

THE TRUE COST OF BUILDING YOUR ENTERPRISE SEARCH

With different search solutions on the market, how do you know which one is right one for your business? From open source to specialized solutions, there are no shortage of search technologies to choose from. How do you know which one is right for your business?

Given the choice between buying a hosted enterprise search or building search from the ground up, how do businesses today evaluate the true cost of implementing a search solution?

Let's take a look at some of the key differences:

BUY

Hosted Solution

VS

BUILD

Open Source Solution

FUNCTIONALITY

SPEED

Fast at returning search results for optimal user experience



Performance and speed often lower than a premium solution

FLEXIBILITY

High flexibility with features such as multi-language, typo tolerance and synonym support



Requires engineering support to build new features

FEATURE SET

Vendor managed software updates. Out of the box features such as personalization, optional filters, API clients, etc.



Lack of out-of-the-box features, but open source community contributes to feature development

PRICE

INITIAL PRICING

Higher initial cost but lower & more predictable cost post-implementation



Lower initial price but higher ongoing development, maintenance, and support costs

UPKEEP AND MAINTENANCE

More predictable and lower cost of maintenance after implementation



Often takes more resources for upkeep and customization, leading to additional costs later on

TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP

Lower on average



Higher on average

SUPPORT

IMPLEMENTATION

Easy to implement, understand, and configure



Lengthy implementation times which often takes months rather than weeks

CONFIGURATION AND MAINTENANCE

Managed upgrades to the latest product features and updates



Additional costs from technical teams to deploy, configure, maintain and upgrade

RELIABILITY

Dedicated infrastructure with available premium SLAs



Downtime can burden your engineering resources or negatively impact user experience

SO WHICH OPTION IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

BUY

- If you want to focus on your core product & do not have additional engineering resources to dedicate towards search.
- If your product and users heavily depend on search functionality
- If it's important to always have the most up to date tools without needing engineering support.

BUILD

- If you have certain rigid required specifications
- When you have excess engineering resources who you can shift over to search related projects
- If you are a search provider
- When your implementation is more focused on analytics / logs processing than user facing search

Want to learn more?

Reach out at hey@algolia.com