

# **RE-THINKING PRODUCT ADOPTION THROUGH DOCUMENTATION DESIGN**

By Pedro MC Fernandes at  PERCONA

# PEDRO

- A father and a lover
- Living in greater Lisbon, Portugal
- Hands-on creator inspired by arts
- Experience with 0-1 projects +  
eCommerce + operations
- All-round designer
- Product designer at Percona
- Generalist contributor in FOSS





- Freedom to choose ethos
- Provider of open-source database services, support, and software

## Known for

- Open-source, drop-in replacements for **PostgreSQL/MySQL/MongoDB**
- **Percona Toolkit** command-line tools
- **PMM** database monitoring tools
- Cloud-native database **Operators**



# **RE-THINKING PRODUCT ADOPTION THROUGH DOCUMENTATION DESIGN**

Why would we?

# MOTIVATIONS

- Databases for everyone
- Promote independence
- More and better contributions
- Optimization of Support
- Don't break the bank



**DATABASES = HARD  
SOFTWARE = HARD  
DESIGN = HARD**

Technical, complex, costly

Error 404: Design culture not found

Rapid software ≠ Rapid UX



**We'll ask for estimates  
and then treat them as  
deadlines**

While we create something better in-product,  
what else could we do **now**?

Imagine assembling this...



By only guessing



With documentation, we  
can promote the adoption  
and good use of products.

# BILLY



**IKEA**  
Design and Quality  
IKEA of Sweden

With databases, even if you're an expert,  
you must keep the documentation tab open.

