

# Anaconda Transition Working Group

## Summary of Initial Email Thread

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### Statement of the Problem

Anaconda, a widely used distribution for data science and machine learning, has updated its terms of service (ToS) to no longer offer free access for non-profit academic research at institutions with more than 200 employees. This change has caused significant concern and confusion among academic institutions, as it affects their ability to use Anaconda's repositories and tools without incurring costs. The primary issues include:

- **Licensing Costs:** Institutions with more than 200 employees must now pay for a commercial license to use Anaconda.
- **Compliance:** Institutions are receiving notices from Anaconda about non-compliance with the new ToS.
- **Transition Challenges:** Academic institutions need to find alternative solutions that are both cost-effective and compliant with the new ToS.

### Potential Solutions

- **Switch to Miniforge:** Many institutions are considering switching from Anaconda to Miniforge, which defaults to the open-source conda-forge channel.
  - Blocking Anaconda Repositories: Some institutions plan to block access to Anaconda's repositories to ensure compliance.
  - Shared Conda Caches: Improving support for shared conda caches and container-based installations.
- **Use of Mamba:** Mamba, a faster alternative to conda, is being considered as it can be installed via Miniforge.
- **Policy Development:** Developing institutional policies to manage the use of AI/LLMs and ensure data security and compliance.
- **Community Collaboration:** Forming a task force or working group to streamline open-source resources and develop best practices for transitioning away from Anaconda.
- **Use of Containers:** Utilizing containers like Apptainer or Docker to manage dependencies and software environments.

### WG Initial Discussion Members and Their Institutions

- For privacy reasons, this list has been removed.

## **Summary**

The Anaconda WG thread reveals a collective effort among academic institutions to adapt to the changing landscape of software licensing. The primary concerns revolve around compliance with Anaconda's new ToS and finding alternative solutions that are both cost-effective and compliant. Institutions are exploring various strategies, including switching to Miniforge, using Mamba, developing institutional policies, forming a community task force, and utilizing containers.