



# ENTERPRISE DATABASE COMPARISON

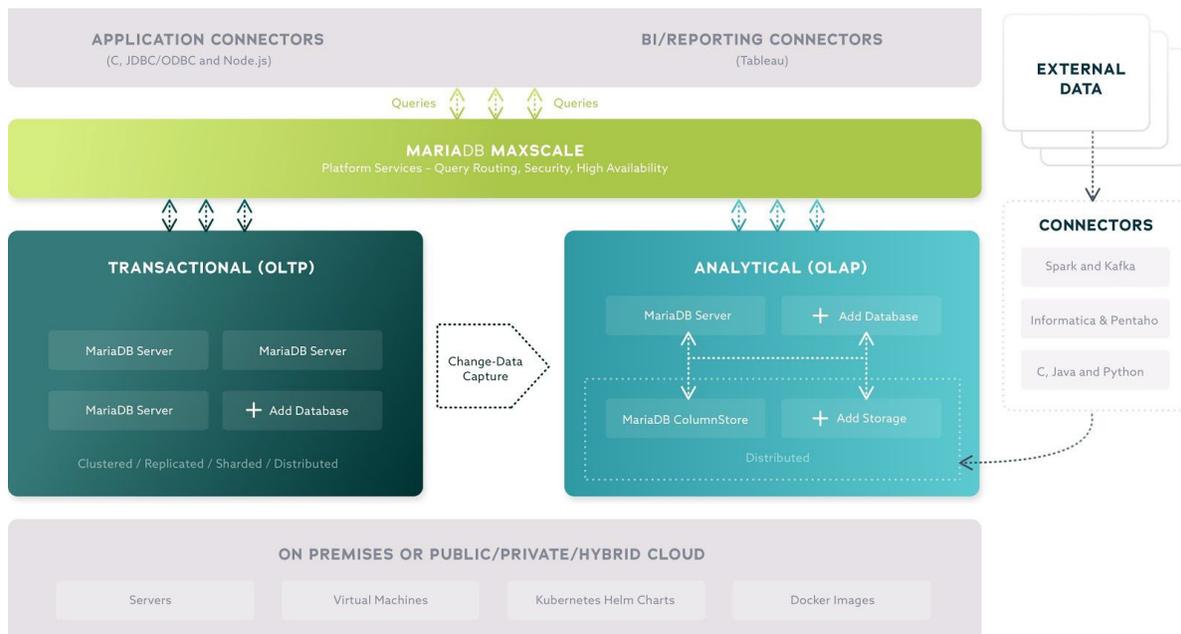
MariaDB vs. Microsoft vs. IBM vs. Oracle  
April 2019

# MARIADB PLATFORM



## Transactions and Analytics, UNITED

MariaDB Platform is an enterprise open source database for transactional, analytical or hybrid transactional/analytical processing at scale. By preserving historical data and optimizing for real-time analytics while continuing to process transactions, MariaDB Platform provides businesses with the means to create competitive advantages and monetize data – everything from providing data-driven customers with actionable insight to empowering them with self-service analytics.



## MariaDB Server

MariaDB Server is the foundation of the MariaDB Platform. It is the only open source database with the same enterprise features found in proprietary databases, including Oracle Database compatibility (e.g., PL/SQL compatibility), temporal tables, sharding, point-in-time rollback and transparent data encryption.

## MariaDB ColumnStore

MariaDB ColumnStore extends MariaDB Server with distributed, columnar storage and massively parallel processing for ad hoc, interactive analytics on hundreds of billions of rows via standard SQL – with no need to create and maintain indexes, and with 10% of the disk space using high compression.

## MariaDB MaxScale

MariaDB MaxScale provides MariaDB Platform with a set of services for modern applications, including transparent query routing and change-data-capture for hybrid transactional/analytical workloads, high availability (e.g., automatic failover) and advanced security (e.g., data masking).

