



CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORIES

# From Legacy to Cutting Edge: How areeba Revolutionized Its Payment Platform and Cut Costs





## CUSTOMER: AREEBA

*EDB customer since 2021*

**Elie Soukayem**  
Chief Technology Officer

**Georges Abou Zeidan**  
Senior IT Infrastructure Manager

**CHALLENGE:** Securing stakeholder approval and efficiently transitioning from legacy systems to open source Postgres® while maintaining regulatory compliance and supporting increasing payments workloads

**EDB SOLUTIONS:** EDB Postgres Enterprise Manager (PEM), EDB Backup and Recovery Manager (BARMAN), EDB Failover Manager (EFM), EDB Support

**RESULTS:** Partnering with EnterpriseDB (EDB) enabled areeba to streamline its move to Postgres and achieve high availability and performance while dramatically reducing database costs.



## OVERVIEW

### Areeba's open source path to payment transformation

As a top payment system provider in the Middle East and Africa, areeba's mission is to foster cashless digital inclusion around the world and empower banks, fintechs, governments, and businesses with smart, efficient, and secure payment products and processing capabilities.

Given that [nine out of 10](#) people in Saudi Arabia are adopting digital payment solutions, areeba is positioned for significant market expansion. The business required a database that provided superior performance, high availability, and reliability to support its growing workloads. In enabling banks and fintech to deliver digital payment experiences to their customers, areeba couldn't afford unplanned downtime or poor user experiences, as [digital payment surveys](#) show that most end users abandon apps that have payment issues.





In order to support areeba's mission of cashless digital inclusion, the company aimed to build a robust, API-first microservices platform that supported data consolidation and analytics and enabled its partners to innovate and better serve customers throughout their digital journey.

While areeba's CEO's vision for the company's future involved adopting new technologies and taking calculated risks, areeba's tech stack was dependent on expensive legacy systems from big-name vendors. The tech team realized they could cut costs and better align with their mission by adopting open source technology that leveraged community-driven solutions.

## Redefining payment tech

areeba's core challenge was finding a hardware-agnostic solution that could adapt to various on-premises, cloud, or hybrid environments to accommodate diverse central bank regulations in areeba's operational regions. The database system needed to comply with stringent PCI DSS security standards and maintain security and integrity for all transactions, which was a mandatory requirement for partnerships with companies such as Mastercard and Visa.

## The blueprint for payment evolution

IT leaders at areeba knew they didn't want to go into production with an open source platform without a reliable partner by their side. So they evaluated several database solutions, considering licensing fees, maintenance costs, hardware requirements, and other expenses. They reviewed the performance of each database and assessed features and functionalities to ensure that the solution they chose could meet their workloads and technical requirements.

Given the transition from legacy to open source, one of the most important factors was the community and support ecosystem of each database. areeba evaluated the size and activity of each community, as well as the availability and quality of support resources, to ensure that the company would have the support it needed for the implementation.

After conducting the assessment, areeba chose EDB Postgres because it addressed all of these challenges and enabled the company to adhere to strict service-level agreements (SLAs) and implement the robust risk mitigation strategies required for operating in the financial sector. areeba saw that EDB Postgres was highly scalable and sustainable, fully capable of supporting its future growth and innovation.

## Architecting resilience and optimizing performance

In migrating to Postgres, areeba's tech team had to carefully design the architecture, implement clusters, and set up replication to disaster recovery sites. Their focus was on ensuring seamless failover and zero data loss in case of failures or disaster recovery (DR) switches, while maintaining recovery point objective (RPO) and recovery time objective (RTO) commitments to their customers.

After developing the technology platform, areeba began onboarding clients. When the company encountered performance issues, EDB's support team immediately responded and helped resolve issues, validating areeba's choice in a database partner.

EDB's Postgres experts conducted a thorough performance check, tuning all the queries that were running on the new Postgres databases, and optimized the performance to ensure that the system could handle the expected workload. With EDB's expertise and help in training its staff, areeba met its implementation timeline, ensured that its platform could scale effectively during peak hours and beyond, and achieved its open source vision.

EDB's Postgres Enterprise Manager (PEM) monitored and delivered real-time insights on system performance, and Barman (Backup and Recovery Manager) helped increase data integrity and prevent data loss. EDB Failover Manager (EFM) was implemented for its ability to automatically detect database failures and enable applications to remain active during a failover to reduce downtime to practically zero and maintain an optimal user experience.



***“We had very careful planning and good communication with EDB and EDB’s professional services, which played a crucial role in helping us overcome challenges. EDB’s expertise and dedication to training our staff on Postgres led to a successful implementation.”***

**Georges Abou Zeidan**  
Senior IT Infrastructure Manager

## Changing mindsets and fostering a forward-thinking culture

areeba's Chief Technology Officer Elie Soukayem explains that it took time to convince employees that open source was the right path forward. The IT team was essentially asking people to take a leap and move away from legacy systems that had been around for 20 to 30 years. Making such a move required not just the right technology but also the right partner.

EDB and areeba were able to demonstrate that Postgres was the ideal solution for the need and the vision.

areeba's budget sheet confirmed that Postgres was the optimal choice. The company discovered that Postgres matched the performance of its old legacy platform, but at a fraction of the cost—operating at just 5% to 10% of what it used to spend. This translated to an astounding 90%–95% reduction in the company's IT budget.

The measurable success that areeba and EDB have achieved together has not only validated the power of Postgres but paved the way for areeba's further innovation and growth as a leader in payments infrastructure.

***“I believe it was very helpful to have a partner like EDB to help us show the performance and scalability that's possible using Postgres, because we're taking people out of their comfort zone and away from legacy technology.”***

**Elie Sakaye**  
Chief Technology Officer



### About EDB Postgres AI

EDB Postgres AI is the first open, enterprise-grade sovereign data and AI platform, with a secure, compliant, and fully scalable environment, on premises and across clouds. Supported by a global partner network, EDB Postgres AI unifies transactional, analytical, and AI workloads, enabling organizations to operationalize their data and LLMs where, when, and how they need it. For more information, visit [www.enterprisedb.com](http://www.enterprisedb.com).