



Eliminating License Risk With Open Source:

Migrating 400+ Database
Instances in a Tier-1 Bank

[#OSinFinance](#) | [#OSFF2026](#)

Speakers introduction



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Agenda

1

License-related risks and consequences

2

Impact on financial industry

3

The history of a Tier 1 European Bank

- The background story
- Preparation process
- Execution and outcomes

4

Lessons learned

License-related risks: technical



Technical debt and
legacy technologies



Architectural decisions
driven by the license
pressure



License-related risks: lock-in



Feature-gating



Single-company
owned OSS
re-licensing risk



Cloud Managed
DBaaS lock-in

License-related risks: costs



Costs rise every year
– value doesn't



Discounts are volume-locked
– dropping a few instances barely cuts the bill



Why finance industry cares the most



Data sovereignty



Auditability



Exit/resolution planning



Long application lifecycles



Legacy software





Tier 1

European Bank

The Story

Tier 1

European Bank: the story

1

Early adopter of an open-source document database

First bank in the world to adopt a document database for critical systems. Helped the core team to implement critical features

2

Vendor took it proprietary and shifted focus

The license changed to SSPL (open) to proprietary ("Enterprise Edition". The focus shifted to DBaaS offering.

3

Dependency grew to >400 instances and critical systems

That includes systems like mobile banking applications, transactions history log etc.

4

License cost rose every year

– value didn't. Quite the opposite

5

New features landed in Cloud DBaaS only

– a no-go, despite vendor pushing it

Replatforming economics – the realisation



Keeping it as-is: staying



Choosing another proprietary vendor, with a different API



Going to the cloud



Same-API Open Source alternative

Solution:

OSS that fits enterprises



Open-source, drop-in database software that extends “Community Edition” with enterprise capabilities, **without commercial license** or enforced hosting models.

Estate discovery: versions, OS-es, topologies, upgrade plans

#1 “enterprise-only” features
in use, appetite for features
available only in DBaaS

#2 dependencies on 3rd party
solutions and tools.



**Mitigation and migration
approach** (e.g. working with
vendors, additional testing, EOL
support, contributions).

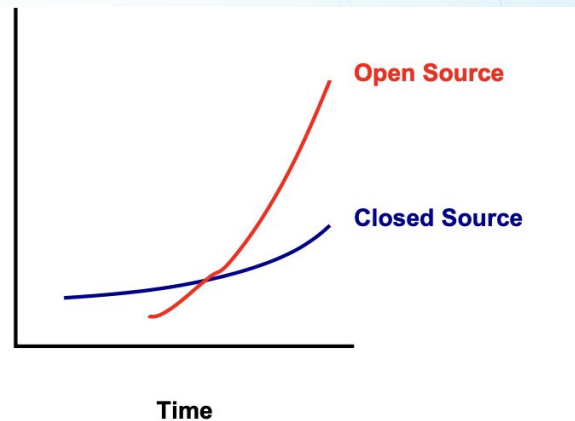
Snapshot backups with PITR

- 10x backup speed improvement
- 5x restore speed improvement
- PITR (RPO <1 minute for critical systems)

