As Microsoft has been warning, SQL Server 2008 and 2008 R2 will reach end-of-support phase on July 9, 2019. Organizations that are running SQL 2008 will need to assess the impact, in terms of both the risks and benefits. The risks are numerous. End of support means that Microsoft will no longer develop or release 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 2008 server misbehaving, you will be on your own. The risks fall into two broad categories — regulatory and downtime. Your unsupported Microsoft SQL 2008 servers might not meet PCI, HIPPA, SOX or other regulatory audit requirements. This can create significant costs or problems for your business. Even if regulatory audits are not a concern, the downtime risks are. Now that Microsoft will no longer provide support, your organization could incur significant costs in the event of downtime.

WHAT CAN CDW DO FOR ME?
This engagement will involve two phases of effort, Planning and 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 and/or Azure Data Migration Assistant tool.
- Review budgetary or technical constraints.
- Engage with Administrative and DBA organization.
- Discuss server consolidation 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.

THE BENEFITS
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.

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Next Steps
To learn more about CDW’s Microsoft SQL Server 2008 End-of-Support Migration, contact your CDW account manager or call 800.800.4239.