# PrismDB vs Google Cloud Spanner: A Comprehensive Technical Comparison

**Whitepaper Version:** 1.0 **Date:** December 2025 **Authors:** PrismDB Team

## Executive Summary

This whitepaper provides an in-depth feature-by-feature comparison between **PrismDB**, a modern embedded analytical database written in Rust, and **Google Cloud Spanner**, Google's globally distributed, strongly consistent relational database. These systems represent fundamentally different approaches to database design—PrismDB focuses on embedded OLAP workloads while Spanner targets globally distributed OLTP with recent HTAP capabilities.

**Key Findings:**

- PrismDB is an **embedded, single-node OLAP database** while Spanner is a **globally distributed, multi-region OLTP/HTAP database**
- Spanner uses **TrueTime** for global clock synchronization enabling external consistency; PrismDB uses traditional **MVCC** for local transactions
- Both support **columnar storage** and **vectorized execution** for analytical queries
- Spanner offers **99.999% availability** with automatic replication; PrismDB is designed for **local/embedded** use
- Spanner has evolved into a **multi-model database** with graph, vector, and full-text search; PrismDB has similar capabilities on its roadmap
- PrismDB is **open-source** and **free**; Spanner is a **managed cloud service** with usage-based pricing

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 PrismDB Overview

PrismDB is a high-performance analytical database written in Rust, designed for OLAP workloads. It emphasizes:

- **Embedded deployment**: In-process execution with zero external dependencies
- **Rust-native implementation**: Memory safety without garbage collection
- **Python integration**: First-class bindings via PyO3
- **ACID compliance**: Full transaction support with MVCC
- **Columnar storage**: Optimized for analytical query patterns

**Deployment Model:** Local/embedded, single-node **License:** MIT (Open Source) **Current Version:** 0.1.0 (Active Development)

### 1.2 Google Cloud Spanner Overview

Google Cloud Spanner is a fully managed, globally distributed relational database service. Originally developed internally at Google starting in 2007, it combines:

- **Global distribution**: Multi-region deployments with automatic replication
- **Strong consistency**: External consistency via TrueTime
- **Unlimited scale**: Horizontal scaling across nodes and regions
- **High availability**: Up to 99.999% availability SLA
- **Multi-model capabilities**: Relational, graph, vector, and full-text search

**Deployment Model:** Managed cloud service (Google Cloud) **License:** Proprietary (Cloud Service) **Current Version:** Continuously updated managed service

### 1.3 Fundamental Differences

| Aspect | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Primary Focus** | Embedded OLAP | Distributed OLTP/HTAP |
| **Deployment** | Local/embedded | Cloud-managed |
| **Scale** | Single node | Global distribution |
| **Consistency** | Local MVCC | External consistency (TrueTime) |
| **Availability** | Application-dependent | 99.999% SLA |
| **Cost Model** | Free (open source) | Pay-per-use |

## 2. Architecture Comparison

### 2.1 System Architecture

**PrismDB Architecture:**

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│                    Application Process                        │
│  ┌───────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐  │
│  │                    PrismDB Library                      │  │
│  │  ┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────┐  │  │
│  │  │                  SQL Interface                    │  │  │
│  │  └─────────────────────────────────────────────────┘  │  │
│  │                                                        │  │
│  │  ┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────┐  │  │
│  │  │   Parser → Binder → Optimizer → Executor         │  │  │
│  │  └─────────────────────────────────────────────────┘  │  │
│  │                                                        │  │
│  │  ┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────┐  │  │
│  │  │   Columnar Storage │ MVCC │ Compression │ WAL    │  │  │
│  │  └─────────────────────────────────────────────────┘  │  │
│  └───────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘  │
│                              │                                │
│                              ▼                                │
│                    Local File System                          │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

