



Databricks

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users



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Product Recap



Databricks

Databricks Recap

Databricks offers a scalable, versatile platform that integrates seamlessly with Spark and multiple languages, supporting data engineering, machine learning, and analytics in a unified environment.

Databricks stands out for its scalability, ease of use, and powerful integration with Spark, multiple languages, and leading cloud services like Azure and AWS. It provides tools such as the Notebook for collaboration, Delta Lake for efficient data management, and Unity Catalog for data governance. While enhancing data engineering and machine learning workflows, it faces challenges in visualization and third-party integration, with pricing and user interface navigation being common concerns. Despite needing improvements in connectivity and documentation, it remains popular for tasks like real-time processing and data pipeline management.

What features make Databricks unique?

- **Notebook:** Enables collaborative work among team members.
- **Delta Lake:** Optimizes data management operations.
- **Unity Catalog:** Provides governance over data assets.
- **Cloud Integration:** Seamlessly connects with major cloud platforms.

What benefits can users expect from Databricks?

- **Versatility:** Supports diverse applications in data science and engineering.
- **Performance:** Delivers efficient handling of large-scale analytics tasks.
- **Collaboration:** Enhances teamwork in data projects.
- **Unified Environment:** Centralizes machine learning and analytics activities.

In the tech industry, Databricks empowers teams to perform comprehensive data analytics, enabling them to conduct extensive ETL operations, run predictive modeling, and prepare data for SparkML. In retail, it supports real-time data processing and batch streaming, aiding in better decision-making. Enterprises across sectors leverage its capabilities for creating secure APIs and managing data lakes effectively.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:



“The most significant benefit Databricks has brought to my company is the Unity Catalog.”



Simon Robinson

Governance And Engagement Lead



“Databricks is a truly essential platform for data engineering needs, and I recommend it to anyone looking to advance in the data engineering field.”



Satyam Wagh

Consultant at Nice Software Solutions



“Databricks offers various courses that I can use, whether it's PySpark, Scala, or R.”



Shubham Sharma7

Data Engineer at a engineering company with 1,001-5,000 employees



“Databricks has a Unified Catalog that assists with secured access and governance.”



Prabhakar Bonam

Data Platform Architect at KELLANOVA



“Having one solution for everything, from data engineering to machine learning, is beneficial since everything comes under one hood.”



Parag Bhosale

Senior Data Engineer at a logistics company with 51-200 employees



“The notebooks and the ability to share them with collaborators are valuable, as multiple developers can use a single cluster.”



Rama Subba Reddy Thavva

Solution Architect at Mercedes-Benz AG



“Databricks serves as a single platform for conducting the entire end-to-end lifecycle of machine learning models or AI ops.”



IshwarSukheja

Head CEO at bizmetric

What users had to say about valuable features:

Databricks has a Unified Catalog that assists with secured access and governance. Additionally, serverless computing is crucial for our computing needs. Its collaboration features, such as data sharing capabilities, are also outstanding. Overall, the platform allows us to leverage cloud advantages effectively, enhancing our AI and ML projects.

Prabhakar Bonam

Data Platform Architect at KELLANOVA

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“The most valuable features of Databricks are especially the Delta Lake and the Unity Catalog; those are the main features. The Unity Catalog is for data governance, and the Delta Lake is to build the lakehouse. Currently, they're coming up with workflow jobs, along with other supporting elements to create an end-to-end solution..”

Lax Kas

Data Engineer at CRAFT Tech

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“I think it is difficult to determine which feature of Databricks I enjoy the most since there are many valuable features.

What's valuable about Databricks to my organization is that it is more cost-effective and provides better performance than the current AWS tools and services they offer..”

AvivCohen

Data Engineer at a tech vendor with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“The most significant benefit Databricks has brought to my company is the Unity Catalog. Previously, with our data warehouse, we weren't able to track where sensitive data was. The Unity Catalog has been a big improvement, even though we haven't gotten the rest right.

“The user interface is very useful, especially in writing directly into a web interface.

“From my perspective, the ability to export data effectively and use Python within Databricks are key valuable features..”

SimonRobinson

Governance And Engagement Lead

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“The best features offered by Databricks include the fact that it is on the web, that it does not depend on installing any software, and most importantly, the security that prevents connection to anyone else who is not logged in.

