MotherDuck scores $47.5m to prove scale-up databases are not quacks

Former BigQuery tech tells Tech. Register: data warehouses on your laptop DuckDB

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Although only recently [https://www.docker.com/](https://www.docker.com/) has Docker built a serverless extension to the open source database DuckDB, it is already making noise in the enterprise, according to Marc Andreessen.

Andreessen, a pioneer in the open source database world and a former tech lead at Google, Facebook and Airbnb, is president of Andreessen Horowitz, a venture capital firm that co-founded and co-financed DuckDB.

Andreessen says the company has raised $47.5m to work on building an open source database called DuckDB, and to prove that scale-up is not as important as it once was.

"Our product enables analysts to transform data in the leading analytic data platforms, thinking of all the places you could use it. It's incredibly easy to use, it's incredibly fast, and once you touch it, you start thinking of all the places you could use it. I'm super excited about DuckDB and all the things people are going to build on it," Andreessen tells The Register.

"Since the days when MapReduce was first introduced in 2004, scale up was a dirty word, but when you realize that most data we work on is not that huge, and at the same time, laptop and desktop hardware have got better, you don't need to scale out. Scaling is no replacement for large client/server installations for centralized enterprise data warehousing. Additionally, it allows developers and data scientists to collaborate on the same data set, and gives them more power to define the database on the fly like bringing fire down from the clouds," Andreessen says.

"DuckDB is embedded in Python as part of the standard Python library, and we have a very nice database as part of it. DuckDB is embedded in Javascript data apps, or Java backends. It hooks the client database into a backend execution pipeline and cost-accounts for the system. It hooks the cloud client database into a backend execution pipeline and cost-accounts for the system.

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