aws marketplace

ScyllaDB

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users






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Product Recap

ScyllaDB

ScyllaDB Recap

ScyllaDB is an open-source, distributed NoSQL wide-column datastore (a highly scalable NoSQL database), known for its compatibility with Apache Cassandra, and for supporting the same protocols as Cassandra (CQL and Thrift) and the same file formats (SSTable). ScyllaDB is designed for high throughput and low latency, making it suitable for data-intensive applications. Its architecture allows it to deliver remarkable performance on a massive scale, utilizing modern multi-core servers to their fullest potential

ScyllaDB utilizes a similar architecture, data format, and query language as Apache Cassandra, providing compatibility while dramatically improving speed and scalability.

The key advantages of ScyllaDB include its rewritten C++ implementation that eliminates Cassandra's expensive Java garbage collection pauses, built-in caching for fast access to frequently used data, and shard-aware drivers for direct routing of requests. This enables it to fully leverage modern multi-core servers for massive parallelism. The community is active and the latest major release, ScyllaDB Enterprise 2023.1.0 LTS, incorporates over 5,000 code commits focused on enhancing capabilities.

ScyllaDB supports wide-column data modeling for fast read performance at scale. It includes integrated monitoring and management tools to track database health and performance. For organizations looking to boost speed and reduce costs for NoSQL workloads, ScyllaDB offers a drop-in replacement for Cassandra that delivers lower latency, higher throughput, and increased scalability with fewer nodes. Its seamless migration path makes switching from Cassandra seamless, requiring minimal code changes.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:

"The best features of ScyllaDB are how it synchronizes data and its failover system. There's a unique formula to decide the number of nodes you need and the minimum required, which I find helpful. It also offers encryption and supports APIs, making it great for distributed systemsand scaling databases across different regions. While it's easy to use, having prior experience helps configure it properly. There are many configurations; if you don't understand them, you might mess up the design. So, understanding your system's needs, like whether it requires more read or write operations, is crucial for setting up the correct configuration."

Uttam Giri

Lead Network Engineer at First Orion

"ScyllaDB is very fast, and I can use it for so many things."

ArpitShah

Software Analyst at CLSA

"The performance and scalability are good, and we hardly see any major issues with ScyllaDB."

Manikandan Gunasekaran

Director of Engineering at Ola

"Firstly, if I update something, it's most likely to finish within milliseconds."

Atul Kumar Awasthi

Senior Software Engineer at Extramarks Education India

"ScyllaDB allows fine-tuning of the table structure. Speed is probably the most critical factor because we perform a lot of heavy data ingestion. One of its core features is its ability to handle high volumes and maintain speed when accessing data. Additionally, high availability and partitioning are built-in features of ScyllaDB."

SanjeevSingh4

Staff DBRE at SecurityScorecard

"I like how fast it is to query data from the ScyllaDB node!"

Suleiman Mohammed

Senior Database Administrator at Interswitch

✔ “The database is easy to use, fast, and accessible for applications because the API is straightforward.”

PatricioMartinez

Enterprise Account Manager at Frameworks

What users had to say about valuable features:

“The interface was very easy. The most important things are access to information stored as a time series and the very high speed at which we can query the information..”

PatricioMartinez

Enterprise Account Manager at Frameworks

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“I like how fast it is to query data from the ScyllaDB node! Because it can actually enable you to query any data from any node as fast as possible. And the ability to save the same copies of data across the cluster, depending on your setup as well. It's really fast..”

Suleiman Mohammed

Senior Database Administrator at Interswitch

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"There are two that I like most. Firstly, if I update something, it's most likely to finish within milliseconds. Anything can be updated without writing too much code. Secondly, I like CDC.."

Atul Kumar Awasthi
Senior Software Engineer at Extramarks Education India

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"The product's most valuable features are efficiency and reliability. Compared to similar tools, it consumes fewer computing resources and requires minimal maintenance, ensuring smooth operations.."

Christopher Hicks
Observability Lead at Tubi

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“ScyllaDB is very fast, and I can use it for so many things. But what happened is we pushed a lot of data, and even though it was fast, things started getting weird here and there.

At one point, we could understand why accepting this when you restart something or fix something and it starts working. You feel very smart, like, " Oh yeah, we did it right." But then again, these are the problems we shouldn't be having in the first place.

But it is fast and very distributed. So, let's say you're Google, and you need your server in 500 places, and they all should talk with each other in close proximity. And you deploy ScyllaDB and have a dedicated DevOps version full-time. It's going to work. So, those things are there in ScyllaDB. But, again, it requires a full-time job..”

ArpitShah
Software Analyst at CLSA

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“ScyllaDB is a rewrite of Cassandra in C++ and uses a special library called Seastar, which was developed by ScyllaDB.

