What Customers Need

By now everyone knows that Microsoft SQL Server 2005 is fast approaching end of life. But each organization needs to assess the impact, both in terms of the risks and rewards.

The risks are numerous. End of life means that Microsoft will no longer develop or release and security patches or fixes. Additionally, you will no longer be able to call Microsoft and get technical support, should you have a Microsoft SQL Server 2005 server misbehaving – you will be on your own. The risks fall into two broad categories, regulatory and downtime. Your unsupported Microsoft SQL 2005 servers may not meet PCI, HIPPA, SOX or other regulatory audit requirements. This may create significant costs or problems for your business. Even if regulatory audits are not a concern, the downtime risks now that Microsoft will not provide support could incur significant costs to your organization.

What We Do

This engagement will involve two phases of effort, Planning & Design, and then the actual Migration effort:

Planning and Design
- Review and clarification of questions on the Current State environment.
- Determine, review and prioritize requirements for users, directories, security, coexistence, migration process, and monitoring and maintenance activities.
- Run the SQL Server Upgrade Advisor tool.
- Review budgetary or technical constraints.
- Engage with Administrative and DBA organization.
- Discuss Server Consolidation Options.
- Review Deployment Options
  - Physical Hardware
  - Virtualization
  - Azure
- Discuss High Availability and Disaster Recovery Options.

Migration
- Review of any upgrade issues found and perform remediation prior to migration.
- Install and configure SQL Server OR
- Deploy Azure instance for migration.
- Perform migration of databases, logins, and jobs.

Benefits for the Customer

Newer versions of SQL Server provide:
- Performance improvements
- Higher availability
- Enhanced functionality

Additionally if a migration to Azure is considered, the following additional benefits may be realized:
- Reduce acquisition costs and delays
- Improve flexibility and scalability
- Simplify the infrastructure.

Effort Required

The effort varies and generally increases as more of the services are chosen for deployment and configuration.

The simplest engagement will require one week, and will include the initial planning and design, and upgrade of SQL Server 2005 to a supported version.

More complex engagements involving SQL Server consolidation, virtualization or migration to Azure may span a number of weeks.

Next Steps

An in-depth discussion with CDW can provide you with more insight into the importance of this work, and help determine how much effort will be required.

The customer may wish to have the SQL Server Upgrade Advisory tool ran prior to further discovery.

Contact your CDW Account Manager to speak with one of our qualified Field Solution Architects.