SQL Databases

Top 5 databases as of 2020:

MySQL PostgreSQL Microsoft SQL Server SQLite MongoDB

MySQL

MySQL has been at the top of the popularity ranking for several years. Why? It's free, works for most applications, and runs on most popular platforms, including Linux, Windows, and macOS. MySQL has stand-alone clients that allow users to interact directly with a MySQL database using SQL, but more often, MySQL is used with other programs to implement applications that need relational database capability. MySQL is used by many database-driven web applications, including Drupal, Joomla, phpBB, and WordPress.

PostgreSOL

PostgreSQL is free, open–source, and will work in all possible situations and on all platforms. It has a very dynamic community of users who help develop the project and write their own plugins and extensions. PostgreSQL is a powerful, open source object–relational database system with over 30 years of active development that has earned it a strong reputation for reliability, feature robustness, and performance.

Microsoft SQL Server

Microsoft SQL Server is a relational database management system (RDBMS) developed by Microsoft. One of the most essential functions of SQL Server is to provide data to other software applications (clients). To interact with SQL Server databases and manage or query their data, you can use the Transact–SQL (T–SQL) language, an extension of the SQL standard. As a database server, it is a software product with the primary function of storing and retrieving data as requested by other software applications—which may run either on the same computer or on another computer across a network.

SQLite

SQLite is free to use and available under an open–source license. Even the SQLite source code is in the public domain. SQLite is most often chosen by mobile app developers. The database content is stored in one file (up to 140 TB). The library implements the SQL engine, making it possible to use the database without having to run a separate RDBMS process. For applications, this is often very practical.

MongoDB

MongoDB is the only solution in the top five that is not based on a relational database. In this open–source offering, data is stored in JSON or BSON (Binary JSON) files. MongoDB can easily cope with specific applications, e.g. as a website data store or log aggregator. In a traditional database, processing these types of files could be burdensome.