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Database Evaluation Overview by Raman Mahajan

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Forrester assessed the state of the enterprise database market and evaluated the strengths and Weaknesses of top DBMS vendors and open source database projects to see how they stack up against each other.

Evaluated Criteria: Offering, Strategy, And Market Presence

After examining past research, user needs assessments, surveys of database administrators, and vendor interviews, we developed a comprehensive set of evaluation criteria. We evaluated vendors and projects against 153 criteria, which we grouped into three high-level buckets:

1). Current offering: To assess product strengths, we evaluated each offering against seven groups of criteria: data types and data integrity; performance, scalability, and very large databases (VLDBs); application development; database availability; database security; platform support; and database administration.

2).Strategy: We reviewed each vendor and projectâ€™s strategy and vision and considered planned enhancements for positioning products to meet future customer demands. We also looked at the financial resources available to support the product and the vendorâ€™s go-to-market and overall corporate strategies. We also reviewed each of the productâ€™s pricing and licensing options and cost of production and development deployments, in addition to the commitment of the vendor or community. For open source projects, we considered the projectâ€™s overall strategy and cost as well as the size and activity level of its community.

3). Market presence: To assess each productâ€™s market presence, we combined information about each vendorâ€™s company financials, adoption, training and certification, systems integrators and partners, and global presence. For open source projects, we assessed the projectâ€™s installed base, its number of paying customers, the scope and size of its community, its level of support, and the size of its ecosystem.

Evaluated Vendors Meet Enterprise Database Requirements With Credible Deployments:

Forrester included seven DBMS vendors and open source database projects in the assessment: IBM, Ingres, Microsoft, Oracle, PostgreSQL, Sybase, and Sun Microsystems (MySQL). All of the DBMS vendors and projects assessed in this Forrester Waveâ„¢ offer very good basic database features and functionality to support any application that simply needs to store, manage, and access records. Any enterprise DBMS not listed in the Wave should be carefully evaluated before being used for any new applications, even basic ones. Of many criteria, most notably, all of the evaluated DBMS vendors and projects.

Have enterprise-class database features and functionality: We included vendors and open source database projects that have strong database features and functionality to support any type of enterprise application deployment. These include features such as support for application development, high availability, disaster recovery, security, high performance, a wide range of data types, and backup and recovery.

Have a credible installed base: All of the evaluated DBMS vendors and open source database projects have 500 or more customers using their product in production.

Have enterprise usage for mission-critical applications: Each project or vendor has active customers using its products to support mission-critical applications.

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