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First Quarter With MariaDB Community signals, migrations, outreach strategy

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MariaDB Foundation

Board Meeting — June 2026



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The story I want us to rally around

MariaDB is not just stable — it is becoming visible, useful, and trusted again.



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The Goal

What I joined the MariaDB Foundation to do

- bring long-time MySQL users into the MariaDB conversation
- translate community concerns into Board-level priorities
- make our technical progress easier to understand publicly
- increase adoption and visibility of MariaDB Server as the open continuation of the MySQL lineage

Board minutes already framed this well

The Foundation noted the value of a community voice with technical credibility, historical knowledge, and trust in the MySQL ecosystem.

Source: MariaDB Foundation Board minutes, 25 Feb 2026



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The signals are pointing in the right direction

Momentum

MariaDB visibility rose across public channels from September 2025 to February 2026.

lefred.be: “MariaDB Keeps Climbing”

Feedback

Community polls are producing concrete product signals instead of vague sentiment.

mariadb.org/blog: compatibility + preview release polls

Trust

Public questions around continuity and governance are being answered directly, not ignored.

MariaDB.org + lefred.be



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Community signals: what people are telling us

Compatibility is not nostalgia

The MySQL-compatibility poll received **506 votes**.
The top requests were close: *MEMBER OF* JSON operator and bitwise operators for binary/bit types.

Signal: users want MariaDB to be the practical path forward for MySQL workloads.

Deployment reality still matters

The production poll showed MariaDB remains strongly infrastructure-aware: on-prem VMs and bare metal were the clearest visible deployment models.

Signal: our audience values control, operability, and predictability.



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Signal: our audience values control, operability, and predictability.

But even more, we increased the amount of participation in the community polls, which is a strong signal that people are interested in MariaDB and want to have their voices heard. This is a positive sign for the Foundation and the future of MariaDB.



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Community Outreach

We increased our outreach efforts to the community, including more blog posts, social media engagement, and participation in relevant forums. This has led to a noticeable increase in community engagement and feedback.

- 30 blog posts published on mariadb.org
- 31 blog posts published on lefred.be
- 9 presentations at conferences and meetups

5 pending already

1 again tomorrow



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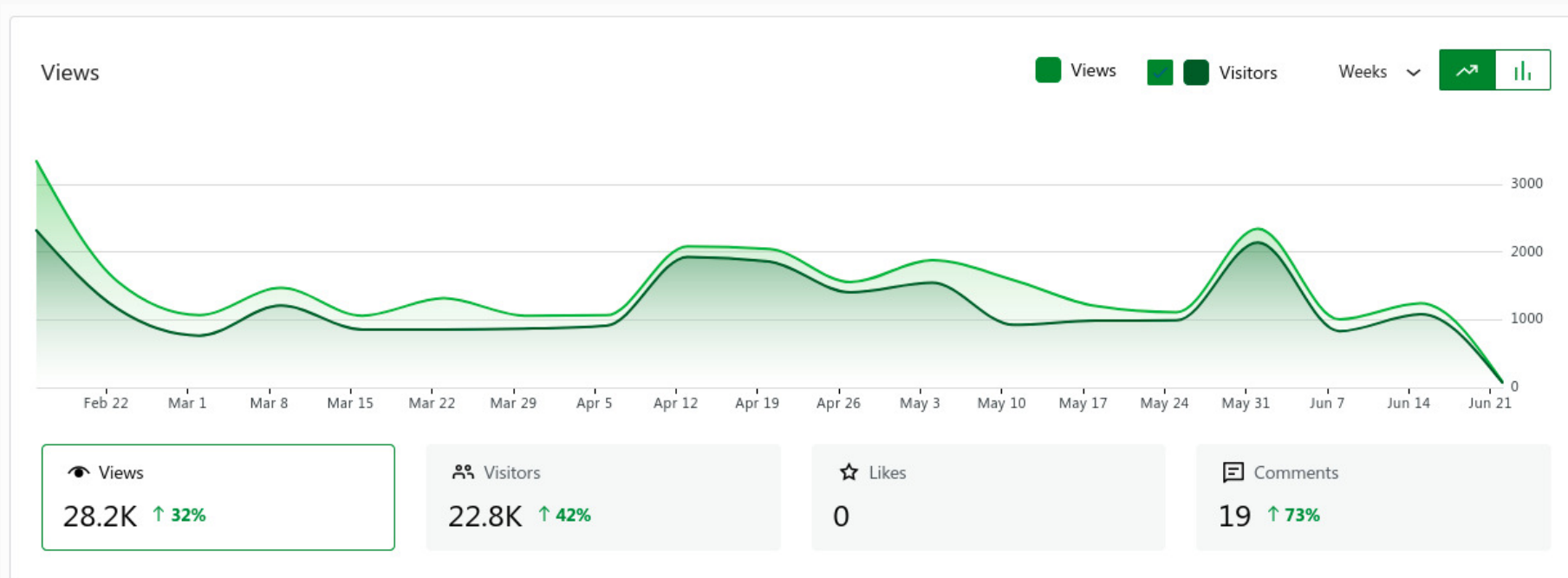
Just by me... .. more
with my colleagues



