help you accelerate the path to multi/hybrid-cloud.

### Optimized, Integrated and Validated Systems Speed Transition to Cloud

Overcome barriers to software-defined storage (SDS) with optimized, integrated, and validated systems that speed the transition to multi/hybrid cloud deployments for more rapid time-to-market. Working closely together, Microsoft and Intel optimized the features and performance of Microsoft ASHCI (including Windows Server), including taking advantage of the latest 4th Generation Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors, featured in the Intel® Server M50FCP Family. These optimizations help you get the most out of Windows Server 2022 features, such as Storage Spaces Direct (S2D), Hyper-V, Software Defined Networking (SDN), and Windows Admin Center (WAC).

The Intel® DCS for HCI, certified for Microsoft ASHCI is tailored for high-performance computing, hyper-converged architecture, and storage scenarios requiring outstanding performance. Available in All-Flash (SSD – both SATA and NVMe SSDs available) and Hybrid

(combined SSD and HDD) storage configurations, these systems offer partners the flexibility to build innovative, cost-effective solutions more quickly and efficiently.

With Microsoft's Windows Server 2022 Datacenter license, you get a complete, virtualized software-defined hybrid cloud data center. Microsoft Azure services are OS-integrated and part of a validated ASHCI solution, where you can move to the cloud seamlessly and quickly take advantage of Azure Backup, Azure Site Recovery, cloud witness, Azure Monitor, Azure Arc, and Update Management at any time.

Microsoft also has validated ASHCI with the most popular workloads. Whether you're running a production workload, branch office and edge, VDI, SQL Server, enterprise virtualization, or scale-out storage environment, you can be confident that your ASHCI solution's configuration has been optimized, validated, and certified with Intel and Microsoft.

### Simplified Management with Windows Admin Center

Intel® DCS for HCI, certified for Microsoft ASHCI embraces Windows Admin Center (WAC), available in Windows Server 2022. Windows Admin Center is a free browser-based app that allows you to manage and monitor all your Windows Server environments, HCI, and hybrid cloud from a single GUI console. You can use it anywhere: on-premises, in Azure, or in the cloud. Windows Admin Center streamlines management and provides extensive visibility for VMs, Storage Spaces Direct volumes, SDN, Azure services, and more. Also, it offers the flexibility to manage hyper-converged infrastructure scenarios.

### Reduce Complexity, Improve ROI, and Accelerate Time-to-Market

Designing, testing, and certifying SDS solutions are costly and resource-intensive processes. By starting with a higher level of integration and certification, partners can reduce costs and accelerate time-to-market tailored for specific workloads. This approach gives you more flexibility and choice about where to invest R&D resources and ensure they remain competitive and drive differentiation in the market.

### A System with Intel Quality, Configured to Order

#### Smart Boards Ensure System Stability and Increased Uptime

Intel® Server Boards have more than 100 sensors built in that monitor all critical functions and use management capabilities to automatically flag problems before they impact business operations. Event logs and light-guided diagnostics also assist in rapid identification and issue remediation.

#### Breakthrough Performance

Intel® DCS for HCI, certified for Microsoft ASHCI offer a comprehensive, validated, and supported system, which accelerates cloud and software-defined storage

deployments. The latest Cloud Systems featuring Microsoft Windows Server 2022 enable an optimized solution incorporating enhanced security, networking, and memory technologies including Intel® Optane™ persistent memory.

Intel® DCS for Cloud server solutions are optimized for high-performance computing, hyper-converged infrastructure, and outstanding storage performance. 3rd Gen Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors accelerate virtualized storage with features such as Intel® Advanced Vector Extensions and Intel® Virtualization Technology, while the latest 4th Gen Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors deliver 53% average performance gain over the prior generation<sup>1</sup>. The integrated Random Direct Memory Access (RDMA) support further enhances S2D performance with up to 45% lower latency for application I/O, up to 50% more IOPs for application I/O and up to 40% fewer CPU cycles per I/O<sup>2</sup>.



### Cloud Data Center Specialist designation

To further help partners succeed, Intel® Technology Providers have an opportunity to qualify for Intel Technology Provider Cloud Data Center Specialist designation. Cloud Specialists have access to exclusive resources specifically designed to help streamline the delivery of cloud-optimized solutions. Specialist benefits include access to the Intel experts and engineering resources to assist Cloud Specialists as they identify exact customer requirements. Other benefits include access to valuable solutions guides and marketing content to help build customer value.

<https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/partner-alliance/membership/specialties/cloud/overview.html>

### Configure-to-Order

While Intel® DCS offerings feature validated and flexible configurations, each customer has unique workload needs, which is why resellers have the option to order a customized Intel® DCS through Intel's Configure-To-Order (CTO) program. CTO offers the flexibility for resellers to create Intel® DCS solutions that map to their specifications, drawing from a list of Intel-validated components.

