

## Hadoop: The Prodigal Son of the Database Industry

Phew! We just covered a lot of history for the database industry. You do not have to remember it all, but, if you want to really understand where Hadoop fits in the overall database and the IT landscape of any enterprise organization, remember this:

1. Most database platforms are optimized for either OLTP or OLAP use cases.

**The Hadoop ecosystem is mostly an OLAP platform.**


2. Since the 1970s, all major database platforms, regardless of the OLTP/OLAP split, are built on the relational paradigm.

**The Hadoop ecosystem is not relational, but rather unstructured: it can store and process any data, not just tables.**

3. Because of the dominance of the relational model, the natural choice for accessing a database has been SQL.

**The Hadoop ecosystem started as NoSQL, with programmatic access. The industry demand put SQL back in and made Hadoop a great platform for it.**

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By now, it should be clear that, even though Hadoop is only 11 years old, it is building on a long tradition of database research and development. In a lot of ways, it is a prodigal son of the database industry, that is now being used not instead, but alongside OLTP databases and EDW solutions. Still, Hadoop has its own unique design and architecture. In order for us to appreciate what led to the decisions that shaped it, we first have to understand the impact that our current information explosion era had on the database industry. 

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