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While vendors were building for massive data sets, the term "big data" was becoming a misnomer thanks to recent advances in hardware, the way Tigani saw it. Around the same time, Tigani got in touch with Hannes Mühleisen, the co-creator of the lightweight database platform DuckDB, to toss ideas for a paid service back and forth. Seeking to launch a product for developers with light database requirements, Tigani — with Mühleisen's blessing — began building a DuckDB-based cloud service. The service became the cheekily named MotherDuck, a startup independent of the original DuckDB that's focused on commercializing open source DuckDB packages. "Users want easy and fast answers to their questions — they don't want to wait for the cloud," Tigani told TechCrunch via email. "The fact is that a modern laptop is faster than a modern data warehouse. Cloud data vendors are focused on the performance of 100TB queries, which is not only irrelevant for the vast majority of users, but also distracts from vendors' ability to deliver a great user experience." It's a classic playbook — take an open source tool and build a service on top of it. But while it might not be original, Tigani's plan has already paid dividends. MotherDuck today announced that it raised \$47.5 million across seed and Series A rounds, valuing the company at \$175 million post-money. Redpoint led the seed while Andreessen Horowitz (a16z) led the Series A — other investors include Madrona, Amplify Partners and Altimeter. Tigani says that MotherDuck wasn't planning to raise the Series A so soon after the seed, but did so at the urging of LPs — and for the opportunity to work with a16z. "With this funding, MotherDuck is able to build out their world-class engineering team and add a go-to-market function to provide a cloud analytics platform for organizations that want to use DuckDB in an evolved way," Tigani said. "At the same time, it allows DuckDB to continue to be a vehicle for academic research." Tigani claims that MotherDuck's service — powered by DuckDB, which HackerNoon once described as "mutant offspring of SQLite and Redshift" — allows practitioners to start answering questions from data faster than most existing tooling. It uses local computing resources in concert with the cloud, driving data analytics and other data-heavy workloads. That's in contrast to typical data warehouse systems that offer reporting and tools almost exclusively for enterprise-scale analytics. As Madrona's Jon Turow explains in a forthcoming blog post (TechCrunch got a sneak peak), MotherDuck uses a "hybrid execution" technique to query a data set that's spread across multiple places. Some of the data might be on a developers laptop, some in the cloud instance and the rest in a different cloud, but MotherDuck makes it possible for a dev to query the combination of these sources. "The platform intelligently decides where to operate upon each bit of data to minimize the costs of compute and data transfer," Turow writes. The data warehouse concept has existed since the '80s, but it's risen to prominence in recent years as companies shift their workloads to the cloud. There's startups like Firebolt and Hydra, which aim to become the open cloud data warehouse of choice for large companies. Panoply, another player in the data warehouse space, has taken a different approach, developing tools that make it easier for businesses to analyze their data with standard database queries. While Tigani sees MotherDuck as a competitor in the data analytics market alongside data warehouse vendors, he positions the platform as the technological superior alternative. "The high efficiency of DuckDB will allow MotherDuck to be cost-competitive, while also being more performant for most data workloads," Tigani asserted. "Advances in CPU, memory, disk performance and networks are making existing architectures obsolete. Large distributed analytics clusters are no longer necessary due to these advances. Single-node DuckDB can often be much faster, cheaper and simpler than these distributed systems." The DuckDB team is involved to a degree with MotherDuck, which in turn is a member of the DuckDB Foundation, the nonprofit that holds much of DuckDB's IP. DuckDB's own commercial arm, DuckDB Labs, is a shareholder in the company and contributed code to the cloud platform. Tigani assures me that DuckDB will continue to be freely available under a permissive MIT license and that the original DuckDB team will build, maintain and promote the core DuckDB codebase going forward. Fueled by the fresh capital, MotherDuck plans to expand its small workforce from 13 people to 18 by the end of the year. When asked, he declined to answer questions about the size of the startup's customer base or revenue, saying it's too early. 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Welcome to decarbonization diplomacy **Tim De Chant** 8:00 PM GMT+1 • November 20, 2022 **T ■** Market Analysis We sat down with Einride CEO Robert Falck to **Einride founder on** talk about the challenges of reaching autonomy when connectivity on the roads is lacking, among building an underlying other hot topics. **business to support** future tech goals Rebecca Bellan 7:00 PM GMT+1 • November 20, 2022 **TC Sessions: Space** Lock In a \$199 Ticket before prices go 2022 Discover what's on the horizon for the next frontier up to \$495 Dec 6 Media & Entertainment Fans across the globe will be tuning in to the **How to stream the** most-watched sporting spectacle — the 2022 FIFA World Cup— set to kick off on Sunday, **2022 FIFA World Cup in** November 20, with host nation Qatar facing off the USA again... **Lauren Forristal** 5:00 PM GMT+1 • November 20, 2022 Daily Week in Review Startups Weekly **Sign up for Newsletters** Event Updates **Advertising Updates** TechCrunch+ Announcements TechCrunch+ Events TechCrunch+ Roundup See all newsletters **Subscribe** Email\* **Transportation** Hyundai announced this week at the LA Auto **Hyundai launches** Show a new way for its customers to charge at home as part of the company's efforts to woo a home charging new group of EV buyers. Hyundai Home, the ecosystem as part of automaker cal... **EV** push **Abigail Bassett** 4:53 PM GMT+1 • November 20, 2022 Where we'll be next  $\leftarrow \quad \rightarrow \quad$ **TC Sessions: The Cross TechCrunch TechCrunch Chain Coalition Early Stage** Disrupt 2023 **Space 2022 Web3 Demo** 2023 Sep 19 - 21 Dec 6 Apr 20 Boston, United States **Jan 11 Buy Tickets Buy Tickets** REGISTER **Learn More** Be a Sponsor Be a Sponsor Be a Sponsor Be a Sponsor Welcome to The Interchange! If you received this The backlog of IPOs in in your inbox, thank you for signing up and your vote of confidence. If you're reading this as a post fintech keeps growing on our site, sign up here so you can receive i... as valuations continue their retreat, report says Kyle Wiggers, Mary Ann Azevedo 4:16 PM GMT+1 • November 20, 2022 Social Former President Donald Trump's Twitter account **Elon Musk ends** has been reinstated following a permanent ban in January 2021. On Friday, new Twitter owner Elon **Trump's Twitter ban** Musk posted a poll asking if Trump should be a... **Amanda Silberling** 2:57 AM GMT+1 • November 20, 2022 **Startups** Rapid grocery deliver startups like Getir, Gopuff **Gopuff launches** and Gorillas, once heralded as the next big thing in on-demand ordering, are running up against scheduled deliveries, logistical challenges that might very well be gifting and in-store insur... pickup **Kyle Wiggers** 11:20 PM GMT+1 • November 19, 2022 Hello again! Time for another edition of Week in Amazon layoffs begin, Review, the newsletter where we recap the week's most read TechCrunch stories in one quick Ticketmaster can't and easy-to-skim blast. 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