

Extended Security Updates for SQL Server and Windows Server 2008/2008 R2

Frequently Asked Questions

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General Questions

When is the End of Support for SQL Server and Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2?

End of Support for SQL Server 2008 and 2008 R2 is July 9, 2019.

End of Support for Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2 is January 14, 2020.

What does End of Support mean?

Microsoft Lifecycle Policy offers 10 years of support (5 years for Mainstream Support and 5 years for Extended Support) for Business and Developer products (such as SQL Server and Windows Server).

As per the policy, after the end of the Extended Support period there will be no patches or security updates, which may cause security and compliance issues and expose customers' applications and business to serious security risks. Learn more at [Microsoft Lifecycle Policy](#) page.

What are the End of Support offers for SQL Server and Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2?

We recommend upgrading to the latest versions of our software to help reduce security risks and continue to get regular security updates. However, for customers that are not able to transition before the End of Support deadline, we are announcing offers to help protect data and applications during the End of Support transition.

Extended Security Updates in Azure: Customers who migrate workloads to Azure virtual machines will have access to Extended Security Updates for both SQL Server and Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2 for three years after the End of Support deadlines, included at no additional charge over the standard VM pricing.

Eligible customers can also use the **Azure Hybrid Benefit** to leverage existing on-premises license investments for Windows Server and SQL Server to save on Azure Virtual Machines (IaaS) or Azure SQL Database Managed Instance (PaaS).

Extended Security Updates for on-premises environments: Extended Security Updates will also be available for workloads running on-premises or in a hosting environment. Customers running Windows Server or SQL Server

under licenses with active Software Assurance or Subscription licenses under an Enterprise Agreement enrollment are eligible to purchase Extended Security Updates annually for three years after End of Support. Customers can purchase Extended Security Updates for only the servers they need to cover. This offer replaces Premium Assurance.

When will the Extended Security Updates offer be available?

In Azure: Customers can begin migrating workloads to Azure immediately, and Extended Security Updates will become available upon the end-of-support deadline.

On-premises or hosted environments: Extended Security Updates will be available for purchase as we approach the end-of-support deadline (specific dates to be announced later).

What do Extended Security Updates include?

For SQL Server 2008 and 2008 R2: Extended Security Updates include provision of Security Updates and Bulletins rated "critical" for a maximum of three years after July 9, 2019.

For Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2: Extended Security Updates include provision of Security Updates and Bulletins rated "critical" and "important," for a maximum of three years after January 14, 2020.

- This offer does not include technical support, but you may use other Microsoft support plans to get assistance on your 2008 and 2008 R2 questions on workloads covered by Extended Security Updates.
- This offer does not include new features, customer-requested non-security hotfixes, or design change requests. However, Microsoft may include non-security fixes as we deem necessary.
- There is no retroactive effect for any update that the engineering teams declined in the past.

What is the cost for Extended Security Updates?

In Azure: Customers running Windows Server or SQL Server 2008 and 2008 R2 in an Azure virtual machine will get Extended Security Updates for no additional charges above standard VM rates.

On-premises: Customers with active Software Assurance or subscription licenses can purchase Extended Security Updates for 75% of the full license cost annually. Customers pay for only the servers they need to cover, so they can reduce costs each year as they upgrade parts of their environment. Contact your Microsoft partner or account team for more details.

Hosted environments: Customers may purchase Extended Security Updates for 75% of the full on-premises license cost annually and use them in a hosted environment.

Does this offer also apply to SQL Server 2005, Windows Server 2003, or older versions?

No. We recommend upgrading to the most current versions for the strongest security features, but customers could upgrade to 2008 or 2008 R2 versions to take advantage of this offer.

Is technical support included?

No, but customers can use an active support contract such as Software Assurance or Premier Support on the relevant on-premises product(s) to get technical support. If hosting on Azure, customers can use a relevant [Azure Support](#) plan to get technical support.