**Google Spanner Architecture:**

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│                    Spanner Universe                          │
│  ┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐ │
│  │                   Zone 1 (Region A)                      │ │
│  │                                                         │ │
│  │   ┌─────────────┐  ┌─────────────┐  ┌─────────────┐     │ │
│  │   │ Spanserver  │  │ Spanserver  │  │ Spanserver  │     │ │
│  │   │  (Leader)   │  │ (Follower)  │  │ (Follower)  │     │ │
│  │   └─────────────┘  └─────────────┘  └─────────────┘     │ │
│  └─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘ │
│                                                             │
│  ┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐ │
│  │                   Zone 2 (Region B)                      │ │
│  │   ┌─────────────┐  ┌─────────────┐  ┌─────────────┐     │ │
│  │   │ Spanserver  │  │ Spanserver  │  │ Spanserver  │     │ │
│  │   └─────────────┘  └─────────────┘  └─────────────┘     │ │
│  └─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘ │
│                              │                               │
│                    Google Private Network                    │
│                              │                               │
│                         TrueTime API                         │
│                    (GPS + Atomic Clocks)                     │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

### 2.2 Component Comparison

| Component | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Query Parser** | Custom SQL parser | GoogleSQL / PostgreSQL dialects |
| **Query Optimizer** | Rule-based + cost-based | Cost-based with statistics |
| **Execution Engine** | Vectorized (pull-based) | Vectorized (for columnar engine) |
| **Storage Engine** | Block-based columnar | Ressi (PAX) + Columnar Engine |
| **Transaction Manager** | Local MVCC | Distributed 2PC + Paxos |
| **Replication** | None (single node) | Paxos-based synchronous |
| **Clock Synchronization** | System clock | TrueTime (GPS + atomic clocks) |

### 2.3 Design Philosophy

| Philosophy | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **CAP Theorem** | CP (single node) | CP (with TrueTime) |
| **Consistency Priority** | Strong (local) | External consistency (global) |
| **Availability Model** | Application-managed | Managed HA (99.999%) |
| **Latency Target** | Microseconds (local) | Milliseconds (global) |
| **Scale Model** | Vertical | Horizontal |

## 3. Deployment Models

### 3.1 PrismDB Deployment

**Embedded/In-Process:**

```python
import prismdb

# In-memory database
db = prismdb.connect()

# File-based persistent database
db = prismdb.connect('analytics.db')

# Execute queries
result = db.execute("SELECT * FROM sales GROUP BY region")
```

**Characteristics:**

- Zero infrastructure required
- No network latency
- Single-file database
- Application-lifecycle bound
- No operational overhead

### 3.2 Google Spanner Deployment

**Cloud-Managed Service:**

```python
from google.cloud import spanner

# Connect to Spanner instance
client = spanner.Client()
instance = client.instance('my-instance')
database = instance.database('my-database')

# Execute queries
with database.snapshot() as snapshot:
    results = snapshot.execute_sql("SELECT * FROM sales")
```

**Configuration Options:**

| Configuration | Description | Availability SLA |
|---|---|---|
| **Single Region** | 3 read-write replicas in one region | 99.99% |
| **Dual Region** | Replicas across 2 regions | 99.99% |
| **Multi-Region** | Replicas across 3+ regions | 99.999% |

**Editions (as of 2024):**

- **Standard:** Core relational capabilities
- **Enterprise:** Multi-model (graph, vector, full-text search), autoscaling

### 3.3 Deployment Comparison

| Aspect | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Setup Time** | Seconds | Minutes |
| **Infrastructure** | None | Google Cloud |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Network Required** | No | Yes |
| **Operational Overhead** | None | Managed |
| **Geographic Distribution** | N/A | Global |
| **Minimum Cost** | Free | ~$65/month (1 node) |

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## 4. Storage Engine

### 4.1 Storage Format

**PrismDB Storage:**

- Block-based columnar storage (256KB blocks)
- Separate files per column within blocks
- Validity masks for NULL tracking
- Column-level statistics (min, max, null count)
- MVCC version chains

```
Block Structure:
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│ Block Header: Magic │ Version │ Block ID │ Row Count   │
│ Compression Type │ Sizes │ Checksum                    │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│ Column Data (compressed)                                │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

**Google Spanner Storage:**

- **Ressi Format:** Modern PAX-based columnar format
- Row groups with column-wise layout within blocks
- Supports both point lookups and analytical scans
- **Columnar Engine:** Dedicated columnar storage for analytics
- Automatic compression with high ratios

