

Why Choose Open Source?

Benefits of Using
Open Source Software

 **PERCONA**

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Why choose open source?

Open source databases are now a staple of IT infrastructures, with the likes of PostgreSQL, MySQL, and MongoDB ranking among the most popular choices alongside proprietary offerings.

With their absence of license fees and vendor lock-in and features that are on par with or better than commercial options, it's no wonder even the largest enterprises have adopted open source databases as part of their IT and business strategies.

Below, we highlight some of the many benefits that open source databases offer and discuss how you can take advantage of them for your business.

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Proprietary software as a percentage of the software already in use ... is expected to drop eight points over the next two years,” while enterprise and community-based open source software are expected to increase by five points and three points, respectively.

—Red Hat 2022 State of the Enterprise Survey

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Five benefits of open source

1 : Lower costs

Cost savings is one of the biggest reasons organizations adopt open source databases. This makes sense, as companies continue to push back on exorbitant annual licensing fees charged by commercial vendors.



Open source databases are an attractive alternative to proprietary offerings because they're free to use with little to no capital or operating costs associated with the software itself. You also pay no licensing or purchasing fees for reusing, modifying, or distributing the software.

Without high costs standing in your way, you're free to use open source databases to experiment with different technologies until you find the perfect match for your business. And unless you buy a support contract, there are no maintenance or renewal costs.

Annual renewal costs for commercial databases can go up as much as 20 to 30 percent per year, and software subscription purchases can change or be eliminated as vendors alter their roadmaps.

2 : No vendor lock-in

Eliminating vendor lock-in is another high business priority and is closely tied to cost. When you rely on one vendor, you become vulnerable to arbitrary hikes in license or support fees, paying for bundled technology you don't need, and being hindered from trying new technologies. Also, if you've sunk millions of dollars into the software, it simply becomes too costly and disruptive to move your data.



Open source databases deliver the same or better results and are just as reliable as commercial options without trapping you into software, support, or services. They help you remain agile in the face of changing customer demands and development plans. They also allow you to easily scale because they don't lock you into early technology choices that may lose their effectiveness as your business evolves.

In addition, a vendor that fully controls the code also controls the product roadmap. If a vendor decides to discontinue features or they go out of business, the software dies with them. With true open source, even if development were to stop, the software would continue to live and evolve because the code stays available for use and modification. This makes it more reliable and puts you in greater control.

“ By participating in open source projects, Enterprise developers can:

1. Build on the work of others
2. Experiment with new features and optimizations much faster within the community than in-house, leading to breakthroughs in technology
3. Focus their efforts on differentiation in higher stack levels and improve their unique value to their consumers. In doing so, they contribute to an organization's overall innovation pipeline.

—The Linux Foundation, *A Guide to Enterprise Open Source*, May 2022

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Five benefits of open source

3: Faster innovation

Commercial companies focus their resources on creating and distributing software to best suit their business plans, limiting how much innovation they can accomplish within a given time period. They devote their development resources according to what they think will be the most profitable features and products, which can stifle the speed at which new technologies emerge.



Open source database development, on the other hand, is driven by large communities of volunteers. There's not only a larger pool of development resources, but developers can form different groups that simultaneously work on various projects along multiple paths. These concurrent efforts accelerate feature creation and enhancement in areas like availability, performance, scalability, and security.

Open source also encourages technological agility by removing obstacles to innovation – burdensome contracts, lengthy procurement processes, and prohibitive costs. By cutting back on the “red tape,” it enables you to customize the source code, try new applications and services with lower upfront investment, and deliver features to market faster.

4: Higher quality software driven by a community

Open source software is the product of communities of volunteers who love open source and are focused on innovation and high quality. These are collaborative groups who value honesty, transparency, trust, and freedom of choice for the sake of all members and users.



Open source members come from a wide range of backgrounds and include database experts who work for companies that benefit from the technology and place a high priority on paying back the community as active contributors.

Also, because the software is crowdsourced, developers and users continually scrutinize the code. If they find problems, they are quick to make others aware of them and fix them fast. These communities keep all members accountable for their contributions, and streamline updates, feature additions, and new releases, further ensuring quality and speeding delivery. Any additions to the code contributed back to the community are quickly sent through a QA process.



Five benefits of open source

5 : Portability

Business and technological requirements are not static, so you need the ability to move your data to adapt to changes. Whether that's migrating your database to the cloud, reverse migrating from the public cloud to an on-premises datacenter or private cloud, or deploying your database in a hybrid environment, you must be in control of your data at all times.



