

# Microsoft SQL Server 2012 End of Life What Are Your Options and How To Simplify the Modernization Process

On July 12, 2022, Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Extended Support will end. Luckily, Microsoft is offering users multiple options for next steps: from migrating to the Microsoft Azure cloud to upgrading to a newer version of SQL Server on-premises.

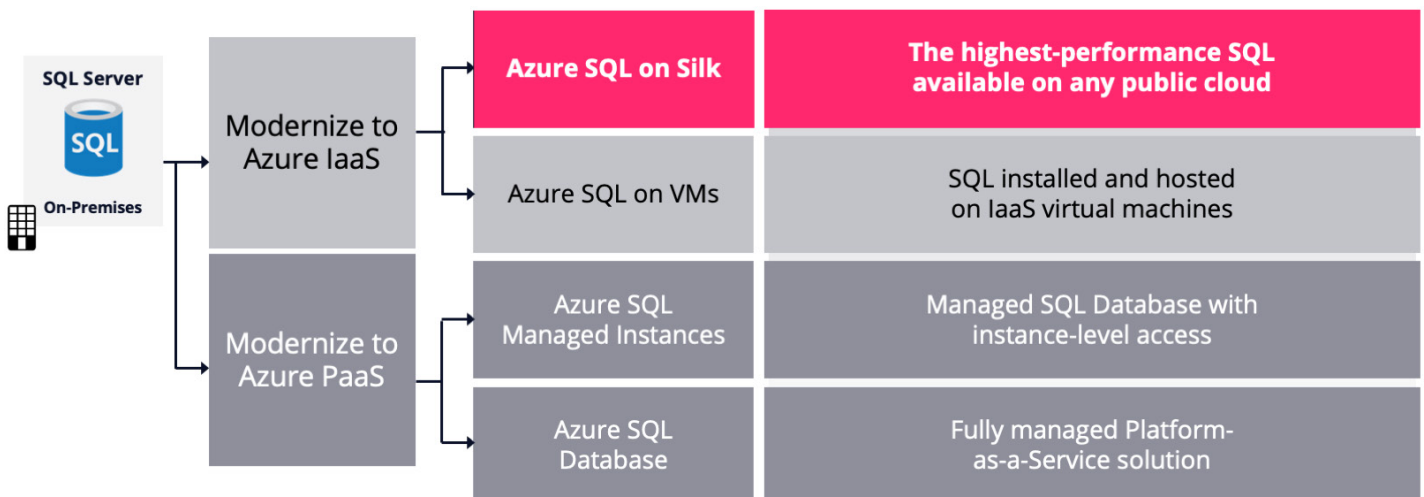
For companies who are looking to modernize their applications, migrating SQL onto Azure VMs can be an attractive option. Yet the migration process might not be ideal for those who use SQL Server 2012 for their most mission-critical needs. Refactoring applications to be cloud-native can be time-consuming, costly, and presents a lot of risk – none of which your most important data can afford.

The Silk Cloud Platform can help with that. Silk is a virtualization layer that lives between your SQL Server workloads and the underlying Azure infrastructure. From here, you can successfully run your SQL Server workloads on Azure which simplifies the migration journey.

## Lift, Shift, and Evolve to Azure

Refactoring your SQL workloads can take a bit of time – time that you don’t have with SQL Server 2012 EOL occurring in a few short months. With Silk, you can lift and shift your workloads into Azure today and start taking advantage of all the cloud has to offer immediately. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, you can work to modernize your workloads on your own schedule.

By lifting and shifting with Silk, you’ll continue to get the same consistent experience that you achieved on-prem along with a high level of performance that rivals the performance you are currently achieving on-prem.



## Proven Consistently High Performance

If your SQL Server workloads are larger than 10 TB and demand over 2 GB/second throughput or 80k IOPS, native cloud is not going to be able to give you the results that you need. The Silk Cloud Platform solves that. By decoupling performance from the public cloud resources invested in, Silk guarantees high performance with no limit on throughput, IOPS, or disk size. Silk offers the same – or better – performance you'd get on-prem with sub-millisecond latency and the ability to dynamically scale performance up and down automatically as workloads change. It's much simpler than operating your current SAN.

Performance testing has shown that Silk enables you to:

- Bulk load more than 20 million rows in 1 second
- Load more than 8 TB of data into a SQL database in less than an hour
- Perform a full table scan and retrieve a full 75+ GB data table into memory within half a minute. All while easily reading sustained 4-5 GB/sec without the need of partitioning tricks.

But the Silk Cloud Platform doesn't just offer a much higher level of performance. Due to its patent-protected technology, Silk offers consistently low latency and fast performance regardless of Read/Write block size or pattern. Typically, SQL Server workloads that are transactional or analytics generate various IO sizes. This inconsistency results in inconsistent SLAs and latency in the cloud – in turn, hindering your database's performance. With Silk, this is a complete nonissue.

## Better Cost Efficiency

When migrating to the cloud, costs can sometimes get out of control. This is due to the cost of database licensing as well as other costs due to the cloud's lack of data services that result in data inflation. Silk helps keep your costs in a minimum.

With Silk, there is no need to overprovision with larger VMs in order to get the throughput performance you need. Silk allows you to right-size your workload with helps to cut down on unnecessary CPU, memory, and database licensing costs. Silk's architecture overcomes the cloud's performance limitations and throttles, allowing for fewer VMs with less vCPUs.

Enterprise data services – such as data reduction, deduplication, and thin-provisioning – are table stakes for on-prem enterprise SAN solutions. These services help reduce your capacity footprint – on average, by a 3:1 ratio. However, native cloud does not offer these data reduction capabilities. With Silk, it is possible to take advantage of these enterprise data services – no extra licensing fee required.

In the CI/CD process for Dev/Test, you often take a lot of clones. Clones can be created quickly without impacting the production system. However, in order to create writeable snapshots on the cloud, you have to create full clones – which wastes cloud capacity and time. Silk offers instantaneous clones that can be mounted for read/write purposes at a very low cost to capacity. These clones deliver the same performance as the production copies without any impact on the production database.

## Ready to upgrade from SQL Server 2012 to SQL on Azure with Silk?

Learn more at <https://silk.us/solutions/microsoft-sql-server/>.

### About Silk

The Silk Cloud Platform is the leading platform to quickly move mission-critical data to the cloud and to keep it operating at performance standards on par with even the fastest on-prem environments. Silk works with global enterprise companies and cloud providers to ensure a seamless, efficient, and smooth migration process, followed by unparalleled performance speeds for all data and applications in the cloud.

The platform makes cloud environments run 10x faster and the entire application stack is more resilient to any infrastructure hiccups or malfunctions. Silk has offices in Israel and is headquartered in Needham, MA. For more information, visit <https://silk.us/>.