```
Spanner Storage Hierarchy:
Universe → Zones → Spanservers → Tablets → Splits → Blocks
```

### 4.2 Storage Features

| Feature | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Storage Format** | Custom columnar | Ressi (PAX) + Columnar |
| **Block Size** | 256KB | Variable |
| **Row Groups** | Configurable | Automatic (splits) |
| **Compression** | Dictionary, RLE | Automatic (high ratio) |
| **Column Pruning** | Yes | Yes |
| **Late Materialization** | Yes | Yes |
| **Storage Tiering** | No | Automatic |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Encryption at Rest** | Planned | Yes (default) |

### 4.3 Data Organization

**PrismDB:**

- Tables stored as collections of column files
- Optional indexing via B-tree/hash structures
- Single-file database option

**Spanner:**

- Tables sharded into **splits** by primary key
- Splits distributed across **tablets** on spanservers
- **Interleaved tables** for parent-child co-location
- Automatic split management based on size/load

## 5. Query Engine

### 5.1 Execution Model

| Aspect | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Execution Style** | Vectorized (pull-based) | Row-based + Vectorized (columnar) |
| **Vector Size** | 2048 tuples | Variable |
| **Parallelism** | Morsel-driven | Distributed + local parallel |
| **JIT Compilation** | Planned | No |
| **SIMD** | Per-function | Yes (columnar engine) |

### 5.2 Query Processing

**PrismDB Query Flow:**

```
SQL → Tokenizer → Parser → AST → Binder → Logical Plan
    → Optimizer → Physical Plan → Vectorized Executor → Results
```

**Spanner Query Flow:**