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Community is following



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Community is following

Referrers ⓘ	Views
Search Engines ▾	4,752
LinkedIn ▾	1,017
heise.de	123
planet.oursqlcommunity.org	119
X	94
forums.mysql.com ▾	68
artfulsoftware.com ▾	65
Facebook	64
statics.teams.cdn.office.net	63
computersweden.se ▾	59


[View all](#)

Top performing posts ⓘ



2K impressions • 82 engagements [View analytics](#)

 A response to Percona's 2026 MySQL ecosystem benchmark: useful data, but not a realistic MariaDB comparison   <https://lnkd.in/erEa8EEA> #mariadb

2K impressions • 98 engagements [View analytics](#)

 Big news: MariaDB has completed the acquisition of GridGain. ...

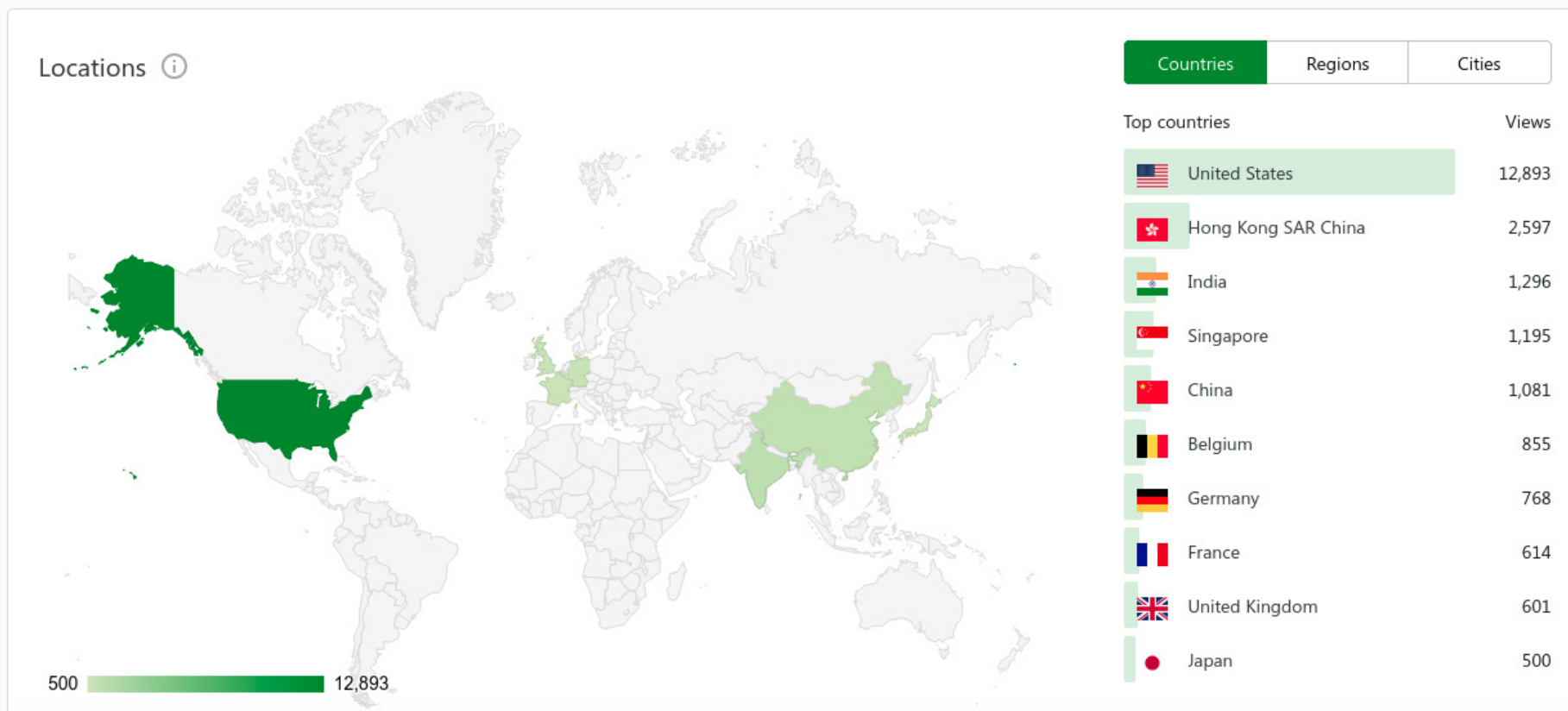
2K impressions • 67 engagements [View analytics](#)

