

MANAGING THE END OF SQL SERVER 2008/R2

THE CHALLENGE.

As of July 9th 2019, Microsoft have ceased to provide extended technical support for SQL Server 2008 and 2008 R2.

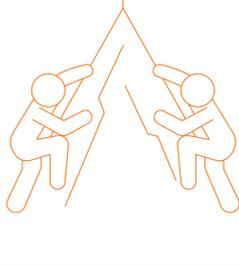
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According to Microsoft, however, there are over **20 million server instances** of 2008/R2 globally...

...all of which will **no longer benefit from necessary patches or security updates** – exposing those organisations using it to security and compliance risks.

Addressing server updates or migrations are complicated tasks, which is why a common strategy followed is **"if it ain't broke, don't fix it."**

But it's a risky strategy: the largest security breach as a result of unpatched software led to **14.3 million user records being compromised!**



Yet, the need to upgrade or migrate SQL 2008 or 2008 R2 servers represents a significant opportunity for organisations. It is, in fact, an opportunity to make a significant impact on your company's digital transformation strategy.

64% of organisations cite legacy IT infrastructure as their top barrier in IT transformation initiatives?

...and **31% say data silos are their biggest challenge** – minimising what value they can extract from it.

By adopting a **clear and effective strategy for upgrade or migration**, organisations can create a fresh impetus for digital transformation internally – optimising their business in order to keep up with the pace of change...

...by 2021, **50% of global GDP will be digitised**, with growth coming from digitally enhanced offerings...

...and in the 2020's, **75% of the S&P 500 companies will be new** – most likely created through new, digital-native propositions.

OR IS IT REALLY OPPORTUNITY?

LOOK TO THE SKIES, OR KEEP YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND?

What are the choices? Accelerate your journey to the cloud or invest in your on-premise capability? Or do you do nothing and just leave it to chance?

Let's break it down...

1 MIGRATING YOUR SERVICES TO THE CLOUD

With Microsoft Azure, there are two main choices:

1 Platform as a Service (PaaS)

Microsoft offer the opportunity for full migration and upgrade to Azure – for a version free, and automatic patching and updated solution.

2 Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)

Alternatively, you can migrate your existing 2008/R2 servers to Azure virtual machines (with 3 years continued support) and then upgrade when you are ready.

Cloud migration offers high availability, a strong security profile and scalability – with the possibility of evergreen solutions.

However, you will need platform expertise that may not currently exist within your organisation, and speed and latency may not be what you need for some key applications.

2 INVESTING IN ON-PREMISE

But cloud isn't always the right solution all of the time – many organisations want, or need, to keep services on-premise for the purposes of regulation, efficiency and control.

To upgrade on-premise capability, you need to modernise your data center, future-proofing its place within the technology stack. But Why?

Capitalise on AI: new and processor hungry applications of data analysis such as Artificial Intelligence are themselves transforming businesses that can technically cater for them.

Manage technical debt: new infrastructure capabilities significantly increase efficiency, minimise unplanned downtime and lower Total Cost of Ownership (TCO).

Compliance: refresh caters for data security and compliance with legislation by implementing security protocols 'by design'.

Whilst investing in your own data center capability by upgrading your servers takes OpEx, it can **save you money and still leave you cloud-ready for the future.**

3 A BLENDED SOLUTION?

Do you do both? A hybrid approach is a realistic option for many organisations, upgrading your on-premise capabilities are required to make the path to hybrid easier to achieve.

Detailed analysis and assessments of each database or database set will mean that you can start your cloud journey without needing to put all of your eggs in one basket – or simply optimise to your exact position.

MODERNISING THE DATA CENTER

Whilst cloud isn't right for everyone, the capability of a fully on-premise data center or a hybrid solution may not meet the ever-growing data and performance demands all organisations have.

Intel's latest XEON Scalable and Optane technologies are designed entirely with the modern data center in mind. The outcome is the overall performance levels you need and demand from your own data center.

Intel® XEON® Scalable Platform

- Up to **4X performance** over 4-5 year old servers
- **7X number of cores and 4-16X more memory** over 8 year old servers
- **Hyper-converged** Infrastructure enhancements
- **Software Defined Compute** and enhanced security
- Built for **next gen flash storage**

Intel® Optane™ Persistent Memory

- **SSD level cost with DRAM level performance**
- DIMMs form factor for **more across RAM slots**
- Up to **3X more capacity** over DRAM alone
- Up to **13X faster restart times**
- **39% cost savings** in cost/DB Terabyte

SEE THE WOOD FOR THE TREES.

Even those organisations that get past the inertia created by facing complex change such as 2008/R2 migration and upgrade, with change as fundamental and potentially far reaching as this, it's difficult to know where to start.

Discover
We consult with you to assess your current situation and the implications for your business post-2008/R2.

Advise
We create a recommended direction across the mix of options that are orientated towards successful migration and/or upgrade and future transformation.

GET IN TOUCH

We work with you to devise the business case you need to facilitate change, and deliver business return.

We create individual solutions for individual customers.

Enabling users and their business