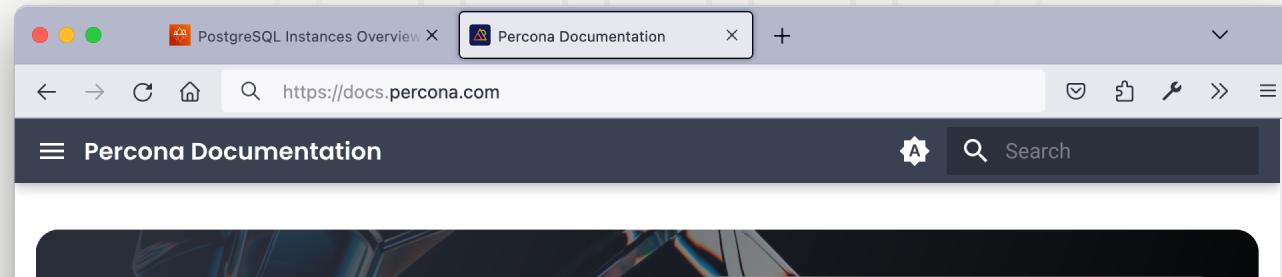
INSTALL

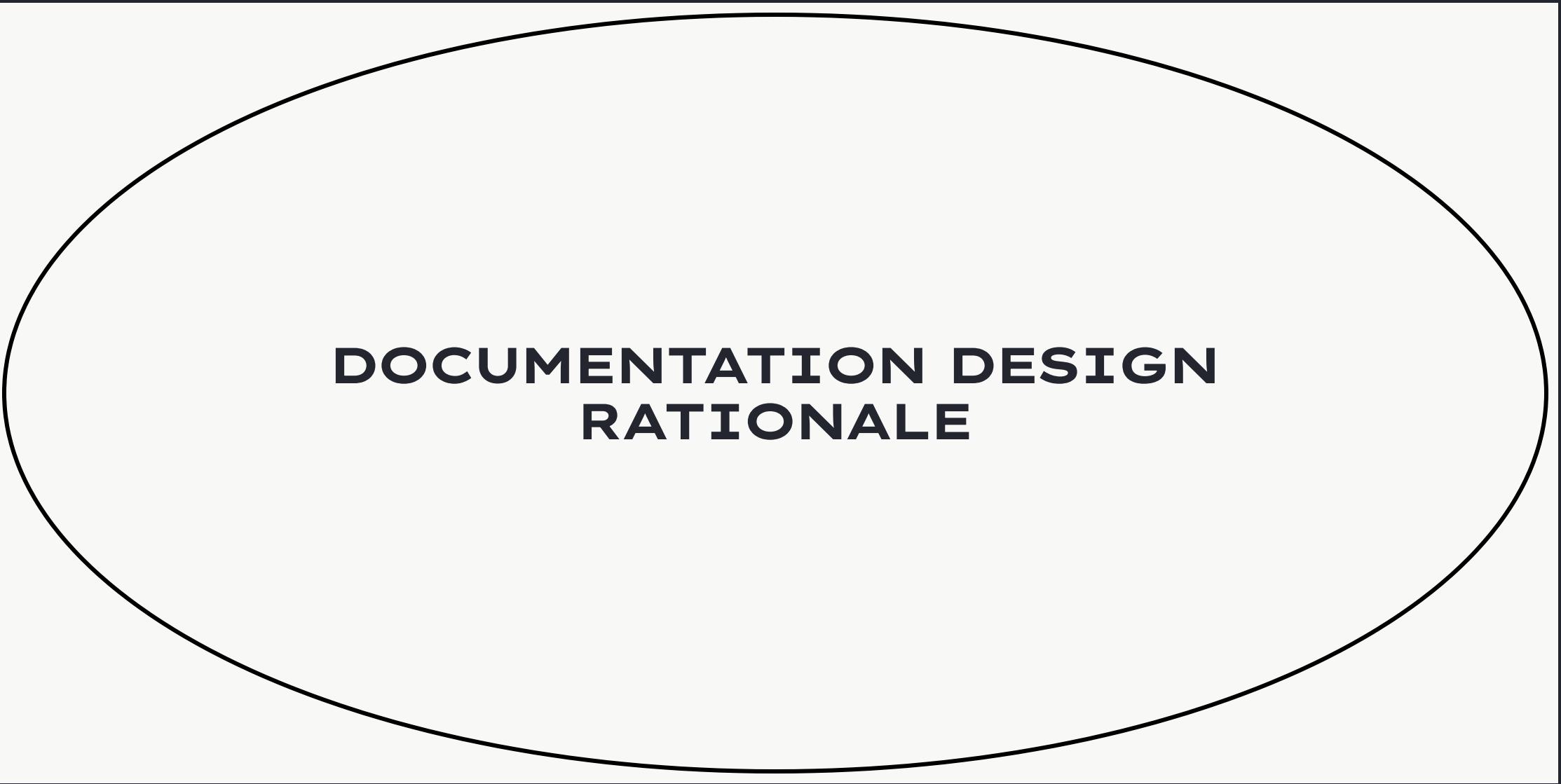


DEVELOP



UPKEEP





# **DOCUMENTATION DESIGN RATIONALE**

## **DEFINE A STRATEGY**

Who's reading our documentation?

How can it help them and us achieve our goals?

How do we know if it is helping?



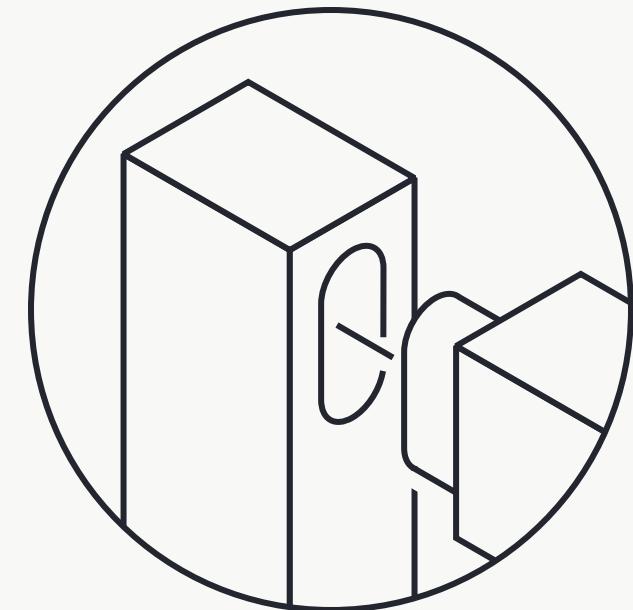
We want documentation to reach out to more **developers** interested in open-source databases for their applications so that adoption increases through more **installations**, proper **retention**, and evident **ease of use**.

