Microsoft Australia Partner Awards (MAPA) 2017

Frequently Asked Questions

Each year, the Microsoft Australia Partner Awards (MAPA) are presented at the Microsoft Summit. This prestigious awards program recognises partners who have delivered exemplary solutions built on Microsoft technologies.

Answers to questions you may have about the Microsoft 2017 Partner Awards program can be found in the sections below. If you do not find the information you need, please email the 2017 Microsoft Australia Partner Awards team. Please allow two (2) business days for a response.

Awards Submission Tool Questions

Are there instructions on how to submit my award?
Yes! Once you create a profile in the Awards Submission Tool, there are instructions within the submission tool or you can access on the Microsoft Australia Partner Awards website.

Will I be allowed to submit for an award if I do not meet the eligibility requirements?
You will not be prevented from applying for an award regardless of your eligibility, but to be selected as an award winner or finalist you must have met the eligibility requirements specified for that specific award.

How do I edit my Entry?
To edit your entry, log back into the Award Submission Tool and click on your appropriate entry. Please note: after you have submitted an entry you will no longer be able to edit the entry. When it is in draft mode, you can edit the entry at any time until the close of the Awards Submission Tool at 11:59 P.M. Australian Eastern Standard on July 1, 2017. You must have successfully submitted your award entry for it to be reviewed by the judging panels.

How do I submit my Award Entry?
Log in to the Award Submission Tool any time after it opens at 12:01 A.M. Australian Eastern Standard on July 1, 2017 and before it closes at 11:59 P.M. Australian Eastern Standard on August 25, 2017.

Will I still be able to sign in to the Awards Submission Tool after submissions close?
Yes, you will be able to sign in and view your entry after that date, but you will not be able to make changes or withdraw your submission.

Can we enter more than one nomination for the same award based on having different products or case studies we want to highlight?
Yes, you can enter multiple award nominations for the same award or enter the same case study or story for more than one award.

Can I delete or change my entry after it has been submitted?
Yes, if your entry has <u>not been</u> submitted, you may edit or delete your entry. To check the status, Sign into the [Awards Submission Tool](#) and navigate to the dashboard page. If the entry has the status of Submitted you will not be able to change or delete the entry.

Can I enter some data and then come back and complete my submission later?
Yes. Be sure to save your work along the way and do not submit the entry. You may log out and when you log back in, you can go to your dashboard and click on the edit icon of the award you wish to update. Remember once you have submitted your entry, you cannot edit or delete it.

Can I upload video/DVD presentations to my entry?
Yes, it is possible to upload files (up to 10 MB per file) as part of your award submission. However, we highly encourage that you provide a URL for these additional materials.

What is the maximum number of characters that can be entered into an answer?
All answers are limited to 4,000 characters (including spaces) per answer. We strongly recommend that you create and finalise your answers in Microsoft Word before copying and pasting them in to the Award 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 (with spaces)" count in the window that is displayed. Please make sure your answer is 4000 characters or less.

Can you send me the questions in an e-mail message?
We are unable to e-mail the questions to you; however, you can download the questions <mark>here</mark>

Program Questions

What is the deadline for submitting my entry?
The last day to submit an awards entry is 11:59 P.M. Australian Eastern Standard on August 25, 2017. No extensions will be given. This deadline is <u>FIRM</u>.

Can I submit more than one entry?
Yes, you can submit different entries or nominate different solutions for different category. But you can only use a customer solution once. NOTE: We ask that you not waste your time or the judge's time. You must meet the requirements for the award category you are submitting for in order to be selected as a winner or finalist.

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

To be selected as a winner of 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. However, if you have a Microsoft account manager, they can possibly provide your organisation some assistance.

I noticed that some of the award categories change year over year. Why is that?
The Microsoft Australia Partner Awards is heavily structured around the latest technology and how partners are creating solutions to solve customer pain points. Careful consideration is given each year in formulating the awards offerings, both aligning with the mission and goals of the Microsoft Partner Network and the Australian Partner ecosystem.