Features

Performance

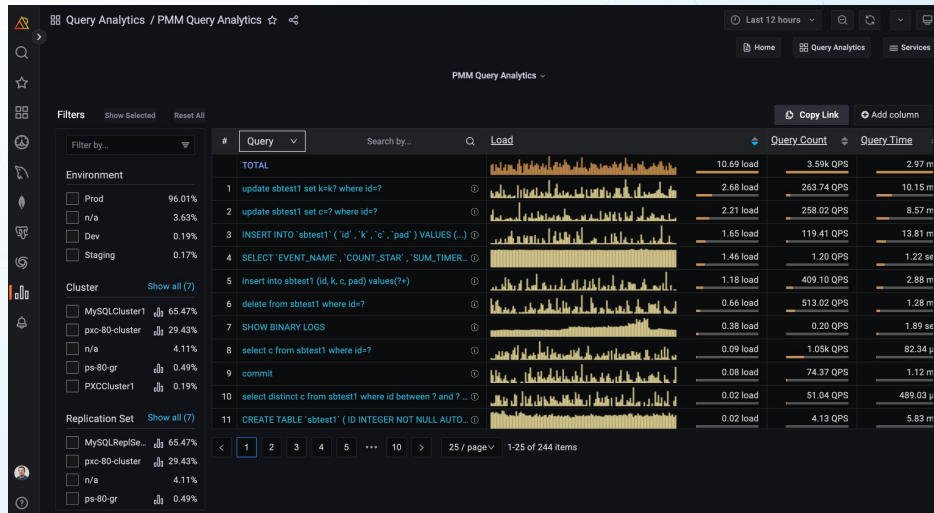
Reliability



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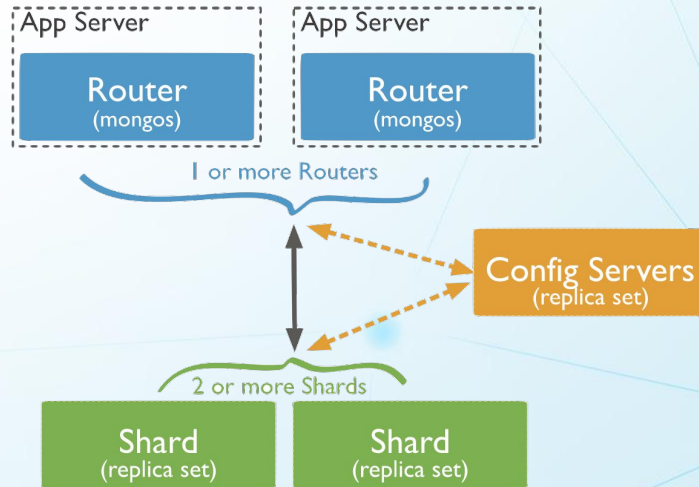
Monitoring consolidation and standardization

- Replacing various tools with a single pane of glass
- One place for all the team to assess performance
- Plans to integrate with internal LLMs for increased operational efficiency and MTTR reduction



Displacing the largest monolithic cluster

- 10s of shards, almost 100 nodes, overloaded
- Re-architecture would impose a significant increase in licensing, despite the same workload
- Problematic operations and DR



Future planning - databases on containers

- Unified cloud-native platform across on-prem and various clouds
- Databases close to applications, managed together
- Cost-efficient resource utilization

What is Cloud Computing?

An analogy: think of electricity services...

You simply plug into a vast electrical grid managed by experts to get a low cost, reliable power supply – available to you with much greater efficiency than you could generate on your own.



Power is a utility service - available to you on-demand and you pay only for what you use.

Execution & migration sequencing

1

Map what "production-ready" means at each critical level from the lowest to the highest

2

Work backwards from those gaps to build the migration plan and stand up support for each phase

3

Compatibility-test at every step to prove nothing changed from the app side

Building the long-term roadmap

1

Put the missing features on a roadmap instead of paying to unlock them

E.g. vector search or deployment automation

2

OSS makes it easier to build toward your own requirements

No vendor's agenda taking the driver's seat. Integrate in-house efforts easily

3

Contributions can come from anywhere

The end user, broader community, or the vendor

The outcome

**Everything migrated within
1 year and incumbent vendor
removed**

(Assisted execution with experts)