### Intel Warranty Delivers Value and Confidence

Intel® DCS for HCI are backed by Intel's standard 3-year warranty from the date of purchase, with optional 5-year warranty plans available for select components.

Intel® DCS are also eligible for Advanced Warranty Replacement whereby Intel will send a replacement part

before the defective part is returned, reducing downtime and accelerating time to resolution.

Warranty details are available online at <https://www.intel.com/content/dam/support/us/en/documents/services/dcb-blocks-warranty-brief.pdf>

## Deploy with Confidence with Intel Quality, Reliability, Service, and Support

Intel servers aren't just packed with innovation—they all come with Intel's highly rated, comprehensive services and support package, delivering differentiating value to every stage of the server lifecycle—from pre-purchase and deployment to operations, management, and support.

You can take advantage of Intel's proven support and service, including a 3-year warranty (optional 5-year) and global technical support.

Intel® Data Center Systems are also easy to deploy and operate, with comprehensive documentation for integration, configuration, and management. All Intel Servers are fully integrated systems with options of configure-to-order CPU, memory, storage, and more.

## Engage with Intel Today

Intel continuously delivers leading-edge technologies to help resellers innovate and differentiate themselves in the market. Intel® DCS for HCI are designed to help partners realize a more accessible path to reliable SDI solutions. Contact your Intel sales representative or Intel authorized distributor for any inquiries.

## Additional Resources:

Detailed SKU configurations can be found at: <https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/products/details/servers/data-center-systems.html>

For more information on Intel® Server Products visit: <https://www.intel.com/serverproducts>

For more information on Intel® Data Center Systems visit: <https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/products/details/servers/data-center-systems.html>

Access a library of marketing assets by visiting the DSG Marketing Asset Library: <https://servermarketinglibrary.intel.com/>



1. See [G1] at [intel.com/processorclaims](https://www.intel.com/processorclaims): 4th Gen Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors. Results may vary.  
 2. Integrated Intel® Ethernet with iWARP RDMA networking efficiency source Intel/Microsoft. Improved efficiency, latency, IOPS, Windows Server 2016 Datacenter edition 14393.693, 4 server nodes, each using Intel® Server System S2600WFD, Integrated Intel® Ethernet x722 Dual port 10Gbps Ethernet\*, 2x Intel® Xeon® E5 6148v5 @2.4GHz, 20 cores, 384 GB DDR4-2133 DRAM, caching drives-2x Intel® SSD DC P3700 Series (1.6 TB), data drives-6x Intel® SSD DC P3500 Series (2 TB). Each node configured with 3.5TB data store, 20x A3 like VMs each containing 60GB OS virtual store and 60GB data virtual store, running 4x Disk speed 2.0.17 in each VM using 1 thread and 32 queues. Testing configurations include 4kB Random Reads, and 8kB Random 70/30 Read/Write workloads, each with RDMA enabled and RDMA disabled, each at Max Performance, and IOPS fixed per VM. This is a snapshot of network performance with current driver, firmware and silicon stepping. Intel continues to work on tuning the performance of integrated Intel Ethernet X722.  
 Performance varies by use, configuration, and other factors. Your costs and results may vary. Learn more at [www.intel.com/PerformanceIndex](https://www.intel.com/PerformanceIndex).  
 Performance results are based on testing as of dates shown in configurations and may not reflect all publicly available updates. See backup for configuration details. No product or component can be absolutely secure.  
 Intel technologies may require enabled hardware, software, or service activation. No product or component can be absolutely secure. All product plans and roadmaps are subject to change without notice.  
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## Reduce Risk of Counterfeit Parts with Intel® Transparent Supply Chain

Counterfeit electronic parts are a growing security concern across all organizations. These concerns have grown as supply chains have become increasingly complex, multi-layered, and global.

Current supply chain practices start with trusting the source, but processes are limited for screening out counterfeit components, particularly for products containing many subsystems.

Intel® Transparent Supply Chain helps partners and customers verify the authenticity and firmware version of servers and their components, through a set of tools, policies, and procedures. These verification steps, implemented on the factory floor at server manufacturers, enable enterprises to verify the authenticity and firmware version of systems and their components when systems arrive at their site.

This industry-leading approach helps:

- Provide component-level traceability and visibility
- Detect tampering of components and configuration state between stops
- Deliver fleet-level insights across suppliers

These and other safeguards combine to increase assurance and trust that the Intel servers you're purchasing and deploying are free of counterfeit components that could compromise your business or customers.

## Intel® Data Center Systems for HCI, certified for Microsoft Azure Stack HCI

Available on 4th Gen and 3rd Gen Intel® Xeon® Scalable processor-based platforms. Optimized for Storage Spaces Direct (S2D), designed with certified Windows Server ingredients, and validated by Intel.



For specific information on available configurations, please reach out to your Intel Sales representative, or Intel authorized distributor for any inquiries.