What are the support expectations when requesting support for a product utilizing Extended Security Updates?

When customers have a support plan:

Scenario	Response
Support Engineer will open a support ticket	Yes
Support Team will work to solve customer issue	Yes
Support Team will do a root cause analysis	No
Support Team will file a bug	No

What is the support expectation if a customer encounters an issue that requires a new feature?

If an investigation determines that resolution requires product enhancement available in a recent release, then a request will be made to the customer to upgrade to a more recent release where the capability is already available.

Extended Security Updates On-Premises

What licenses qualify customers to purchase the on-premises offer?

Windows Server or SQL Server licenses with active Software Assurance or subscription licenses qualify customers to purchase Extended Security Updates for servers on-premises.

Are customers required to cover *all* servers with active Software Assurance to get Extended Security Updates on-premises?

No, customers can choose to cover as few or as many servers under licenses with active Software Assurance, or Subscription licenses under an Enterprise Agreement enrollment, as they need. For example, in the case of Windows Server, Extended Security Update coverage is licensed by core and, as with the underlying license and Software Assurance, is required for all physical cores on a server.

Does this offer replace Premium Assurance?

Yes, we will no longer sell Premium Assurance, but we will honor the terms of Premium Assurance for customers who already purchased it.

Extended Security Updates on Azure and cloud/hosting environments

How do customers get Extended Security Updates in Azure?

Extended Security Updates for Windows Server and SQL Server 2008 and 2008 R2 will be offered on Azure IaaS at no additional charge above the standard pricing for Azure Virtual Machines. For customers that migrate workloads to Azure Virtual Machines, we will offer Security Updates and Bulletins rated "Critical" and "Important" for Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2, and those rated "Critical" for SQL Server 2008 and 2008 R2.

For SQL Server, we recommend customers consider migration to Azure SQL Database Managed Instance. Azure SQL Database Managed Instance (preview) is a new service in Azure providing near 100% compatibility with SQL Server on-premises. Managed Instance provides built-in HA/DR capabilities plus intelligent performance features and the ability to scale on the fly. Managed Instance also provides a version-less experience that takes away the need for manual security patching and upgrades.

Can SQL Server customers migrate to Azure SQL Database Managed Instance?

Yes, migration to Azure SQL Database Managed Instance is also an option for customers on SQL Server 2008 and SQL Server 2008 R2. Azure SQL Database Managed Instance is an instance-scoped deployment option in SQL Database that provides the broadest SQL Server engine compatibility and native virtual network (VNET) support, so you can migrate SQL Server databases to Managed Instance without changing apps. It combines the rich SQL Server surface area with the operational and financial benefits of an intelligent, fully-managed service. Leverage the new [Azure Database Migration Service](#) to move SQL Server 2008 and 2008 R2 to Azure SQL Database Managed Instance with few or no application code changes.

Can customers leverage the Azure Hybrid Benefit for 2008 and 2008 R2 versions?

Yes, customers with active Software Assurance can leverage the [Azure Hybrid Benefit](#):

- **SQL Server:** Customers can leverage existing on-premises license investments for discounted pricing on SQL Server running on Azure Virtual Machines as well as on Azure SQL Database.
- **Windows Server:** Customers can leverage existing on-premises license investments to save on Azure Virtual Machines.

Customers choosing to move to Azure IaaS can combine Azure Hybrid Benefit savings for SQL Server and Windows Server for increased cost savings.

Can customers use Extended Security Updates on Azure Stack?

Yes, customers can migrate SQL Server and Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2 to Azure Stack and receive free Extended Security Updates after the end of support deadline.

For customers with a 2008/2008R2 SQL cluster using shared storage, what is the guidance for migrating to Azure?

Azure does not currently support shared storage clustering. For advice on how to configure a highly available SQL Server instance on Azure, refer to this guide on SQL Server [High Availability](#).

What are the best practices for enhancing the performance of the SQL Server in Azure Virtual Machines?