Seastar is optimized for I/O operations, which makes it very good compared to Cassandra. Like it's ten times better in terms of performance.

The documentation is good. It integrates easily with our existing data infrastructure..”

China Venkanna Varma Ponnamanda
Co-Founder & CEO at SaYukth Private Limited

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Other Solutions Considered

“We used to work with Cassandra. During our initial phases, we found ScyllaDB promising due to its implementation language and maintenance, which led us to adopt it over Cassandra..”

Manikandan Gunasekaran
Director of Engineering at Ola

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“Previously, I have used MongoDB for other projects.

We actually are not switching from MongoDB. We have a couple of alternatives for what we are building, and we wanted to know about SQL because we may have to change our schema quite a bit because we used to have a lot of metadata, and that's why the traditional RDBMS will have to split the columns instead of rows, making it very intense..”

Verified user
Software Engineer at a computer software company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“We had a business model, and we tried to do a bit of research to see which one fits best. Because of ScyllaDB's scalability and high performance, they chose it.

We are a financial institution and we have relationships with several banks and fintechs. So we have their data in-house, and we try to manipulate this data, derive analytics from it, save it in different forms, and manipulate it.

ScyllaDB helps us manage high data volumes and support rapid read and write operations. It is also very effective when we demand high throughput with low latency and the ability to scale as fast as possible.

We had existing databases such as Mongo and SQL Server, but we were having performance issues. We needed something to expand, something to have a broader reach, something to give us more robustness. So that was the reason why we went with ScyllaDB..”

Suleiman Mohammed
Senior Database Administrator at Interswitch

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ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

"ScyllaDB is worth the investment if you get returns from the product that benefits your company. However, despite the product's quality, our company is struggling because we are not seeing the expected returns from our customers.."

SanjeevSingh4
Staff DBRE at SecurityScorecard

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"It is worth it. It is a performance optimizer and is safer. There are no malicious attacks on your server, and it is safer with immediate CDC available. For other things, you have to write logs separately, but ScyllaDB has logs available in RediView itself. So you only have to enable them, and you can both with the implemented logs. So there are two or three things better than MongoDB.."

Atul Kumar Awasthi
Senior Software Engineer at Extramarks Education India

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Use Case

“For security reasons, we collect millions of signals and put them into the S3 bucket. Once we run Spark job on the raw data, we take all that data and send it to ScyllaDB..”

SanjeevSingh4
Staff DBRE at SecurityScorecard

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“We have a business model that requires heavy reads for several applications all in one place. So we decided to use ScyllaDB because of the workload, to have multiple reads and writes at the same time..”

Suleiman Mohammed
Senior Database Administrator at Interswitch

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"We used ScyllaDB as an alternative to MongoDB. Our company's MongoDB servers experienced malicious attacks, so we migrated to ScyllaDB.

We read from MongoDB and wrote everything to ScyllaDB because it's considered safer than MongoDB.."

Atul Kumar Awasthi
Senior Software Engineer at Extramarks Education India

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"We use it as a non-relational database. We use it to store two things:

1. To store audit log data and
2. blob data, including images with different sizes, like 200kb.

We use it as an image database as well, such as user profile pictures and product catalog promotional pictures.."

China Venkanna Varma Ponnamanda
Co-Founder & CEO at SaYukth Private Limited

Read full review

"We dump a lot of our data, such as every entry created with respect to when a user rides a scooter, every record gets updated to ScyllaDB. It is used as a single source of truth and it manages massive data.

We support various business use cases, including mobility, where data about driver allocations get updated. We currently have twenty clusters and more than one hundred nodes.."

Manikandan Gunasekaran
Director of Engineering at Ola

Read full review

"We use ScyllaDB, a NoSQL database, as a distributed system to store customer data. My last project was in telecommunications, where we stored caller information like phone numbers, names, and scam tags for a scam call protection service. We handled insert, update, and other operations since the back-end AI system needed daily data inputs. We ran scripts to add the data to ScyllaDB across two AWS regions: US East and US West. One Scylla node handled requests, synchronizing data with its peer nodes. During the POC phase, we testedperformance, read/write operations, and latency and chose the right consistency levels for ourneeds. After that, we moved to production.."

Uttam Giri
Lead Network Engineer at First Orion

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Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

"Migrating to the enterprise version from the community version is straightforward and supported, but moving back to the community version is complex due to compatibility issues.."

Manikandan Gunasekaran

Director of Engineering at Ola

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"The initial setup has been straightforward in our experience. The deployment team handles the setup efficiently, typically completing it within a day with minimal involvement required from our side.."

Christopher Hicks

Observability Lead at Tubi

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“The deployment process is moderately complex. One person is enough for it.

We used some of your site's available documentation to deploy ScyllaDB. Following those steps was very straightforward, and we could access the information quickly. The process was very clear and user-friendly..”

