MICHAEL WIDENIUS

Biography of a key Software Engineer

Introduction

Ulf Michael Widenius, often called "Monty", born 3 March 1962 in Helsinki, Finland; A Finnish Software Engineer, the main author of the original version of the open source MySQL database, founding member of the MySQL AB company, and CTO of the MariaDB Corporation AB. Additionally he is a founder and general partner at venture capital firm OpenOcean.

Biography

Widenius went to the co-educational school Broban. After dropping out of Helsinki University of Technology, Widenius started working for Tapio Laakso Oy in 1981. In 1985 he founded TCX DataKonsult AB(a Swedish data warehousing company) with Allan Larsson. In 1995 he began writing the first version of the MySQL database with David Axmark released in 1996. He is the co-author of the MySQL Reference Manual published by O'Reilly in June 2002; and in 2003 he was awarded the Finnish Software Entrepreneur of the Year prize.

Widenius sold MySQL to Sun Microsystems in 2008 earning about €16.6 million in capital gains in 2008 making him one of the top 10 highest earners in Finland that year. Until MySQL AB's sale to Sun Microsystems, he was the chief technical officer of MySQL AB. After the acquisition, he remained one of the primary forces behind the ongoing development of MySQL.

In 2008, Widenius established venture capital firm OpenOcean with MySQL co-founder Patrik Backman and early advisors Tom Henriksson and Ralf Wahlsten. On 5 February 2009, he announced that he was leaving Sun in order to create his own company. On 12 December 2009, Widenius asked MySQL customers to lobby the European Commission regarding Oracle's acquisition of Sun, citing concerns about potential Oracle control of MySQL, which resulted in an online petition campaign called "Save MySQL".

After leaving Sun, he formed Monty Program AB and forked MySQL into MariaDB, named after his youngest daughter, Maria. It includes several patches and plugins developed by the company itself or the community. One of these plugins is the Aria storage engine, which was renamed from Maria to avoid confusion with MariDB Corporation. He is also CTO of the MariaDB Foundation, the non-profit organization charged with promoting, protecting and advancing the MariaDB codebase, community and ecosystem.

Fun fact, Widenius has three children- My, Max and Maria- who inspired the names for MySQL, MaxDB and the MySQL-Max distribution and MariaDB.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Widenius