



MOVING FROM ORACLE TO MARIADB SAVES FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANY 80% ON DATABASE COSTS

Financial Network, Inc. (FNI), has been offering credit strategy and loan-origination services for more than 30 years. When the company began making plans for a new SaaS offering that would mean expanding its Oracle footprint, a major roadblock emerged: the “astronomical” cost of additional Oracle licenses would prevent FNI from competing in its market. Seeking a DBMS that would help rather than hinder its growth, FNI chose MariaDB and subsequently expanded its MariaDB footprint with the [SkySQL cloud database service](#).

ENTERPRISE OPEN SOURCE DATABASE FOSTERS BUSINESS GROWTH

“With Oracle, we were getting by,” says William Wood, director of database architecture at FNI. “We were doing business, we were making money, but we didn’t have money to put back into the business – to make the business thrive, to expand our marketing, to go after new customers, as well as to be competitive with other companies that fill the same little niche that FNI does. MariaDB has allowed us to do that.” Now completely free from Oracle, FNI is complementing its on-premises MariaDB instances with cloud instances via the MariaDB SkySQL database-as-a-service.

Four main requirements drove FNI’s search for alternatives to Oracle and subsequent expansion to MariaDB’s cloud service:

Security: In the financial services industry, robust data security – particularly encryption of data at rest – is a must. Wood recalls, “We looked at Postgres, Informix, DB2, Sybase, all of those. Then when MariaDB came out with encryption of data at rest, that was the clincher for us. We were using a similar feature with Oracle, but we had to purchase the advanced security option, which was another nice chunk of change. With MariaDB, it was just provided – no additional cost.”

Ease of use in the cloud: “MariaDB has been a true collaborative partner for us in our journey to the cloud,” says Bryan Bancroft, FNI’s lead database administrator. “With SkySQL, we don’t have to bother with containers or managing the database – that’s left to the database professionals at MariaDB.” That’s because SkySQL is built and operated by MariaDB’s own engineers, augmenting the service’s automation with the deep human expertise needed for mission-critical deployments.

Transactions & analytics in one: With MariaDB, both on prem and in the cloud, FNI values “the option of easily expanding our applications to leverage blended transactions and analytics when the time is right,” says Bancroft. By deploying hybrid databases with both row and columnar storage, FNI can deliver rich customer experiences that imbue standard transactions with real-time analytical insights.

High availability: FNI needs to be able to handle high volume and high load 24x7x365, with five nines of availability. The team achieves that with MariaDB clusters for testing and production, all sitting behind the built-in MaxScale database proxy, which provides failover, connection routing, and replication nodes. “Replication is a wonderful thing with MariaDB,” Wood says.



Moving to MariaDB from Oracle has ultimately saved us up to 80% in database costs – allowing us to reinvest the savings into delivering new, critical solutions for our customers.



Bryan Bancroft, Lead Database Administrator, FNI

TRAINING AND SUPPORT SHORTEN TIME TO MARKET

Just a few weeks after FNI took its first MariaDB server live in production, a new MariaDB version debuted, bringing Oracle-compatibility features that make migration far simpler. Even without that leg up, though, the project made sense for FNI. “We’ve actually had a fairly smooth transition,” Wood says. One of the best decisions FNI made, according to Wood, was to invest in training: “MariaDB’s [developer and DBA training](#) greatly shortened our migration time.” And the customer support ever since has continued to impress: “I can log an issue with MariaDB and it doesn’t have to be a sev. 1 or a sev. 2 – I get a response, usually within an hour or two on a simple question. They go the extra mile to make sure you’re successful.”

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL:

- The Register article: [Banking software firm tiptoes off to the cloud with MariaDB after \\$2m Oracle licence shocker](#)
- Computerworld UK article: [Confessions of an ex-Oracle customer: “The costs were phenomenal”](#)

ABOUT MARIADB

MariaDB frees companies from the costs, constraints and complexity of proprietary databases, enabling them to reinvest in what matters most – rapidly developing innovative, customer-facing applications. MariaDB uses pluggable, purpose-built storage engines to support workloads that previously required a variety of specialized databases. With complexity and constraints eliminated, enterprises can now depend on a single complete database for all their needs, whether on commodity hardware or their cloud of choice. Deployed in minutes for transactional, analytical or hybrid use cases, MariaDB delivers unmatched operational agility without sacrificing key enterprise features including real ACID compliance and full SQL. Trusted by organizations such as Deutsche Bank, DBS Bank, Nasdaq, Red Hat, ServiceNow, Verizon and Walgreens – MariaDB meets the same core requirements as proprietary databases at a fraction of the cost. No wonder it’s the fastest growing open source database.

Real business relies on MariaDB.

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Americas: sales-AMER@mariadb.com
Europe, Middle East, Africa: sales-EMEA@mariadb.com
Asia Pacific: sales-APAC@mariadb.com

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