

ALTRON DIGITAL BUSINESS | Microsoft

The true cost of staying on premises

What your SQL Server infrastructure is really costing you

Every month your SQL Server estate stays on-premise, it's accumulating costs that don't show up as a single line item, but add up on your balance sheet all the same. If you're running SQL Server 2012, 2014, 2016, or 2019, here's what "doing nothing" is actually costing your business.

Cost Driver	SQL Server On-Prem	Azure SQL
Security patching	Manual, and unsupported entirely once a SQL version reaches end-of-life	Included, automatic, ongoing
Extended support	Microsoft ESU fees, compounding year on year	Not applicable, always current
Hardware refresh	Capex exposed to exchange rate on imported server hardware	No hardware to refresh
Business continuity	Uptime depends on your site, your generator, your backup plan	Built-in high availability and disaster recovery
Licensing	CAL and server licence costs rising at each renewal cycle	Consolidated into predictable operating cost, with Azure Hybrid Benefit available on existing licences
Compliance and audit exposure	Unsupported SQL versions are a documented audit risk	Covered under Microsoft's compliance certifications

Beyond the cost savings

Moving off unsupported infrastructure also means:

- Reduced patch management overhead and no more war-rooming hardware failures
- Your team works in a SQL Server environment they already know, so there's no retraining curve
- Improved resilience against load-shedding and site-level outages, without building your own DR site
- A predictable monthly cost instead of unplanned capex spikes

What this could mean for your business

A 2025 study from independent research firm Forrester Consulting study, commissioned by Microsoft, found that organisations running on-premises Windows Server and SQL Server saved 10% on licensing by shifting to a pay-as-you-go model, and cut their extended security update (ESU) fees by 30% by moving from third-party vendor procurement to direct licensing through Microsoft. While every environment is different, a funded SQL Workload Assessment will show you exactly what these savings could look like for your business.

[1]The Total Economic Impact Of Microsoft Azure Arc With Cloud-Based Management Services

The funded assessment

Altron Digital Business is offering a funded SQL Workload Assessment, covering discovery of your SQL Server estate and a migration road-map. Book a 30-minute call to find out what your SQL Server estate is really costing you.