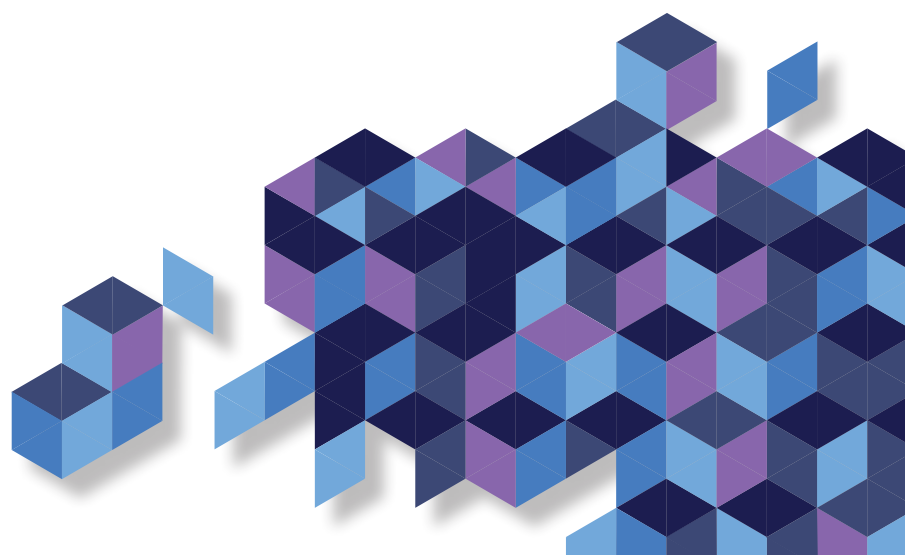
Open source lets you deploy your databases anywhere and move them at any time. You're not locked into a license, you have full access to and ability to modify the code, and you're not trapped inside a vendor's ecosystem of products, tools, and services.

Keep in mind that moving applications to the public cloud doesn't necessarily free you from data lock-in. Cloud providers charge extremely high egress fees, which can make it financially impossible to move your data. Plus, the more data you keep in the cloud, the more your applications, which need to be near the data, gravitate to it, further exacerbating lock-in. With open source, you're free to move your database at will without paying a penalty.

“ 82% of IT leaders are more likely to select a vendor who contributes to the open source community.

—Red Hat 2022 State of the Enterprise Survey

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Are you ready for open source?

Open source comes with many benefits, but your environment must be properly managed to take full advantage of them. Database environments are very complex. If you're not highly knowledgeable about the databases you choose, it's hard to know that your components will integrate well and that you're getting the right tools to ensure high performance, reliability, and security.



If you think you'll need external help, be aware that many vendors provide open source databases but not the support, expertise, or tooling needed to optimize your environment. Some vendors claim to be open source but actually use proprietary features that are incompatible with community database versions. Still others may try to lure you with unique features that are available only in their enterprise editions, locking you into non-portable platforms or environments.

Percona can help you cut through the noise and gimmicks so you can get the most out of open source.

GIVING BACK TO THE OPEN SOURCE COMMUNITY

Everyone should have access to the best technology for protecting their business and enhancing performance. That's why, in addition to offering all our software under open source licenses, Percona gives back any improvements or fixes we make to open source communities so they can be part of future releases.

Optimize open source and increase ROI with Percona

Making sure your business-critical applications run smoothly, meet customer performance expectations, and stay within budget can be daunting. Percona can help you optimize your open source database environment while reducing costs. With Percona, you get:



Open source database expertise

Percona is a leader in the open source database industry, with more than 16 years of expertise with MySQL, MariaDB, MongoDB, and PostgreSQL. We offer unbiased support as well as true open source solutions that are free to download and require no commercial licenses.

Single source support

With our single-source support for your multi-vendor database environment, we make sure your infrastructure maximizes your critical business operations and that you get the best performance from your applications wherever they're deployed – in the cloud, on a managed DBaaS platform, on-premises, or in a hybrid environment.

Expert help with optimizing your existing environment

Before purchasing a proprietary solution stack, Percona works with you to optimize your current database environment. We find ways to save you money and improve ROI, ensuring that you're making the most of what you already have.

Support for and optimization of your cloud environment

Percona supports all major cloud vendors, including AWS, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud, as well as managed DBaaS platforms. Percona experts work with you to design and architect your backend cloud infrastructure to meet the needs of dynamic data-driven applications, so you get the highest performance.

Full commitment to open source

We believe in the power of open source and are fully committed to helping you avoid vendor lock-in. We not only provide expert support for the community database versions, but free distributions that refine, improve, and enhance them with complementary enterprise-grade features for performance and availability, monitoring, and observability, and security.

To learn more about how Percona can help you achieve the benefits of open source, visit [Percona.com](https://www.percona.com)

Percona is widely recognized as a world-class open source database software, support, and services company. The organization is dedicated to helping businesses make databases and applications run better through a unique combination of expertise and open source software. Percona works with numerous global brands across many industries creating a unified experience to monitor, manage, secure, and optimize database environments on any infrastructure.

Percona equips organizations with the freedom to choose, the freedom to create, and the freedom to make a difference – helping them scale and innovate with speed as they grow. For more information, visit www.Percona.com.

Databases run better with Percona.



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