

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

Frequently Asked Questions

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General Questions

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. What End of Support options are available for SQL Server and Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2?

We recommend upgrading to the latest versions of our software, leveraging Software Assurance benefits to modernize on-premises or on Azure (i.e. Azure Hybrid Benefit), 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 move 2008 workloads to Azure Virtual Machines (IaaS) "as-is" 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 for free. Those that decide to move to Azure SQL Database Managed Instance (PaaS) will have access to continuous Security Updates, as this is a fully-managed solution. Eligible customers can also use the **Azure Hybrid Benefit** to obtain discounts on the license of 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 SQL Server or Windows Server under licenses with active Software Assurance under an Enterprise Agreement (EA), Enterprise Subscription Agreement (EAS), or a Server & Cloud Enrollment (SCE), can purchase Extended Security Updates annually for three years after End of Support deadline. Customers can purchase Extended Security Updates only for the servers they need to cover. This offer replaces Premium Assurance.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. What editions of SQL Server and Windows Server 2008/2008 R2 are eligible for Extended Security Updates?

The Datacenter, Enterprise and Standard editions are eligible for Extended Security Updates for both SQL Server and Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2, both on Azure and on-premises.

7. Do SQL Server or Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2 customers need to be running the most current Service Pack to benefit from Extended Security Updates?

Yes, customers need to run SQL Server or Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2 with the latest Service Pack to get Extended Security Updates. Microsoft will only produce updates which can be applied on the latest Service Pack.

8. 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.

9. 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 Extended Security Updates.

10. 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, and is always updated and patched by Microsoft.

On-premises: Customers with active Software Assurance or subscription licenses can purchase Extended Security Updates for 75% of the Enterprise Agreement 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.

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

No. For these older versions, we recommend upgrading to the most current versions, but customers could upgrade to 2008 or 2008 R2 versions to take advantage of this offer.

12. 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.

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

When customers have an existing support plan:

Scenario	Response
Customer can open a support ticket	Yes
Support Team will work to troubleshoot customer issue	Yes
Support Team will do a root cause analysis	No
Support Team will file a bug or a Design Change Request (DCR)	No

Microsoft is committed to helping customers upgrade their solutions or migrate to the cloud and will provide best effort support to troubleshoot an issue.

14. 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.

15. Do customers need to migrate 2008 or 2008 R2 to Azure before the End of Support deadline to get Extended Security Updates?

Migrations do not need to be done before the End of Support deadline. We recommend migration before End of Support so you continue to receive security updates, but customers that migrate to Azure during the three years post-End of Support will get access to Extended Security Updates when they migrate. Customers may also purchase Extended Security Updates on-premises to keep server workloads protected until they migrate or upgrade.

16. If a customer deploys a brand-new SQL Server or Windows Server 2008 or 2008 R2 instance on Azure, do they get Extended Security Updates?

Yes, customers can start a new 2008 or 2008 R2 instance on Azure and have access to Extended Security Updates.

17. Do customers with an on-premises license for SQL Server or Windows Server, and who purchase an Open Value Subscription or Cloud Solution Provider (CSP) Subscription, have downgrade rights to SQL Server or Windows Server 2008 or 2008 R2?

Yes, customers who purchase either of these programs have downgrade rights.

18. Do customers with an on-premises license for SQL Server or Windows Server, and who purchase an Open Value Subscription or Cloud Solution Provider (CSP) Subscription, need to re-install the 2008 version under the subscription to have access to Extended Security Updates?

No, customers do not need to re-install SQL Server or Windows Server 2008 or 2008 R2 to take advantage of the Extended Security Updates. However, if they bring their own bits, they will need to manually patch their servers for Extended Security Updates.

19. What are the options for SQL Server and Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2 customers without Software Assurance?

For SQL Server or Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2 customers who do not have Software Assurance, the alternative option is to move to Azure, via Pay-As-You-Go licenses or a Cloud Solution Provider (CSP) Subscription to get access to Extended Security Updates for free. For those who need to stay on-premises, customers may purchase Software Assurance and/or a CSP Subscription license, as they include eligibility for Extended Security Updates on-premises and Azure Hybrid Benefit if the servers are moved to Azure.

