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Prerequisites for migrating to Azure

The resources in this section will help prepare your current environment for migration to Azure.

Overview | Understand migration approaches | Planning checklist

Reasons for migrating to Azure include removing risks associated with legacy hardware, reducing capital expense, freeing up datacenter space, and quickly realizing return on investment (ROI).

- **Eliminate legacy hardware.** You may have applications hosted on infrastructure that is nearing end of life or support, whether on-premises or at a hosting provider. Migration to the cloud offers an attractive solution to the challenge as the ability to migrate "as-is" allows the team to quickly resolve the current infrastructure lifecycle challenge and then turn its attention to long-term planning for application lifecycle and optimization in the cloud.
- **Address end-of-support for software.** You may have applications that depend on other software or operating systems that are nearing end of support. Moving to Azure may provide extended support options for these dependencies or other migration options that minimize refactoring requirements to support your applications going forward. For example, see extended support options for Windows Server 2008 and SQL Server 2008.
- **Reduce capital expense.** Hosting your own server infrastructure requires considerable investment in hardware, software, electricity, and personnel. Migrating to a cloud solution can provide significant reductions in capital expense. To achieve the best capital expense reductions, a redesign of the solution may be required. However, an "as-is" migration is a great first step.
- **Free up datacenter space.** You may choose Azure in order to expand your datacenter capacity. One way to do this is using the cloud as an extension of your on-premises capabilities.
- **Quickly realize return on investment.** Making a return on investment (ROI) is much easier with cloud solutions, as the cloud payment model provides great utilization insight and promotes a culture for realizing ROI.

Each of the above scenarios may be entry points for extending your cloud footprint using another methodology (rehost, refactor, rearchitect, rebuild, or replace).

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The guide assumes that prior to this migration, your digital estate consists mostly of on-premises hosted infrastructure and may include hosted business-critical applications. After a successful migration, your data estate may look very much how it did on-premises but with the infrastructure hosted in cloud resources. Alternatively, the ideal data estate is a variation of your current data estate, since it has aspects of your on-premises infrastructure with components which have been refactored to optimize and take advantage of the cloud platform.

The focus of this migration journey is to achieve:

- Remediation of legacy hardware end-of-life.
- Reduction of capital expense.
- Return on investment.

Note

An additional benefit of this migration journey is the additional software support model for Windows 2008, Windows 2008 R2, and SQL Server 2008, and SQL Server 2008 R2. For more information, see:

- **Windows Server 2008 and Windows Server 2008 R2**.
- **SQL Server 2008 and SQL Server 2008 R2**.