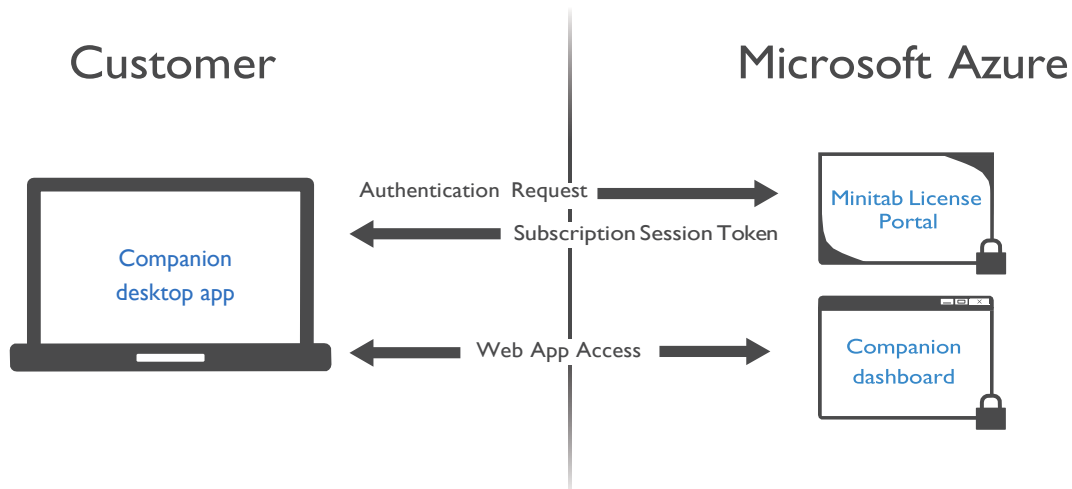




### Overview

Companion by Minitab® is a platform for managing your continuous improvement program. Project owners and practitioners use the Companion desktop app to execute projects. Their project information automatically rolls up to Companion's web-based dashboard, where executives and stakeholders can see graphical summaries and reports for a high-level view of the organization's quality initiative.



The cloud-optimized Companion platform consists of three components, each serving a unique purpose:



#### [companion.minitab.com](https://companion.minitab.com)

The web application at the heart of Companion fulfills two roles.

- Configurable dashboard display that extracts and compiles data from Companion desktop project files to provide graphical summaries and reports for a detailed view of your entire quality initiative.
- Centralized storage for all Companion projects and templates.



#### Companion desktop application

This configurable desktop application provides the tools project owners and practitioners use to execute projects.



#### Minitab License Portal

This company-wide Secure Token Service (STS) incorporates licensing controls, subscription management, quotas, etc., and is built on Windows Identity Foundation (WIF) using WS-Federation Standards.

## Data Encryption

Like the leading online banking services, Companion uses a 2048-bit SSL certificate to protect customer data and communications.

## Security Audits

Companion is audited by a third-party security vendor to ensure that your data is safe and secure. To ensure the continued safety of customer data, penetration tests and security audits are conducted on a periodic basis.

## Backup and Recovery

An automated backup strategy supports all Companion users. A full snapshot of your data is backed up on a daily basis. The system retains backups for the last seven days, as well as a weekly backup for each of the past four weeks. This strategy provides daily recovery options for a seven-day window and weekly recovery options for the previous month.

## User Authentication

Users access their Companion system with a unique username and password. User accounts are established in the Minitab License Portal by your organization's authorized representative(s), and passwords are created by each individual user. Password strength requirements are enforced to prevent users from choosing weak or obvious passwords. To further secure account access, passwords are stored in an encrypted format.

## Microsoft Azure Data Centers

Companion has been developed, tested, and audited in Microsoft's Azure environment and is covered by all applicable security features outlined in the following documents:

- [Azure security overview](#)
- [Microsoft Azure security](#)

The Microsoft Azure data centers guarantee a 99.95% up-time and meet a wide range of internationally recognized security and compliance standards.

# Shared Responsibilities

Using Azure allows Minitab to focus on the Companion application while Microsoft maintains physical security, operating system security, disaster recovery, and similar functions. Minitab also routinely updates Companion so that you always have access to the latest features. As a result, Companion requires little to no interaction with your IT department, and lets you focus on achieving your organization's goals. Once the system is set up, user provisioning and access control features allow you to decide who accesses Companion and contributes to your initiatives.

	Microsoft Azure	Minitab	Customer
Physical and Network Security	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
99.95% Uptime Guarantee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Server Patching, Antivirus and Anti-Malware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Geographically Redundant Data Storage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Disaster Recovery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Free Technical Support		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Application Updates		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Initial Setup and Configuration		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ongoing Dashboard Management			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
User Account Provisioning and Access Management			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Project Creation and Data Entry			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Conclusion

Because Minitab is committed to ensuring the security of your data, Companion has been developed using Microsoft's Azure cloud platform. Companion by Minitab is designed to the most rigorous standards and is constantly evaluated to enhance both security and performance.

For more information visit [CompanionByMinitab.com](http://CompanionByMinitab.com).



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