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| Action Item | In Place Upgrade | Parallel or side by side upgrade |
| Upgrade Efforts | * Minimum * Upgrade is Automated * No data migration needed | * Efforts needs to be planned * Manual migration * Data migration required |
| Downtime | * Requires downtime | * Minimum or no downtime required * Production will be online while migration is taking place |
| Configuration Changes | * Configuration changes are Automated by the system * Application configuration is not needed since it would use same connection information | * All configurations needs to be preserved and migrated over to new SQL Server instance * Applications needs to change configuration to connect to new SQL Server instance * Requires manual check of all configurations (system and user) |
| Data Transfer | * No Data Transfer required * All Server integration changes remains intact and gets upgraded by the system (Replication, Mirroring, Linked Server and SQL Server Agent Jobs etc. | * Data Transfer required and can be planned in staging manner * All server integrations needs to be created over to new SQL Server Instance |
| Server Name and IP | * No changes in Server and SQL server instance * Application can continue using same server Name and IP address | * Server and IP address will change * All application needs to change their connection to connect to new server with new IP address |
| Testing | * Testing is relatively faster as same testing script and be used once upgrade is completed | * Thorough testing required as there are chances to a configuration mismatch * Testing needs to be planned and new testing script required since Server Instance has changed for testing script |
| Rollback | * Rollback usually is rebuilding the whole system * Requires backup of all configuration, databases including system databases | * Rollback is very easy as production system remains online during migration, if testing fails, it can be remediated with no downtime required and all application can connect to previous Online production system |
| SQL Versioning and Architecture | * Versioning upgrade would be possible with same architecture (32 bit to 32 bit), 32bit to 64 bit is not supported | * Since it would be new install, any version with any architecture can be installed and tested |