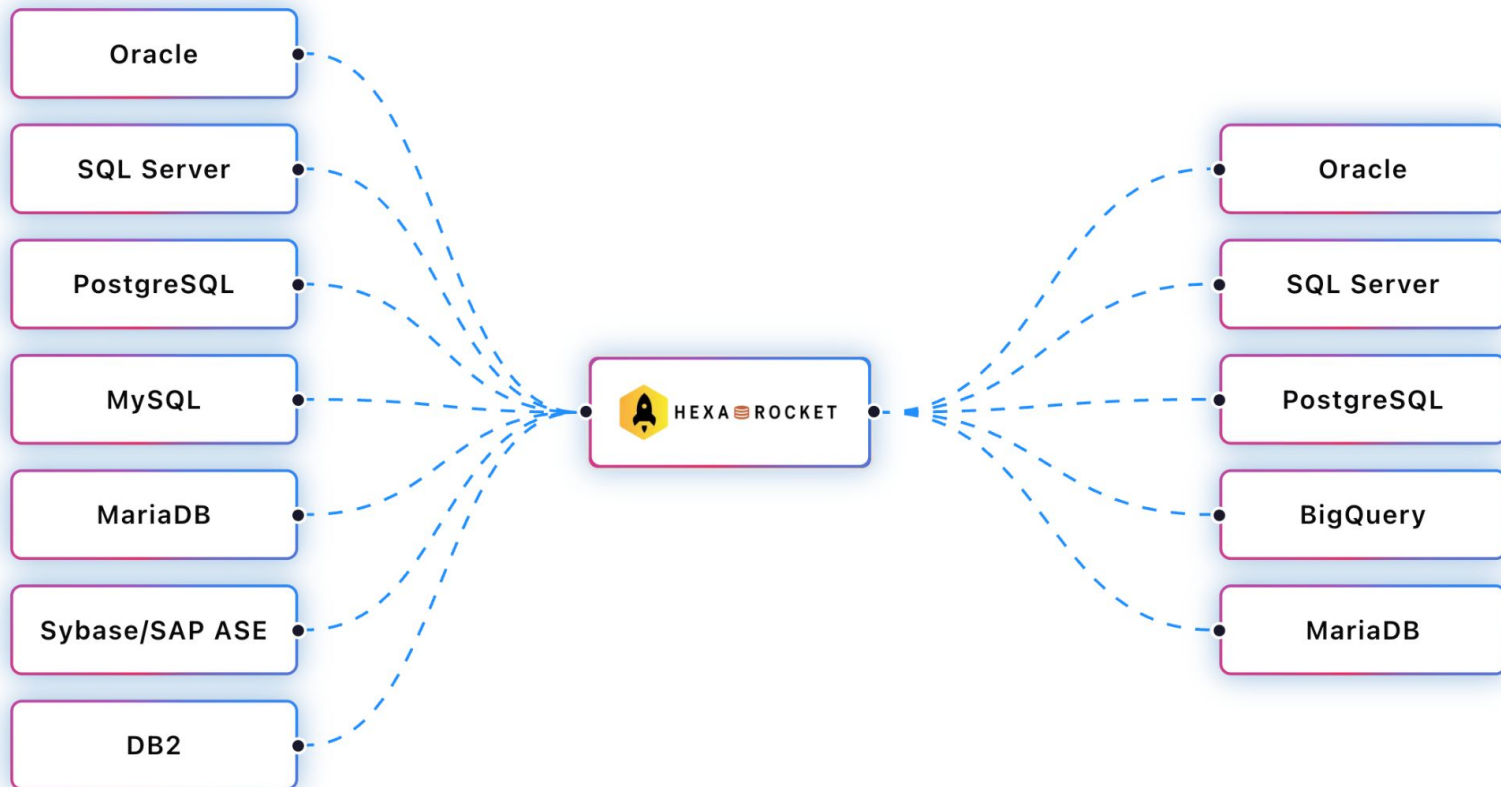
- **The next target:** moving Oracle and SQL Server workloads to true open source (PostgreSQL)
- Automated tooling analyses the relevant part of the estate, then a structured engagement moves as much as possible with AI-assistance
- **Heterogeneous migrations to OSS have never been this achievable** — expect OSS to overtake proprietary for good

The shift in effort:

Was — automated schema conversion + rewriting database-side logic by hand, thousands of consultant hours

Is — >95% happens automatically, end to end

European Bank: what's next?





End-to-End platform
 for: Schema Migration,
 Data Migration,
 CDC Replication



Oracle, MSSQL,
 PostgreSQL, Sybase,
 MySQL, MariaDB, DB2,
 Cassandra



Built by HexaCluster
 (creators of Ora2Pg &
 50+ Open-Source
 tools)



Handles complex Code
 translation using AST
 based Conversion
 Engine.

Any Target Database

HexaRocket Migration Flow



App & DB
 Assessment
 (DMAT)



Schema
 Conversion
 +
 Validation



Data Migration +
 Validation



CDC Sync
 +
 validation



Validation &
 Cutover



Rollback
 (optional)

Online Database Migrations with Rollback Support

Lessons from such projects

People resist change – hardest part isn't technical; it's replacing what already works

Certifications can stall you – third-party badges (Thales CipherTrust, Imperva) need re-verifying

Plan whole, execute in stages – partial moves give partial benefit

No paid license ≠ free – budget upfront for migration and support

Not like-for-like – new tooling, real learning curve

Summary

- license risk is often the architecture risk
- open source may bring back freedom
- No matter the change, at 400+ instances it's not just a license swap.



Join us!

Executive dinner with wine tasting for all
enthusiast of Open Source in Finance

London, 17th of September

