Microsoft

Extended Security Updates for SQL Server
and Windows Server 2008/2008 R2
Frequently Asked Questions

Contents

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, on-premises or in the Cloud (IaaS and PaaS), 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 virtual machines immediately and apply regular security updates until the End of Support deadline, at which time Extended Security Updates will become available, ensuring continuous coverage.

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). The delivery of Extended Security Updates will begin immediately after the End of Support deadline.

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 editions of Windows Server 2008/2008 R2 are eligible for Extended Security Updates?
The Datacenter, Enterprise and Standard editions are eligible for Extended Security Updates.

Is there a deadline for when servers need to be migrated, or can customers wait until the end of support dates?
There is no deadline for migration of the Windows Server or SQL Server 2008 workloads to Azure. However, we recommend customers complete migration before the End of Support deadline (July 9, 2019 for SQL Server and January 14, 2020 for Windows Server) so that they do not miss any security updates.

How much will Extended Security Updates cost?
In Azure: Customers running Windows Server or SQL Server 2008 and 2008 R2 in an Azure will get Extended Security Updates for no additional charges above standard VM rates. Customers moving to Azure SQL Database Managed Instance (PaaS) do not need Extended Security Updates, as this is a fully-managed solution.

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. Contact your Microsoft partner or account team for more details.

Does this offer also apply to SQL Server 2005, Windows Server 2003, or older versions?
No. We recommend upgrading to the most current versions, but customers could upgrade to 2008 or 2008 R2 versions to take advantage of this offer.

Is Software Assurance required to take advantage of Extended Security Updates?
Software Assurance is required for customers to purchase Extended Security Updates on-premises. On Azure, customers do not need Software Assurance to get free Extended Security Updates, but Software Assurance is required to take advantage of the Azure Hybrid Benefit.

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 they choose to stay on-premises. Alternatively, 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 as they need with Extended Security Updates.

Does this offer replace Premium Assurance?
Yes, Extended Security Updates replaces the Premium Assurance offer, 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 both Windows Server and SQL Server, the method of delivery will be announced closer to the end of support deadline.

For SQL Server, we recommend customers consider migration to Azure SQL Database Managed Instance as the best destination for their 2008 environments. Azure SQL Database Managed Instance is a new service in Azure providing near 100% compatibility with SQL Server on-premises. Managed Instance provides built-in high availability/disaster recovery (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 a great 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 SQL Database and Azure Virtual Machines.

- **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 virtual machines running on Azure Stack and receive free Extended Security Updates after the End of Support deadline.

What options do customers have to run SQL Server in Azure?
Customers can move legacy SQL Server environments to Azure SQL Database Managed Instance, a fully-managed data platform (PaaS) that offers a "version-free" option to eliminate concerns with end of support dates, or to Azure Virtual Machines to have access to Security Updates. Extended Security Updates will be available for SQL Server 2008 and 2008 R2 in Azure Virtual Machines after the end of support deadline in July, 2019.

For customers with a 2008/2008 R2 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 hosted 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	Free. 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

How do I get technical support for Extended Security Updates and my 2008/2008 R2 server workloads if I am running them on a hosted environment?
The Extended Security Updates offer does not include technical support. Customers can use existing support agreements for questions. When paying the hoster for the underlying Windows and SQL Server license, per Microsoft Hosting contracts, all technical support must be provided via the Hoster. For more information, contact your Microsoft partner or account team.

Can customers leverage Extended Security Updates for SQL Server with a third party hoster?
Customers cannot use Extended Security Updates if they move their SQL Server 2008 environment to a PaaS implementation on other cloud offerings.

If customers are looking to move to IaaS, they can leverage License Mobility for SQL Server via Software Assurance to make the move, and purchase Extended Security Updates from Microsoft to manually apply patches to the SQL Server 2008/2008 R2 instances running in a VM (IaaS) at another cloud provider. However, **free** Extended Security Updates and the Azure Hybrid Benefit are only available on Azure.

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 and will be announced closer to the End of Support deadline.

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 generally be rehosted to Azure with no application code change. Customers that are ready to upgrade to a newer version, 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