## **ESTABLISH CO-OWNERSHIP**

Who could help?

Where's the knowledge?

Who could share responsibilities?

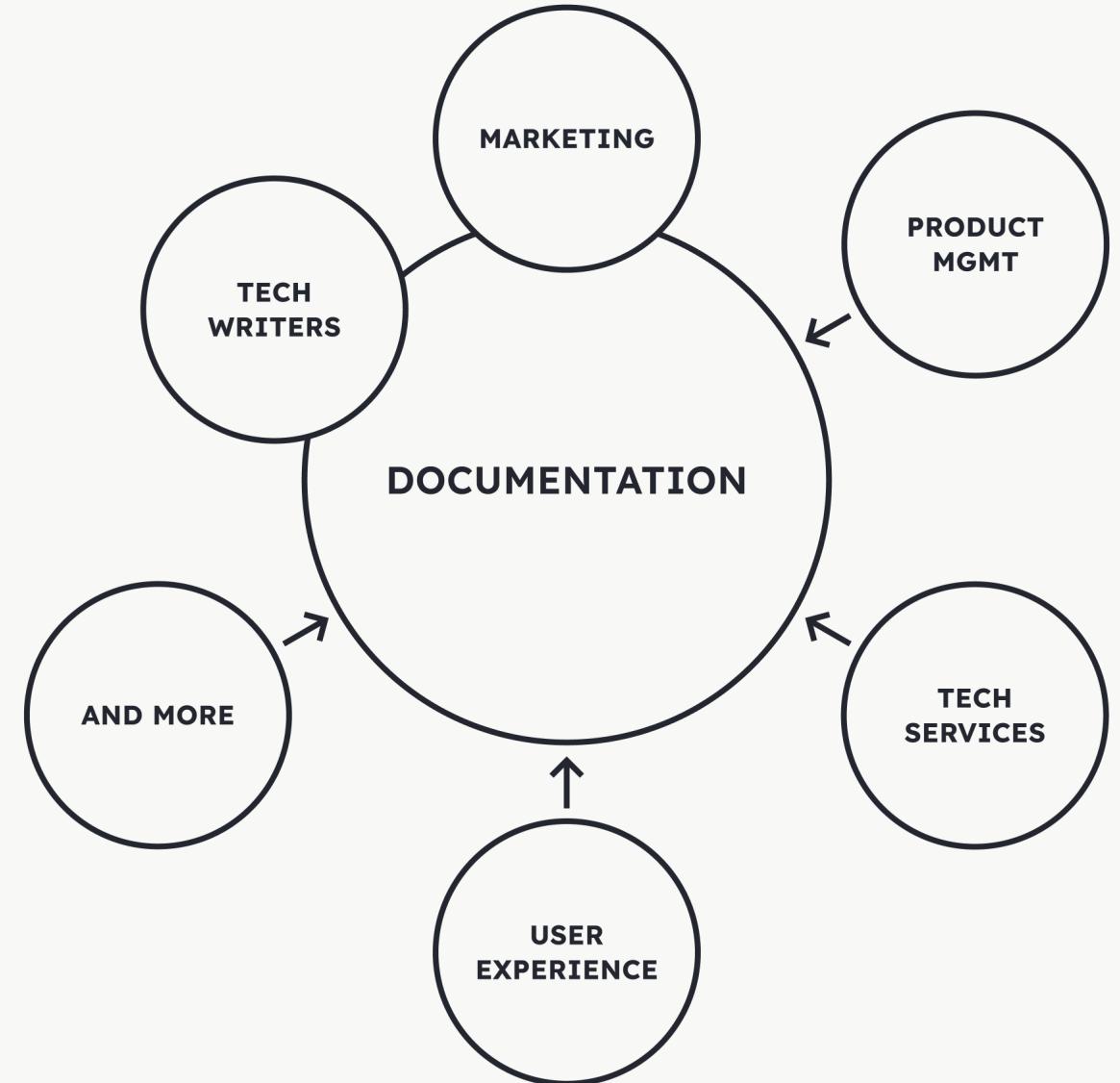


## **Kept**

- Creation of content • Management
- Data analysis

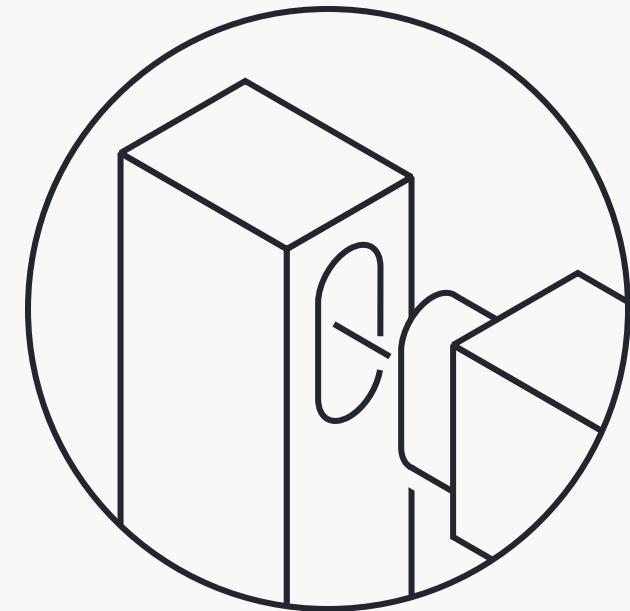
## **Added**

- Speed • Visibility • Openness
- User's POV • Horizontal communication
- New methods • New tools



## **BOOST CLARITY**

Is the content accessible to people?  
Does it provide intuitive access to their needs?  
Are there untapped opportunities?



Version 0.6.0 of the Percona Operator for MySQL is a **tech preview release** and it is **not recommended for production environments**. As of today, we recommend using Percona Operator for MySQL based on Percona XtraDB Cluster, which is production-ready and contains everything you need to quickly and consistently deploy and scale MySQL clusters in a Kubernetes-based environment, on-premises or in the cloud.



Percona Operator for MySQL  
based on Percona Server for  
MySQL

Welcome

Features

Quickstart guides

Installation

Configuration and  
Management

Backup and restore

Upgrade Database and  
Operator

Application and system  
users

Anti-affinity and tolerations

Labels and annotations

Changing MySQL Options

Load Balancing with HAProxy

MySQL Router Configuration

Exposing the cluster

Transport Encryption (TLS)

## Upgrade Database and Operator

Starting from the version 0.6.0, Percona Operator for MySQL based on Percona Server for MySQL fully supports upgrades to newer versions. The upgradable components of the cluster are the following ones:

- the Operator;
- [Custom Resource Definition \(CRD\)](#),
- Database Management System (Percona Server for MySQL).

The list of recommended upgrade scenarios includes two variants:

- Upgrade to the new versions of the Operator and Percona Server for MySQL,
- Minor Percona Server for MySQL version upgrade without the Operator upgrade.

### Upgrading the Operator and CRD

#### Note

The Operator supports **last 3 versions of the CRD** including the newest one, so it is technically possible to skip upgrading the CRD and just upgrade the Operator. If the CRD version is one of these, you will be able to continue using the old CRD and even carry on Percona Server for MySQL minor version upgrades with it. But the recommended way is to update the Operator and CRD.

