

If you own or work on one of the estimated 7 million servers still running Windows Server 2008, please be aware that Microsoft's mainstream support for Windows Server 2008 ended over 12 months ago.

Happily, Evotec can help you get Extended Support until Jan 2020. It is important to run supported versions of Windows Server and other Microsoft Server products. Here's why:

- Security fixes will no longer be available, which puts your organisation at risk, especially if you handle personal and financial data or you work in a regulated industry, like healthcare.
- You won't be able to contact Microsoft for technical support in the event of a server problem
- There will be no paid per-incident support
- Hosted and co-located vendors will discontinue support for their applications running on Windows Server 2008.
- You will find it difficult to leverage cloud options when encumbered by old tech.

But for many, the challenge of running End of Life of Windows Server is more about all the old applications, middleware, databases, and tools that likely also approaching their end of life.

Evotec can help you work out a plan to migrate unsupported Windows Server and related application instances as soon as possible.

### It's not just about the server

Look to make sure all your apps will work on the new server.

- Custom apps that may need extensive code updates and migration to a new operating system.
- Packaged application software from an ISV that may not work on a newer operating system.
- Apps that are nearing end-of-life - try to avoid having to migrate them again in the near future
- Also consider your plans for new technology like cloud, social, mobile, and big data.

### While you're at it

Any big IT challenge (like migrating Windows Server) is a good time to try to reduce the complexity of your IT infrastructure.

Try to:

- Reduce the number of operating systems in use and the number of different configurations for each version.
- Accommodate BYOD and other mobile technologies - with a close look at their security challenges
- Enable or leverage cloud and hybrid cloud solutions where it makes sense, that can work with your on-premise infrastructure.

### Options are:

- Replace existing systems with new, on-premise Windows Server operating systems
- Consider an IaaS solution for existing Windows Server workloads, with a migration to Windows Server 2016
- Or move to software-as-a-service (SaaS) solutions for the applications currently served by Windows Server systems.

### Go all out

This is a good opportunity to create or refresh your IT strategy. You could survey your users, set critical success factors and KPIs, do risk analysis, negotiate management buy-in, etc. But in the real world, you should at least:

- Identify your Windows Server environments and what apps and workloads they support
- Set down what your ideal state will be and determine your priorities
- Look at your existing applications and determine which will migrate easily, which could or should be upgraded, which can be retired by transferring their function to another application and which can be retired altogether
- Identify which application and services can be virtualised and which can be move to the cloud
- Start planning your IT support, management, and training post-migration
- HP offers IT Transformation and Migration Services.

Evotec can help you engage with HPE to do a Migration Assessment to advise on which applications should be migrated directly to the cloud (such as HP Helion Managed Cloud) with little or no change, which can be migrated to the cloud with application transformation, and which should be upgraded to Windows Server 2016 in a traditional environment.

Evotec is a Silver HPE Partner - for a free consultation for your enterprise, call Evotec IT Director, Chris Molloy on 1300 133 996.