

# Azure Arc and Dell APEX Data Storage Services Block

Multicloud is here to stay and with Dell APEX Data Storage Services Block and Microsoft Azure Arc-enabled data services, managing Microsoft SQL Server in a hybrid world just became easier.

## Azure Arc-enabled data services + Dell APEX Data Storage Services Block

Brings the benefits of cloud to on-premises SQL deployments running on validated infrastructure from Dell Technologies and managed by Azure ARC.

“By 2025, more than 70% of all enterprise-grade storage capacity will be sold on a consumption basis – up from less than 35% in 2021.”<sup>1</sup>  
-Gartner

“By 2026, 65% of tech buyers will prioritize as-a-Service consumption models for infrastructure purchases to help restrain IT spending growth and fill ITOps talent gaps.”<sup>2</sup>  
-IDC

Today, data is created, processed, and stored on-premises, in secure colocation facilities, at the edge, and in multiple cloud environments. As organizations seek to leverage data and applications in all these locations, management quickly becomes complicated.

Microsoft SQL Server is embracing Kubernetes clusters in both public and private clouds, and now with Microsoft Azure Arc-enabled data services companies can create a unified Microsoft SQL Server environment all within the same management plane.

In many on-premises SQL Server deployments, instances are spread across multiple versions of SQL and siloed infrastructure, which leads to increased costs, reduced productivity, and missed service levels. Azure Arc delivers a single view of all database instances, regardless of location, and allows Kubernetes APIs to analyze the underlying infrastructure capacity and health to gain operational insights.

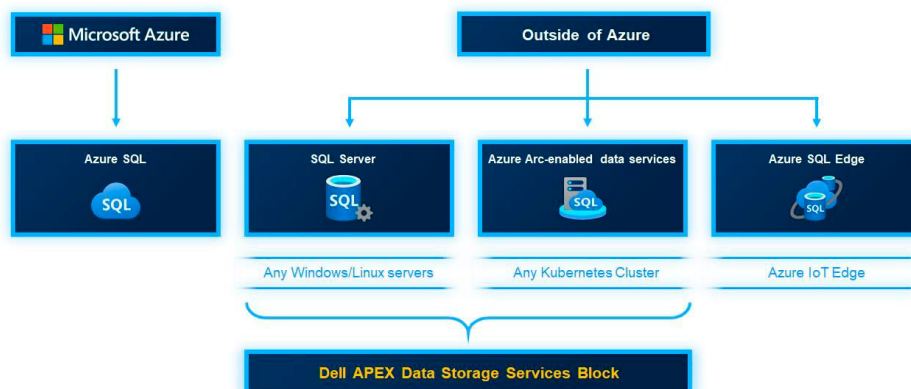
Dell APEX Data Storage Service Block simplifies the process of purchasing, deploying, and maintaining storage infrastructure, complementing the adoption of Azure Arc-enabled data services, simplifying customer operations and accelerating the delivery of business applications.

### SQL Server Managed Instance: Azure SQL Data Service on Dell APEX Infrastructure

Azure Arc-enabled data services ensures databases always stay up-to-date with the current version of SQL. There are no more migrations, no more upgrades, no more end of support, it is always current. Additionally, multiple tier supports granular availability models per instance aligned to the business requirements.

Microsoft brings cloud benefits to the on-premises environment by using Kubernetes for automation at scale, high availability, and elastic scaling. Dell APEX Data Storage Services Block provides the validated storage foundation required to support traditional as well as containerized SQL deployments, delivering a proven heritage of performance, availability, and agility. And with container integration the on-premises experience can be as simple as the public cloud.

With Dell APEX Data Storage Services Block you can get out of the traditional cycle of maintaining technical debt, so you can focus on outcomes rather than infrastructure and optimize costs by paying for what you use.



## Efficiently Manage Your Microsoft SQL Server Workloads

While there are many benefits to public cloud, certain Microsoft SQL Server workloads can be housed more cost efficiently on-premises or in a Dell-managed interconnected colocation facility.<sup>3</sup> Elastic access to capacity on-demand enables you to respond dynamically to changing workload requirements, and you pay a single rate for base capacity and on-demand usage without any overage penalties.

