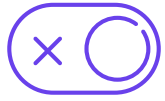# IBM® Power8® end of support: Understanding your options

IBM's line of midrange servers, known commercially as IBM Power Systems, has long provided enterprises with the reliability and performance needed to run mission-critical workloads. And while IBM servers are built to last, purchasing physical hardware does come with the understanding that the hardware itself will eventually face end-of-support (EOS) as newer models are introduced. Now, enterprises running workloads on-premises on Power8 hardware are facing this head on as IBM announced EOS for its entire line of Power8 hardware beginning in 2024.

IBM Power8 EOS:
Understanding Your Options

As of 2024, enterprises will no longer be able to get maintenance support or order upgrades or replacement parts for IBM Power8 models shown here.

The good news is that if you own IBM Power8 hardware, you have time now to plan your next move. Here are some options to help guide your decision.

1. Purchase new IBM Power hardware

2. Keep Power8 and contract with third-party maintenance company

3. Move off of the IBM Power platform

4. Migrate IBM Power workloads to the cloud

Power8 EOS dates vary by model:

3/31/24
Power Systems S812LC
Power Systems S822
Power Systems S822L
Power Systems 822LC (model 8335-GTA)
Power Systems 824, Power Systems 824L
All variants of the Pure Application System W3700

5/31/24
Power Systems S812L
Power Systems S814
Power Systems 822LC (model 8335-GCA)

10/31/24
Power Systems S821LC
Power Systems S822LC for Big Data
Power Systems S822LC for HPC
Power Systems E850C,
Power Systems E870
Power Systems E870C
Power Systems E880
Power Systems E880C

Purchase New IBM Power Hardware

As your IBM Power8 hardware faces EOS you might consider upgrading your on-prem Power8 to Power9 or 10. While this option carries a high capital expense, the new generation IBM Power servers are more efficient than their predecessors, and many come with a 1 to 3 year warranty.
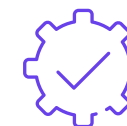
Best fit

Enterprises that do not have a cloud strategy or don't require workload scalability or agility.

Drawbacks

Capital investment intensive which can limit longer-term flexibility. Total cost of ownership can be higher than running workloads in the cloud given the cloud's pay-as-you-go for what you use pricing model.

Must-do's

Upgrade the operating system (IBM i or AIX) to support the new hardware and conduct thorough testing and verification of all applications' compatibility with the newer OS and hardware to ensure a smooth transition.

Option 2

Keep Power8 and contract with third-party maintenance company

A potential short-term solution is choosing to maintain your Power8 servers and contract with a third-party for maintenance.
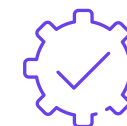
Best fit
Enterprises that are reluctant to buy new hardware, still shaping their cloud strategy and not ready to pick an immediate path.
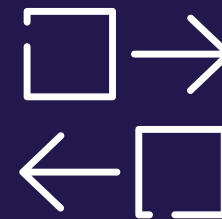
Drawbacks
Does not address limitations of being unable to upgrade the OS and other software to the latest versions. May leave IT infrastructure vulnerable to security threats and unable to support the latest business needs.

Must-do's
Take into consideration long-term total cost of ownership.

Move off of the IBM Power platform

A natural consideration when any technology reaches EOS is to consider moving off of the platform altogether. This process can be lengthy and challenging, but it is an option.
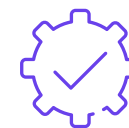
Best fit

Enterprises that do not want to buy new hardware and are not restricted by development timelines and cost.

Drawbacks

Rebuilding or re-writing applications may take years to complete and can be cost and labor intensive.

Must-do's

IT departments should weigh the costs, benefits and time required for this process, and seek help from a specialized IT services provider to help them through the process.

Option 4

Migrate IBM Power workloads to the cloud

Migrating IBM Power production workloads to the cloud is a game-changer for IT professionals and their organizations. The cloud's pay-as-you-go or pay-for-what-you-use pricing models can provide a significant cost advantage over replacing on-premises systems while reducing CapEx. Cloud solutions also provide a higher level of security, disaster recovery, and business continuity capabilities, which are essential for today's IT professionals to ensure the continuity of their operations and the security of their data. Cloud migration also de-silos legacy data which is critical to data modernization and AI initiatives which continue to grow in importance.
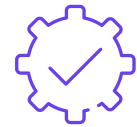
Best fit

Enterprises actively planning or executing a data center exit or have a defined cloud strategy and/or those looking for increased flexibility, scalability, and agility to best support business outcomes.

Drawbacks

IT departments may not have the internal skillset or experience to execute the migration.

Must-do's

Select an experienced infrastructure-as-a-service hyperscale solution and partner with a trusted IT services partner with expertise in IBM Power migration to ensure smooth transition from on-premises to the cloud.

Getting Started

Ready to plan your next move? Migrating your IBM Power workloads to the cloud is easier than you think. With Skytap, you can migrate and run IBM Power workloads as-is natively in Azure without refactoring or replatforming applications. This offers a simple, low-risk path to the cloud without business risk or lengthy timelines.

And getting started is easy because Ensono and Skytap have partnered together to deliver a complimentary IBM Power Cloud Readiness Assessment. At this complimentary work session, our IBM Power midrange migration experts will discuss your IBM Power estate, cloud readiness, and best options for exploring your IBM Power to Azure cloud transformation.

Sign up for your complimentary IBM Power Cloud Readiness Assessment today

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Ensono helps IT leaders be the catalyst for change by harnessing the power of hybrid IT to transform their businesses. We accelerate digital transformation by increasing agility and scalability through infrastructure modernization and migration to the public cloud. Our broad services portfolio, from mainframe to cloud, is powered by an award-winning IT insights platform and is designed to help our clients operate for today and optimize for tomorrow.

To learn more, visit ensono.com.

Skytap®

A Kyndryl Company

Skytap is a cloud service purpose-built to run specialized workloads in Microsoft Azure and IBM Cloud. As the best cloud service to support AIX, IBM i, and Linux on IBM Power together with x86, Skytap makes it easy to evolve traditional workloads by rapidly migrating them to the cloud. Enterprises around the world use Skytap for production workloads, disaster recovery, virtual training labs, and application development. Skytap's cloud environment simplifies management, reduces IT costs, speeds up application development, and allows organizations of all sizes to modernize at the pace of their business. Skytap is a Kyndryl company.

To learn more, visit skytap.com.