Regarding the security and web access I mentioned, I have noticed concrete benefits related to collaboration and data protection within my team, such as it being very secure and the fact that every time we enter the platform, it does the same credential verification.

The features of Databricks have impacted my organization positively, as it has done so very efficiently since we switched from several platforms to using this one. After implementing Databricks in my organization, I have observed that it has been more efficient with my team..”

Verified user

Analista

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“The best features Databricks offers are Unity Catalog, Databricks Workflow, Databricks AI, Agentic AI, and the automated pipelines that utilize AI. The AI models are very easy to create and deploy in just a few seconds. These are helpful and user-friendly tools.

I find myself using Unity Catalog most frequently because it provides a unified governance solution for all data and AI needs on Databricks, offering centralized access control, auditing, lineage, and data discovery capabilities across the platform. The main features include access control, security compliance standard models, built-in auditing, and lineage tracking. Most of my projects have involved integrating Unity Catalog into systems and providing overall security, including a migration project to transition to Unity Catalog.

The platform's unified data intelligence capabilities allow teams to analyze, manage, and activate data at scale, leading to faster time to insights, cleaner data pipelines, and significant savings on infrastructure and engineering efforts. Databricks eliminates data silos, accelerates the time to insight, empowers all data personnel, and provides built-in governance and security. It also supports AI and ML, which is an added advantage in today's AI-driven field..”

Satyam Wagh

Consultant at Nice Software Solutions

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Other Solutions Considered

Before Databricks, we were using the R Studio platform for our advanced analytics requirements. We switched to Databricks because it is an advanced platform compared to R Studio.

Prabhakar Bonam

Data Platform Architect at KELLANOVA

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“No other options were considered because we used the consultancy Avanade, who had done a previous Databricks implementation for another part of our organization. We used them to recreate our implementation..”

Simon Robinson

Governance And Engagement Lead

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“For companies focused solely on data transformation, transferring data between databases, and not tackling machine learning or deep learning problems, I recommend ADF. It would be sufficient and cost-saving compared to a full-fledged solution like Databricks. However, for data analytics and solving ETL problems, one should consider Databricks..”

Rama Subba Reddy Thavva

Solution Architect at Mercedes-Benz AG

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“Before Databricks, I used Batch processing, Fargate, and possibly Kubernetes.

I switched from my previous solutions because they were either too expensive or too difficult to configure..”

AvivCohen

[Read full review](#) 

Data Engineer at a tech vendor with 1,001-5,000 employees

“Before Databricks, I used SQL Server.

“The big decision to switch from SQL Server to Databricks was motivated by the lack of auditing, lineage, and tracking sensitive data in SQL Server, along with a need for more flexibility..”

SimonRobinson

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Governance And Engagement Lead

“I have considered other solutions besides Databricks, such as Snowflake, but we haven't explored it extensively yet.

We are still early in our Snowflake experience, so we don't know the pros and cons compared to Databricks..”

AvivCohen

Data Engineer at a tech vendor with 1,001-5,000 employees

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ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

“I can't say if there's seen an ROI from the solution because I do not have exposure in that area, although I think the people who decided to implement Databricks might have done all this analysis and POCs..”

Lax Kas

Data Engineer at CRAFT Tech

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“With the benefits we receive, the price is reasonable. However, it's important to have good use cases. If it's just for data ingestion, it might not be the best solution price-wise. For a lot of different tasks, including machine learning, it is a nice solution..”

Parag Bhosale

Senior Data Engineer at a logistics company with 51-200 employees

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“So far, we're not measuring any return on investment, such as saving time, money, or resources with Databricks. We're still in the phase where our old system and the new system are running simultaneously, so everything is twice as expensive and much effort is doubled. We haven't progressed far enough yet to realize any ROI..”

SimonRobinson

Governance And Engagement Lead

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“I believe it is competitive across clouds. When it comes to big data processing, I prefer Databricks over other solutions. Cost-wise, it is very competitive. The setup process is straightforward, thanks to the use of Spark clusters. This allows for faster turnaround times with Databricks..”

