

Carpages.ca Chose Percona MySQL Software and Support to Meet Growing Database Demands



About the company

[Carpages.ca](https://carpages.ca), started in 2004, is one of the fastest-growing car shopping websites in Canada. With nearly 100,000 vehicles available, Carpages.ca connects hundreds of thousands of shoppers with local dealers. Carpages dealer websites, based on the proprietary DealerSite+ platform, currently include more than 330 dealer clients.

The challenge

Carpages.ca has grown organically, and their needs have changed over time. They started with a single primary-primary database replication topology running on bare metal for production workloads, but that has expanded into far more complex, sophisticated requirements. In 2017, they migrated to Kubernetes and chose ProxySQL for a zero downtime switchover from their legacy environment.

As demands grew, a single primary-primary configuration was no longer sufficient, and Percona XtraDB Cluster (PXC) was selected for scale and increased high availability. The initial cluster was a roll-your-own solution, which was eventually switched to be managed by the newly released Percona Kubernetes Operator. Staging environments were also migrated to Operator-managed clusters, and new clusters were spun up to meet other growing business needs.

COVID-19 and the resulting impact on the market was also a game-changer. Early in the pandemic, there was a dip in traffic as the economy was shut down. Within the first month, Carpages.ca decided to pivot and introduced a Buy From Home strategy with remote delivery, e-signing, and remote test drives. This concept generated publicity that led to a big spike in online traffic. In the three months after the first lockdown (2020), Carpages.ca experienced a 60% year-on-year (YOY) increase in visits to their marketplace site, with some days exceeding a 100% YoY increase.

The solution

Carpages.ca is a growing company, with growing demands. They made the switch from MySQL to Percona Server for MySQL, which had been recommended as a more performant drop-in replacement, and eventually to Percona XtraDB Cluster (PXC). This move made it much easier for them to make changes to configuration and manage rolling updates.

The database is their "single source of truth for data." Everything flows into the database, so it is crucial that it is performant and stable. Not only is it used extensively internally for queries and reporting, but it is also relied on by external third parties. Carpages.ca noted that their environment has become more robust since adopting PXC.

Percona is the authority on MySQL performance and scalability. Having the most knowledgeable team on our side is the reason we chose Percona to support our production database infrastructure

Tim Mirecki,
Vice President of Technology,
[Carpages.ca](https://carpages.ca)

The solution (continued)

In the past, database changes and growth caused challenges. Having a small DevOps team meant Carpages.ca could not be experts in everything, so choosing [Percona Support](#) gave them a cost-effective solution that augmented their own expertise.

Percona Support has been invaluable in resolving issues and identifying and resolving instability. Tim Mirecki, Carpages.ca, Vice President, commented: "Percona serves as a 'DBA in our pocket,' answering questions in a timely manner, sometimes to very complex problems with many moving parts." He went on to say, "Percona engineers are very knowledgeable, and they have been able to advise on and fix issues underlying issues in the whole platform. In terms of response times and quality, it has been great. It's exceeded my expectations."

Carpages.ca also recently adopted [Percona Monitoring and Management](#) (PMM), which gives a clear overview of the current state of the clusters and insight into what has happened over time. This helps Percona support engineers identify and fix issues.

Working with Percona

Carpages.ca has been using [Percona Server for MySQL](#) for more than 10 years as a drop-in alternative to MySQL, and more recently [Percona XtraDB Cluster](#). Growing demands on Carpages.ca infrastructure in early 2021 led them to reach out to Percona to discuss support options to help improve platform resilience.

Carpages.ca did extensive research before choosing Percona, which was recommended by a contact who managed technology in a large infrastructure environment. Carpages.ca appreciated the authoritative Percona voice in the marketplace and the thought-leadership and expertise that Percona put out, including blogs, guides, and webinars.

Mirecki commented: "Percona drop-in database software replacement was a big factor as migrations can be tricky! The other option for us would have been Google Cloud SQL – but that would require a migration and does not offer a multi-read cluster solution. We have more control with Percona."

Although Carpages.ca used Percona support for a relatively short period of time, they commented that "Percona has been fantastic to work with." Carpages.ca particularly appreciated having a dedicated Customer Success Manager to ensure a smooth onboarding and overall satisfaction.

Carpages.ca values Percona software solutions and support, anticipating positive long-term benefits from their relationship.

These include helping to educate their technical team on the root cause of issues, and improving production cluster availability and stability, reducing unexpected downtime.

Carpages.ca relies on Percona for:

- **24x7x365 expert and responsive MySQL Support.**
- **Percona XtraDB Cluster**, a free, fully compatible, enterprise-grade, open source drop-in MySQL database replacement, providing the high availability and security features businesses require.
- **Percona Distribution for MySQL Operator**, an open source solution that automates the creation, alteration, or deletion of members in your Percona XtraDB Cluster environment.
- **Percona Monitoring and Management**, a best-of-breed open source database monitoring solution that helps reduce complexity, optimize performance, and improve the security of your business-critical database environments, no matter where they are located or deployed.