

## Three Ways to Upgrade SQL 2005 for Dynamics-GP

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When you start thinking about upgrading the Microsoft SQL Server 2005 that has your Dynamics-GP data the first thing you need to do before you do anything else is to consider the three options available to upgrading and how they relate to your environment, time frame, and cost. So, what are the three options to which I am referring?

### Upgrade Your Current Instance

You could upgrade your current instance. This means that you start out with a SQL 2005 Server and end up with either a SQL 2008 Server or a SQL 2008 R2 Server. All the SQL databases, Tools, everything will be the new version of SQL. This has the advantage that once finished; the process is complete for the most part. There is no need to change ODBC connections on various workstations, or Terminal Servers, nor do you have to transfer your Dynamics-GP users logins. The disadvantage is that you do not a SQL 2005 Server to go back to should something go wrong. In addition, if for some reason you also have other applications using that same database server and those applications do not work with the new version of SQL they will not work using this upgrade option.

### Installing a Side-by-Side Instance

You could install a new instance of SQL either SQL 2008 or SQL 2008 R2. This means that your SQL Server now has both a SQL 2005 instance and a SQL 2008 or SQL 2008 R2 instance. Yet just installing a new instance does not upgrade your Dynamics-GP databases. To do that, once you have the new instance up and running you have to backup your SQL 2005 Dynamic-GP databases and then restore those databases in the SQL 2008 or SQL 2008 R2 instance. In addition, you have to change all ODBC connections to point to the SQL 2008 or SQL 2008 R2 instance on all workstations and or Terminal Servers and you will need to transfer your Dynamics-GP users to the new instance. Moreover, you really need to do something to prevent anyone from accidentally using the old databases instead of the new one. Some easy ways of doing that is to stop the SQL 2005 SQL Services, disabling the Dynamics-GP users on the SQL 2005 instance, taking the Dynamics-GP database offline, or setting the security so that no one has access to those databases. While this does mean more work after the SQL upgrade process has finished the advantage is that should something go wrong you still have the 2005 instance to fall back on. In addition, if you do have other applications that will not work on SQL 2008 or SQL 2008 R2 those applications can still use the SQL 2005 instance while Dynamics-GP is using the SQL 2008 or SQL 2008 R2 instance.

### New Install on Different Server

The third option and my favorite, is to install SQL 2008 or SQL 2008 R2 on a completely new server. I like this option because it gives me the ability to upgrade the hardware as well as the software. You can also take your time setting up the new server. If anything goes wrong during the install process, all of your users are still using the existing SQL 2005 Server so there are no time sensitive problems. Once you have the new server up and running all you do is backup the Dynamics-GP databases from the old server and restore them on your new server. Transfer your Dynamics-GP user logins, and if the new server does not have the same name as the old server change the ODBC connections on all workstations and or Terminal Servers. You then can either, turn off the old server, or take the Dynamics-GP database offline. Then no one can accidentally use the old databases. In addition, if you do have other applications that do not run on SQL 2008 or SQL 2008 R2 those applications can continue to use the old SQL 2005 Server without any changes whatsoever.

**For reference, check the following websites:**

MSDN at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/>

For upgrading to SQL 2008 R2 at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms144267.aspx>

For upgrading to SQL 2008 at [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms144267\(v=SQL.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms144267(v=SQL.100).aspx)

For Side-by-Side be sure to check this at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ee210714.aspx>

For installing SQL, here is a nice two-part guide at <http://www.sqlserverclub.com/essentialguides/how-to-install-sql-server-2008-step-by-step-guide.aspx>

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