

Top 10 Reasons to Choose MySQL Over MariaDB

1

MySQL Is the #1 Open Source RDBMS

Year after year, MySQL is consistently ranked the #1 open source database, the most used, the most talked about, and the most liked.

MariaDB is NOT MySQL! Since MariaDB 10.0, MariaDB has diverged significantly. And, none of the modern advances in MySQL 8.0 are available in any version of MariaDB.

2

MySQL Has Maintained a Consistent Dual-License Policy

Since its beginning, MySQL has been using the well-known and recognized GPL license for its community edition and the commercial license for its commercial editions.

MariaDB chose to create the proprietary “BS License,” putting features that would naturally belong in the GPL-licensed MariaDB server into the BS-licensed MaxScale proxy. This is designed to trap and lock in users.

3

MySQL Is “NoSQL + SQL”

With MySQL, developers can use the database for SQL and NoSQL, enabling consolidation to MySQL for all their database needs.

MariaDB currently does not have Document Store or XProtocol capabilities and offers only limited JSON support.

4

MySQL Is Upstream and Drives the MySQL Product Roadmap

The upstream MySQL Product Roadmap is controlled and defined by MySQL Engineering & Product Management, in concert with MySQL Support, MySQL Customers, and users.

MariaDB chose to diverge from MySQL and can no longer deliver drop-in compatibility. None of the modern advances in MySQL 8.0 (e.g., Transactional Data Dictionary, Group Replication, InnoDB Cluster, Shell, DocStore, XProtocol) are available in any version of MariaDB.

5

MySQL Core Technology Is 100% Made by MySQL

MySQL core technology is all developed by the MySQL team. MariaDB depends on upstream MySQL for core technology, including InnoDB. MariaDB also depends on the goodwill of third parties for its core technology, including from companies it competes with, e.g., Percona (XtraBackup, TokuDB), Codership (Galera), Spider Engine, MyRocks, etc. What will happen when some of these third parties are acquired or change priorities?

6

MySQL Engineering Team Is 300+

MySQL has an engineering team of 300+ engineers, more R&D, more new development, and more bug fixing than MariaDB, including dedicated teams and architects for InnoDB, InnoDB Cluster, Replication, Backup, Monitoring, Security, and Document Store. Oracle has made significant investment in MySQL Engineering and Support.

The size of MariaDB's engineering team is much smaller and is limited by its company funding and run rate. And, given that MariaDB is very much dependent on the personality of its CTO/founder, what if he were to leave MariaDB?

7

Only MySQL Can Provide an Optional Commercial License

Oracle MySQL owns the IP of the software and is the only company that can offer a commercial license to ISVs or OEMs for their embedded solutions using MySQL.

MariaDB does not own the IP for the software, and so cannot provide a commercial license to ISVs and OEMs.

8

MySQL Is Financially Secure and Has No Risk of Being Acquired

MySQL is part of Oracle, a publicly traded company with stable revenue, no risk of being acquired, and major investment in MySQL Development and Support.

On the other hand, MariaDB is a small, private company with heavy dependency on venture capital funding, and in need of an "exit strategy." Nobody knows the type of exit, who will acquire MariaDB, or if the acquirer will be a foreign entity.

9

MySQL Enterprise Edition Is Built for Mission Critical Systems

MySQL Enterprise Edition includes all the required Monitoring, Backup, and Security (Authentication, Audit, Encryption, Firewall, Masking) capabilities.

MariaDB does not have the capabilities required for mission critical systems. Instead, MariaDB relies on a mish-mash of third-party products, with no single point of support.

10

Oracle Has the Largest MySQL Dedicated Support Organization

MySQL has the largest support team—a global team of support personnel that is available 24x7. It can service thousands of customers simultaneously and offers support in 29 languages. MySQL Support has direct access to MySQL Engineering to prioritize bug fixes and roadmap.

MariaDB Support has a very small team and cannot cover the breadth of issues that arise, not just about MariaDB but also about the various third-party products that are included—an area where MariaDB lacks core competence.