### Table of contents

Upgrading the Operator and  
CRD

Manual upgrade

Upgrade via helm

Upgrading Percona Server for  
MySQL

Manual upgrade

Automated upgrade

More on upgrade strategies



# Tweaked

- Applied readable fonts
- Added spacing
- Increased chromatic contrast
- Increased reading contrast (headings Vs. running text blocks)
- On-brand re-styling

## BEFORE

The screenshot shows the original documentation page for the Percona Operator for MySQL 0.6.0. The header includes the Percona logo, the title "Percona Operator for MySQL 0.6.0 (2023-09-05)", a search bar, and a navigation bar with links like "About", "Installation", "How to", etc. The main content area contains sections for "Welcome", "Features", "Quickstart guides", "Highlights", "New features", "Improvements", and "Release Notes". A prominent warning message states: "As of today, we recommend using Percona Operator for MySQL based on Percona XtraDB Cluster, which is production-ready and contains everything you need to quickly and consistently deploy and scale MySQL clusters in a Kubernetes-based environment, on-premises or in the cloud." Below this, there's a list of changes and improvements, including the addition of Smart Upgrade functionality and the use of HAProxy for group replication.

## AFTER

The screenshot shows the updated documentation page for the latest release, 8.0.33-25. The header includes the Percona logo, the title "Latest Release 8.0.33-25", a search bar, and a navigation bar with links like "About", "Installation", "How to", etc. The main content area contains sections for "About", "Features", "Release Notes", and "Latest Release 8.0.33-25". The "Latest Release 8.0.33-25" section provides a summary of changes, mentioning the removal of user-defined collations and the full list of bug fixes. Below this, there are sections for "New features", "Bug fixes", and "Useful links". The "New features" section lists PS-8188, which adds the `clone_exclude_plugins_list` variable. The "Bug fixes" section lists several issues, including PS-8647, PS-8683, PS-8713, PS-8719, and PS-8747. The "Useful links" section includes a link to the Percona Server for MySQL GitHub location and a note about product downloads.

# Added

- Guidelines and resources to place icons, buttons, dividers, and tabs
- Guidelines to flag critical bits of content and decision-making points

## BEFORE

The screenshot shows a dark-themed web page for the 'Percona Operator for MySQL based on Percona Server for MySQL'. The main title is 'Install Percona Server for MySQL on Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE)'. On the left, there's a sidebar with navigation links like 'Welcome', 'Features', 'Quickstart guides', 'Installation', 'System Requirements', 'Configuration and Management', 'Troubleshooting', 'Reference', and 'Release Notes'. The main content area contains several sections: 'Prerequisites' (with a note about running commands in 'Google Cloud shell' or 'local shell'), 'Create and configure the GKE cluster' (with a note about using 'Cloud Shell' or local shell), and a code block showing the command to create a cluster. A 'Note' section at the bottom provides a tip for using the gcloud command.

## AFTER

The screenshot shows a dark-themed web page for 'Percona Server for MySQL'. The main title is 'Quickstart Guides'. The navigation bar includes 'About', 'Installation', 'How to', 'Backup and Restore', 'Security', 'Storage Engines', 'Troubleshoot', 'Reference', and 'Installing PMM'. The main content area features a 'Quickstart Guides' section with a table of contents for 'Installation' (including 'Quickstart Guides', 'Install via apt', 'Install via yum', 'Kubernetes', 'Docker', 'Manual Download', 'Post-installation tips', 'Upgrade', and 'Downgrade'). Below this, there's a note for Ubuntu/Debian users and another for Red Hat Enterprise Linux/CentOS users. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Install via apt' and 'Install via yum'. A large arrow points from the 'Before' screenshot to this 'After' screenshot, indicating the transition.

# Extended

- New custom components
- Use of more out-of-the-box components

The screenshot shows a documentation page for "Uninstall". The top navigation bar includes links for About, Installation (which is underlined), How to, Backup and Restore, Security, Storage Engines, Troubleshoot, Reference, and Installing PMM. A search bar and a "perco" logo are also present.

The main content area has a sidebar on the left with links: Installation, Quickstart Guides, Install via apt, Installation guide, Run/Stop, apt Pinning, Uninstall (which is bolded), Install via yum, Kubernetes, Docker, Manual Download, Post-installation tips, Upgrade, and Downgrade. Two arrows point from the "Uninstall" link in the sidebar to the "Get expert help" section at the bottom right.

