SQL Server History and Versions in Table Format

Here's a detailed table summarizing the history of SQL Server along with its versions, major features, and release dates:

Version	Release Date	Major Features/Improvements
SQL Server 1.0 (OS/2)	1989	- Jointly developed by Microsoft, Sybase, and Ashton-Tate for OS/2. - Limited to 16-bit architecture.
SQL Server 4.2 (OS/2)	1993	- Improved support for OS/2. - Expanded functionality and performance improvements.
SQL Server 6.0	1995	- First version fully owned and developed by Microsoft after the split with Sybase. - Windows NT support.
SQL Server 6.5	1996	- Introduced graphical user interface (Enterprise Manager). - Added support for TCP/IP and named pipes protocols.
SQL Server 7.0	1998	- First version based on Microsoft's own code. - Introduced OLAP services (later called Analysis Services). - Auto-tuning and auto-configuration.
SQL Server 2000	2000	- Full support for XML. - Federated database support. - Indexed views. - Distributed partitioned views.
SQL Server 2005	2005	- Introduction of Dynamic Management Views (DMVs). - SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS). - Database Mirroring. - Common Language Runtime (CLR) integration.

SQL Server 2008	2008	- Policy-based management. - Transparent Data Encryption (TDE). - Data compression. - Resource Governor.
SQL Server 2008 R2	2010	- Master Data Services (MDS). - StreamInsight. - PowerPivot integration for Excel. - Improvements in SSRS.
SQL Server 2012	2012	- AlwaysOn Availability Groups for high availability. - Columnstore indexes. - Data Quality Services (DQS). - SQL Server Data Tools (SSDT).
SQL Server 2014	2014	- In-Memory OLTP (Hekaton). - Buffer pool extension to SSD. - Improved performance with AlwaysOn and hybrid cloud.
SQL Server 2016	2016	- Always Encrypted. - Stretch Database (cold data moved to Azure). - Temporal Tables. - Native JSON support. - Query Store.
SQL Server 2017	2017	- Cross-platform support for Linux. - Adaptive query processing. - Graph database features. - Python integration.
SQL Server 2019	2019	- Big Data Clusters (integration with Apache Spark and Hadoop). - Intelligent Query Processing (IQP). - Memory-optimized TempDB metadata.

SQL Server 2022	2022	- Built-in cloud integration with Azure (Azure Synapse and Managed Instance). - Ledger for tamper-evidence in blockchain scenarios. - Continued focus on performance improvements and security. - Enhanced failover capabilities for AlwaysOn AG.

Key Highlights:

- **Initial Development:** SQL Server started as a collaborative effort between Microsoft, Sybase, and Ashton-Tate for OS/2.
- **Transition to Windows:** With SQL Server 6.0, Microsoft took full ownership, and the focus shifted to supporting Windows NT.
- **Evolution to Modern Data Platform:** Over the years, SQL Server evolved from a basic relational database to a comprehensive data platform with support for advanced analytics, big data, in-memory computing, and cloud integration.
- **Cross-Platform:** SQL Server 2017 marked the first time SQL Server could run on Linux, broadening its market reach.
- **Cloud Integration:** Recent versions, especially SQL Server 2019 and 2022, focused heavily on cloud integration, hybrid architectures, and big data capabilities.

This table provides a historical timeline and key feature advancements with each version of SQL Server, illustrating its growth and technological evolution.