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# INTRODUCTION



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The role of enterprise open source software in modern infrastructure is expanding -the operating system, the middleware, and now, the database. In fact, many organizations have strategic mandates requiring the evaluation of enterprise open source software in order to limit the use of proprietary software. It not only reduces costs and supports the shift from capital expenses to operating expenses, it enables enterprises to benefit from community collaboration and innovation on a global scale.

This white paper compares the leading enterprise open source database, MariaDB Platform, with the top three proprietary databases: Microsoft SQL Server, IBM Db2 and Oracle Database. It does not compare every feature provided by databases, but rather it focuses on the core enterprise requirements a database must meet in order to support mission-critical, business-critical applications: high availability, disaster recovery, performance, scalability, efficiency, security, analytics, schema and SQL.

MariaDB became the leading enterprise open source database with the release of MariaDB Platform X3, introducing enterprise features previously only available in proprietary and expensive databases from Microsoft, IBM and Oracle – temporal tables and queries, distributed partitions (i.e., sharding), data masking, data obfuscation and Oracle-compatible sequences, data types and stored procedures.

This white paper is intended to help database administrators (DBAs), developers and architects understand how MariaDB Platform compares with proprietary databases from Microsoft, IBM and Oracle, and how it meets core enterprise requirements for business as well as operations and development teams.

*The comparisons are based on Microsoft SQL Server 2017 Enterprise, IBM Db2 Advanced Enterprise Server Edition 11.1 for Linux, Unix and Windows (LUW), Oracle Database Enterprise Edition 18c and MariaDB Platform X3.*

# HIGH AVAILABILITY AND DISASTER RECOVERY

In the digital era, databases powering customer-facing web and mobile applications have to be available 24/7, and thus tolerate everything from an individual server failure to a whole data center going down. All of these databases can provide high availability and support disaster recovery, but there are differences in the infrastructure required and the responsibilities placed on applications.

All of these databases can use replication and automatic failover to provide high availability. IBM, Oracle and MariaDB can use clustering as well, but whereas IBM and Oracle require shared storage for clustering, MariaDB does not. It implements a shared-nothing architecture, allowing MariaDB clusters to be deployed on premises or in the cloud where there is no shared storage (e.g., SAN).

Microsoft and IBM cannot recover sessions and in-flight transactions in the event of an automatic failover, but Oracle and MariaDB can. MariaDB, because it uses an advanced database proxy, can go one step further by migrating connections whereas Microsoft, IBM and Oracle require applications or clients/drivers to create a new connection.

In terms of disaster recovery, all of these databases include backup/restore tools. However, only Oracle and MariaDB can use point-in-time rollback to recover from errors (e.g., updating the wrong rows) by undoing the most recent transactions rather than restoring data from backup and applying a subset of the most recent transactions (i.e. rollforward).

Features	MS	IBM	Oracle	MariaDB
Backup and restore	Yes	Yes	RMAN	MariaDB Backup
Point-in-time rollback	No	No	Oracle Flashback	MariaDB Flashback
Replication with passive standbys	FCI	HADR	Data Guard	Yes
Replication with active standbys	Availability Groups	SQL Replication	Active Data Guard*	Yes
Clustering with shared storage	No	pureScale	RAC*	No
Clustering with local storage	No	No	No	MariaDB Cluster
Connection migration	No	No	No	Yes
Session replay	No	No	Application Continuity	Yes
Transaction replay	No	No	Application Continuity	Yes

\*RAC and Active Data Guard are not included in Oracle Database Enterprise Edition (EE).

# PERFORMANCE, SCALABILITY AND EFFICIENCY

The increased role of online customer engagement has increased the performance, scalability and efficiency requirements of databases. They must scale to support business growth, with more customers resulting in more transactions. Further, they must meet higher and higher performance requirements as customer experiences expectations rise. Further, they must do these things as efficiently as possible, and with commodity hardware, in order to control infrastructure costs.