For advice on how to optimize SQL Server performance on Azure Virtual Machines, refer to this guide on [SQL Server performance](#).

Can I use Extended Security Updates on other cloud/hosting environments?

For Windows Server, when paying the hoster for the underlying Windows Server license, customers can purchase Extended Security Updates from Microsoft for use on their hosting instances. Pricing is based on Windows Server Standard per core pricing, at a minimum of 16 cores per instance.

For SQL Server, customers with License Mobility through Software Assurance may also purchase Extended Security Updates from Microsoft to use in virtual machines properly licensed to run in an authorized License Mobility partner's data center. See the [Microsoft Licensing site](#) for availability and use rights for the End of Support Offering.

The following table describes pricing for Extended Security Updates in various hosted scenarios.

	On-premises	Azure	Hosted environment — Windows Server	Hosted environment — SQL
Extended Security Updates Pricing	75% of full license price annually	Zero. Included in standard VM rate	Same as on-premises Minimum 16 cores/instance	Same as on-premises 4 core minimum purchase requirement
Software Assurance (SA) or subscription requirement	Required for covered licenses	Not required, although SA provides Azure Hybrid Benefit	Not required when licenses purchased from hoster License Mobility not available	Not required when licenses purchased from hoster Required for License Mobility

Product and Implementation Questions

How will Microsoft deliver Extended Security Updates?

Security updates will be delivered using the standard technology in market at the time.

Are there recommended tools to inventory my 2008 environment?

Customers may use their preferred tools for software and hardware inventory. Find links to inventory tools from Microsoft and our partners on the [Azure migration assessment](#) site.

What are the options for migrating VMware-based workloads from on-premises to Azure?

Customers can migrate workloads from a VMware-based virtual machine on-premises to an Azure virtual machine using Azure Site Recovery for full cloud benefits. Another option is the new [VMware on Azure](#) solution, for a dedicated hosting experience.

How do customers know if an application currently running on or with Windows Server and SQL Server 2008 and 2008 R2 will run on Azure or on a newer version of Windows Server/SQL Server?

Apps running with or on SQL Server and Windows Server 2008 or 2008 R2 can be rehosted to Azure with no application code change. Customers that are ready to upgrade, either in Azure or on-premises, can review the [Windows Server Catalog](#) as well as consult with their software vendor for the matrix of Windows Server and SQL Server version support. It is recommended that customers run an environment assessment to identify potential feature parity gaps. For further questions, work with your Microsoft partner or your Account team to evaluate application readiness.

Is there a recommended upgrade path for Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2?

You can find links to upgrade guidance at our [End of Support Resource Center](#) or in our [Windows Server upgrade documentation](#).

Is there a recommended upgrade path for SQL Server 2008 and 2008 R2?

You can find links to upgrade guidance at our [End of Support Resource Center](#) or in the [Database Migration Guide](#).

Can customers continue to use System Center to manage 2008 and 2008 R2 server environments?

We recommend using an in-market supported version of System Center. For Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2, the following System Center versions are supported:

Product	System Center 2012/R2	System Center 2016	Semi-annual Channel version 1801
SCOM	Yes	Yes	Yes
VMM (WS2008/R2 as Host)	Yes	No	No
VMM (WS2008/R2 as Guest)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Orchestrator*	No	No	No
Service Manager**	No	No	No
DPM	Yes	Yes	Yes

*For Orchestrator, the response in table indicates the components of Orchestrator running on Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2. The automation tasks in an Orchestrator runbook can run against a Windows Server 2008 Server.

**For Service Manager, the response in table indicates the components of Service Manager running on Windows Server 2008 R2

For SQL Server 2008 and 2008 R2, the following System Center versions are supported:

Component	System Center 2012/R2	System Center 2016	Semi-annual Channel Version 1801
SCOM	Yes	Yes	Yes
DPM	Yes	Yes	Yes