IshwarSukheja

Head CEO at bizmetric

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“Databricks stands out among most data platforms mainly because of its ease of use. The learning curve is not as steep, making it accessible for anyone to handle large-scale data processing on Databricks. This ease of use contributes positively to our return on investment. However, in our line of work, converting this efficiency into direct monetary gains can be challenging, given our nonprofit nature. .”

Dunstan Matekenya

Data Scientist at a financial services firm with 10,001+ employees

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“Definitely. As I mentioned regarding my airline project, it was impactful because the cost was reduced by 60 to 70 percent. The company was initially using Azure Blob storage, and in Databricks, the cluster and associated infrastructure were cheaper than other platforms. This reduction in both time and money resulted in real-time impact and significant cost savings..”

Satyam Wagh

Consultant at Nice Software Solutions

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Use Case

“A typical use case for the solution is to build the data lakehouse for the client because they have a variety of source systems, and they want to unify that data into the lakehouse platform, where they want to use the data for analytical purposes and insights..”

Lax Kas

Data Engineer at CRAFT Tech

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“My usual use case for Databricks as an end-user mostly involves exporting data. This typically entails writing directly into a web interface to get the data out, so probably with Python..”

SimonRobinson

Governance And Engagement Lead

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I am currently working as an IT architect. We have an AWS analytics platform, a cloud-based platform. We use Databricks for our AI/ML requirements and also the Databricks platform. For the past year, we have been using Databricks for our data scientist community to build their apps.

Prabhakar Bonam

Data Platform Architect at KELLANOVA

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“My main use case for Databricks is running SQL queries. I use Databricks in my day-to-day work by doing SQL queries directly in Databricks using the Genius platform to better correct the queries instead of doing queries on another platform..”

Verified user

Analista

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“I am working as a data engineer at Fractal. On a daily basis, I work on Azure Cloud, and I use Databricks frequently. We have EDF pipelines and utilize Synapse for our daily tasks..”

ShubhamSharma7

Data Engineer at a engineering company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“My main use case for Databricks involves the pipelines and ETL processes that we are implementing. Following the Medallion architecture with Gold, Silver, and Bronze layers, we filter the data, perform transformations, and integrate AI. Databricks has made this process significantly easier.

I worked for an airline company where they experienced substantial delays in data processing. When a passenger booked a ticket, it took 20 to 25 minutes for the transaction to reflect in the system. Using Databricks, we compressed that time from 10 to 6 minutes initially and eventually reduced it to just a few seconds. After setting up all the pipelines and leveraging Databricks features to enhance and accelerate the process, this project became truly impactful and time-based, resulting in reduced processing time and ultimately increased profit for the airline company..”

Satyam Wagh

Consultant at Nice Software Solutions

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Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

The initial setup of Databricks could be complex. We set it up with AWS as the backend. It's crucial to have both cloud-specific knowledge and how to configure its features in the platform.

Prabhakar Bonam

Data Platform Architect at KELLANOVA

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“The initial setup of the Databricks solution is reasonably fair enough. It doesn't give any trouble to implement the solution, and I think it's fairly easy to set up and work on Databricks..”

Lax Kas

Data Engineer at CRAFT Tech

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“I use infrastructure as code on the cloud to deploy the infrastructure. I have all the Git repositories and code repositories for deploying the code and models in the workspace. My setup includes a shared workspace, shared clusters, and integration with Unity Catalog..”

IshwarSukheja

Head CEO at bizmetric

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“The initial setup is not that difficult. I rate the ease of setup a seven out of ten. The solution is cloud-based. We use native services like Data Factory for orchestration. Sometimes, the customers require us to use Amazon as the cloud provider instead of Azure..”

PraveenS

Design Engineer at Cyient Limited

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“When we have administration experience, the solution is not difficult to deploy. Technically, however, it's difficult because governance is more complex. For example, I have two warehouses on Databricks, which are clusters in this workspace, and we have to switch from workspace to workspace to have all this information. There is a system table that has all this, but I don't know if everyone can use these tables..”

Nabil Fegaier1

Chief Executive Officer at dotFIT, LLC

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“The implementation is very simple to set up. That's why we choose it over many other tools. Its Terraform provider is our way-to-go for the initial setup as we are reusing templates to get a functional workspace in minutes.

Usually, we have two to five data engineers handling the maintenance and running of our solutions..”