The "Uninstall" section contains two bullet points:

- Either remove the packages.  
\$ sudo apt remove percona-server\
- Or purge the packages and delete data files.  
\$ sudo apt purge percona-server\

A warning message states: "This will leave the data files (databases, tables, logs, configuration, etc.) behind. If you don't need them, you must remove them manually."

The "Warning" message for the purge command states: "Warning: This command removes all the packages and deletes all the data files (databases, tables, logs, and so on.)."

The "Get expert help" section at the bottom right contains the following text:  
If you need assistance, visit the community forum for comprehensive and free database knowledge, or contact our Percona Database Experts for professional support and services.  
[Community Forum](#) [Get a Percona Expert](#)

At the very bottom, there is a "Was this page helpful?" section with two smiley face icons.

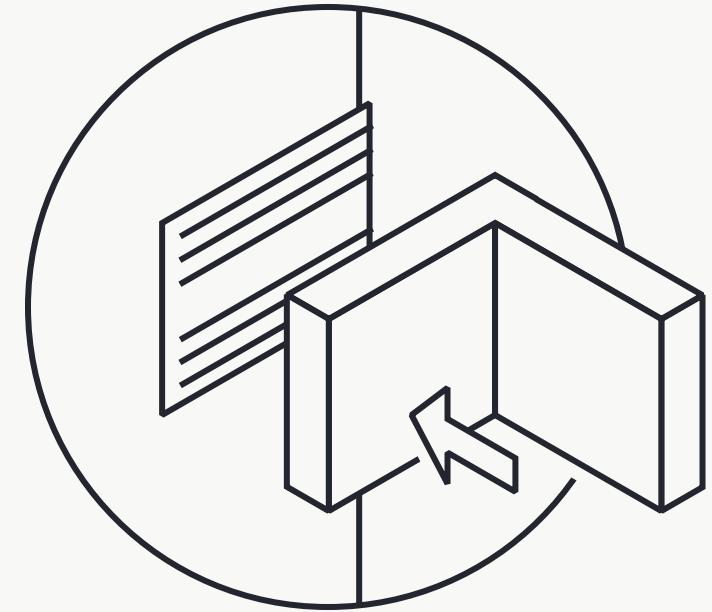
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Made with [Material for MkDocs](#)

# **IMPROVE THE USER EXPERIENCE**

What can we do for people?

How might we anticipate their needs?

How can we make them succeed?



# Invested in

- Understanding people's needs
- Experimenting
- Creating guidelines
- Forming quickstart guides
- Visual prominence for what matters the most

The screenshot shows a navigation bar with links for About, Installation (which is underlined), How to, Backup and Restore, Security, Storage Engines, Troubleshoot, Reference, and Installing PMM. A search bar is at the top right. The main content area has a sidebar with links for Installation, Quickstart Guides, Install via apt, Install via yum, Kubernetes, Docker, Manual Download, Post-installation tips, Upgrade, and Downgrade. The 'Install via apt' section is expanded, showing sub-links for Installation guide, Run/Stop, apt Pinning, Uninstall, and curl installation commands (\$ sudo apt update and \$ sudo apt install curl). Below this, instructions for installing the percona-release repository are provided in numbered steps:

- 1 The first step is downloading the `percona-release` repository package:  
\$ curl -O https://repo.percona.com/apt/percona-release\_latest.generic\_all.deb
- 2 Install the downloaded package with `apt` as root or with `sudo`, and then refresh the local cache to update the package information:  
\$ sudo apt install gnupg2 lsb-release ./percona-release\_latest.generic\_all.deb  
\$ sudo apt update
- 3 Use `percona-release` to set up the repository for the Percona Server for MySQL 8.0 version:  
\$ sudo percona-release setup ps80
- 4 Install the server package with the `percona-release` command:  
\$ sudo apt install percona-server-server

For more information on `percona-release` command see [Configuring Percona Repositories](#).

5 It should now be installed! Percona Server runs automatically after installation. To control the

We crafted journeys and woven them together so we could guide people into **discovering the value** of our software.

