The end of extended support for Windows Server 2003 leaves healthcare IT teams stuck between a rock and a hard place with their legacy systems.

Organizations that standardized their data centers on Windows Server® 2003 a decade ago are now struggling to find a migration path to Windows Server 2008, 2012, Windows Azure® or other HIPAA-certified options.

If they don’t move quickly, they face expensive, escalating custom support contracts through Microsoft to help keep systems running — but at a significant price: lack of compliance, lack of security, lack of support and more.

By migrating to a more modern platform, you’ll gain greater agility and opportunities to innovate while simultaneously reducing costs, lowering your IT maintenance burden and mitigating IT risks. Although the obstacles may seem daunting, a successful migration can be achieved.
Best practices for migration success

Insight works with healthcare organizations to implement successful Windows Server 2003 migrations. Our best practices include:

- Inventory
- Migration planning
- Procurement
- Integration
- Staging and cutover
Data center inventory

Insight’s healthcare specialists begin by cataloging your data center architecture, using data augmentation tools to create a comprehensive snapshot that is more complete than what IT teams themselves can provide.
Our experts help you determine the migration strategy for each function.

A best practice is to apply a stoplight color system to each function, noting whether it migrates easily (green), requires some remediation (yellow) or poses significant problems (red).

This will help prioritize and serve as the foundation of the migration road map. The plan will also include the timeline for migration, as well as a cost and resource estimate to fund the project.
Hardware and software procurement

Insight is a single-source provider of Microsoft® solutions, as well as hardware from data center leaders HP, Cisco, Dell, Intel and more.

Insight is able to specify the exact product for your needs, then procure it and pass on preferred provider savings to you.
Hardware integration

Once the hardware and software are purchased, they are sent to Insight’s integration center, where your solution is integrated, tested, prepped and pre-staged for your environment.
On-site staging and cutover

When the solution has been thoroughly tested and certified, it is shipped to your data center, where it is met by Insight engineers on location and readied for cutover. The new solution cutover is planned, practiced and executed according to the project timeline, with an expectation of zero downtime.

Once the systems are successfully transitioned, Insight provides additional on-site and remote support per your specifications.
Risks of inaction

The risks IT organizations face by trying to delay the inevitable migration from Windows Server 2003 can be dire, including:

**Security risks**
Focused attacks on Windows Server 2003 after the much-publicized end-of-support day passes are predicted.

**Support risks**
Third-party solution providers will step in to fill Microsoft’s support role after July 2015, but their experience is unknown.

**Budget risks**
The increased pricing model of extended support over time makes this an unattractive method of staying on Windows Server 2003 indefinitely.

**Potential noncompliance risks**
Windows Server 2003 may cease to be a “supported platform” in the eyes of HIPAA compliance auditors.
Migrate successfully with Insight.

Our dedicated team understands the particular demands of healthcare. Our proven migration process has helped organizations large and small successfully modernize their data centers, freeing clients from the burdens of a rapidly aging operating system like Windows Server 2003.

Don’t feel trapped. Insight can help.
Call 1.800.INSIGHT or visit ips.insight.com/healthcare to learn more.