



MICROSOFT'S SERVER VERSIONS

Benefit Analysis Chart

	Windows Server 2008	Windows Server 2012 (Extended Support Window)	Windows Server 2012 (Post Extended Support Window)	Windows Server 2016	Windows Server 2019 (Or Newer)
					
 Support	Windows Server 2008 is completely outside the support window, which means Microsoft will not assist with problems with it.	Mainstream support for Windows Server 2012 has ended but extended support is still available, however Microsoft may only support your application for a \$995 fee during this time.	When the extended support window ends Microsoft will no longer support this version of Windows Server, not even for a fee.	Until January 11, 2022 you are still covered by Microsoft's mainstream support, we encourage you to think about whether this is an important feature for your business soon.	By remaining current on your Windows Server application you ensure your business benefits from full unhindered access to Microsoft's support.
 Updates & Features	There will be no more security updates for Windows Server 2008 unless there's a dire cyber security event, and you will also receive no feature updates.	During this time there may still be updates and features added, but it will be much less frequent than when it was still covered by mainstream support.	Like with Windows Server 2008 updates and features will end as you move past the extended support date.	Until January your Windows Server application will continue to receive regular updates and feature enhancements. After January these will begin to slow down.	Newer versions of Windows Server feature the full benefit of Microsoft's efforts towards improving the application, receiving regular updates.
 Compatibility	The software vendors you use may issue updates rendering the software incompatible with this version of Windows Server.	Your software vendors will be winding down from supporting this version as you move further out from the mainstream support ending date.	Once the extended support window ends it will be difficult to find vendors that still support this version of Windows Server.	It's our experience most vendors will continue to support a recently mainstream version of Windows Server for a while, however cyber security oriented ones may cut off support sooner.	Vendors will always prioritize their efforts for making sure their software is compatible with the latest versions of Windows Server.
 Usability	As an older version of Windows Server it will be missing many of the features found in newer versions, especially critical cyber security focused features.	As feature updates happen less the gap between this version of Windows Server and newer versions will continue to grow, decreasing its usability.	As with Windows Server 2008, feature updates will no longer happen and this version will miss out on continued improvements that increase usability.	Windows Server 2016 is comparable to newer versions while under mainstream support but when the EOL date happens this will change.	The newest version of Windows Server will have the most usability when it comes to your software applications and maximizing the effectiveness of your servers hardware.