



Choosing the Right Payara Platform Edition: Community vs Enterprise



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When deciding between our two main application server solutions, Payara Platform Community and Payara Platform Enterprise, it's important **to consider first your company's needs for compliance, security, stability and overall risk management.**

While both editions offer robust features, they are designed with different use cases in mind. This guide will help you understand the key differences and make an informed decision.

Which Payara Platform Solution Is Right For You?

Payara Platform Community: Tailored to **freelance developers and software development students**, it focuses on ease of use for those experimenting with new features and APIs. It's ideal for rapid innovation and frequent releases, making it a great choice for development and testing environments.

Payara Platform Enterprise: Designed for operations teams, this option builds on the community version by offering additional capabilities. These are essential for running mission-critical applications in production environments. This solution is optimized for **stability, compliance and security.**

1. Compliance and Security: A Crucial Distinction

Payara Platform Community:

- **Innovation Focus:** Emphasizes rapid development and experimentation.
- **Frequent Changes:** Features and APIs can change significantly between releases, offering opportunities for continuous improvement and innovation but making long-term stability potentially challenging.
- **Limited Compliance Features:** Not designed to meet stringent regulatory requirements.

Payara Platform Enterprise:

- **Compliance:** Includes **advanced security features and regular updates to ensure compliance with regulatory standards**
- **Stability:** Provides **long-term stability with a well-defined software lifecycle, migration tools and consistent updates.**
- **Security:** Incorporates robust security measures, including encryption, authentication and proactive monitoring to protect against breaches.

“Payara Platform is super stable and patches to issues are delivered faster than we notice them! For me, as developer, it is important to have access to a Nexus server where I can automatically download the latest releases.”

- Martin Gysel, DevOps Engineer, Swisscom

Why compliance and security matter if you are serious about your business success?

Let's take a look at real-world examples of security breaches and fines that could affect your business. These serve as an important reminder of the severe consequences organizations can face with limited compliance and security strategies.

The Equifax data breach of 2017, one of the most catastrophic in history, exposed the personal data of 147 million people and resulted in a settlement of up to \$700 million. Similarly, the 2013 Target data breach compromised 40 million credit and debit card accounts, ultimately costing the company \$18.5 million in a multi-state settlement. In 2018, British Airways faced a massive £20 million fine for GDPR violations after a data breach affected 500,000 customers. These examples underscore the considerable financial and reputational damage that can result from inadequate security measures, highlighting the critical importance of using robust, compliant platforms like Payara Enterprise for mission-critical applications.

We examined how to align with 2024's Software Cyber Resilience guidelines



- **Security and Integration Support:** These features top the list for software selection and vendor interactions, showcasing the importance of a reliable solution, backed by a highly available partner.



- **Business Continuity:** This element is key to optimising uptime, performance and ultimately revenue. A reliable solution is designed to maximize availability and accessibility.



- **Capital and operational expenses:** These are determined by software costs, including maintenance and updates to ensure a secure and compliant framework.



- **Customer Experience and Brand Reputation:** The selection of a robust solution helps maximise the quality of the service and product offered to end users.

Key Factors for Secure Jakarta EE Applications and how [Payara Enterprise](#) addresses key requirements:

Consideration	Technical Factors	Business Factors	Payara Server Enterprise Advantage
Security	Secure administration through robust authentication, authorisation, encryption and clustering.	Minimise data breaches, downtime and reputational risks.	Equipped with built-in security features for the effective protection from threats to ensure smooth operations and customer satisfaction.
Regulatory Compliance	Meet security and compliance requirements mandated by industry standards and governing bodies.	Comply with necessary legal and quality requirements to support robust, continuous operations.	Supports compliance with various regulatory standards.
Performance, Availability & Scalability	Ensure applications remain available and resilient at any time.	Maximise customer satisfaction and trust to drive profitability.	Offers round-the-clock secure deployment and management of Jakarta EE applications across distributed environments.

Consideration	Technical Factors	Business Factors	Payara Server Enterprise Advantage
Updates & Patches	Ensure up-to-date protection against new cyber threats.	Offer round-the-clock, optimised customer experience whilst safeguarding sensitive data.	Proactive security updates, patches and hot fixes to give you peace of mind.
Monitoring & Auditing	Prompt identification and handling of anomalies.	Transparent operations to ensure implementation of robust security strategies that strengthen the business and its reputation.	Designed to help organisations flag, track and analyse security events in real-time.
Support & Assistance	Address unexpected and/ or challenging security issues on-the-fly to quickly resolve them.	Maintain reliable and continuous operations to protect the business and its customers.	Enterprise-grade support provides organisations with access to expert guidance and assistance to address security concerns.

2. Leading Edge or Backward Compatibility

Payara Community:

Leading the way in software development and application server technology, this solution is frequently updated with new features, which may lead to significant changes between releases. This is suitable for those who can adapt or are not affected by rapid changes.

Payara Enterprise:

Prioritizes backwards compatibility and ensures stable, well-tested features that address customers' needs. Its use is essential for maintaining continuity in production environments and reducing the risk of disruptions in mission-critical applications

3. Community vs. Customer Focus

Payara Community :

Geared towards the open-source community with a "Release Early, Release Often" philosophy. It is suitable for organizations that can manage rapid changes and do not need support.

Payara Enterprise:

Caters to customers needing high stability and support for demanding production environments. Provides direct support from Payara Engineers, ensures monthly releases, bug fixes, patches and security alerts.

“As Payara Server is currently being run on a financial platform, the Support Service offers us peace of mind. We know that a Support Engineer will be available in case of any problems. We also find the monthly patches useful.”

- Lea Atkins, Head of Technology Development, Primis

4. Development vs. Production

Payara Community:

Optimized for development environments, focusing on raw performance and rapid feature releases.

Payara Enterprise:

Optimized for production, with capabilities for high availability, scalability and security. Includes comprehensive guides for configuration in production environments.

5. Performance vs. Scalability and Availability

Payara Community:

Primarily focused on developers' productivity and performance, it offers limited features when it comes to scalability and availability.

Payara Enterprise:

Prioritizes configurations that enhance scalability, high availability and security, offering the best platform for mission-critical deployments.

6. Manual vs. Automated

Payara Community:

With innovation and software experimentation in mind, it focuses on manual operations to provide flexibility to developers.

Payara Enterprise:

Designed for production operations with tools for automated configuration, deployment, management and administration, saving valuable time and reducing human error.

Conclusions

The choice of the right alternative of Payara Platform should take into account your specific needs. For development and experimentation, Payara Community offers a fast-paced, innovative environment. However, for mission-critical applications, especially in regulated industries, such as government, health, finance and many more, Payara Enterprise is the best, if not the only choice, due to its enhanced compliance, security, stability and support.

Using open-source community versions for mission-critical applications poses significant risks, especially when it comes to ensuring regulatory compliance and cybersecurity. Investing in Payara Enterprise mitigates these risks, ensuring your applications are robust, secure and compliant with relevant industry standards.

If you are not sure which Payara Platform is best suited to address your needs, sign up for a [free consultation](#) with our experts to discuss your intended application.



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