

Feature/ version	Windows Server 2003	Windows Server 2008	Windows Server 2012	Windows Server 2016	Windows Server 2019
Release date	April 24, 2003	February 27, 2008	September 4, 2012	September 26, 2016	October 2, 2018
Security Features	Directory security, security templates, basic windows fire wall, audit enchantments, encryption file system, terminal security	Include server manager, Network access protection, Audit policy, windows firewall that had improved security, security enhancements involving credentials, user control, updated patch system for windows management	Shielded virtual machines, advanced window threat protection, has networks that are encrypted, secured remote desktop protocol, updated security guidelines and policy	Shieled VMS, antivirus window defender, credential guard, advanced window and firewall security, PowerShell security updates, improved audit,	SDN, device guard, windows defender guard, windows defender threat protectio n, credenti al guard, firmware protectio n
Gui Options	Offers Full Gui options, remote admin, you can customize certain Gui features.	Full desktop Gui installment with all additional menu tools.	Created a more flexible approach to Gui installations. Allows the user to switch between the full installation and the primary installation.	Server core, full GUI installation, Nano server	Server core, and a server with full desktop experien ce
Storage enhancemen ts	Improved disk management, NFTS improvements, File system enchantments, volume shadow copy service, file server tools	Self-healing NFTS enhancements, file server resource manager, Bit locker for encryption, File system enchantments, Shadow copy service improvements	Created storage space, data transfers, server blocks, hyper v hard disk, created data deduplication	File system improvement s, Storage quality of service, improved storage space, storage replica	SMB improve ments, improve d resilient file system, good memory support, storage

					improvements
Virtualization	No virtualization, but had Microsoft virtual server	Introduced hyper v	PowerShell, hyper v improvements, VM checkpoints, Virtual machines	Hyper v improvements, network improvements, PowerShell improvements, container support	Management tools, virtualization security improvements, nested virtualization
Kernel Architecture	Based on windows NT kernel. It's a hybrid model used for performance	Based on windows NT 6.0 kernel. It's an upgraded version of the hybrid kernel design	Windows NT architecture	Windows NT Kernel	Improved Windows NT architecture
Support Status	Currently out of service	Currently out of service	Since October 2023 windows servers 2012 is out of support	Mainstream support ended January 11, 2022. Extended support ends January 12, 2027	LTSC support model which is currently still active
Cloud capabilities	No cloud capabilities	Was released before cloud capabilities. So, it offers none	Hyper V virtualization, windows server 2012, network features, access control, PowerShell	Hyper v virtualization , software storage, software networking, security for cloud	Windows admin center, hybrid security, containers for cloud apps, hybrid integration