☰ Percona Server for MySQL

## Percona Server for MySQL



Percona Server for MySQL is a high-performance, open-source drop-in replacement for MySQL. It allows you to enhance your database with superior performance, scalability, availability, and enhanced backups and is trusted by enterprises for demanding workloads.

Starting with Percona Server for MySQL is easy. Follow our documentation guides, and you'll be set up in a minute.

### ⊕ Installation guides

Want to see it for yourself? Get started quickly with our step-by-step installation instructions.

[Quickstart Guides →](#)

### 🛡 Top-notch security

Rest assured! Learn more about our security features designed to protect your valuable data.

[Security Measures →](#)

### ✉ Smooth your deployment

Discover the requirements to start with Percona Server for MySQL production.

[Production Requirements →](#)

### 🚧 Troubleshooting and Q&A

Our comprehensive resources will help you overcome challenges, from everyday issues to specific doubts.

[Troubleshoot and Q&A →](#)

## ☰ Quickstart Guides

```
$ sudo percona-release setup ps80
```



You can check the repository setup for the Percona original release list in `/etc/apt/sources.list.d/percona-original-release.list`.

- 4 Install the server package with the `percona-release` command:

```
$ sudo apt install percona-server-server
```



For more information on `percona-release` command see [Configuring Percona Repositories](#).

- 5 It should now be installed! Percona Server runs automatically after installation. To control the service, learn how to [Stop/Run Percona Server](#).

## Next steps

Want to quickly test Percona Server for MySQL? Navigate into our easy-to-follow guide below, so you can understand the power of fast and performant databases with Percona.

[Create a database →](#)

