Is NoSQL Right for Your Organization?

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Training



- Do your people already have strong relational database skills?
 - Database administrators?
 - Developers?
- What is the cost of cross-training them?
- How long will it take them to accumulate the same aggregate YOE?
- And what benefit are you getting?

Do you need OLTP?

- Is your data transaction-based?
- Is it complex in structure?
- How varied are your queries?
- Do you do a lot of reporting?
- Is lost data (due to abortive sessions) tolerable?

Recruiting

- Are you hiring startup-ambitious people?
 - Yes: chances are decent that they'll have NoSQL skills or will be happy to get them
 - No: then you might have trouble hiring
- Can you impose good tech screenings?
- Will your recruits know the same NoSQL database that you're using?



Economics

Most NoSQL databases are open source

 There are still costs, but they increase with personnel, rather than number of customers

Open source relational databases exist as well

- MySQL
- PostgreSQL

In the cloud, it may not matter

- PaaS databases eliminate server costs
- Data sizes most impactful on cost

Labor & productivity costs can be hidden

"Fundability" is key financial factor

Funding



- Venture-funded businesses may do well with NoSQL
- Perception of its scalability may help convince investors of your trajectory and readiness
- It's a hot buzz-phrase
- Many NoSQL companies are venture-funded too. Groupthink applies!

Summing Up

- Line of Business -> Relational
- Large, public (consumer)-facing sites -> NoSQL
- Complex data structures -> Relational
- Big Data -> NoSQL
- Transactional -> Relational
- Content Management -> NoSQL
- Enterprise->Relational
- Consumer Web -> NoSQL