 On my way to Milano 🇮🇹 for my first in-person presentation for the #MariaDB Foundation 

[Show more >](#)



Community is following



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Community is following

Discovery ⓘ

69,705 Impressions

10,216 Members reached

💡 Members who post once a week can get up to 4x more profile views. Keep the momentum going by creating another post. ✕

Start a post



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Migrations

The market is asking, “Can MariaDB be the safe next step?”



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Migration signals: the door is open

Reddit signal

Recent r/mariadb threads ask for a **MySQL 8.4** → **MariaDB 12.x migration guide** and discuss why people have not migrated yet.

This is not noise. It is qualified demand.

Content signal

My “I joined the MariaDB Foundation” post resonated because it spoke to the same issue: trust, continuity, and where the MySQL lineage goes next.

This is the moment to be practical.

Community Key Players

I received direct feedback from key community members, including developers and DBAs, who are actively considering migration paths. Their insights are invaluable for shaping MariaDB's roadmap.



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Technical Excellence

Features, Innovations, Plugins

& Storage Engines



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Put the technical progress under the spotlight

MariaDB's Features

- Started a new series about “hidden gems” in MariaDB Server, highlighting features that are often overlooked but can significantly improve performance and usability.
- Started a new series on MariaDB Innovations, showcasing the latest developments and improvements.

Visibility to innovative engines

DuckSB: “sea lion learns to quack” story: analytics next to transactional data, and a very shareable innovation narrative.

TideSQL: new storage engine for MariaDB Server, with a clear story about how it can help users manage some type of data more effectively.

External contributors

For MariaDB Server 11.8 alone: about **62 contributions from 35 external contributors** in the May releases.

Starting to thanks the contributors publicly into a dedicated blog post.



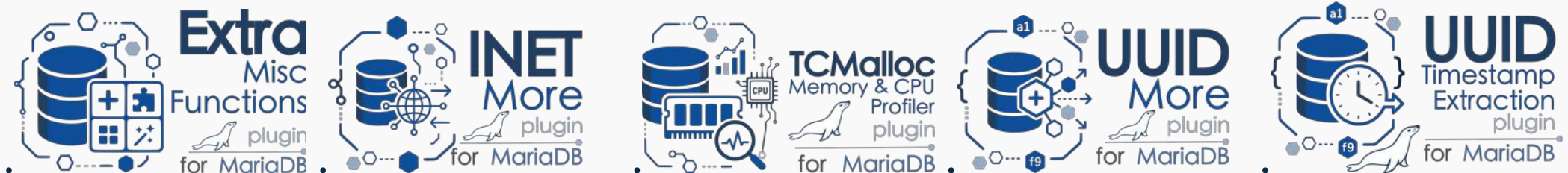
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Plugins

We refreshed the **MariaDB Plugins** page on mariadb.org, including how to contribute.

I also started a new series of blog posts about **Adding a new datatype**.

I wrote several plugins for MariaDB Server (all available on GitHub)::



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Adoption

Momentum & Good Vibes



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Momentum since February 2026: adoption signals

Usage and deployment

- **MariaDB.org downloads:** 129,774 → 225,260
+74% from February to May
- **Docker Official Image pulls:** 13.1M → 17.8M
+36% from February to May

People are not just reading. They are pulling, testing, and deploying.

Developer visibility

- **GitHub README mentions:** 226,685 → 265,588
+17% from February to May
- **GitHub stars:** 7,234 → 7,662
+6% from February to May

MariaDB is showing up in more real project contexts.

Source: MariaDB Adoption Index, February–May 2026 public dataset



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Momentum: community health

Contributor depth

- **Unique GitHub PR contributors:** 95 → 122
+28% from February to May
- **Returning contributors:** 15 → 24
+60% from February to May

**The contributor base is widening,
and repeat contribution is
improving.**

Audience growth

- **r/MariaDB subscribers:** 3,480 → 3,678
+6% from February to May
- **Foundation LinkedIn followers:** 5,886 → 6,119
+4% from February to May
- **plc LinkedIn followers:** 25,973 → 26,680
+3% from February to May

**Visibility is moving in the right
direction across public channels.**



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Momentum: contributors & contributions

If we refer to MariaDB Server 11.8, we had about **62 contributions** from **35 external contributors**.

