Customers can connect their Microsoft Azure environment with their Sophos Central account to discover and protect their Azure VMs with Sophos Intercept X for Server or Central Server Protection. Customers can use the native integration between Azure and Sophos Central to retrieve metadata about server VMs in Azure, including Azure VM ID, resource group, OS, and VM location.

**Key benefits**

- VMs deployed in Azure are easily protected without sacrificing performance, whether Windows or Linux.
- Intercept X for Server includes powerful anti-malware using a variety of traditional and Next Gen methods, including Machine Learning to identify malicious files, anti-exploit and anti-hacker capabilities, as well as CryptoGuard anti-ransomware and application whitelisting via Sophos one-click Server Lockdown.
- Management is easy in a single console alongside endpoints, mobile and wireless devices, and web and email gateways, all within a single cloud-based management console, Sophos Central.
- Sophos Central will connect to an Azure AD to discover VMs in Azure, retrieve key metadata and easily see if they are protected by Sophos Server Protection.
- Sophos Synchronized Security allows Sophos Central and Sophos XG Firewall, both of which are supported in Microsoft Azure, to communicate a Security Heartbeat that enables threat detection and positive identification of compromised servers.

**Server Protection - Azure VMs**

Overview / Server Protection Dashboard / Azure VMs
Intercept X for Server on Microsoft Azure

Sophos Synchronized Security allows Sophos solutions like XG Firewall and Sophos Central – both of which are supported in Microsoft Azure – to communicate through a Security Heartbeat (TM), enabling threat detection and positive identification of compromised servers.

Sophos Synchronized Security is a best of breed cyber security system that enables defenses to be as coordinated as the attacks it protects against. It provides unparalleled protection, because unlike point products that can only stop individual elements of an attack.

Synchronized Security can correlate multiple aspects of an attack, and thwart multiple prongs of attack. Designed with servers in mind, Synchronized Security:

- Shares threat intelligence between servers, endpoints, and firewalls.
- Protects end users from accessing potentially compromised servers and network shares.
- Analyzes across all Sophos products to create simple, actionable insights and automatic resolutions.

Easy deployment and setup

VMs with a Sophos Server Protection agent are simply deployed into Azure and managed from Sophos Central. VM extension scripts downloaded directly from Sophos Central, allow you to easily protect your Azure-deployed VMs. You can then specify which server group they should be a part of and which policies will apply to protect those VMs.

For more information, see the related Knowledge Base article.

Licensing

Sophos Intercept X for Server and Central Server Protection are licensed per server, with a choice of licenses depending on the features desired. Sophos tracks license usage information in your Sophos Central management console, so you simply need to select the number of Server Protection licenses based on the estimated number of servers. Sophos Central will count and indicate the number of Server Protection agents actually in use and automatically remove VMs that are terminated in Azure from license tracking in Sophos Central.