

# Google Cloud Spanner

Google Cloud Spanner is a fully managed, mission-critical, relational database service that offers transactional consistency at global scale, schemas, SQL (ANSI 2011 with extensions), and automatic, synchronous replication for high availability.

## Features

- Strong consistency.
- SQL support with **ALTER** statements for schema changes.
- Managed instances with high availability through transparent, synchronous, built-in data replication.
- Regional and multi-regional instance configurations.
- Integration with IAM including permissions: `admin`, `databaseAdmin`, `databaseReader`, `databaseUser`, and `viewer`.

## When to Use

- Relational, structured and semi-structured data.
- High availability.
- Strong consistency.
- Transactional reads and writes.

## When not to use?

- Do not need strongly consistent and horizontally scaling relational database.
- Need an open-source database.