IBM, Oracle and MariaDB can use distributed partitions (i.e., sharding) to scale reads, writes and storage capacity in order to increase read/write concurrency for greater throughput and lower latency and/or the total amount of data that can be stored. Microsoft does not. All of the databases can use compression to improve storage efficiency, storing more data per gigabyte of disk space and reducing disk I/O to store the same amount of data with smaller, fewer and less expensive disk drives.

While all of these databases can use a combination of synchronous and asynchronous replication to meet performance and durability requirements, only MariaDB can use causal reads to ensure consistency when semi or asynchronous replication is used.

Features	MS	IBM	Oracle	MariaDB
Local partitions	Yes	Table Partitioning	Partitioning	Yes
Distributed partitions	No	DPF	Oracle Sharding*	Spider
Column compression	No	No	No	Yes
Table/row compression	Yes	Yes	Advanced Compression**	Yes
Index compression	Yes	Yes	Advanced Compression**	Yes
Backup compression	Yes	Yes	Advanced Compression**	Yes
Query parallelization	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Query result caching	No	No	Yes	MariaDB MaxScale
Causal reads	No	No	No	MariaDB MaxScale

\*Sharding may require the Active Data Guard, GoldenGate or RAC add-on for Oracle Database EE.

\*\*Advanced Compression is not included in Oracle Database EE.

# SECURITY

In the first half of 2018, companies in every industry – electronics, food and beverage, healthcare, shipping, travel, apparel, retail, finance, transportation, government, communications, education – have suffered data breaches, exposing hundreds of millions of customers’ personal and financial information. In order to prevent data breaches, data must be secured and protected at its source, the database – and that includes preventing malicious queries from reaching the database to begin with.

All of the databases can use encryption, roles and dynamic data masking to secure and protect sensitive and/or personally identifiable information (SPI/PII) from internal and external threat actors. In addition, all of the databases can create audit logs for threat monitoring/detection and regulatory compliance. However, only Oracle and MariaDB offer increased protection via database firewalls, with MariaDB having the world’s most advanced database firewall – capable of blocking queries based on table, column, function as well as role, frequency and time. Further, only MariaDB can use result limiting to protect the database from denial of service (DoS) attacks by stopping queries intended to flood the network and/or slow down the database by returning hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of rows.

Features	MS	IBM	Oracle	MariaDB
SSL/TLS (client-server)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SSL/TLS (server-server)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Transparent data encryption (tables)	Yes	Yes	Advanced Security*	Yes
Transparent data encryption (logs)	Yes	Yes	Advanced Security*	Yes
Transparent data encryption (backups)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Roles	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Database firewall	No	No	Database Firewall*	MariaDB MaxScale
Dynamic data masking	Yes	Yes	Advanced Security*	MariaDB MaxScale
Query result limiting	No	No	No	MariaDB MaxScale
Auditing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*Advanced Security and Database Firewall are not included in Oracle Database EE.

# ANALYTICS

In the digital era, innovators in every industry – from finance and healthcare to telecommunications and manufacturing – are becoming data-centric, analytics-driven organizations. They are delivering actionable insight to decision-makers with modern, on-demand analytics at scale in order to improve customer experience, products and services, operational efficiency, fraud detection and prevention, and governance, risk management and compliance (GRC) – as well as monetizing data to create new revenue streams.

All of the databases can use columnar storage to support high-performance analytics. However, while Oracle is limited to storing columnar data in memory, MariaDB, Microsoft and IBM can store columnar data on disk to support large datasets with lower infrastructure costs. Further, only MariaDB supports distributed data and massively parallel processing (MPP) without the need for multimillion-dollar hardware appliances – supporting scalable, high-performance analytics in the cloud or on premises with commodity servers, virtual machines and containers.

Features	MS	IBM	Oracle	MariaDB
Columnar storage (in-memory)	Yes	BLU Acceleration	Database In-Memory*	No
Columnar storage (on-disk)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Distributed storage and processing	No**	Yes	No**	Yes
R	Analysis Services	Db2 Warehouse	Advanced Analytics*	No
Cubes	Analysis Services	Db2 Warehouse	OLAP*	No
Regression functions	Analysis Services	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*Database In-Memory, Advanced Analytics and OLAP are not included in Oracle Database EE.