```
SQL → Parser → AST → Analyzer → Distributed Planner
    → Coordinator → Spanserver Execution → Aggregation → Results
```

### 5.3 Physical Operators

| Operator | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| Table Scan | Yes | Yes |
| Index Scan | Yes | Yes |
| Filter | Yes | Yes |
| Projection | Yes | Yes |
| Hash Join | Yes | Yes |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sort-Merge Join | Yes | Yes |
| Distributed Join | No | Yes |
| Hash Aggregate | Yes | Yes |
| Distributed Aggregate | No | Yes |
| Sort | Yes | Yes |
| Limit/Top-N | Yes | Yes |
| Window Functions | Yes | Yes |

### 5.4 Query Optimization

| Optimization | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| Filter Pushdown | Yes | Yes |
| Projection Pushdown | Yes | Yes |
| Constant Folding | Yes | Yes |
| Join Reordering | Yes | Yes |
| Distributed Query Planning | No | Yes |
| Automatic Index Selection | Yes | Yes |
| Statistics-based Optimization | Basic | Advanced |
| Query Hints | Basic | Yes (FORCE_INDEX) |

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## 6. Data Types

### 6.1 Scalar Types

| Type Category | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Boolean** | BOOLEAN | BOOL |
| **Integers** | TINYINT, SMALLINT, INTEGER, BIGINT, HUGEINT | INT64 only |
| **Floats** | FLOAT, DOUBLE | FLOAT32, FLOAT64 |
| **Decimals** | DECIMAL(p,s) | NUMERIC (precision 38, scale 9) |
| **Strings** | VARCHAR, CHAR, TEXT | STRING |
| **Binary** | BLOB | BYTES |

### 6.2 Temporal Types

| Type | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Date** | DATE | DATE |
| **Time** | TIME | Not directly (use TIMESTAMP) |
| **Timestamp** | TIMESTAMP | TIMESTAMP |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Interval** | INTERVAL | INTERVAL |
| **Time Zone** | Basic | TIMESTAMP handles UTC |

### 6.3 Complex Types

| Type | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Arrays** | LIST(T), ARRAY | ARRAY |
| **Structs** | STRUCT(fields) | STRUCT |
| **Maps** | MAP(K, V) | Not native (use STRUCT array) |
| **JSON** | JSON | JSON |
| **Enums** | ENUM(values) | ENUM |
| **UUID** | UUID | Not native (use STRING/BYTES) |
| **Protocol Buffers** | No | PROTO |
| **Graph Elements** | Planned | GRAPH_ELEMENT, GRAPH_PATH |

### 6.4 Type System Comparison

**Spanner Advantages:**

- Protocol Buffer (PROTO) native support
- Graph element types for Spanner Graph
- Tight integration with Google ecosystem

**PrismDB Advantages:**

- Multiple integer sizes (memory efficiency)
- Native UUID type
- Native MAP type
- More flexible decimal precision

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## 7. SQL Features

### 7.1 SQL Dialects

**PrismDB:**

- Custom SQL dialect (PostgreSQL-influenced)
- Single dialect

**Spanner:**

- **GoogleSQL:** Primary dialect, compatible with BigQuery
- **PostgreSQL:** Wire-compatible interface for portability

### 7.2 DDL Features

| Feature | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| CREATE TABLE | Yes | Yes |
| CREATE OR REPLACE | Yes | Limited |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ALTER TABLE | Basic | Extensive |
| DROP TABLE | Yes | Yes |
| CREATE VIEW | Yes | Yes |
| MATERIALIZED VIEW | Yes | No (use change streams) |
| CREATE INDEX | Yes | Yes |
| INTERLEAVED TABLES | No | Yes (unique feature) |
| DROP PROTECTION | No | Yes |

### 7.3 DML Features

| Feature | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| SELECT | Yes | Yes |
| INSERT | Yes | Yes |
| UPDATE | Yes | Yes |
| DELETE | Yes | Yes |
| MERGE/UPSERT | Planned | INSERT OR UPDATE |
| Partitioned DML | No | Yes |
| Batch DML | Via transaction | Yes |

### 7.4 Advanced SQL Features

| Feature | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **CTEs (WITH clause)** | Yes | Yes |
| **Recursive CTEs** | In progress | Yes |
| **Window Functions** | Full support | Full support |
| **PIVOT/UNPIVOT** | Yes | Limited |
| **QUALIFY** | Yes | No |
| **ARRAY Functions** | Basic | Extensive |
| **JSON Functions** | Basic | Extensive |
| **ML Functions** | No | Yes (ML.PREDICT) |
| **Graph Queries (GQL)** | Planned | Yes (Spanner Graph) |

### 7.5 Join Types

| Join Type | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| INNER JOIN | Yes | Yes |
| LEFT/RIGHT JOIN | Yes | Yes |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| FULL OUTER JOIN | Yes | Yes |
| CROSS JOIN | Yes | Yes |
| SEMI JOIN | Yes | Yes |
| ANTI JOIN | Yes | Yes |
| Hash Join | Yes | Yes |
| Distributed Join | No | Yes |

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## 8. Indexing Mechanisms

### 8.1 Index Types

| Index Type | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Primary Key Index** | Yes | Yes (automatic) |
| **B-Tree Index** | Yes | No (uses primary key sorting) |
| **Hash Index** | Yes | No |
| **Secondary Index** | Yes | Yes |
| **Interleaved Index** | No | Yes |
| **Search Index** | Planned | Yes (full-text) |
| **Vector Index** | Planned | Yes (ANN/KNN) |

### 8.2 Spanner Unique Index Features

**Interleaved Indexes:** Spanner can interleave indexes with parent tables for co-location:

```
CREATE INDEX AlbumsByTitle ON Albums(Title)
INTERLEAVE IN Singers;
```

**STORING Clause:** Store additional columns in the index to avoid base table lookups:

```
CREATE INDEX AlbumsByTitle ON Albums(Title)
STORING (ReleaseDate, Genre);
```

### 8.3 Index Usage

| Feature | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| Automatic Index Selection | Yes | Yes |
| Index Hints | Basic | Yes (FORCE_INDEX) |
| Covering Indexes | No | Yes (STORING) |
| Partial Indexes | Planned | No |
| Expression Indexes | No | No |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Index-Only Scans | Limited | Yes |

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## 9. Transaction Support

### 9.1 ACID Properties

| Property | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Atomicity** | Full | Full (distributed) |
| **Consistency** | Full | Full (external consistency) |
| **Isolation** | Multiple levels | Serializable / Repeatable Read |
| **Durability** | WAL-based | Synchronous replication |

### 9.2 Isolation Levels

**PrismDB Isolation Levels:**

- Read Uncommitted
- Read Committed
- Repeatable Read (default)
- Serializable

**Spanner Isolation Levels:**

- Serializable (default, with external consistency)
- Repeatable Read (preview, optimistic locking)

### 9.3 Transaction Types

| Transaction Type | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| Read-Write | Yes | Yes |
| Read-Only | Yes | Yes (lock-free) |
| Single Statement | Yes | Yes |
| Multi-Statement | Yes | Yes |
| Distributed | No | Yes |
| Partitioned DML | No | Yes |

### 9.4 Concurrency Control

| Aspect | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Mechanism** | MVCC | MVCC + 2PC + TrueTime |
| **Lock Granularity** | Row-level | Cell-level |
| **Deadlock Detection** | Yes | Yes (distributed) |
| **Concurrent Writers** | Yes (row-level) | Yes (cell-level) |
| **Read-Write Conflict** | MVCC isolation | Pessimistic locking |

### 9.5 TrueTime: Spanner's Innovation

Spanner's most significant innovation is **TrueTime**, a globally synchronized clock service:

