

# Benefits of Liferay Enterprise Search

# Enterprise Search in Liferay DXP

The Liferay Enterprise Search (LES) add-on subscription offers companies a simple and effective option for managing enterprise-scale search for their Liferay DXP projects. Liferay has partnered with Elastic to provide a single point of contact for all support needs and seamless integration with Elasticsearch. In addition, Liferay Enterprise Search provides exclusive applications to leverage additional features like Learning to Rank, Elasticsearch Monitoring integration with Elastic's Kibana, Cross-Cluster Replication support, and Search Experiences.

With Liferay DXP and Liferay Enterprise Search, companies unlock significant benefits such as:

- Increased out-of-the-box functionality, helping you hit the production phase with a running start.
- Scalable, fast, and feature-rich search capabilities deployed to Liferay DXP solutions.
- End-to-end support for all Liferay and connected Elastic components.
- Expedited time-to-market for search solutions and free version upgrades.
- Improved search results leveraging machine learning algorithms.

## Why Elasticsearch?

By bringing Elasticsearch into Liferay DXP, Liferay subscribers gain support for a best-of-breed search engine built for modern web applications. Elasticsearch is distributed and clusterable by design and provides a collection of enterprise-grade extensions to help companies manage monitoring, security, reporting, alerts, and much more.

The latest version of Elasticsearch that Liferay DXP supports is Elasticsearch 7, which gains performance optimizations, improved failover resilience, better memory management, and a host of other improvements. It continues to support cross-cluster search for multiple Elastic instances and secure connections between Liferay and Elastic tools. The Liferay Connector to Elasticsearch 7 is bundled with Liferay DXP. For a list of all supported versions of Elasticsearch, please see our [Compatibility Matrix](#).

The technology behind Elasticsearch is also great for developers, which aligns with Liferay's own software values. Elasticsearch is open source, with excellent documentation and vendor investment. It has a high “just works” factor, meaning that indexing and clustering require zero configuration.

## Liferay Enterprise Search

With Liferay Enterprise Search, subscribers have licensing and support for their Elasticsearch deployments and all Liferay Enterprise Search features, with support levels tied to your Liferay DXP subscription and two years of Liferay Premium Support for all Enterprise Search Components.

Liferay Enterprise Search, provides other modules such as **LES Learning to Rank**, which leverages machine learning techniques to improve the relevance of search results, and **LES Cross-Cluster Replication**, which supports Elasticsearch clusters distributed across data centers. **LES Experiences** is a suite of features that unlock the full potential of Liferay's search framework for all Liferay users. The initial release introduces Search Blueprints, enabling search administrators to refine Liferay's default search behavior, or completely override it, and provide context-aware search results based on the search user's attributes.

Additionally, Liferay Enterprise Search also includes the **LES Monitoring** which tracks your Elasticsearch cluster in real time by providing a view of the Kibana UI through a Liferay DXP instance. **LES Security** is now bundled with Liferay Connector to Elasticsearch 7, but companies using older versions of Liferay Enterprise Search and Elasticsearch can still get the standalone LES Security which secures the connection between Liferay DXP and Elasticsearch. This feature is unique to Elasticsearch and not available with Solr or other search engine offerings.

Upgrades to Liferay modules are included at no extra cost for the life of your subscription.

# Liferay Support vs. Elastic Support

As you consider your search engine options, you may ask why you would choose Liferay Enterprise Search over purchasing support directly from Elastic. The functionality of the search engine itself is the same with either option, and the connector for Elasticsearch is included with a DXP subscription. Enterprises should consider these questions when making a decision:

1. How much time and money will it take to code connectors to Liferay DXP for features like Monitoring and Cross-Cluster Replication on your own?
2. What is the value to your organization for Liferay Enterprise Search exclusive features like improving search results through the Learning to Rank Connector?
3. Would you feel more comfortable working with a single vendor that provides end-to-end support for your Liferay plus Elastic stack?

If you need the extra functionality that Elastic's other products have, or if you require support for third-party applications running on Elasticsearch, then purchasing directly from Elastic may be a preferable option. If you want an out-of-the-box search experience with Liferay DXP, end-to-end support for your Liferay DXP and enterprise search stack, and value-add enterprise search features, then the Liferay Enterprise Search option is likely a better fit.

## Other Search Engine Options

Additionally, Solr can be integrated with Liferay DXP, with some limitations. To learn more, visit the [Liferay documentation](#). However, Liferay currently only offers the LES add-on support subscription for Elasticsearch.

Liferay DXP ships with an Elasticsearch node that starts with Liferay DXP. The node in Liferay DXP 7.3+ runs in a separate JVM as a sidecar server and the node in prior DXP version is running in embedded mode in the same JVM.

While the sidecar/ embedded Elasticsearch server aids our customers' development phase, the increased performance demands of a production environment necessitate a standalone Elasticsearch server. Production environments must install additional hardware and software in order to provide search capabilities that will scale, perform, and provide the expected end-user functionality required by a live, enterprise-grade solution.

For production usage, Liferay will only support use of the Elasticsearch engine running outside of the DXP JVM (i.e., 1 JVM for Liferay DXP and a separate JVM for the Elasticsearch search engine).

## What's Next?

Learn more about how you can benefit from a Liferay Enterprise Search Subscription by contacting us at [sales@liferay.com](mailto:sales@liferay.com) or visiting [our documentation](#). Request a quote by visiting [liferay.com/get-price-quote](https://liferay.com/get-price-quote).

## FAQ

### Can I add Liferay Enterprise Search to my DXP subscription after I've already signed up for Liferay DXP?

Yes, Liferay offers multiple solutions for customers who want to add Liferay Enterprise Search mid-subscription depending on whether they have a single year term or a multiyear pre-paid term for Liferay DXP. Please contact Sales for the full details at [sales@liferay.com](mailto:sales@liferay.com).

### What versions of Liferay DXP are compatible with Liferay Enterprise Search?

Please see the compatibility matrix in [Liferay's Help Center](#)

### Will it cost anything to upgrade to future versions of Liferay Enterprise Search?

No, customers with active Liferay Enterprise Search subscriptions may upgrade without additional costs.



Liferay makes software that helps companies create digital experiences on web, mobile and connected devices. Our platform is open source, which makes it more reliable, innovative and secure. We try to leave a positive mark on the world through business and technology. Hundreds of organizations in financial services, healthcare, government, insurance, retail, manufacturing and multiple other industries use Liferay. Visit us at [liferay.com](https://liferay.com).

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