

Microsoft SQL Server Runtime license program change

End of Life announcement – April 2026

We're writing to let you know about an upcoming change from Microsoft that affects how Sage distributes SQL Runtime licenses.

What's changing

The agreement that allows Sage to distribute Runtime licenses of Microsoft SQL Server will end on **July 31, 2026**. This change reflects the end of a globally unique exception that Microsoft previously extended to Sage. Microsoft is withdrawing this exception as part of a broader policy change.

From August 1, 2026:

- We will stop selling new SQL Runtime licenses.
- Partners won't be able to add SQL users to existing Runtime licenses.
- Existing maintenance stays valid until its current term ends, but won't renew after July 31, 2026.
- Existing SQL Runtime licenses will continue to work as usual.

What does this mean for customers?

- Existing customers and customers who purchase on (or renew before) July 31, 2026, may continue to use their existing SQL runtime licenses indefinitely.
- Customers may also upgrade to the latest SQL version distributed during their agreement term, even after July 31, 2026.
- For Sage 100, Sage 300, and Sage X3, this is currently SQL 2022. SQL 2025 is in progress for Sage 100 and Sage 300, and an announcement will be made when available.

Due to this change, we recommend two actions for customers and partners to lock in lower runtime pricing:

1. Buy any new SQL runtime licenses needed before **July 31, 2026** (including for planned growth).
2. Buy any additional Runtime CALs before July 31, 2026.

What to do as of August 1, 2026?

Starting **August 1, 2026**, customers will need to purchase a full standard SQL license from a Microsoft reseller (directly or through their channel partner).

Sage has partnered with Microsoft distributor **Pax8** to provide the ability for our partners and customers to continue purchasing SQL Server as part of the Sage software purchase. All new licenses will be named user licenses, not concurrent licenses. These licenses are not product-restricted and do not require annual renewal; they are purchased only when upgrades are needed. The transaction for the SQL will occur between the partner and Pax8.

Note: Documentation on how to take advantage of the Pax8 partnership along with a detailed FAQ will be provided in due course.