PatricioMartinez

Enterprise Account Manager at Frameworks

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“The initial setup is pretty easy. They have their documentation cut out really nicely. It's like the more regular installations you have to do for a database cluster. But, yeah, it's pretty easy.

We use the open-source version on-premises, but we're trying to move to the enterprise version. But currently, we are deployed on-premises..”

Suleiman Mohammed

Senior Database Administrator at Interswitch

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"**With best computing resources:** If you have good computing resources like CPUs, memory, and especially solid-state drives (SSDs), the installation and configuration are very easy.

Without the best computing resources: If you don't have the best computing resources, then it's not easy to set up. In such cases, we have to run ScyllaDB in developer mode.."

China Venkanna Varma Ponnamanda
Co-Founder & CEO at SaYukth Private Limited

Read full review

“If your wrapper class is written in a well-structured and managed way, there is no problem. But if you have a connection issue between your local machine and the server with ScyllaDB, there could be problems in deployment.

In MongoDB, if there's an error, we can still deploy easily on the server, but ScyllaDB might break down during deployment. So make sure all errors and things are well maintained and handled in ScyllaDB when we deploy.

When it comes to the configurations, ScyllaDB configurations can take overhead compared to MongoDB. But in terms of freshness, all these things are good.

There can be challenges while integrating it into the existing infrastructure. If you are working on MongoDB and completely want to switch from MongoDB to ScyllaDB, you have to make a similar clone of the ScyllaDB instruction. Everything can be read from your existing database. Then, implementing the plus of ScyllaDB, you have to write everything into ScyllaDB instead of the existing database. If you are completely migrating, you can redirect from the existing database to ScyllaDB. But make sure the connection between the server and the local system can be established, and the TCP protocol is working..”

Atul Kumar Awasthi

Senior Software Engineer at Extramarks Education India

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Customer Service and Support

“Support is very responsive. They handle any issue, regardless of severity. We pay for the managed service, which is not cheap, but the reliability is excellent for those who can afford it..”

SanjeevSingh4
Staff DBRE at SecurityScorecard

Read full review

“I have contacted the customer service and support. We are trying to move to the enterprise version because the open-source version is limited.

I think everyone is trying to adopt ScyllaDB, and it's quite new. There isn't enough information on the Internet if you don't have support. So we are considering getting support as well.

ScyllaDB is trying to build their customer base right now. They are very on point. I've just had a few interactions with them, but I strongly agree that the support is very good..”

Suleiman Mohammed
Senior Database Administrator at Interswitch

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"Initially, about two years ago, they would support us by responding within 24 hours if we posted any problems on the data repo. We could also debug ourselves and search on Google to fix issues.

There also support on the GitHub repo. You can post anything and get responses.

If you post one problem, they can find similar problems and give you answers to those as well. For example, if you ask about latency, they can give you information about throughput, scale, performance, and areas you can improve. So if you ask about one question, they can give you the answer to that question and similar questions as well. That is one of the best things.."

Atul Kumar Awasthi
Senior Software Engineer at Extramarks Education India

Read full review

“We did talk to the support team for help. And funnily enough, we talked with US support. A lot of marketing people for ScyllaDB sit in Europe. So we talked with people in London, India, and America. They know their stuff. They are good people. They know their product, everything is good.

What they don't know is if you ask any person, "Why should I use ScyllaDB over Clickhouse?" they will probably not give you a good answer. So, that kind of stuff.

The other thing is that people are happy. But then again, if you want support on point, they charge some money. And I think we paid for two, three hours, and then it was extra.

Basically, a lot of companies have a mode for ScyllaDB in the market because ClickHouse is a product of its own, and a lot of companies are already using something called Cassandra. ScyllaDB is bigger and better than Cassandra. It uses less memory and they claim it's five to ten times faster. .”

ArpitShah
Software Analyst at CLSA

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Other Advice

"I would suggest using ScyllaDB wisely and adhering to best practices, such as regular cleanup since many engineers tend to expand clusters instead of cleaning up data. I would rate ScyllaDB as eight out of ten.."

Manikandan Gunasekaran
Director of Engineering at Ola

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"I would recommend ScyllaDB to others. It's a great product built on Cassandra, with added advantages. For newcomers, it's a distributed database with excellent scalability and performance and very low latency for all kinds of operations. Overall, I'd rate ScyllaDB an eight out of ten.."

Uttam Giri
Lead Network Engineer at First Orion

Read full review

“The product's efficiency has allowed us to optimize resource usage effectively. Its reliability reduces operational overhead, enabling us to focus resources on other critical tasks.

It is user-friendly for those familiar with databases. A basic understanding of database management is necessary for effective use and deployment.

I rate it a ten. .”

