

# UNDERSTANDING COPILOT



Enterprises planning for the upcoming Windows 11 refresh cycle will want to understand their employees' needs and Microsoft's Copilot offerings to choose the right AI PC. AI PCs – PCs equipped with a neural processing unit, or NPU – address emerging AI workloads by providing a dedicated local processor for efficient, quick execution. [Research from IDC<sup>2</sup>](#) suggests 95% of survey respondents are testing cloud-based AI, with 43% of employees already using it in everyday workflows. IDC expects AI PC adoption to rise sharply in coming years, with an estimated 93% of PCs classified as AI PCs by 2028.

AMD led the PC industry by launching the first x86 NPU-equipped AI PCs back in 2023, and it's built on that foundation with a new range of high-performance AMD Ryzen™ AI processors in 2025. AMD Ryzen AI 300 Series and Ryzen AI Max processors are available in a wide range of mobile systems, business PCs, and mobile workstations at a variety of price points. They are also universally equipped with a high-performance NPU capable of up to 50 TOPS. This qualifies the systems that use them as Microsoft Copilot+ PCs, as described below.

“Copilot” is an AI-related brand Microsoft applies to a range of products, services, and programs. Depending on the context, the word “Copilot” may refer to a free cloud-based service, a subscription service, a chatbot capability integrated into Microsoft 365 (formerly Microsoft Office), or a physical AI PC, as detailed below.

**Basic AI Assistant:** Copilot is a free AI service available to anyone with a Microsoft account. It can generate text, images, and perform various tasks based on text prompts. It runs in the cloud and relies on internet connectivity.

**System Integration:** Copilot is accessed via the new Copilot key on some Windows PCs, through the Start Menu, or via a button on the Windows taskbar.

Compatible With: All AMD Products.

**Subscription Service:** [Copilot Pro](#) is a paid subscription service, currently costing around \$20 per user per month. It includes everything in Microsoft Copilot, runs entirely in the cloud, and does not require an AI PC.

**Enhanced Features:** It offers additional perks such as priority access to the latest AI models (like GPT-4 and GPT-4 Turbo), preferred access to AI models during peak times, 100 boosts per day to create images with AI (vs. only 15 for the free version), and integration of Copilot in select Microsoft 365 apps. It is designed for users who need more robust AI capabilities for professional or intensive use cases.

Compatible With: All AMD Products on Microsoft 365 apps.

**Integrated into Microsoft 365 (Formerly Office):** Microsoft 365 is the new brand-name for applications formerly grouped under the “Office” name. Microsoft 365 Copilot makes Copilot available in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, Outlook, and Teams. It includes everything in Microsoft Copilot, runs in the cloud and does not require an AI PC.

**Enhanced Features:** Business Chat synthesizes data from multiple sources to better answer questions and surface important information. Microsoft Graph grounding enhances the accuracy and quality of LLM output and is available by default, along with customization and extensibility options provided through Microsoft Copilot Studio.

Compatible With: All AMD Products. A Microsoft 365 Business Standard, M365 365 Business Basic, or Microsoft 365 Business Premium license is required to purchase Microsoft 365 Copilot.

**AI Hardware Required:** Copilot+ PCs feature an NPU capable of 40 TOPS or higher. Unlike all other cloud-based Copilot services, Copilot+ PCs run some AI features directly on the device, allowing for faster and more efficient processing. Copilot+ PCs include everything in Copilot and unique, local AI features.

**New AI Features:** Copilot+ PCs support exclusive Windows AI features, including Live Captions, Cocreator, Restyle Image and Creator, Windows Studio Effects, and Recall.

Compatible With: [AMD Ryzen AI 300 Series](#) and [AMD Ryzen AI Max PRO](#) processors. These two CPU families feature an NPU capable of up to 55 TOPS<sup>1</sup>, which Microsoft Copilot+ PCs require. For more information, [see this blog](#) post by SVP Jack Huynh. While AI PCs that don't offer 40 or more TOPS of NPU performance are still suitable for emerging AI workloads due to their overall combination of CPU, GPU, and NPU performance, they aren't classified as Copilot+ PCs.

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Accessibility: Copilot is free and cloud-based, while Copilot Pro and Microsoft 365 Copilot require a subscription. Microsoft Copilot+ PC certification is tied to specific hardware (PCs w/ an NPU capable of at least 40 TOPS and at least 16GB of RAM and 265GB of storage) and offers local processing capabilities.

Functionality: Copilot provides basic AI assistance. Copilot Pro and Microsoft 365 Copilot enhances these capabilities with faster and more advanced features and integration into Microsoft 365 Apps. Copilot+ PCs offer Windows AI features that run locally on the device in addition to what Copilot offers.

1 - Trillions of Operations per Second (TOPS) for an AMD Ryzen processor is the maximum number of operations per second that can be executed in an optimal scenario and may not be typical. TOPS may vary based on several factors, including the specific system configuration, AI model, and software version. GD-243.

2 - IDC White Paper, sponsored by AMD, Accelerate Your Organization's AI Strategy by Deploying High-Performance AI PCs, doc #US53192925-WP, March 2025.

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