

2026 Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards

Frequently Asked Questions

The 2026 Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards will be celebrated around Microsoft [Ignite](#). This prestigious awards program recognizes partners who Microsoft believes delivered exemplary solutions built on Microsoft technologies. Answers to questions you may have about the 2026 Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards program can be found in the sections below. If you do not find the information you need, please email the [Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards team](#). Please allow at least two (2) business days for a response.

Awards submission tool questions

Are there instructions on how to submit my award?

Yes! Once you log into your Partner Center account and access the award application tool, there are instructions within the awards submission application tool, https://aka.ms/POTYA_Nominate.

Will I be allowed to submit for an award if I do not meet the eligibility requirements?

There are certain criteria which you must meet to apply which are listed in the awards guidelines document. Some criteria will be automatically verified in the award application tool, including Microsoft Solutions Partner designations. Some awards will also have additional criteria that are not automatically verified in the application tool. Please review award requirements carefully. To be selected as an award winner or finalist you must have met all eligibility requirements specified for that specific award.

How do I edit my entry?

To edit your entry, log into your profile on the award application tool and click on the entry you wish to modify. Once a nomination is submitted, no edits can be made. You can also save your nomination as a draft but note that you must have successfully submitted your award entry for it to be reviewed by the judging panels and be eligible to win.

How do I submit my award entry?

Nominations are only accepted via the award application tool, accessible within your Microsoft Partner Center account. You must submit your award entry after the tool opens and before the deadline.

Will I still be able to access the awards submission application tool after submissions close?

Yes, you will be able to access and view your entry after that date, but you will not be able to make changes

or withdraw your submission.

Can I delete or change my entry after it has been submitted?

No, once the nomination entry is submitted, no edits can be made.

Can I enter some data and then come back and complete my submission later?

Yes. Be sure to save your work along the way. You may exit the application and when you enter back in, you can go to your dashboard and click on the nomination you wish to update. However, once you submit your nomination, it is final and cannot be edited.

Can I upload supplemental materials to my entry?

Yes, it is possible to upload a PDF document of up to three pages as part of your award submission. Nomination content included outside of the 8,000 character (not including spaces) limit is considered supplemental, so it is recommended to include pertinent details within the text submission field in the nomination tool.

What is the maximum number of characters that can be entered into an answer?

All nominations are limited to 8,000 characters (not including spaces). We strongly recommend that you create and finalize your answers in Microsoft Word before copying and pasting them into the award application tool. To see the character count for your answer in Microsoft Word simply highlight your answer and then click on the review tab. Select the Word Count option from the toolbar and reference the "Characters" count in the window that is displayed.

Can you send me the questions in an e-mail message?

We are unable to e-mail the questions to you.

Program Questions

What is the deadline for submitting my entry?

The last day to submit an awards entry is **Tuesday, July 7, 2026**, 6:00 P.M. Pacific Time. No extensions beyond this will be given. This deadline is FIRM.

What if there are technical issues with the nomination tool that prevent my submission from being entered?

If you experience technical issues with the nomination tool, please email our support team with the details of your issue. Please note that we advise that nominations be submitted well before the deadline to allow enough time for technical issues to be resolved. If our team cannot resolve the issue by the nomination deadline, nominations may not be considered.

Can I submit more than one entry?

Yes, you can submit more than one entry. You must meet the requirements for the award category you are submitting for in order to be selected as a winner or finalist. We recommend that you review each guideline for the specific requirements as this may not apply to all awards.

Can I submit my solution in an award category even though I don't meet the eligibility requirements?

To be selected as a winner or finalist in an award category, you must meet the specified eligibility requirements. This requirement cannot be waived.

What award should I apply for? Can you review my solution and advise me?

Unfortunately, we cannot review solutions.

What has changed in eligibility requirements year-over-year?

Awards eligibility varies by award. Certain awards' 2026 eligibility requirements may have been updated to include new criteria, such as Solutions Partner designations or specializations. We continue to recognize partners enrolled in the Microsoft AI Cloud Partner Program. Please review specific award guidelines for the list of eligibility requirements.

I noticed that some of the award categories change year over year. Why is that?

The Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards is partially aligned around solution areas. Careful consideration is given each year in formulating the awards offerings, both aligning with the mission and goals of the Microsoft AI Cloud Partner Program and the partner ecosystem. We invite you to review all awards guidelines and requirements to see all awards in which you may qualify.

How can I get help if I don't understand one of the questions?

Email the [Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards team](#). Let us know which question you need assistance with, and we will try to clarify it for you. Please allow at least two (2) business days for a response.

What are the judging criteria?

These vary by award. Please refer to the award guidelines for specific details.

By which date must the solution I am nominating have been delivered to my customer?

We are looking for new solutions with an emphasis on market success, growth, and the impact provided to customers. For this reason, you should nominate a solution that has been or will be delivered between June 2025 and June 2026, and with the latest Microsoft technologies. Please see individual award guidelines for more details.

Can I submit my award application in languages other than English?

Your award application must be submitted in US English, using the awards application tool. However, the solution for which you are applying for an award need not have been localized into US English, and your customer may be in any country and speak any language. Note: our judges know this is a global award competition and understand that English may not be the primary language of many of the partners nominating. They are asked to take this into consideration during the judging process.

What do winners and finalists receive?

The 2026 Microsoft Partner of the Year Award winners and finalists will be celebrated around Microsoft Ignite. Partners who are recognized as finalists and winners will be acknowledged on our website and will receive a marketing kit (award partner badge, social templates, press release template) with which to promote their accomplishments.

Can I submit for more than one award simultaneously?

To strengthen award submission relevance to award-specific criteria, each award submission will require an individual nomination.

How do I submit nominations to multiple countries?

You can apply directly to any of the country/region awards corresponding to geographies in which you have made impact.

Do I have to attend Microsoft Ignite to be a finalist or winner?

No, you are not required to attend Microsoft Ignite to be a finalist or winner.

Can I submit a solution designed or developed for Microsoft as the end customer or client?

No, please choose to highlight a solution or case study with a customer or client other than Microsoft.

Can I see other partners' entries to assist me with my own?

All entries are confidential, so it is not possible to see entries from other partners.

When will winners and finalists be announced?

The winners and finalists will be announced around Microsoft Ignite 2026 on the [awards website](#).

Questions? Send an email to the [Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards team](#). Please allow two (2) business days for a response.