Infor MP2 6.1

Middleware Compatibility

and

SQL Server 2017 Upgrade

This document discusses compatibility considerations for MP2 when working with newer versions of Microsoft SQL Server and Windows (Server and Workstation). It also provides instructions on migrating an MP2 database to SQL Server 2017 from a previous version so that compatibility is preserved.

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SQL Server

Infor documentation states that MP2 only works with SQL Server versions up to SQL Server 2014, which Microsoft recently stopped supporting. However, Microsoft knows that this scenario is quite common and provides "compatibility modes", which allow newer-versioned databases to work with older software like MP2. **This configuration is fully supported by both Infor and Microsoft**, and it is in fact the solution Microsoft recommends on their website:

> *"As long as the application does not need to leverage enhancements that are only available in a higher database compatibility levels, it is a valid approach to upgrade the SQL Server Database Engine and maintain the previous database compatibility level…"*
>
> https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/database-engine/install-windows/compatibility-certification?view=sql-server-ver15
>
> https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/t-sql/statements/alter-database-transact-sql-compatibility-level?view=sql-server-ver15

So what if you're still using SQL Server 2014? Do you need to upgrade in order to maintain security? The answer is that it's probably a good idea, but it's not quite as important as the operating system. The security issues surrounding SQL Server, especially in a closed environment like MP2, aren't nearly as scary as those of the OS. That's why Microsoft retires SQL Server versions so quickly compared to Windows. Unlike Windows, it is quite common for even large companies to continue to use retired versions of SQL Server. Even so, it's always the best policy to stay within support.

Windows (server)

In terms of the operating system, there is nothing important to know about Windows Server 2018 and, presumably, any near-future versions of Windows Server. Unlike other programs like SAP, Infor EAM, or Maximo, MP2 doesn't have any managed services that would care particularly about the Operating System (that also means that there are no Windows security issues to worry about). All MP2 does on the server is create a database – it doesn't actually install anything else. As long as it can do that and clients can connect to it via ODBC (a widely-used protocol for database connectivity), you're home free.

Windows (workstations)

The MP2 client is supported Windows 10 and, presumably, any near-future versions of Windows. If you are using MP2 Barcoding or other add-ons, additional research and configuration might be necessary to ensure compatibility.

Upgrading SQL Server:

RECOMMENDATION: If possible, use the same instance name, database name, and 'MP2' account password as the old version. In most cases, this will save you the effort of reconfiguring workstations.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON INSTANCE NAMES: An "instance name" is a name given for each unique installation of SQL Server on a single machine. Unlike almost all other software, SQL Server can have multiple versions installed on the same server. For example, you can install SQL Server 2017 right next to 2008. They both run as independent programs. The only caveat is that they must have unique instance names.

Here are the steps you'll need to follow to migrate the MP2 database to SQL Server 2017.

1. Check to ensure that you are using the most recent build of MP2. To do this, open MP2 and go to *Tools > Utilities > System Information*. On the main tab, look for the "Build No." field. The value should be "20120831". If it's not, you'll need to update your MP2 software before proceeding. To do this, contact your MP2 system administrator.
2. Install SQL Server (Express edition will work fine in most cases). During the installation, ensure to select "Mixed Mode Authentication" and make note of the SA password that you specify as you will need this later.
   or…
   Obtain access to an existing SQL Server instance. Make note of the SA password.
3. Create a backup file of the MP2 database ('.bak' extension).
4. Restore the backup file to the new instance of SQL Server.
5. Create a SQL Server login called 'MP2'. The password to this account must also be 'MP2', unless otherwise specified in the initial installation (unlikely).
6. Connect to the MP2 database using the SA account. Run the following commands, <u>one at a time and in order</u>.
   - *sp_changedbowner 'MP2'*
   - *USE master*
   - *GRANT VIEW SERVER STATE TO MP2*
   - *ALTER DATABASE MP2 SET COMPATIBILITY_LEVEL = 120*
7. Temporarily disable the old database to make sure that clients can't continue to connect to it. An easy way to do this is to simply change the name of the database, which will cause problems with any attempted connections.
8. If you were able to preserve the instance name, database name, and MP2 user password, as recommended, immediately check to ensure that MP2 still launches on the clients.
   or…
   If you were unable to preserve these values, reconfigure the MP2 configuration file and the ODBC connection on each client. You may need guidance from your MP2 system administrator. Check to ensure that MP2 launches on each client workstation.
9. Decommission the MP2 database according to your internal procedures.