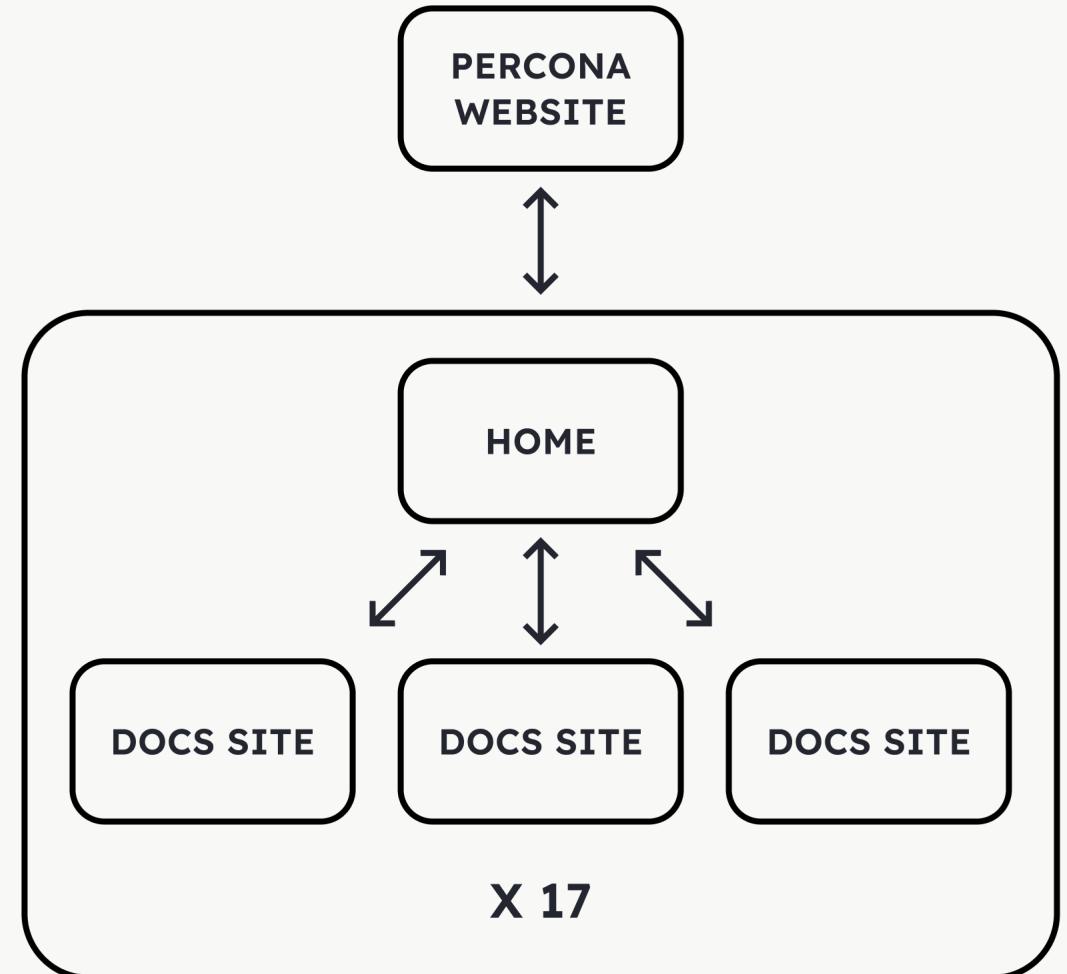
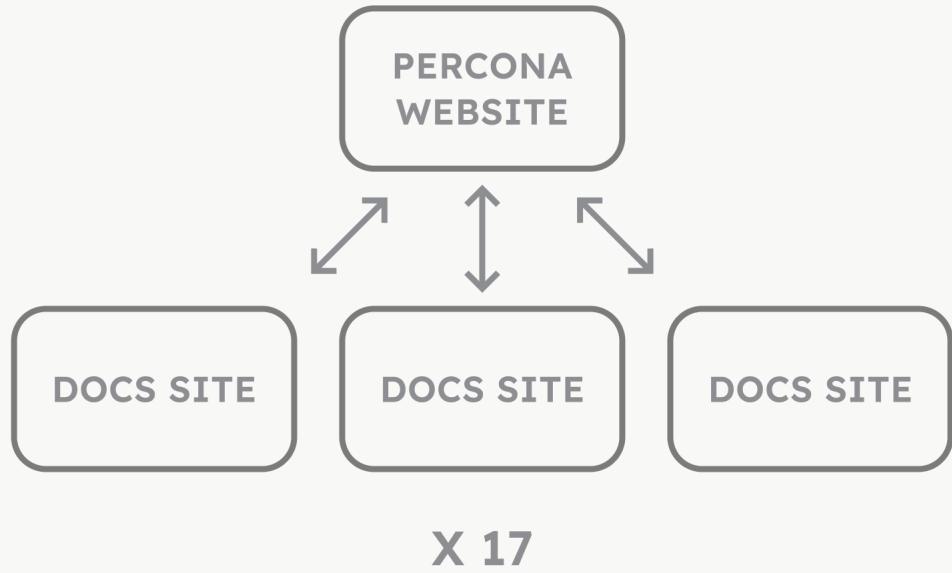
Here are a few other useful topics to continue venturing into Percona Server:

- Follow our [Prepare for production](#) guide to run a robust and scalable enterprise-grade database.
- Check if you want to [change the storage engine](#).

## **UNIFY THE EXPERIENCE**

Imagine using the documentation.  
How does it look? How might we improve it?  
Does it feel whole and credible?





```
<video width="1120" height="630" autoplay controls mute loop  
src="../img/docs-design/final.mp4"></video>
```

## OVERVIEW

- Defined a strategy for the documentation
- Established the co-ownership
- Made it clearer and accessible
- Improved the user experience
- Unified documentation websites' experience

## TO DO

- How users are experiencing changes
- Review outdated content
- Weed out inconsistencies
- Add practical examples/recipes



# THANK YOU!

**Re-thinking product adoption through documentation design**

By Pedro MC Fernandes at  PERCONA

[pedro@pmcf.xyz](mailto:pedro@pmcf.xyz)

[freenandes@mastodon.social](https://freenandes@mastodon.social)

Rendered with [Marp](#) and [Lexend](#)