Axel Richier

Tech Lead Consultant | Manager Data Engineering at Ekimetrics

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Customer Service and Support

“I rate the technical support as fine because they have levels of technical support available, especially partners who get really good support from Databricks on new features. For us, it's so far so good with no problems, and I would rate the support quality as eight out of ten..”

Lax Kas

Data Engineer at CRAFT Tech

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“We mostly had limited data support required from Databricks. Whenever we did need support, within two or three days the problem was solved. I would rate them ten out of ten..”

Rama Subba Reddy Thavva

Solution Architect at Mercedes-Benz AG

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“There was a training session from Databricks where they explained how to use it. We never had to contact them because they had already given us proper training on the platform..”

Jithin James

Financial Analyst 4 (Supply Chain & Financial Analytics) at Juniper Networks

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“Databricks' customer support is very good. They have a lot of ways in which they interact with vendors and service partners across the globe. They have periodic touch-up sessions with vendors, where their engineers answer your questions..”

Avadhut Sawant

Consulting Architect at a computer software company with 10,001+ employees

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“I've had very good experiences with technical support where they answer me in a couple of hours. Sometimes it takes a bit longer. It's usually a matter of days, so it's very good overall.

Even if it took a bit of time, I got my answer. They never left me without an answer or a solution..”

Axel Richier

Tech Lead Consultant | Manager Data Engineering at Ekimetrics

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“I have addressed technical support about our issue with Databricks. It was the team that engaged with them, and I believe our development teams also reach out for support, though I'm not sure what level of support they get.

“Previously, when using Snowflake, we had customer reps who were really knowledgeable and helped us to avoid beginner mistakes. With Databricks, it seems we could have benefited from similar support. Our implementation team had no experience and made obvious mistakes. It may be that we opted not to have that support, but I believe we should have..”

SimonRobinson

Governance And Engagement Lead

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Other Advice

I would recommend Databricks as an advanced analytics platform. It offers features to quickly pull data from various sources required for report generation. Overall, I rate this solution as seven or eight out of ten.

Prabhakar Bonam

Data Platform Architect at KELLANOVA

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“My advice to others considering using Databricks is that it is the best platform with artificial intelligence. I give this review an overall rating of ten..”

Verified user

Analista

[Read full review](#) 

“My deployment model for Databricks is limited as I'm not a heavy user.

I am not the person who purchased Databricks, but it was possibly acquired through the [AWS Marketplace](#).

I may not have utilized Databricks machine learning capabilities.

My experience with the pricing and licensing model is that it remains relatively expensive. Though it's less expensive than [AWS](#), we still need a more cost-effective solution.

I would rate Databricks overall a nine out of ten..”

AvivCohen

Data Engineer at a tech vendor with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“For advice for others considering Databricks, it is important to start by understanding its place in the data ecosystem and how it fits into your specific needs. Key points to consider include familiarizing yourself with Databricks, learning the basics, starting with data engineering, and incorporating ETL processes. You can then dive deeper into Databricks features such as notebooks, clusters, and jobs. Achieving certification enhances your skills validation. For best practices, it is critical to optimize performance and minimize complexity while continuously learning to stay competitive in the data field. Following these steps will be very beneficial for anyone pursuing a career as a data engineer and Databricks engineer.

Databricks is a truly essential platform for data engineering needs, and I recommend it to anyone looking to advance in the data engineering field. It is a very important platform and tool for every data engineer. I encourage everyone to learn and explore this product and to maximize its potential. I rate this product a 9 out of 10..”

Satyam Wagh

Consultant at Nice Software Solutions

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“I'm probably not the best person to discuss certain aspects of Databricks since I haven't explored it deeply and am not part of the team developing it.

“We haven't utilized Databricks' machine learning capabilities.

“From my company, data ingestion and transformation are done with Databricks, though I don't do it directly.

“I don't use Databricks' features for managing data, such as data lake and warehouse operations.

“Most of our current work with Databricks isn't really live yet, so measuring savings in time and money or identifying any return on investment isn't applicable right now.

“I would rate this review a 7 overall..”

SimonRobinson

Governance And Engagement Lead

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“My relationship with the vendor is that I'm not a partner of Databricks; I work for a client where we use the Databricks software for implementing the solutions.

