

# TOP STORIES #8

This has been a very busy week, especially with Microsoft making a flurry of announcements as it drives towards its financial year end in June 2023. **Note there are quite a number of licensing-related announcements.**

## Hardware

### Intel Ramping production on Meteor Lake

Don't cancel your order for your new 13th Gen computer! This is just a "Tick" on the way to Nova Lake, but it does confirm that Intel is on track (and so is AMD) for the new fabrication processes that will lead to mindblowing computing power being unleashed in the next 3-5 years. Read more [here](#).

## Microsoft

### No more Windows 10 Updates

Windows 10 is reaching the end of its life, and a reminder that you need to start ensuring you are standardised on Windows 11 while at the same time planning the removal of hardware that cannot be upgraded to Windows 11. Read more [here](#). Don't panic, security updates will continue until October 2025.

### Windows 11 LTSC announced

Along with end of Windows 10 updates, Microsoft has announced Windows 11 LTSC which will be released in 2024 with support probably up to 2029, read more [here](#). Between now and then I'm sure we will hear a lot more about Windows 12, and even Windows 13!

### Teams getting a Spatial Audio upgrade

There is lots of news.. along with spatial audio there is a rumour that Microsoft is preparing to unbundle Teams from Office because of a complaint by Slack to the EU which is being taken seriously.

Spatial Audio as a technology actually goes back 25 years originally intended for the Cinema industry, starting out as IOSONO which then morphed into Auro and Atmos.

Read more about the Teams announcement [here](#). It remains to be seen how effectively it will be implemented as you typically need a high-quality stereo source, not mono as most of our computer systems are today for conferencing.

### Microsoft may unbundle Teams from Office

This is a result of Slack complaining to the EU that it can't compete fairly. Let's see if this actually happens, and if it does it may actually play into Microsoft's hands in the long run. You can read more [here](#).

### Microsoft to stop selling peripherals (except for Surface)

Microsoft is going only to sell Surface-branded products in the future meaning that it will drop a lot of its gadgets. More detail [here](#).

### Microsoft Tweaks (improves) Windows Server Licensing

In April 2023, Microsoft implemented several alterations to Windows Server 2022 licensing.

Firstly, **the obligation for a minimum of 16 Windows Server Core licences to access virtual machine licensing or Azure Hybrid Benefit has been eliminated.** Secondly, **the Azure Hybrid Benefit no longer necessitates maintaining groups of 8 Core licences for virtual machines with over 8 cores.** Consequently, a 20-core virtual machine now requires only 20 licences instead of 24.

Furthermore, when obtaining Windows Server licences as Software Subscriptions via CSP, customers can now utilise Standard licences with Windows Server Datacenter virtual machines, applicable both on-premises and with Authorized Outsourcers.

Lastly, when a CSP-Hoster partner offers Windows Server Software Subscription licences as part of a hosted and managed solution, **there is no need for Windows Server CALs or External Connector licences,** and the right to use Standard licences with Datacenter images is also granted. You can read more about this [here](#).

### Microsoft Windows 365 Frontline in Preview

This is designed for shift workers, each Frontline licence enables businesses to create three Cloud PCs for 24-hour coverage. **The number of concurrent users must not exceed the**

purchased licences; for example, 110 licences would allow 330 Cloud PCs with a maximum of 110 users at any given time. The announcement can be found [here](#), and how to join the preview is [here](#) with a video about it [here](#).

### **Defender for Endpoint P1 and P2 can be mixed**

Microsoft now allows you to mix P1 and P2 for the same tenant. The official Microsoft announcement is [here](#). Note it is still in preview. Examples of some different scenarios can be found [here](#).

### **Microsoft enforcing Teams Room Device Licensing**

In September 2022, Teams Rooms licensing was updated with the introduction of Teams Rooms Basic and Pro licences. **Microsoft informed everybody that from July 1, 2023, Teams Rooms devices must use device licences instead of user licences.** [This article is a useful reminder](#), providing tips on identifying Teams Rooms devices with unsupported licences.

## **Security**

### **New Gmail scam**

May of us including family members use gmail for our personal mail, so this is a reminder to be vigilant and suspicious of any mail. [Read here](#).

## **Cloud and AI**

### **The difference between ChatGPT 3.5 & 4**

[Here](#) is a short guide on the differences if you are thinking of forking out \$20 per month for the premium service. Short answer... it's a good investment. ChatGPT moving forward - just for fun, give [Annie a Call](#).

### **How to chat with GPT in private**

If you want to have a secret chat with GPT, [here](#) is how you do it.

## **Movies**

Now Playing: [Big George Foreman](#)

Now Playing: [Black Demon](#)

Now Playing: [Epic Tails](#)

Now Playing: [Polite Society](#)

Now Playing: [To Catch a Killer](#)

5 May: [Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.3](#) - the 1st reviews are in, and they are good

5 May: [The unlikely pilgrimage of Harold Fry](#)

5 May: [Beau is Afraid](#)

5 May: [Assassin](#) (also streaming)

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