Getting started with Dell APEX Data Storage Services Block is simple and defined by the following key service parameters:

- Management: Dell-managed or Customer-managed
- Location: Customer data center or a Dell-managed interconnected colocation facility<sup>3</sup>
- Base Capacity: Minimum amount of committed capacity
- Performance Tier: Multiple levels to choose from based on IOPS/throughput
- Term: Choose between one to five years

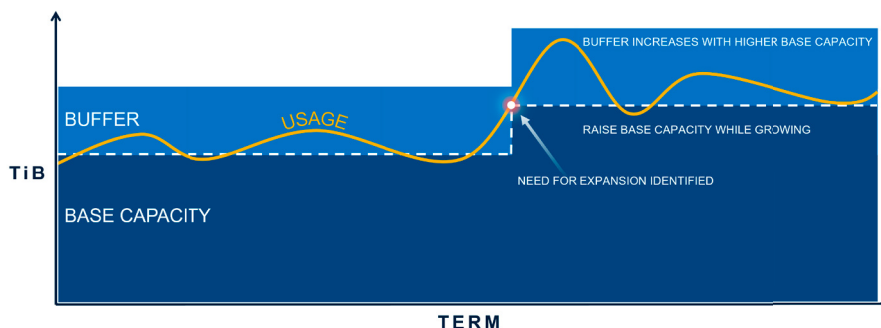
As new databases are created, use of SQL Server Managed Instance ensures the latest features and capabilities of Azure are available in your private cloud. As applications are migrated or retired, the complexity of management for the database administrator is incrementally reduced.

With Dell APEX Data Storage Services, you have the choice to let Dell handle the everyday infrastructure management while you focus on operational control of workloads and applications. Alternatively, IT organizations seeking even more control over the as-a-Service experience may choose the Customer-managed option. No matter which option you select, the result is a cloud-like experience with predictable, easy to understand pricing and no egress fees or latency issues.

And it's all brokered through the Dell APEX Console, your centralized platform for managing and orchestrating your as-a-Service experience.

## Azure Arc + Dell APEX: Best of Both Worlds

Whether your organization started in the public cloud or with traditional monolithic deployment models, the demands of multicloud require a new model that enables support for hybrid deployments. On-premises or hosted private cloud environments are key due to increased edge activity, data gravity issues, cost containment, security challenges, and more. The good news is that as the SQL Server environment stretches from Azure to include private cloud deployments, the same experience from Azure can be had with managed Instance.



Dell APEX Data Storage Services Block also plays a role in the ease of the deployment, management, scaling, and possible decommissioning of the on-premises environment. This delivers the benefits of public cloud with the control and enterprise-class features of on-premises infrastructure deployed in an as-a-Service model.

## The Future is Clear

Elastic scalability is one of the common threads between Azure Arc-enabled data services and Dell APEX Data Storage Services Block. Instances of SQL Server can be ramped up or down to meet the requirements of your workloads. The underlying storage is a key factor in the levels of scale that can be achieved and Dell APEX Data Storage Services Block responds dynamically to changes in workload requirements. You pay single rate for base capacity and on-demand usage with no overage penalties.

The challenges of Microsoft SQL Server in a multicloud scenario are significantly reduced with the combination of Azure Arc-enabled data services and Dell APEX Data Storage Services Block. Get up and running with Storage as-a-Service designed for 99.9999% availability<sup>4</sup> from the #1 enterprise storage provider.<sup>5</sup>



Learn more about APEX  
Data Storage Services



Contact a Dell Technologies Expert

<sup>1</sup> Gartner, "2023 Planning Guide for Cloud, Data Center and Edge Infrastructure," October 2022.

<sup>2</sup> IDC FutureScape: "Worldwide Future of Digital Infrastructure 2023 Predictions," October 2022. Doc # US48376222.

<sup>3</sup> Dell-managed colocation deployment is not available with Customer-managed subscriptions. For regional availability of Dell-managed colocation deployment, visit [www.Dell.com/Access-APEX](http://www.Dell.com/Access-APEX)

<sup>4</sup> Based on hardware availability on common underlying block and file platform configurations. Actual hardware availability may vary.

<sup>5</sup> IDC WW Quarterly Enterprise Storage Systems Tracker, 2022 Q3 historical release, December 6, 2022. Ranking by vendor revenue