

# Open Source Database Survey Results

## June 2008

### Executive Summary

EnterpriseDB analyzed a survey of 500 unique IT professionals on the topic of Open Source Database usage conducted in June, 2008. The survey indicates that open source databases are generally perceived favorably, and that certain databases are picked more often for certain application types than others. Furthermore, of the 500 respondents, eighty five percent indicated, “nothing prohibits their company from using an open source database. Only nine percent indicated that they prefer commercial databases to open source databases. Following are some of the key findings from this survey.

### **IT professionals are having a “very good” experience using an open source database.**

When asked about their overall experience on their use of an open source database, eighty three percent described their experiences as very good. Only three percent indicated a poor experience.

### **Migrating away from Microsoft SQL Server and Oracle to open source**

Although the commercial database vendors seem well entrenched in the enterprise, a majority of respondents indicated that they used an open source database in order to migrate away from their use of Microsoft SQL Server and Oracle commercial databases. Of the commercial databases less than one percent indicated they moved off of IBM DB2 to an open source database. Microsoft SQL Server was the highest at eleven percent while Oracle was at six percent.

### **PostgreSQL Chosen for Transactional Applications**

The 2008 Open Source Database Survey results support the popular understanding that PostgreSQL is more suitable for transaction-intensive applications than other open source databases. Respondents using PostgreSQL selected the database mainly for transactional applications twice as often (38% of PostgreSQL respondents) than respondents using other open source databases (19% of respondents).

### **PostgreSQL Selected for High Reliability**

38% of surveyed PostgreSQL users selected PostgreSQL for its high reliability, while just 19% of alternative open source database users gave that reason for their database selection. The survey findings also show that PostgreSQL users have migrated existing applications from other databases approximately half the time, while users of other open source databases have done so in just one out of three cases.

### **Performance and scalability are the most important criteria.**

Ranked most important as the criteria for choosing an open source database is performance and scalability at thirty one percent. Ease of use was ranked second at twenty three percent while reliability was third at twenty two percent. Most popular was ranked last at eleven percent.

**Web 2.0 along with mixed work loads (OLTP and data warehouse) style applications used frequently for open source database projects while “ready mostly” applications ranked lowest.**

Twenty nine percent of the respondents cited Web 2.0 style applications as the most popular style applications used in conjunction with an open source database. OLTP and data warehouses were ranked second and read mostly applications came in last in the survey.

**Open source databases are medium in size.**

When asked about the size of their open source databases, seventy eight percent of the respondents indicated that their database was zero to fifty gigabytes in size. Six percent said one hundred to five hundred gigabytes in size while only two percent indicated a size of greater than one terabyte.

**Open source databases are most frequently deployed on Linux with AIX, Solaris and HP-UX ranking the lowest.**

Linux leads the way for the deployment operating system of choice for open source databases at sixty seven percent. Windows is next at twenty seven percent. OS/X is ranked third with Solaris, AIX and HP-UX at the very bottom.

**PHP and Java are the most popular languages used for building open source database based applications.**

When asked about the programming language they use for their open source database projects, PHP stood out as being the most popular at fifty percent of the respondents while Java ranked number two at thirty two percent. Perl garnered seven percent, C++ at seven percent and Ruby last at four and a half percent.

**Lack of in-house knowledge cited as the number one reason a company has not adopted open source databases.**

Fifty two percent of the respondents cited lack of in-house knowledge was the key barrier for their company not adopting open source databases. Concerns about reliability were cited by thirty seven percent of the respondents whereas concerns about performance and lack of ease of use and tools were ranked last. Respondents could choose more than one criteria for this question.

**Seventeen percent of the respondents have paid a firm for the use or support of the open source database.**

While a majority at eight three percent have yet to pay for the use of their open source database. Seventeen percent indicated that they have paid for subscriptions or support for their use of an open source database.