“My clients are usually enterprise-level organizations, but the area where they're implementing is medium level here, although it might go into enterprise level in the future.

“Regarding the price of Databricks, I don't involve myself in those decisions.

“I think Databricks is very good at facilitating AI and machine learning projects; they implement AI and machine learning models very well, and clients can run their models on Databricks. I believe they are in a better place compared to competitors such as [Snowflake](#), and they are tying up with important companies such as SAP and Palantir.

“Based on my experience, I would recommend Databricks to other people. Overall, I would rate this solution as one of the best, about eight out of ten, although I might not know some of the pitfalls; it's based on use case to use case, but for us, it's working well..”

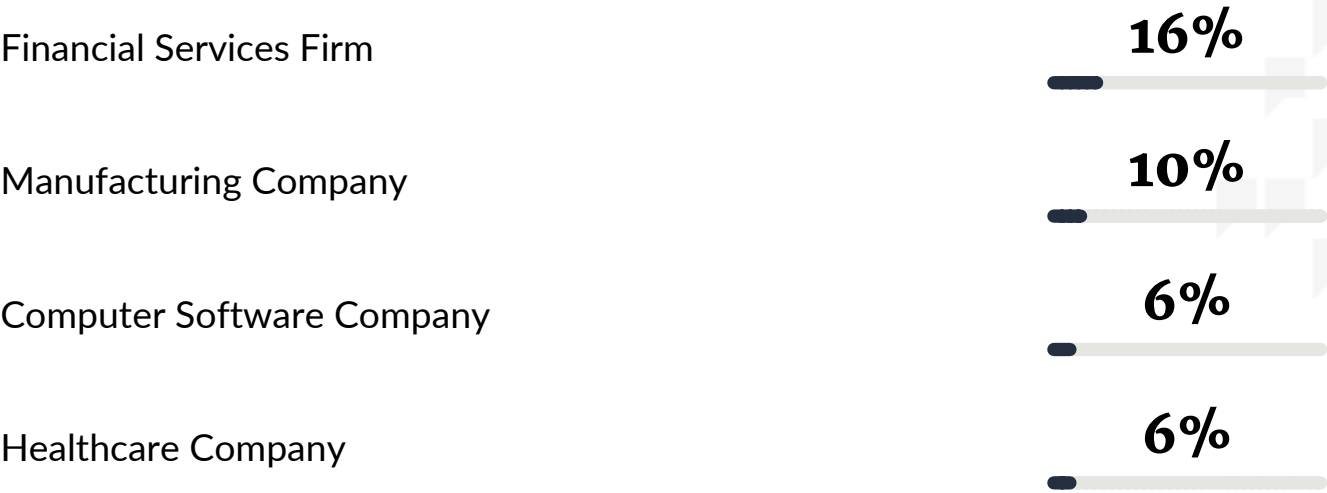
Lax Kas

Data Engineer at CRAFT Tech

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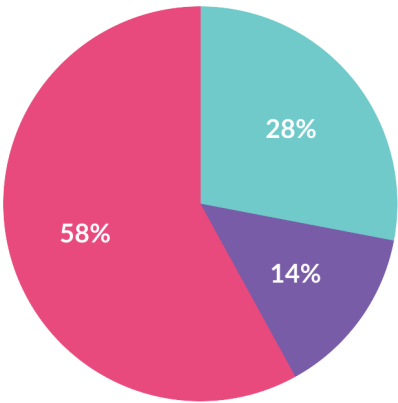
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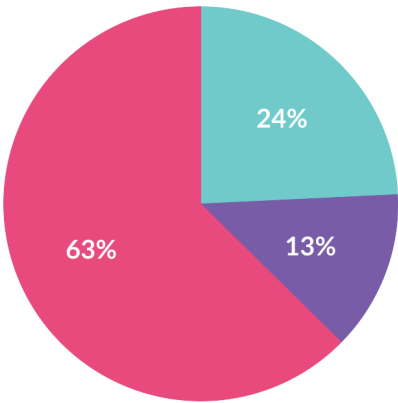


Company Size

by reviewers



by visitors reading reviews



Large Enterprise Midsized Enterprise Small Business

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