```
TrueTime API:
- TT.now() → returns interval [earliest, latest]
- TT.after(t) → true if t has definitely passed
- TT.before(t) → true if t has definitely not arrived

Uncertainty bound: ~7ms (GPS + atomic clocks)
```

**External Consistency:** If transaction T1 commits before T2 starts (in real time), then T1's commit timestamp < T2's commit timestamp. This guarantee is impossible without synchronized clocks.

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## 10. Consistency & Replication

### 10.1 Consistency Models

| Model | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Local Consistency** | Strong | Strong |
| **Distributed Consistency** | N/A | External consistency |
| **Read Consistency** | Snapshot | Snapshot + bounded staleness |
| **Write Consistency** | Immediate | Synchronous replication |

### 10.2 Replication

| Aspect | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Replication Type** | None | Synchronous (Paxos) |
| **Replicas per Node** | 1 | 3+ (automatic) |
| **Cross-Region** | No | Yes |
| **Consensus Protocol** | N/A | Paxos |
| **Leader Election** | N/A | Automatic |
| **Failover** | Manual | Automatic |

### 10.3 Spanner Replication Architecture

```
Paxos Group (per split):
┌──────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│                     Leader Replica                       │
│            (Handles all writes for split)                │
└──────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
        │                    │                    │
        ▼                    ▼                    ▼
┌──────────────┐    ┌──────────────┐    ┌──────────────┐
│  Follower 1  │    │  Follower 2  │    │  Follower 3  │
│  (Zone A)    │    │  (Zone B)    │    │  (Zone C)    │
└──────────────┘    └──────────────┘    └──────────────┘
```

### 10.4 Availability Comparison

| Metric | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Single Node Availability** | Application-dependent | N/A (always distributed) |
| **Regional Availability** | N/A | 99.99% |
| **Multi-Region Availability** | N/A | 99.999% |
| **RTO (Recovery Time)** | Application-dependent | Seconds |
| **RPO (Data Loss)** | WAL-dependent | Zero (synchronous) |

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## 11. Multi-Model Capabilities

### 11.1 Current Multi-Model Support

| Capability | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Relational** | Yes | Yes |
| **Key-Value** | Via tables | Yes |
| **Document (JSON)** | Basic | Yes |
| **Graph** | Planned | Yes (Spanner Graph) |
| **Vector Search** | Planned | Yes (ANN/KNN) |
| **Full-Text Search** | No | Yes |
| **Time Series** | Via SQL | Via SQL |

### 11.2 Spanner Graph (2024)

Spanner Graph adds native graph query capabilities:

```
-- Create a property graph
CREATE PROPERTY GRAPH FinGraph
  NODE TABLES (
    Account LABEL Account,
    Person LABEL Person
  )
  EDGE TABLES (
    Transfers SOURCE KEY (from_id) REFERENCES Account
             DESTINATION KEY (to_id) REFERENCES Account
             LABEL Transfers
  );

-- Query with GQL
GRAPH FinGraph
MATCH (p:Person)-[:Owns]->(a:Account)-[t:Transfers]->(b:Account)
WHERE t.amount > 1000
RETURN p.name, SUM(t.amount);
```

### 11.3 Spanner Vector Search

```
-- Create vector index
CREATE VECTOR INDEX EmbeddingIndex
ON Products(embedding)
OPTIONS (distance_type = 'COSINE', tree_depth = 2);

