

Frequently asked questions about the Azure IP Advantage program

Website: <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/overview/azure-ip-advantage/#item1Content>

[General](#) [Indemnification](#) [Patent pick](#) [Springing license](#) [Startup benefits](#) [Scope of Azure IP Advantage](#)

What is Microsoft Azure IP Advantage?

Azure IP Advantage is a program for Azure customers that offers best-in-industry protection against intellectual property (IP) risks. By participating in this program, developers can focus on coding, while you focus on running your business with reduced risk and exposure to IP lawsuits without diminishing your own IP rights.

This program has three components to help you protect your cloud investments:

- Uncapped indemnification for customers for IP lawsuits that target first-party Azure-branded services, Azure Sphere, Azure RTOS and Windows 10 IoT, including open source software that we incorporate into these products and services.
- A patent pick from thousands of Microsoft patents to help defend against an IP lawsuit that targets Azure workloads or the software on IoT devices that are connected to Azure.
- A springing license to any Microsoft patent that's transferred to a nonpracticing entity to protect Azure workloads and the software on IoT devices that are connected to Azure.

Eligibility requirements may apply. For benefits specific to startups, see [Startup benefits](#).

[General](#) [Indemnification](#) [Patent pick](#) [Springing license](#) [Startup benefits](#) [Scope of Azure IP Advantage](#)


What is indemnification?

Indemnification is a contractual obligation that the supplier of a product or a service might provide to protect customers from IP infringement claims that are asserted against them for using the supplier's product or service. In the context of Azure IP Advantage, our indemnification terms protect you from IP infringement claims that arise from your use of Azure platform technologies and their open source components. For IoT scenarios, indemnification terms are applied to your use of Azure Sphere, Azure RTOS and Windows 10 IoT on IoT devices.

Overview

What is the purpose of the patent pick?


The patent pick deters operating companies from suing Azure customers for patent infringement on their workloads that run in Azure or their software that runs on IoT devices that are connected to Azure. The [Azure IP Advantage patent list](#) gives these customers access to a portfolio of patents that they can use for defensive purposes in the context of a lawsuit.

What is the benefit of a springing license? 

A springing license is a benefit that comes into being ("springs" into existence) when a defined event occurs. For Azure IP Advantage, eligible customers become fully licensed to one or more Microsoft patents when we transfer such patents to nonpracticing entities (NPEs). For additional protection, customers can also purchase a LOT Network membership.

What are the restrictions for using the Microsoft patents for my startup? 

Microsoft makes patents available to startups through the LOT Network. To obtain these patents, if you are a qualified Azure startup, first join the LOT Network. The Microsoft patents that you acquire are subject to LOT Network encumbrances, including the reciprocal springing license that all LOT members provide to all other LOT members. Because these patents were originally Microsoft patents, they are also subject to Microsoft encumbrances. Otherwise, you are not restricted on how you use these patents.

Is Azure IP Advantage available to customers everywhere Microsoft does business? 

Azure IP Advantage is available in every market where Azure cloud services, Azure Sphere, Azure RTOS, or Windows 10 IoT is available. In most countries, Azure services and Azure IP Advantage are available directly from Microsoft. In China, the indemnification benefits are available from [Microsoft Azure Operated by 21Vianet](#), while the patent pick and springing license are available from Microsoft. For a list of countries where Azure Sphere is available, see [Azure Sphere pricing](#).