

Windows Storage Server 2012 Product Information

Windows Storage Server 2012 is built on the Windows Server 2012 operating system to provide a powerful, reliable, and cost-effective platform for network-attached storage appliances.

Windows Storage Server 2012 is an advanced storage and file-serving solution for organizations of any size, and it offers new levels of performance and reliability on a proven and reliable server platform.

Windows Storage Server 2012 is built on the Windows Server 2012 operating system to provide a platform for network-attached storage appliances. Windows Storage Server 2012 network-attached storage appliances can help reduce storage costs associated with building modern datacenters and private clouds.

Windows Storage Server 2012 delivers excellent economics for a shared storage solution by gaining leverage from industry-standard hardware matched with robust storage capabilities. It delivers continuous availability that is designed to protect organizations from a range of failures and to help prevent downtime, and it offers organizations a scalable and reliable solution.

Microsoft partners offer specialized hardware and additional pre-configured software components to create storage appliances that are designed to take advantage of Windows Storage Server 2012 capabilities.

Windows Storage Server 2012 innovations

Innovations in Windows Storage Server 2012 provide organizations with greater flexibility, availability, and reliability.

Flexible storage options

Aside from addressing core file-serving requirements, Windows Storage Server 2012 offers file-based shared storage for applications such as Microsoft Hyper-V, Microsoft SQL Server, and Windows Server 2012 Internet Information Services (IIS). Organizations can more easily deploy, manage, and provision application storage as they would with their file shares. Because Windows Storage Server 2012 uses the Server Message Block 3.0 protocol, organizations can achieve high performance—similar to that of some storage area network (SAN) devices—and high levels of availability on industry-standard hardware, to make file-based storage for server applications a powerful and cost-effective storage option. Windows Storage Server 2012 also includes support for the Network File System (NFS) file protocol and for a block storage option through the built-in Microsoft iSCSI Software Target.

Continuous availability

Windows Storage Server 2012 protects against a wide range of failures at different tiers of storage, network, and compute. Organizations of all sizes can benefit from higher levels of availability with transparent failover of applications and the ability to maintain clustered environments without service disruption.

Performance and reliability

Because Windows Storage Server 2012 uses hardware offload and multiple redundant paths from the server to the storage, it can deliver Fibre Channel SAN-like performance with better throughput. In addition, Windows Storage Server 2012 includes capabilities such as online corruption repairs and storage pooling that can enhance reliability.

Windows Storage Server 2012 benefits

Windows Storage Server 2012 offers many user benefits that help organizations save money and streamline operations.

Excellent economics for shared storage

Windows Storage Server 2012 significantly reduces the cost of storage by offering resilience and performance similar to high-cost storage solutions, such as Fibre

Channel or SAN devices, by taking advantage of industry-standard hardware and file-based storage.

File storage for virtualization and applications

With Windows Storage Server 2012, customers can deploy and manage storage for applications such as Hyper-V, SQL Server, and IIS in the same manner as they manage storage for traditional file serving.

Datacenter-ready

Windows Storage Server 2012 offers capabilities such as high reliability, availability, scale, and performance traditionally seen only in datacenter deployments due to their high value to customers of all sizes.

Simplified deployment and management

Windows Storage Server 2012 is deployed as an appliance, which means the hardware and software are preconfigured—dramatically reducing the deployment effort normally associated with a new storage solution. Furthermore, with Windows Storage Server 2012, organizations can manage storage in the same way as they manage a Windows Server, meaning that they can gain leverage from Windows Server management experience and tools—including Active Directory, Windows PowerShell, and Microsoft System Center.

Windows Storage Server 2012 editions

Windows Storage Server 2012 Workgroup

- As many as 50 connections
- Single processor socket
- Up to 32 GB of memory
- As many as 6 disks (no external SAS)

Windows Storage Server 2012 Standard

- No license limit on number of connections
- Multiple processor sockets
- No license limit on memory
- No license limit on number of disks
- Deduplication, virtualization (host plus 2 virtual machines for storage and disk management tools), and networking services (no domain controller)
- Failover clustering for higher availability
- Microsoft BranchCache for reduced WAN traffic

For more information about Microsoft Windows Storage Server 2012, visit www.microsoft.com/StorageServer