-- Similarity search
SELECT product_name, embedding
FROM Products
ORDER BY COSINE_DISTANCE(embedding, @query_embedding)
LIMIT 10;
```

### 11.4 PrismDB HTAP Roadmap

PrismDB's planned multi-model capabilities (from HTAP Technical Design):

- **Document Store:** BSON encoding, hybrid hot/cold storage
- **Vector Database:** HNSW index, SIMD-accelerated distance calculations
- **Graph Database:** Property graph model, CSR representation, Cypher-like queries

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## 12. Performance & Scalability

### 12.1 Scale Characteristics

| Dimension | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Max Data Size** | Node memory/disk | Virtually unlimited |
| **Max Throughput** | Single node | 2+ billion requests/sec (Google) |
| **Horizontal Scaling** | No | Automatic |
| **Vertical Scaling** | Yes | Yes (node size) |
| **Data Under Management** | GB-TB | 6+ exabytes (Google) |

### 12.2 Latency Characteristics

| Operation | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Point Read** | Microseconds | Single-digit milliseconds |
| **Range Scan** | Milliseconds | Milliseconds |
| **Write (single row)** | Microseconds | 5-10 milliseconds |
| **Distributed Write** | N/A | 10-50 milliseconds |
| **Analytical Query** | Seconds | Seconds (up to 200x faster with columnar) |

### 12.3 Spanner Columnar Engine Performance

The columnar engine (2024) provides significant analytical acceleration:

| Improvement | Metric |
|---|---|
| **Scan Performance** | Up to 200x faster |
| **Analytical Queries** | 10-40x improvement |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Compression** | Higher ratios (columnar layout) |
| **Vectorized Execution** | Cache-friendly, SIMD-enabled |

### 12.4 Resource Requirements

| Resource | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Minimum Memory** | ~10 MB | N/A (managed) |
| **Minimum Storage** | 0 (in-memory) | N/A (managed) |
| **Minimum Nodes** | 1 (embedded) | 1 (but 3 replicas) |
| **Network** | None required | Required |

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## 13. Use Cases

### 13.1 Where PrismDB Excels

1. **Embedded Analytics**
   - In-application data processing
   - Python data science workflows
   - Jupyter notebook integration
   - Local file analysis
2. **Edge/Offline Scenarios**
   - IoT edge devices
   - Mobile applications
   - Disconnected environments
   - Low-latency requirements
3. **Development & Prototyping**
   - Zero-infrastructure setup
   - Fast iteration cycles
   - Learning and education
4. **Cost-Sensitive Deployments**
   - No cloud costs
   - Predictable resource usage
   - Small to medium datasets

### 13.2 Where Google Spanner Excels

1. **Global Applications**
   - Multi-region deployments
   - Global user base
   - Low-latency worldwide access
2. **Mission-Critical Workloads**
   - 99.999% availability requirements
   - Zero data loss tolerance
   - Financial transactions
3. **Massive Scale**

    - Petabyte+ datasets
    - Billions of transactions/day
    - Horizontal scaling needs

4. **Multi-Model Requirements**

    - Graph queries on relational data
    - Vector search for AI/ML
    - Full-text search integration

5. **Enterprise Compliance**

    - Managed security
    - Encryption by default
    - Audit logging

### 13.3 Decision Matrix

| Requirement | Recommendation |
|---|---|
| Global distribution | Spanner |
| Zero infrastructure | PrismDB |
| 99.999% availability | Spanner |
| Free/open source | PrismDB |
| Embedded in application | PrismDB |
| Multi-region consistency | Spanner |
| Local OLAP processing | PrismDB |
| Graph + Relational queries | Spanner |
| Offline capability | PrismDB |
| Managed operations | Spanner |
| Python data science | PrismDB |
| Petabyte scale | Spanner |

## 14. Feature Comparison Matrix

### 14.1 Core Database Features

| Feature | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| SQL Support | ✅ | ✅ |
| ACID Transactions | ✅ | ✅ |
