

	Windows Servers Comparison & Contrast Table (1993-2022)								
Server Features	Windows NT 3.1 Advanced Server (1993-1998) Retired	Windows NT 4.0 (1996-2004) Retired	Windows 2000 (2000-2010) Retired	Windows Server 2003 (2003-2015) Retired	Windows Server 2008 (2008-2020) Retired	Windows Server 2012 (2012-2023) Retired	Windows Server 2016 (2016-2027) Active	Windows Server 2019 (2019-2029) Active	Windows Server 2022 (2022-2031) Active
Active Directory	X	X	✓ Introduced in Windows 2000 Server. It allows centralized management of users, computers, and security policies within a network.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Security	Basic NT security model	NT Domains	Kerberos, Group Policy	Stronger AD security	Bit Locker	Dynamic Access Control	Shielded VMs	Advanced Threat Protection	Secured-core server
Server Core	X	X	X	X	✓ Introduced in 2008. minimal installation option without a full GUI. Improved performance & Security	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cloud	X	X	X	X	X	✓ Microsoft Azure integrated and became hybrid	✓ Hybrid Cloud Support	✓ Stronger Azure Integration	✓ Advanced Azure hybrid
Virtualization (Hyper-V)	X	X	X	X	✓ Hyper-V Introduced	✓ Hyper-V Improved	✓ Containers introduced	✓	✓
Storage	NTFS	NTFS Improved	Distributed File System (DFS)	Volume shadow copy	SMB 2.0	Storage Spaces	Storage Spaces Direct	Storage Migration Service	SMB over QUIC
Networking	Basic TCP/IP	TCP/IP Improved	DNS Integration	IPSEC Improved	Network Access Protection	NIC Training	Software defined Networking	Encrypted Networks	TLS 1.3
Management Tools	Basic admin tools	Microsoft Management Console (MMC)	MMC Improvements	Server Manager Improved	PowerShell Introduced	Modern Server Manager	PowerShell 5	Windows Admin Center	Enhanced Admin Center