

# Varnish Enterprise and Varnish Cache

## What's the difference?

A guide to all you need to know

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## What's the difference?

### Introduction

This guide will help you understand the differences between Varnish Enterprise and Varnish Cache, so you can discover which solution is right for your content delivery challenge.

#### The key decisions to make are:

- **Performance** - Which solution offers enough caching performance?
- **Features** - Does it contain the right feature set for you?
- **Support** - Deploy, maintain and fix it yourself, or be supported by Varnish engineers?
- **Use case** - Does the solution support your specific use case?

First though, think about whether you're looking for a project or a product:

#### Varnish Cache

is a project, developed collaboratively according to open source principles, and requires users to deploy, maintain and update it themselves.



#### Varnish Enterprise

is a product, with all the benefits of an enterprise solution: more features, full support and enhanced performance.



## Who should use Varnish Cache?

Varnish Cache is built for web acceleration. It has a huge impact on website speed, and even a basic setup with boilerplate Varnish Configuration Language (VCL) will deliver the best open-source caching performance available.

## Who should use Varnish Enterprise?

Varnish Enterprise is a platform for high-traffic, content-heavy web services, not just websites but video streaming, origin shield, CDN and edge computing use cases too. It contains a wider, more advanced feature set and many more Varnish modules (VMODs). Varnish Enterprise can deploy across bare metal, virtualized, containerized, cloud and cloud-native architectures, including multi-access edge and 5G infrastructure. Critical Varnish Enterprise-only features include:

- **Massive Storage Engine (MSE)** - Dual-layer storage solution with speed of memory, and resilience of disk, without usual slowdown effects of traditional disk-based storage
- **Varnish High Availability (VHA)** - Replicates stored objects across Varnish servers
- **Built-in client / backend TLS** - High-speed native TLS, also supports mutual TLS
- **Varnish Controller** - A browser-based administration interface
- **Varnish Discovery** - Streamlines configuration and autoscale Varnish
- **Web Application Firewall (WAF)** - Detect and block malicious requests at the edge
- **Varnish Broadcaster** - Distributed cache invalidation

## Need support or professional services?

### Varnish Enterprise

Varnish Enterprise is built for commercial requirements and offers the full range of professional services and support, delivered by the people who built Varnish.

#### *Services Include:*

- **Professional services** - full support for planning, implementation and training
- **Support** - dedicated engineers can provide 24x7x365 support
- **SLAs** - short response and workaround times for support queries
- **Access to developers** - for roadmap input, feature requests and code reviews
- **Updates** - regular managed updates, predictable releases and long software lifecycles
- **Security** - full range of bug and security testing, plus backported security updates
- **Managed service** - option to have Varnish Software manage setup completely

### Varnish Cache

As an open source project, Varnish Cache does not include professional services or support. An active Varnish Cache community can help with troubleshooting, and documentation is maintained by Varnish Software.



## Use case

## Varnish Enterprise Features

### Stream video on demand

- Massive Storage Engine
- Content pre-fetch
- High availability
- Cache persistence

### Stream live / OTT video

- Front and backend TLS
- Authentication and geo-restriction
- Request coalescing
- High availability
- Origin shield

### Building a private CDN

- Custom PoP placement
- Administration console
- Load balancing
- WAF / origin shield
- Multi-tenancy

### Building an edge computing platform

- Real-time execution of edge logic
- In-process TLS
- Edgestash
- Parallel ESI
- Content transformation

### Caching large objects

- Massive Storage Engine
- High availability

### Optimizing for device

- Parallel ESI
- Edgestash
- Device detection
- Request & response body modification

### Caching in 5G networks

- Clustering and High Availability
- Autoscaling
- High concurrency
- Virtualized edge caches
- Multi-tenancy

## What do customers think?

As we work on our flagship websites and OTT platform, we know we can consult Varnish engineers, who have been instrumental in helping us with the configuration and fine-tuning of our caching solution.

*-Shrikant Iyer,  
Senior Manager, DevOps and  
Infrastructure, MotorTrend*

Varnish has the technical competence and the willingness to collaborate and develop things to meet our needs.

*-Peter Grundström,  
Head of Streaming Technology,  
Telia Company TV&Media*

Varnish has been consistently easy to deploy, easy to manage and very easy to track performance. For us, the Varnish component was the 'rest easy' piece of the puzzle.

*-Daniel Kukucka,  
CTO,  
Servcorp*

I consider myself a kind of Varnish ambassador. When we need support, we always have someone at Varnish who provides quick answers – even in French! – we are very happy with this and feel we have a partnership with Varnish.

*-Michael Alimi,  
CTO,  
Intersport*

## Varnish Cache

### Open-source project

#### Development

Anyone can contribute, Varnish Software sponsors the project

#### Features and roadmap

Takes a minimalist approach to adding new features, which are created by volunteers

#### Support

Documentation, IRC channels and forums.

#### Releases and updates

New release every six months, available from repositories. Shorter life cycles; not all versions supported

#### Professional Services

None

#### Security

Security updates not usually backported, any flaws in unsupported versions not patched

## Varnish Enterprise

### Enterprise product

Full-time team of engineers and developers for R&D, testing, QA

Feature roadmap informed by real-world use cases and customer requests

24x7x365 support, short SLAs, access to developers, troubleshooting and documentation

Regular updates with managed releases and long-term support lifecycles and backported fixes

Full engineering support for deployment: solution design, hardware choices, testing, training and optimization

Security updates are backported. Extensive testing for bugs and security flaws

## Next steps

### Talk to an expert

Our team of engineers is more than happy to answer technical questions and discuss which Varnish solution is right for you:

<https://www.varnish-software.com/talk-to-an-expert/>

### Try Varnish Enterprise

Trials are an easy, fast and free way to experience the benefits of Varnish Enterprise:

<https://info.varnish-software.com/varnish-solutions-trial>

### Spin up a cloud image

Get started quickly and only pay for what you use on cloud platforms including AWS, Azure, Oracle, Google Cloud:

<https://www.varnish-software.com/products/varnish-cloud/>

### Use Varnish Cache

Varnish Cache is available here:

<https://varnish-cache.org/releases/index.html>