| Columnar Storage | ✅ | ✅ |
| Vectorized Execution | ✅ | ✅ (columnar engine) |
| Distributed Transactions | ❌ | ✅ |
| Global Distribution | ❌ | ✅ |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Automatic Replication | ❌ | ✅ |
| High Availability | ❌ | ✅ (99.999%) |
| TrueTime/External Consistency | ❌ | ✅ |

### 14.2 SQL Features

| Feature | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| CTEs | ✅ | ✅ |
| Window Functions | ✅ | ✅ |
| Recursive CTEs | ⚠️ Partial | ✅ |
| PIVOT/UNPIVOT | ✅ | ⚠️ Limited |
| QUALIFY | ✅ | ❌ |
| JSON Functions | ⚠️ Basic | ✅ |
| ML Functions | ❌ | ✅ |
| Graph Queries (GQL) | 🔜 Planned | ✅ |

### 14.3 Storage & Indexing

| Feature | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| B-Tree Index | ✅ | ❌ |
| Secondary Index | ✅ | ✅ |
| Interleaved Tables/Indexes | ❌ | ✅ |
| Covering Indexes (STORING) | ❌ | ✅ |
| Full-Text Search Index | 🔜 Planned | ✅ |
| Vector Index | 🔜 Planned | ✅ |
| Automatic Compression | ⚠️ Basic | ✅ |

### 14.4 Multi-Model Capabilities

| Feature | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| Relational | ✅ | ✅ |
| Key-Value | ⚠️ Via tables | ✅ |
| Document/JSON | ⚠️ Basic | ✅ |
| Graph Database | 🔜 Planned | ✅ |
| Vector Search | 🔜 Planned | ✅ |
| Full-Text Search | ❌ | ✅ |

### 14.5 Operations & Management

| Feature | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| Zero Infrastructure | ✅ | ❌ |
| Managed Service | ❌ | ✅ |
| Automatic Backups | ❌ | ✅ |
| Point-in-Time Recovery | 🔜 Planned | ✅ |
| Schema Change Protection | ❌ | ✅ |
| Encryption at Rest | 🔜 Planned | ✅ |
| IAM Integration | ❌ | ✅ |

### 14.6 Legend

- ✅ Fully supported
- ⚠️ Partially supported
- 🔜 Planned/In development
- ❌ Not supported

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## 15. Conclusion

### 15.1 Summary

PrismDB and Google Cloud Spanner represent opposite ends of the database spectrum:

| Dimension | PrismDB | Google Spanner |
|---|---|---|
| **Philosophy** | Simple, embedded | Global, distributed |
| **Scale** | Single node | Planet-scale |
| **Deployment** | Zero infrastructure | Managed cloud |
| **Cost** | Free | $65+/month |
| **Consistency** | Local MVCC | External consistency |
| **Availability** | Application-dependent | 99.999% SLA |
| **Primary Workload** | OLAP | OLTP + HTAP |

### 15.2 When to Choose PrismDB

- **Zero infrastructure** is required
- **Embedded analytics** in applications
- **Cost-sensitive** deployments
- **Offline/edge** scenarios
- **Python/data science** workflows
- **Learning and prototyping**
- **Single-node** workloads are sufficient

### 15.3 When to Choose Google Spanner

- **Global distribution** is required
- **Mission-critical** availability (99.999%)
- **Petabyte-scale** data

- **Strong global consistency** is mandatory
- **Multi-model** (graph + vector + relational) needed
- **Managed operations** preferred
- **Enterprise compliance** requirements

### 15.4 Complementary Usage

The two databases can be complementary:

1. **Development:** Use PrismDB for local development and testing
2. **Production:** Deploy to Spanner for global, mission-critical workloads
3. **Data Science:** Use PrismDB for local analytics, Spanner for production data
4. **Edge + Cloud:** PrismDB at the edge, Spanner in the cloud

### 15.5 Future Outlook

**PrismDB Roadmap:**

- HTAP capabilities (document store, vector DB, graph DB)
- Enhanced compression (LZ4, ZSTD)
- Distributed query execution (long-term)

**Spanner Trajectory:**

- Continued multi-model expansion
- Deeper AI/ML integration
- Performance improvements (columnar engine)
- New editions and pricing models

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**Document Version:** 1.0 **Last Updated:** December 2025 **License:** MIT

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*This whitepaper was generated based on analysis of PrismDB source code (version 0.1.0) and publicly available Google Cloud Spanner documentation as of December 2025.*