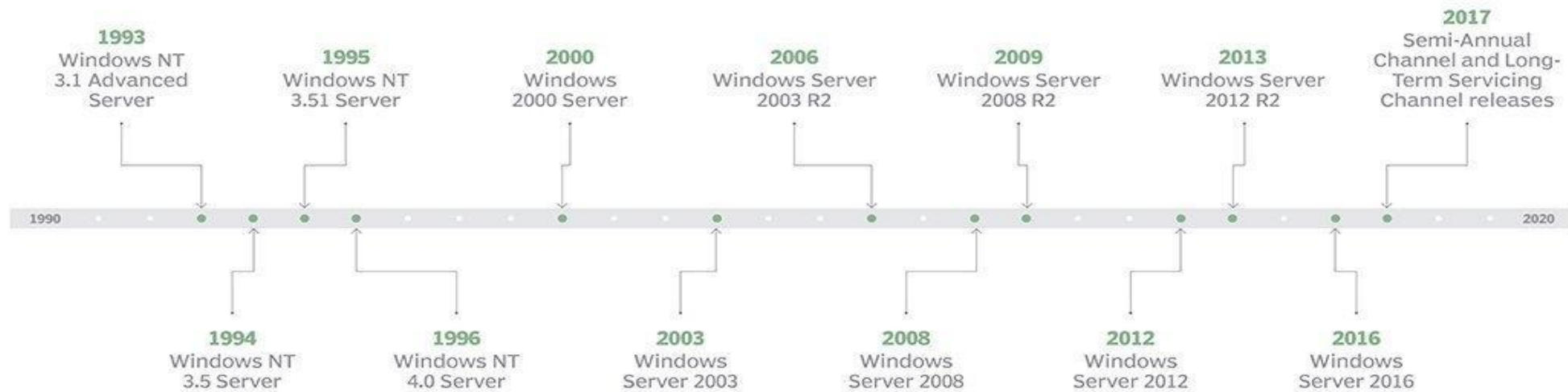# Introduction to Windows Server

- Microsoft Windows Server OS (operating system) is a series of enterprise-class server operating systems designed to share services with multiple users and provide extensive administrative control of data storage, applications and corporate networks.

- Development for Windows Server started in the early 1980s when Microsoft produced two operating system lines: MS-DOS and Windows NT.

- Microsoft engineer David Cutler developed the kernel of Windows NT with the intent to provide speed, security and reliability that large organizations require in a server operating system.

History of Windows Server

Microsoft Windows Server OS releases

1993
Windows NT
3.1 Advanced
Server

1995
Windows NT
3.51 Server

2000
Windows
2000 Server

2006
Windows Server
2003 R2

2009
Windows Server
2008 R2

2013
Windows Server
2012 R2

2017
Semi-Annual
Channel and Long-
Term Servicing
Channel releases

1990

2020

1994
Windows NT
3.5 Server

1996
Windows NT
4.0 Server

2003
Windows
Server 2003

2008
Windows
Server 2008

2012
Windows
Server 2012

2016
Windows
Server 2016

Long Term Servicing Channel (LTSC)

- Windows Server operating system releases under the Long Term Servicing Channel are supported by Microsoft for 10 years, with five years of mainstream support and an additional five years of extended support. These releases also offer a complete GUI desktop experience, along with GUI-less setups such as Server Core and Nano Server for releases that support them.

This channel includes the following operating systems:

- Windows Server 2003 (April 2003)
- Windows Server 2003 R2 (December 2005)
- Windows Server 2008 (February 2008)
- Windows Server 2008 R2 (October 2009)
- Windows Server 2012 (September 2012)
- Windows Server 2012 R2 (October 2013)
- Windows Server 2016 (September 2016)
- Windows Server 2019 (October 2018)[12]