Extended Security Updates On-Premises

20. 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.

21. 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 many 2008 on-premises servers with Software Assurance as they need for Extended Security Updates. Critical or important updates should be applied to servers covered by Extended Security Updates.

22. Can customers cover non-production servers licensed under Visual Studio (MSDN) subscriptions with Premium Assurance or Extended Security Updates for on-premises environments?

Customers who purchase Extended Security Updates or Premium Assurance for production servers may also apply those security updates to servers licensed under Visual Studio (MSDN) subscriptions at no additional cost. Premium Assurance and Extended Security Updates for on-premises environments are not available to purchase for servers licensed under Visual Studio (MSDN) subscriptions.

Extended Security Updates on Azure and cloud/hosting environments

23. 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 (High-Availability/Disaster Recovery) 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.

24. Can customers get Extended Security Updates via CSPs (Cloud Services Providers)?

Yes, Extended Security Updates will be available for all SQL Server and Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2 virtual machines in Azure through CSPs.

25. 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.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. What versions of SQL Server and Windows Server will have access to Extended Security Updates in Azure Stack?

SQL Server 2008 SP3 and 2008 R2 SP2, and Windows Server 2008 SP2 and 2008 R2 SP1 will be supported on Azure Stack.

29. 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 service (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, 9th, 2019. For customers looking to upgrade, all versions of SQL Server from 2008 onwards will be supported (2008, 2008 R2, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, and 2019), as well as the different Service Pack versions.

30. 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](#).

31. What are the best practices for enhancing the performance of 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](#).

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

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.

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

33. 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.

34. Can customers leverage Extended Security Updates for SQL Server with a third party hoster?

Customers cannot leverage 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 Virtual Machines (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 instances running in a VM (IaaS) at another cloud provider. However, free updates in Azure is the more attractive offer.

Product and Implementation Questions

35. How will Microsoft deliver Extended Security Updates?

Security updates will be delivered using the standard technology in market at the time and details will be announced closer to the End of Support deadline.

36. 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.

37. 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.

38. 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 via the Azure Migration Center](#) to identify potential feature parity gaps. For further questions, work with your Microsoft partner or your Account team to evaluate application readiness.

39. 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](#).

40. 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](#).

41. 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 (System Center Operations Manager) (Guest and Host)	Yes	Yes	Yes
VMM (Virtual Machine Manager) (WS2008/R2 as Host)	Yes	No	No
VMM (Virtual Machine Manager) (WS2008/R2 as Guest)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Orchestrator*	No	No	No
Service Manager**	No	No	No
DPM (Data Protection Manager)	Yes	Yes	Yes
SCCM (System Center Configuration Manager)	No	No	No

*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 (System Center Operations Manager)	Yes	Yes	Yes
DPM (Data Protection Manager)	Yes	Yes	Yes

Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server

42. What is the Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server?

The Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server helps customers maximize the value from their current licensing investments and accelerate their migration to the cloud. Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server is an Azure-based benefit that enables customers to use their SQL Server licenses with Software Assurance to pay a reduced rate ("base rate") on *SQL Database vCore-based options (ie Managed Instance, vCore-based Single Database, vCore-based Elastic Pool), SQL Server in Azure Virtual Machines and SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS)*. You may apply this benefit even if the SKU is active but note the base rate will be applied from the time you select it in the portal. No credit will be issued retroactively.

43. How do SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS) users in Azure benefit from Azure Hybrid Benefit?

The Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server helps you get more value from your SQL Server licenses and save up to 55 percent on [SQL Server Integration Services](#). You can use the benefit with SQL Server Enterprise Edition and Standard edition licenses covered with Software Assurance. You can benefit from your SQL server licenses to run SQL Server Integration Services packages on Azure and pay a lower base rate.