And with the latest 12.3.2, we increase that number to **57 external contributors!!!**

Not only have MariaDB Server distinct contributors surpassed the distinct MySQL Server contributors count! The External MariaDB contributors alone did!



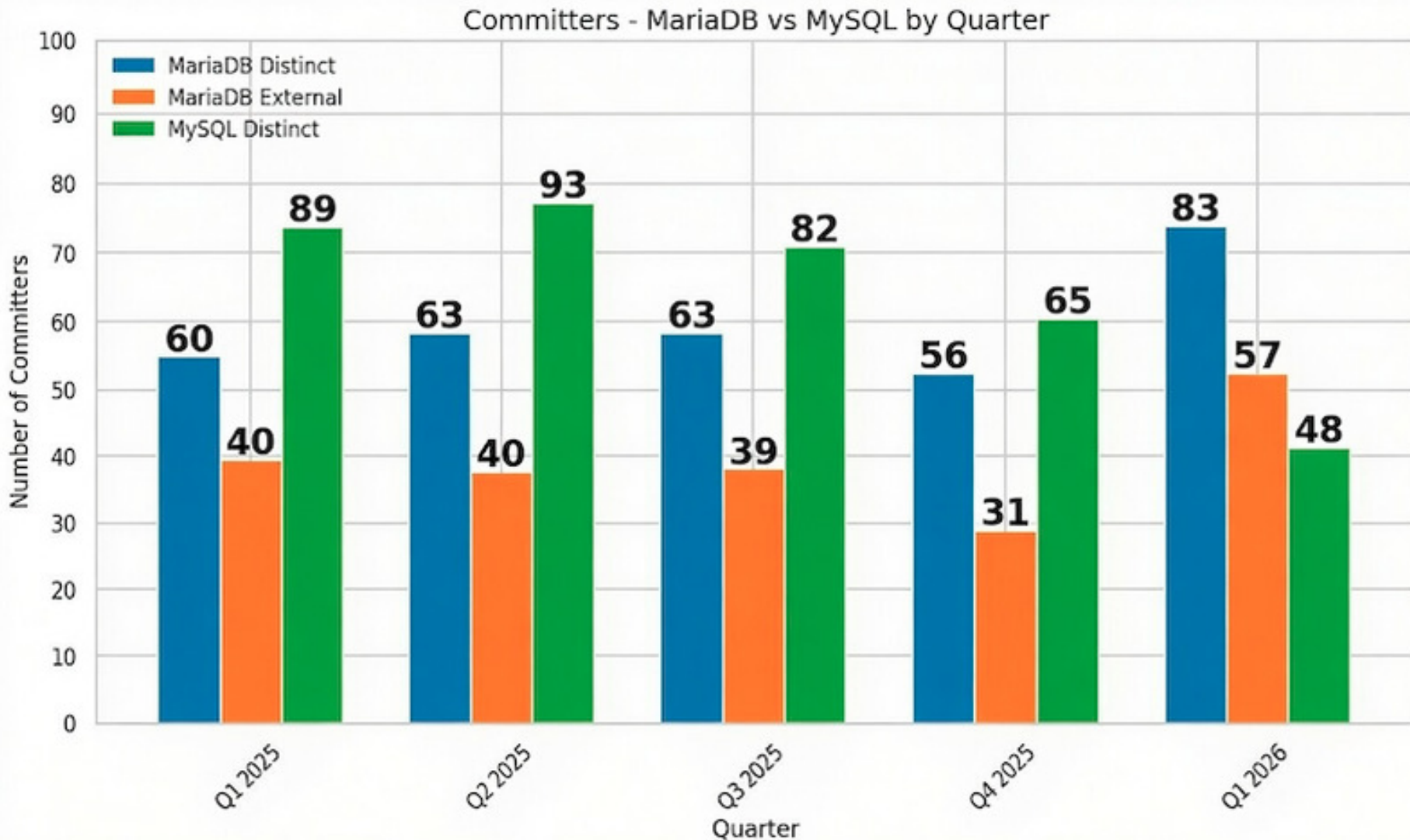
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MySQL



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Ecosystem pull: famous projects are naming MariaDB

Drupal

Official database requirements now list **MariaDB recommended** for Drupal 10, 11, and 12.

