

Open Sourcing Pivotal GemFire Core

Q. What is Pivotal announcing?

- A. Earlier this year, Pivotal announced its intention to open source major portions of the Pivotal Big Data Suite, including core components of Pivotal GemFire®, Pivotal HAWQ® and Pivotal Greenplum Database®. The first step of this process has begun with Pivotal GemFire.

On April 27, 2015, The Apache Software Foundation (ASF) [accepted Pivotal's proposal](#) for “incubation” of the core engine that runs Pivotal GemFire. The name of this open source project is “Apache Geode (incubating).”

Q. Why was ASF chosen to host the open source core of Pivotal GemFire?

- A. ASF was chosen because of its government model, commonly known as the “Apache Way”. Pivotal’s ultimate goal in open sourcing the core of Pivotal GemFire is to foster a vibrant, open and self-governing community of core developers that can ensure the success of the core Pivotal GemFire code base for years to come. We believe that ASF’s vendor-neutral and meritocratic governance will help take Apache Geode (incubating) far beyond the use cases of Pivotal GemFire.

Q. What does Apache Geode (incubating) as an ASF project mean?

- A. The status of a project at ASF is determined by the maturity of its community, not its code base. All new projects start as ASF incubating projects and remain so until the community is mature enough to self-govern and guarantee adherence to ASF’s strict IP management practices. While in incubation, the project must be referred to with an “incubating” postfix in its name and the name of all software artifacts it produces. The incubation period can be anywhere between one to three years. Once the community is mature enough, a resolution is submitted to the ASF Board of Directors for the project to graduate to ASF top level project (TLP) status.

Q. Where can I access the Apache Geode (incubating) source code?

- A. The source code for Apache Geode (incubating) is currently available in the [ASF Git repository](#). The same repository also hosts the project documentation and website. A [Github mirror](#) is also available and can be used for contributing to the project via pull requests. Crowd-sourced documentation is available on the [ASF wiki](#). Because all of this infrastructure is being maintained by ASF and not Pivotal, all requests for maintenance and availability should go to the ASF infrastructure team.

Q. What’s the difference between Pivotal GemFire and Apache Geode (incubating)?

- A. Pivotal GemFire is a product available for sale or subscription from Pivotal. Apache Geode (incubating) is the open source core of Pivotal GemFire being developed under ASF governance. Pivotal does not provide enterprise support for Apache Geode users. Support is only offered through the community. Pivotal does provide enterprise support for Pivotal GemFire customers, which may include providing workarounds and hotfixes to Apache Geode code ahead and in advance of release to the Apache Geode open source project. Pivotal GemFire also includes some commercial features and functionalities not available in Apache Geode (incubating) including:

- Cluster-to-cluster WAN connectivity also known as WAN Gateway
- Query-defined events also known as Continuous Queries
- Native clients for C++ and C#

Q. Do Pivotal customers need to take any action as a result of this change?

- A. No. If you are currently a Pivotal customer, there is no action you need to take at this time. If you are interested in contributing tools, articles, or source code to Apache Geode (incubating), you can find more information on the [Project Geode website](#).

Q. How can I get involved with the Apache Geode (incubating) community?

- A. The Apache Geode (incubating) community needs many kinds of contributions besides commitments of code! Examples include enhancing the project website, delivering content at local meetups, and generally discussing patterns and ideas. See the [Contribute](#) page on the community site for more information.

Q. What are the effects of open sourcing on existing features and the roadmap?

- A. The roadmap and features will now be community driven for Apache Geode (incubating). For Pivotal GemFire, Pivotal will maintain a separate roadmap focused on enterprise deployment features and integration into Pivotal Cloud Foundry and Pivotal Big Data Suite.

GemFire 9.0, expected late 2015, will be the first version of GemFire based on a release of Apache Geode. This will include a number of new features already under development in the Apache Geode community. It will also require a change of Java package names. For customers that will mean upgrading to GemFire 9.0, which will require some minor changes to their application source code.

Q. How do I obtain support for Pivotal GemFire?

A. Support will remain the same. If you are a Pivotal GemFire customer, you should continue to use your existing Pivotal support channels to get official support from Pivotal. To purchase support, contact Pivotal. To file an issue or support request, contact Pivotal. Reaching out to the Apache Geode (incubating) community for support for Pivotal GemFire is not a substitute for Pivotal support channels and is not guaranteed to result in servicing your escalation under reasonable SLAs.

Q. Is support for Apache Geode (incubating) available?

A. Pivotal does not provide commercial support for Apache Geode (incubating). Community support is as-is and best effort, and is not provided by Pivotal.

Q. How do I provide feedback and log escalations for Pivotal GemFire or Apache Geode (incubating)?

A. If you are using or developing Apache Geode (incubating), the most reliable feedback channels are ASF JIRA and mailing lists. Both of these are supported by the ASF infrastructure team and are not affiliated with Pivotal.

Q. How does this change my existing contract with Pivotal? Will Pivotal be giving refunds for existing licenses?

A. This does not change your contract at all. Apache Geode (incubating) is not currently supported nor will it be “sold” by Pivotal.

Q. How will this change the current standalone licensing for Pivotal GemFire—specifically for the Community Edition?

A. Current standalone licensing will not be changed for Pivotal GemFire. The Community Edition that was available through VMware and EMC will no longer be available.

Q. Is Pivotal contributing to Apache Geode (incubating)?

A. Yes. A significant number of the contributors on Apache Geode (incubating) are Pivotal employees.

