Extended Security Updates: SQL Server 2012

Extended Security Updates overview

SQL Server 2012 reached end of support on July 12, 2022. This means that no more security patches are released to protect workloads running this version of SQL Server.

The Extended Security Updates (ESU) program is a last resort option for customers who need to run these legacy Microsoft products past the end of support.

Extended Security Updates include security updates for three years from the end of support date and are available free of charge for servers hosted in Azure, and available to purchase for servers not hosted in Azure.

Extended Security Updates in Azure

SQL Server ESUs are provided free of charge for workloads running in Azure.

This includes:

- Azure VMs
  - PAYG
  - BYOL
- Azure Dedicated Host
- Azure Stack HCI
- Azure Stack Hub
- Azure VMWare Solution
- Nutanix Cloud Clusters on Azure

Purchasing Extended Security Updates

ESUs must be purchased for SQL Server 2012 workloads running on a customer's servers, or in a partner infrastructure.

Choices:
- Buy 1-year Extended Security Updates licenses through CSP
- PAYG monthly subscriptions via Azure Arc paid through an Azure Subscription

Qualifying licenses:
- Licenses with active Software Assurance acquired through ANY Volume Licensing agreement
- Software Subscriptions acquired through CSP

ESUs: 1-year licenses

Licensing:
- Equivalent to the price of a license each year
- Available in 2-core packs for Standard and Enterprise editions
- You can choose to license the VM (minimum of 4 Core licenses) or the physical server (minimum of 4 Core licenses per processor), but it must match the way the underlying SQL Server is licensed
- The edition of the ESU must match the edition of the underlying SQL Server
- You don't need to purchase ESUs to cover CALs, but all CALs providing access to servers covered with ESUs must have active SA or be subscription licenses

Coverage eligibility:
- You must have at least one month of SA coverage or Software Subscription term left before you can purchase the ESUs
- Coverage must be continuous – you can't buy Year 2 licenses without buying Year 1 licenses too

ESU software:
- ESU software is acquired through the Azure Management Portal
- ESU software may be used on dev and test servers covered by Visual Studio subscriptions, and on Disaster Recovery servers
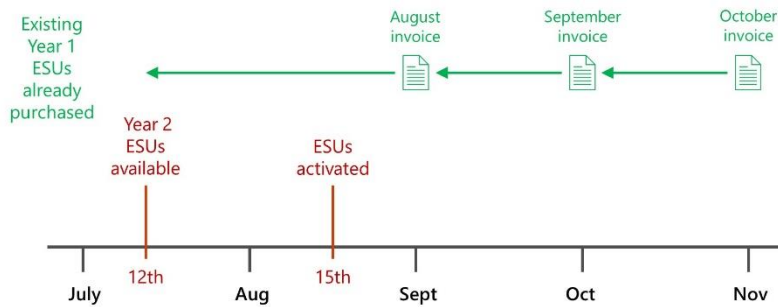
ESUs: Azure Arc

Licensing:
- Equivalent to the price of a license each year
- You can only license by VM (minimum of 4 Core licenses) regardless of how the underlying SQL Server is licensed
- The ESU edition must match the edition of the underlying SQL Server
- Available in 1-core packs for Standard and Enterprise editions

Coverage eligibility:
- Customers must have active SA coverage or an active Software Subscription before they can purchase the ESUs
- Customers must first acquire 1-year ESUs for Year 1, and then coverage must be continuous – customers will be back-billed for any gaps in coverage as shown below

Customers who enroll in ESUs enabled by Azure Arc after the end of support date, are billed a one-time upfront charge for the months they missed after the end of support date, with billing at the end of the month via an Azure Subscription

ESU software:
- ESU software may be used on dev and test servers covered by Visual Studio subscriptions, and on Disaster Recovery servers

Canceling ESUs:
ESU charges stop immediately in the following cases:
- A subscription is canceled for any reason
- A SQL server is migrated to Azure; no manual cancellation is needed
- A SQL server is migrated to a newer version; no manual cancellation is needed

Using ESUs with partners
Customers can purchase ESUs for any correctly licensed SQL Server workload as per the table below:

Hosted by a partner

Authorized Mobility partner	Buy ESUs and take to this partner
Authorized Outsourcer	Buy ESUs and take to this partner
CSP Hoster partner	Buy ESUs and take to this partner
Listed Provider	None: BYOL not possible*
SPLA partner	Buy ESUs and take to this partner

* Note that all Listed Providers are currently SPLA partners, and customers licensing SQL Server 2012 workloads with a Listed Provider before October 1, 2019 may purchase ESUs for those workloads