44. What are the specific rights of the Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server?

Customers will have the following rights associated with Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server:

License Footprint	What does Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server Get You?
SQL Server Enterprise Edition core customers with SA	<p>vCore-based SQL Database options</p> <p>Can pay Base Rate on either General Purpose or Business Critical</p> <p>1 core on-premises = 4 cores in General Purpose</p> <p>1 core on-premises = 1 core in Business Critical</p> <p>SQL Server in Azure Virtual Machines</p> <p>1 core on-premises = 1 core Enterprise Edition in Azure Virtual Machine</p>
SQL Server Standard Edition core customers with SA	<p>vCore-based SQL Database options</p> <p>Can pay Base Rate on General Purpose only</p> <p>1 core on-premises = 1 core in General Purpose</p> <p>SQL Server in Azure Virtual Machines</p> <p>1 core on-premises = 1 core Standard Edition in Azure Virtual Machine</p>

45. How is Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server different in Azure Virtual Machines vs. Azure SQL Database? Is the virtualization benefit available for SQL Server in Azure Virtual Machines?

The primary difference in Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server between Azure Virtual Machines and Azure SQL Database is that the virtualization benefit is only available on Azure SQL database. You can leverage this benefit when migrating from SQL Server Enterprise edition on-premises to Azure SQL Database General Purpose service tier. To learn more about the differences between SQL Server in Azure Virtual Machines vs. Azure SQL Database, please check the [Cloud SQL Options documentation](#).

46. What happens if an Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server customer's Software Assurance expires?

If an existing Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server customer's SA expires, they will be moved to a License-included option. This depends on the implementation of license and SA validation.

47. What products are eligible for the Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server?

This hybrid benefit is only available for use with:

- SQL Database vCore-based service tiers: Managed Instance, Single Database and Elastic Pool
- SQL Server in Azure Virtual Machines
SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS)

48. Can I apply this benefit retroactively?

This benefit may be applied even if the SKU is active but note the base rate will be applied from the time the customer selects it in the portal. No credit will be issued retroactively.

49. Is the Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server available in my region?

The Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server will be available in all regions that vCore-based SQL Database options are available.

50. Can I combine Azure Hybrid Benefit for Windows Server and Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server for maximum savings?

The Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server and Windows Server can be used together when you use SQL Server in Azure Virtual Machines. The [recommended approach](#) is to use Virtual Machines with [Microsoft-certified BYOL SQL Server gallery images](#). On the Azure Portal, deploy Virtual Machines with [Microsoft-certified BYOL SQL Server gallery images](#). Then, use [PowerShell commands to activate Azure Hybrid Benefit for Windows Server](#).

In Azure SQL Database, you only need to use the Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server, as the operating system is abstracted from the user. You can activate the Azure Hybrid Benefit via the Azure Portal by attesting you have sufficient active licenses with Software Assurance.

51. Does the 90-day license reassignment rule in the Product Terms apply to the Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server?

No. The 90-day license reassignment rule in the Product Terms applies to License Mobility on hosted/VM instances. That scenario is not applicable for Managed Instance, which is a fully-managed database service.

52. How does Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server differ from license mobility?

Today, we offer SQL Server customers with Software Assurance license mobility benefits which allows re-assignment of their licenses to third party shared servers. This benefit can be used on unmanaged offerings in the cloud (i.e., VM/hosted), and the customer must bring their own media, and fill out all the compliance forms with the third-party cloud providers. Customers only get one core in the cloud for every core they own on-premises, and can only run in their specified edition, .i.e. Standard can only run in Standard Edition in the cloud.

Azure Hybrid Benefit allows for:

- Moving your licenses to a fully managed PaaS product. We are the only cloud that has this. AWS RDS license mobility is now prohibited.
- 4 cores in the cloud for every core on-premises for Enterprise Edition customers in General Purpose
- 180 days of dual use rights on-premises and in the cloud
- No requirement for submission of licensing compliance papers, just a check box in the portal

For customers that want a hosted solution, they should combine Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server + Azure Hybrid Benefit for WS for the best savings - you can only do this on Azure.

Additional Resources

Datasheets

[Azure Hybrid Benefit Datasheet](#)

[Server 2008 and 2008 R2 End of Support Datasheet](#)

Other Customer-facing Product FAQs for Extended Security Updates

[Azure Hybrid Benefit FAQ](#)