How can I get help if I don't understand one of the questions?
Email the 2017 Microsoft Australia Partner Awards team. Let us know which question you need assistance with, and we will try to clarify it for you. Please allow two (2) business days for a response.

What are the judging criteria?
These vary by award. However, all entries are judged solely on your answers to the awards questions, so answer them to the best of your ability.

How is my submission judged?
Each award has a judging team made up of a minimum of three judges. Our judges are assigned a number of entries that are within their specific area of expertise and experience. We ensure that there is no conflict of interest and the adjudication process is carried out with the utmost confidentiality and objectivity. The judges assess all the entries in their category online through our secure adjudication system.

Are you looking for an answer for a single solution or for multiple customers?
This depends on the solution you are nominating for. If this solution has been deployed with multiple customers, then answers to the award questions should apply to all your customers.

By which date must the solution I am nominating have been delivered to my customer?
We are looking for new solutions. For this reason, you should nominate a solution that has been or will be delivered in the past 12 months: from January 2016 to June 2017.

Do I need to complete a customer-release form?
No, the customer-release form is not required when submitting an award entry. If it is required at a later stage, we will contact you. We do however ask that you have the customer permission to tell us about your solution.

Can I submit my Award application in languages other than English?
Your award application must be submitted in English, using the Awards Submission Tool. However, the solution for which you are applying for an award need not have been localised into English, however your customer must be located in Australia.

What do winners and finalists receive?
The Microsoft Australia Partner Awards 2017 winners and finalists will be recognised at the Microsoft Summit which is held in November 2017. Partners who are recognised as finalists and winners will be acknowledged in press releases, and will receive a marketing kit (award logos, local press templates, and Web banners) with which to promote their accomplishments. Winners will be further recognised and acknowledged throughout the Microsoft Summit. This recognition of excellence identifies winners as a select few who truly stand out in a distinguished, competitive field.

Can I submit a solution that was submitted for Worldwide Partner of the year awards?
Yes, you can submit your submission from the Worldwide Partner of the Year awards for the MAPA program. You will however need to enter the submission into the MAPA Awards submission tool and answer the questions for the MAPA program which are different to the Worldwide Program.

Does the MAPA Program have a Country Partner of the Year Award?
Yes, The Country Partner of the Year Award will be automatically awarded to the Winner of the Worldwide Partner Award Australia Country Partner of the Year.

Do I have to attend the Microsoft Summit to be a finalist or winner?
No, you are not required to attend the Microsoft Summit to be a finalist or winner.

Is any customer information I provide confidential?
If your customer has any proprietary rights in and to the solution you submit, as a condition of being named a winner in this Contest, your customer must be willing and able to grant to you and Microsoft the right and permission to feature and otherwise describe the Solution in a case study and to use the case study for promotional, editorial, demonstration or any other related purposes.

Tell me more about the confidentiality....
Any customer name or customer information you provide in your award submission will not be published immediately. You will, however, be asked to provide a signed customer release from the end customer if you are an award winner so we can possibly produce a case study.

In the award submission process, we recommend that if you have any privacy concerns, you add a note at the bottom of the last question in the nomination form that states the confidentiality concerns for this particular award submission. This will flag the Microsoft teams that are evaluating this nomination and will note the requirement of a release to publicise any customer information.

Will my customer be contacted?
If you have provided customer references, judges may ask your permission to contact these references when making their final decision. Other than that, there will be no contact with your customer.

Can an internal project be nominated, or must it be commercial?
Only commercial solutions, for which you have at least one external customer, may be nominated for an Award.

Can I submit a nomination for a solution if the customer is Microsoft?

For reasons of fairness and the appearance of fairness, you cannot nominate a solution for which Microsoft is the only customer.

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 will be announced during the Microsoft Summit which will be held during November 2017 and finalists will be announced during October.

Questions? Send an email to the [2017 Microsoft Australia Partner Awards team](). Please allow two (2) business days for a response.