

# Database Licensing Chaos

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# Why do I care?

- **Open Source Developer since 2005**
  - eXist-db
  - CSV Schema + CSV Validator
  - RESTXQ
  - RocksDB
  - Task.xq
  - Many other small projects and contributions
  - Philosophy - fix it and send it upstream
- **Recently developed FusionDB**
  - Would like to Open Source it
  - Need to pay the bills
  - Need to ensure the future of FusionDB software



# For FusionDB...

- Originally we envisaged...

- Dual License:

- AGPLv3 - Gives us our "Open Source" and Freedom
- Commercial License - Indemnity for companies that can't swallow  
AGPL

- Would like to avoid "Open Core"

- Things have changed...



# Licensing Chaos!

- **CockroachDB**

- Switched core from Apache to BSL 1.1 (04/06/19)

- **Dgraph**

- From Apache to AGPL (26/03/2017)
- ... then to Apache + Commons Clause (03/04/18)
- ... then back to Apache (11/10/18)

- **Elastic**

- Originally Apache licensed
- Elastic NV mixes Apache and Elastic Licence code in repository and builds (06/18)
- AWS (+Netflix +Expedia) launch "Open Distro for Elasticsearch" - Apache v2 - (11/03/19)



# Licensing Chaos...

- **InfluxDB**
  - Clustering - From MIT to Enterprise License (05/04/16)
- **Kafka (Confluent)**
  - From Apache to Confluent Community License (14/12/2018)
- **MariaDB**
  - MaxScale etc - From GPL to BSL 1.0 (16/08/2016)
- **MongoDB**
  - From APGL to SSPL (06/10/2018)



# Licensing Chaos...

- **Neo4j (Enterprise)**

- From Commercial/AGPL to Commercial/AGPL+Commons Clause (13/05/2018)
- ... then to Neo4j Commercial License (15/11/2018)

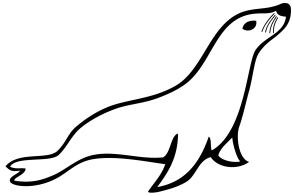
- **Redis (Modules)**

- From AGPL to Apache + Commons Clause (22/08/2018)
- ... then to Redis Source Available Licence (22/02/2019)
- NOTE: Core is still BSD. Redis Enterprise is entirely proprietary

- **RocksDB**

- from BSD3 + Patent Grant, to dual Apache 2.0 or GPLv2 (16/07/17)

# Who is 100% Open Source?



# 100% Open Source





# What happened?

- **Vendors**

- Trying to find a viable business model
- Several squarely blaming large Cloud Vendors

- **Cloud Vendors**

- Blaming Open Source Vendors for Closing Licenses

- **Users**

- Where are they?
- How can they be heard?
- Vote with feet?

# The Brave New World?

- **Open Source databases are dead?!?**
- **Source Available / Commons Clause**
  - Not Open Source!!!
  - What are your rights?
- **Open Core**
  - Open Source Core
  - Closed or Source Available addons/features. Do you need them?
- **Where/Who is the community?**



**fusiondb.com**