Christopher Hicks
Observability Lead at Tubi

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“Overall, I would rate it a seven out of ten because there is some lag with the documentation and with existing databases. If you have no experience with Node developers, it might not be suitable for working with ScyllaDB. You have to have a good knowledge of ORM before using ScyllaDB. If you don't have experience with MongoDB or ORM, you cannot go with ScyllaDB directly. You have to take some time and face many challenges. So I will go with seven. Initially, it took some time, and I faced many challenges when I integrated it. But after some time, it was okay.

I would recommend people to go with ScyllaDB because of its performance and latency compared to MongoDB. Also, the logs are better, and malicious activity can happen in MongoDB but not in ScyllaDB. If you want to protect your database in MongoDB, you have to pay extra money, but you don't have to pay extra in ScyllaDB. So there are two or three things better in ScyllaDB compared to MongoDB..”

Atul Kumar Awasthi
Senior Software Engineer at Extramarks Education India

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“If you are not familiar with it at all and you're trying to adopt it for the first time, it's going to be incredibly difficult. It's a journey that we have passed through. Without proper support or without going for the cloud model or the enterprise model where you get support from ScyllaDB, I would advise against going for ScyllaDB.

But if you want to try it out to see what it can do, and you're okay with running without support, I'd say fine, you can use it. It's a really good database.

But if you've explained your business model and what you want to use it for, my first question would be whether you are okay with running without support. If you can't, I would ask you to just look somewhere else for something that works better for you.

Overall, I would rate it an eight out of ten, with one being bad and ten being the best. I haven't really explored the full capabilities of ScyllaDB because without support, you don't know how efficient it can be and how your usage can be.

The reason why I would say eight is because we've seen firsthand how ScyllaDB is able to manage a high workload. And because of its shared-nothing architecture, it distributes its views and processes..”

Suleiman Mohammed
Senior Database Administrator at Interswitch

Read full review

“When it comes to performance, ScyllaDB requires you to model your queries first. You need to know what kind of queries you will be running. If you get that part right, data modeling in ScyllaDB will become much more efficient and work well with you. However, running ad hoc queries or queries that were not planned for can lead to increased latency.

Anybody from PostgreSQL, Oracle, or MySQL will experience a learning curve. Typically, with Oracle or PostgreSQL, you design your data model first and then your queries. However, with ScyllaDB, you need to know your queries first and then create your data model accordingly. The learning curve is not too steep—you can learn it within a month or even less. Once you have set it up, switching to another database is hard. ScyllaDB has significant advantages in handling high-volume data ingestion and providing breakneck query speeds. We were struggling with the high volume of data on Postgres.

We moved from Postgres to ScyllaDB. We had to rewrite our queries and data models, resulting in a significant effort. For us, this migration took almost six months. However, for someone starting fresh with ScyllaDB, this extensive effort might not be necessary.

If the use case involves heavy data ingestion and requires very low latency, I would definitely recommend ScyllaDB, provided there is a budget for hosting or managed services. If the requirements fit, it's a great choice. However, you need a developer team that knows how to use it, as well as people for maintenance and database administration. ScyllaDB is worth it, but it does not run by itself. You need people to manage it.

If you have a high volume of data, high ingest rates, and low delete requirements, ScyllaDB is a great choice. It offers features like auto partitioning and many other benefits. However, if your data volume is not very high and latency is not a significant concern, you should evaluate other options. It's important to understand your specific needs and what ScyllaDB has to offer before making a decision.

Overall, I rate the solution a seven out of ten.."

SanjeevSingh4
Staff DBRE at SecurityScorecard

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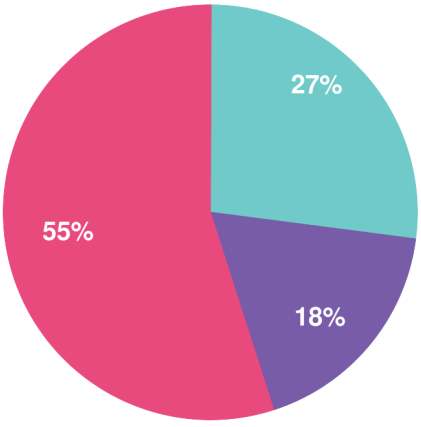

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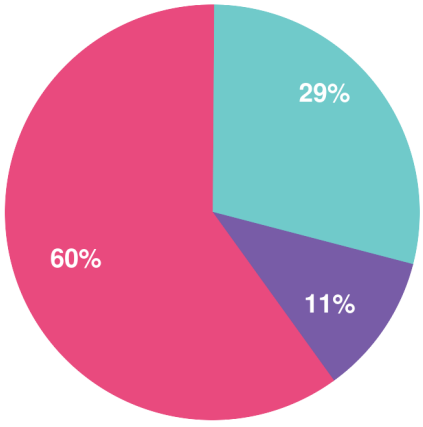

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