



Guardian One

Guardian One: Turn SQL Server Evidence into Action

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See the Risk. Understand the Priority. Act with Confidence.

Guardian One gives technology leaders a clear, repeatable view of SQL Server health, risk and compliance across one server or an enterprise estate. It brings fragmented technical evidence together, identifies what deserves attention and explains the practical next action.

The result is a prioritised assessment that helps managers, governance teams, DBAs and developers decide what to address first—and why.

The Problem Guardian One Solves

SQL Server estates accumulate risk quietly. Versions drift, backups become unreliable, storage layouts diverge, configuration exceptions lose their context and important warnings remain buried in logs. Experienced staff can investigate these areas individually, but doing so consistently across an estate is slow and difficult to evidence.

Guardian One creates a common assessment process and a durable evidence record. It reduces the time spent assembling facts and increases the time available for informed decisions and remediation.

What the Customer Gains

- A defensible estate view — machine, SQL Server, database, storage, backup, security, workload and operational evidence in one assessment.
- Priorities instead of noise — findings presented with evidence, impact, risk, recommendation and confidence.
- Useful compliance evidence — one row per SQL Server, individual control results, assessment history and governed exceptions.
- Recommendations people can use — focused guidance for managers, DBAs and developers rather than an undifferentiated technical data dump.
- Value without tool dependency — strong native assessment even when optional community toolkits are not installed.

From Point-in-Time Evidence to an Estate-Level Decision

1. Collect

Guardian One connects from a customer-controlled Windows machine to approved SQL Server instances. It collects read-focused SQL evidence and, where permitted, agentless Windows evidence. Blocked Windows access is handled explicitly: SQL assessment continues and unavailable evidence is reported as not assessed, never as a pass.

2. Assess

The rules engine evaluates the evidence consistently, calculates health and records limitations. It looks across areas that are often reviewed separately, including:

- SQL Server configuration, versions, services and memory;
- databases, recovery, status, growth and application-facing risks;
- backups, integrity, maintenance capability and recoverability evidence;
- volumes, drive roles, mount points, capacity and expected machine templates;
- security and compliance controls, with agreed exceptions and review dates;
- current activity, waits, memory grants, file I/O, TempDB and Query Store; and
- recurring SQL Server and SQL Agent log issues across available archives.

3. Explain

Each assessment produces an interactive report with audience and service-level views. Enterprise customers can use the database-backed portal to review the latest position, retained history, estate trends and detailed compliance controls without opening every server report.

The value is in bringing the evidence together, applying it consistently across the estate and presenting it for each audience — not in the underlying diagnostics, which any DBA can already run for free on a single server. The ordering below reflects that: the estate-wide and governance value leads, with the hands-on findings (useful, but freely available elsewhere) below it.

Audience	Immediate value
Technology leaders	Estate exposure, priorities, ownership and evidence of progress
Security and audit	Control-level results, evidence, limitations and governed exceptions
DBAs	Actionable health, configuration, backup, storage and workload findings
Developers	Curated database and query risks with practical remediation context

Designed for a Controlled Customer Deployment

Choose the Right Starting Point

Portable Demo Mode performs genuine assessments for up to five registered SQL Server instances and stores structured results in a protected local SQLite database. It is suited to evaluation without creating a SQL Server repository.

An unlicensed installation has the same five-target lifetime limit (counted by distinct SQL Server name - reassessing a registered instance is unlimited) even when Full SQL Server repository mode is selected. Signed production licences take their target capacity from the highest enabled service level: Foundation permits 100 targets, Advisor 250, Compliance 500, and Quantum 1,000.

Enterprise deployment stores authoritative assessment data in the Guardian One SQL Server repository and enables estate-wide reporting, history, machine templates, compliance views and exception governance.

The web front end is optional. Customers decide whether reports and the Enterprise Portal are available locally, on an intranet or through approved internet-facing infrastructure. HTML remains a presentation format; structured assessment data remains in the selected database.

Built Around Customer Control

- Signed, machine-bound licensing enforces the purchased service entitlement.
- Read-focused collection does not automatically implement recommendations.
- Customers retain control of identities, permissions, network access, retention, publication and change approval.
- Native collection remains useful without Brent Ozar, Erik Darling or Ola Hallengren tooling; supported integrations can add bounded specialist evidence when approved.
- Missing or inaccessible evidence is clearly disclosed so uncertainty is visible to decision-makers.

Service Options

Service	Customer outcome
Guardian One Foundation	Repeatable discovery and evidence for machine, SQL Server, database, storage and recovery health
Guardian One Advisor	Prioritised risks and recommendations that turn evidence into an improvement plan
Guardian One Compliance	Control-level assessment, retained evidence and governed exception management
Guardian One Quantum	Planned governed assistance for explanation and guided remediation; not included in the current assessment engine

Recommended next step: select representative SQL Server instances, complete a controlled assessment and review the priorities with the people who own operations, development and risk.