High-credibility CMS signal

Laravel

laravel-mariadb-vector brings MariaDB native vector search to Laravel's Eloquent ORM; Foundation blog notes **100+ installs** without marketing.

Mainstream PHP/AI signal

dbdeployer

ProxySQL's sponsorship explicitly calls out MariaDB support work in the operational toolbox: ProxySQL, dbdeployer, and orchestrator.

MySQL DBA ecosystem signal



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12.3 LTS creates downstream activity

DDEV

DDEV opened first-class support for **MariaDB 12.3 LTS**, including a new database image and *ddev config --database=mariadb:12.3* path.

Interpretation: local development tooling follows production needs.

DrupalCI

DrupalCI added work for a **MariaDB 12.3** container, pinned to the new LTS series.

Interpretation: the Drupal ecosystem is not only recommending MariaDB; it is testing against current MariaDB.

Flyway

Flyway users are asking to formalize **MariaDB 11.8 / 12.3 LTS** support.

Interpretation: migration tooling reacts when users run current MariaDB in real projects.



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Friendly ecosystem message

The story since February is not only “MariaDB usage is up.” The stronger story is that MariaDB is becoming more visible and more useful across the broader MySQL-compatible ecosystem.

New sponsors are joining, operational tools like ProxySQL/dbdeployer are moving closer, Laravel developers are building around MariaDB Vector, Drupal is recommending MariaDB, and development platforms like DDEV are adding MariaDB 12.3 LTS support.



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Turn attention into participation

1. Be where the friction is

Reddit, LinkedIn, blog comments, forums, conferences, and migration conversations.

Respond with practical help, not slogans.

2. Make every release testable

Short “what to try” posts, upgrade labs, sample workloads, container paths, and known gaps.

3. Celebrate contributors publicly

Sea Lion Champions, release thank-yous, ecosystem partners, dbdeployer, operators, connectors, tools.

4. Create migration proof

Guides, case studies, checklists, demo repos, “known sharp edges,” and public fixes.



Turn attention into participation

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We need to stay the good and friendly player

We need to keep being the credible, open, and friendly continuation of the MySQL lineage. That means:

- being open and transparent about progress, gaps, and known issues
- being practical and helpful in migration conversations
- being visible and amplifying the community's voice, not just our own



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All what we are already doing!



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Always Friendly, Always Open.. but also honest!

The Foundation is doing a lot of good work, and the community needs to see it.

So, we need to be even more visible with all the good things we are doing and not too shy when we have something to say that might make people cringe but are fair and honest:

- A response to Percona's 2026 MySQL ecosystem benchmark: useful data, but not a realistic MariaDB comparison
- VillageSQL Features... déjà vu?



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MariaDB Foundation is turning renewed interest into visible community action: clearer migration paths, stronger feedback loops, more external contribution, and public stories that show MariaDB as the credible open continuation of the MySQL lineage.

This is cool progress. It is also exactly the kind of progress we should make easy to quote.



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What we need to keep doing

Alignment

A shared public narrative: openness, adoption, continuity — with migrations as the practical proof point.

Visibility

Amplify community content from Foundation, Board, sponsors, partners, and contributors.

Support

Help prioritize migration material, compatibility gaps, and outreach assets.

Be concrete

Specific examples beat abstract positioning. Public notes should name the progress.



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Thank you

**Let's make MariaDB the obvious open path
forward.**



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Resources used

- MariaDB Foundation Board minutes, 25 Feb 2026 — <https://mariadb.org/bodminutes/2026-02-25/>
- MariaDB.org blog: community polls, release posts, contributor posts, 10.6 EOL, DuckDB engine, sponsor announcements, Drupal, Laravel Vector, MariaDB 12.3 LTS The Power of The Community post, MariaDB Server 12.3, 11.8, 11.4, 10.11, 10.6 – May 2026’s releases: thank you for your contributions
- MariaDB Adoption Index public dataset: February–May 2026 downloads, Docker pulls, GitHub, social/community metrics
- lefred.be: “I joined the MariaDB Foundation”, “A Friendly Reset”, “MariaDB Keeps Climbing”, poll analysis posts, MariaDB 12.3 LTS
- Drupal.org database requirements; DDEV and DrupalCI MariaDB 12.3 LTS issues; Flyway MariaDB LTS support issue
- LinkedIn search results: MariaDB Foundation “Meet the team”, Sea Lion Champions, dbdeployer support, migration/community amplification
- Reddit: r/mariadb migration-guide questions and migration discussion threads