\*\*Microsoft and Oracle only support distributed analytics via hardware appliances.

# SCHEMA

All of the databases can use sequences, virtual columns, geospatial data, JSON documents and temporal tables, though MariaDB does not yet support materialized views. MariaDB is the first and only enterprise open source database to support system-versioned tables, and while Oracle and IBM support application-versioned tables as well, Microsoft and MariaDB do not. In addition, MariaDB is the only database to support dynamic columns - enabling different rows to store different columns.

Features	MS	IBM	Oracle	MariaDB
Sequences	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Virtual/generated columns	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dynamic columns	No	No	No	Yes
Invisible columns	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Functional indexes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Geospatial data types (basic)	Yes	Yes	Locator	Yes
Geospatial data types (advanced)	Yes	Spatial Extender	Spatial and Graph*	Yes
JSON data type	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Materialized views	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
System-versioned tables	Temporal Tables	Yes	Yes	Yes
Application-table period tables	No	Yes	Yes	Coming Soon
Instant ADD COLUMN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CHECK constraints	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*Spatial and Graph is not included in Oracle Database EE.

# SQL

All of the databases support standard SQL: window functions, common table expressions, JSON and geospatial functions, set operators (including INTERSECT and EXCEPT), user-defined functions (scalar and aggregate) and temporal clauses (e.g., AS OF). MariaDB is the first and only enterprise open source database to support point-in-time queries with temporal clauses and system-versioned tables.

In addition to standard SQL, IBM and MariaDB support Oracle PL/SQL – including sequences, data types, cursors, triggers, stored procedures and packages. MariaDB is the first and only enterprise open source database with Oracle compatibility.

Features	MS	IBM	Oracle	MariaDB
AS OF (point-in-time queries)	Yes	Time Travel Query	Flashback Query	Yes
PERIOD FOR (temporal validity)	No	Yes	Yes	Coming Soon
UNION, INTERSECT and EXCEPT (set operators)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
OVER (window functions)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
WITH (common table expressions)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
JSON functions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Geospatial functions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User-defined scalar functions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User-defined aggregate functions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stored procedures	Transact-SQL	PL/PSM	PL/SQL	PL/PSM
Oracle compatibility (e.g., PL/SQL)	No	Yes	-	Yes
EXECUTE IMMEDIATE/EXECUTE (dynamic SQL)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Table value constructors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*Spatial and Graph is not included in Oracle Database EE.

# CONCLUSION



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MariaDB Platform, like Microsoft SQL Server, IBM Db2 and Oracle Database, meets the core enterprise requirements of a database for mission-critical, business-critical applications: high availability, disaster recovery, performance, scalability, efficiency, security, analytics, schema and SQL.

However, the architecture of MariaDB Platform enables it to run equally as well on containers and public cloud instances as it does on bare-metal servers – a challenge for databases requiring shared storage for high availability and/or scalability (e.g., IBM Db2 with pureScale and Oracle Database with RAC). In addition, it includes the world's most advanced database proxy featuring a powerful database firewall and denial of service protection.

Yet an annual enterprise open source subscription for MariaDB Platform is a fraction of the cost of the proprietary license and maintenance fees Microsoft, IBM and Oracle charge. In fact, many of the features compared in this white paper are not included in an Oracle Database Enterprise Edition license, and must be purchased as separate “add-ons.” And unlike both Microsoft and Oracle, MariaDB does not require an expensive hardware appliance in order to support scalable, high-performance analytics. MariaDB Platform can run on commodity servers, virtual machines, containers and cloud instances.

MariaDB Platform, as the leading enterprise open source database, meets the same core enterprise requirements as Microsoft SQL Server, IBM Db2 and Oracle Database, but at a fraction of the cost and with an annual subscription – and with built-in Oracle compatibility, it's never been easier to migrate from Oracle Database.

It's time to break free from proprietary databases. It's time to evaluate MariaDB Platform.