SQL Server 2008, more than just a database

With SQL Server 2008, Microsoft doubled down on its commitment to delivering a high-performance, scalable, and secure database. Here are some key features from 2008 to 2017:

**Always Encrypted**
- Feature available from 2008 to 2017
- Ensures data security by encrypting data at rest and in transit

**Growing SQL Server Availability**
- Enhancements to Always On Availability Groups
- Support for Linux Containers

**Business intelligence & analytics**
- Integration Services, Analysis Services, Reporting Services
- Business intelligence & analytics tools

**Security**
- Row-Level Security
- Transparent Data Encryption
- Policy-based management and automation

**Performance**
- In-Memory OLTP
- Query Store
- Intelligent Query Processing

**Scalability & cloud-readiness**
- Database mirroring and failover
- Always On Failover Cluster Instances and Availability Groups

**Management & programmability**
- SQL Server Data Tools
- SQL Server Management Studio
- Policy-Based Management

**Upkeep is essential to any software as a service (SaaS), but only certain tasks really require frequent manual changes.**

As technology advances, so do the potential threats to business continuity and data privacy. Access to and protection of personal information is at the forefront of data security today and SQL Server 2017 now has more capability than past versions—both around encryption and management of data.

SQL Server 2017, now more than just a database

SQL Server 2017 helps you move to the cloud with minimal application and database reengineering, providing better performance in I/O bottleneck scenarios.

With increases in consumer data collection, data analysis and BI have become essential to strategic decision-making. Machine learning and AI on SQL Server 2017 can transform your data into meaningful insights at scale.

The global economy never sleeps and neither does the demand for data. Building on the old standbys of high availability, transactional replication, and database mirroring, Always On Failover Cluster Instances and Availability Groups provide the capability to enable HADR scenarios on both Linux and Windows.

Prepares for SQL Server 2008 end of support

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SQL Server 2008 was the last major release before the advent of Always Encrypted, which was introduced with SQL Server 2012. Since then, security has been a top priority, and SQL Server 2017 builds on that foundation with enhanced security features.

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SQL Server 2017 provides better protection of personal information, helping protect data at rest without changes to your application and ensuring the data returned is the right data.

 Regardless of complexity, today's database engines are expected to return query results extremely quickly.

Today's databases in the cloud offer portability and redundancy. Cloud-based computing is the modern server paradigm and continues to evolve. SQL Server 2017 provides the ability to take advantage of the cloud and database agility brought by the cloud.

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