

# MinIO's Community Edition: The End ?



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<https://pepitedata.com/minio-community-edition-end-agpl/>

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|         | Community                                                                         | Enterprise                                                                                     |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         |  |             |
| se      | GNU AGPL v3 License                                                               | Enterprise License                                                                             |
| ded Use | Test and Dev Use                                                                  | Production Use<br>(Site-Replication, Enterprise Grade Security, Encryption and Key Management) |

Beware the AGPL! you may end with a product orphan from its S3 storage...

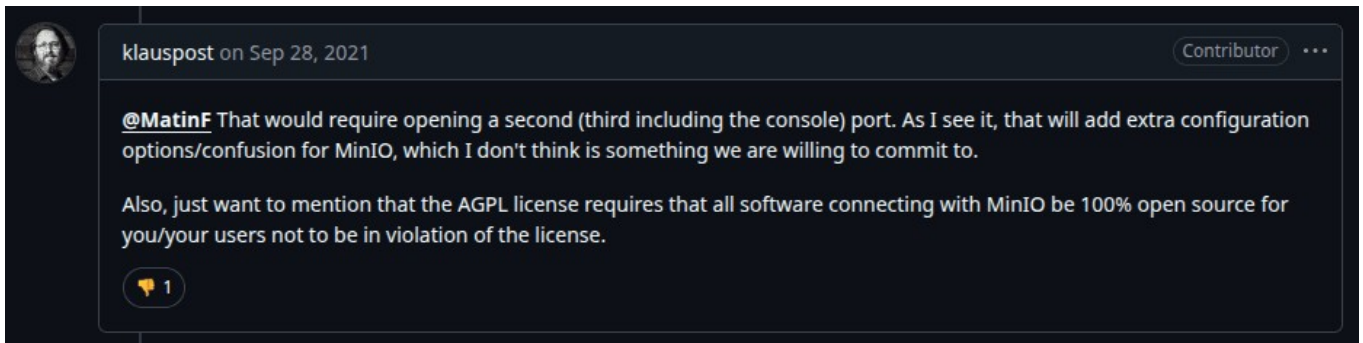
MinIO has long been a popular open-source S3-compatible storage solution, but their strategy has shifted dramatically, especially since the release of their new [Alstor](#) product, now positioned as their main enterprise S3 offering. Over the past year, MinIO has taken increasingly aggressive steps to restrict the use of their Community Edition in production, pushing users toward commercial licensing or fear legal issues through AGPL license.

Worryingly, MinIO has also started **removing existing features from the Community Edition**. Recently all administration features were removed from the minio community UI. Their public catalog suggests that even more removals are likely, with critical capabilities such as **site replication, security, and encryption** potentially on the chopping block. This is a significant departure from the open-source spirit that originally made MinIO attractive.

Key discussions and issues highlight this strategy:

- [MinIO's official stance on production use of the Community Edition](#)
- [Clarification from MinIO maintainers on licensing and production use](#)
- [Community pushback and MinIO's responses](#)

- Detailed discussion on the future of the Community Edition



If you're looking for open-source S3-compatible storage with more permissive licenses, consider these alternatives:

- **Ceph** (LGPL) -> battle tested. one of the few project that treats data durability as a first class feature.
- **Apache Ozone** (Apache License) -> young but nice if you're heading for big data and data crunching with spark. S3 gateway lacks many S3 features.
- **SeaweedFS** (Apache License) -> young & promising however can loose your data.  
I count more than 117 issues mentionning it in the project and some of them are recent.  
I would say the validation process is probably not reliable.
- **pgsty/silo** -> if you already have Minio and want to support it a bit longer. Same AGPL license as Minio.
- GarageHQ -> AGPL license. To be avoided

#### Reminder on open-source licenses:

- **LGPL:** You can link against and don't have to release source code as long as you don't modify the library itself.
- **GPL:** You have to release source code if you link against and distribute the binary, but not if you just provide a service.
- **AGPL:** You have to allow the source to be downloaded even if you never distribute the binary but do provide a service.

This is a pivotal moment for the open-source storage ecosystem. If you rely on MinIO Community Edition, now is the time to review your options and understand the licensing implications. Note the pricing for Minio scales in \$/TiB/Year and then very expensive for large volume of data. Public price <https://min.io/pricing> is ~ \$250k/PB/year and minimal setup is \$96k/year.

Last year another storage solution that I liked a lot : ScyllaDB also decided to phase out their Community Edition and keep only the Enterprise Edition under the AGPL license. MinIO is now heading in the same direction.

Thanks Joël Séguillon for the issues

**Update:** the MinIO server itself has been forked too. **Silo**, maintained by Pigsty, is an independent community fork of the open-source MinIO server: <https://github.com/pgsty/silo>. It keeps a maintained release line alive: builds, packages, multi-arch images, security fixes and the full web console, administration features included. The S3 API, MINIO\_\* variables, metrics and the on-disk format stay compatible with upstream. It remains AGPLv3 though, so it does not remove the AGPL constraint, but the community edition lives on.

The browser was forked here : <https://github.com/OpenMaxIO/openmaxio-object-browser> it does not remove the AGPL constraint, but the feature are back

<https://www.linkedin.com/>

<https://pepitedata.com/minio-maintenance-mode-data-lake-migration/>

*Update 2026-09-29.* This post is now part of [Object Storage for Data Platforms at Scale](#), the field guide to running object storage at scale.

## Related posts

- [Object Storage for Data Platforms at Scale](#)
- [MinIO goes into maintenance mode](#)
- [MinIO tiering: data loss and fault tolerance issues](#)
- [The hidden costs of using HDDs in on-premises MinIO deployments](#)

PDF snapshot of the public article. The online version is authoritative; links remain clickable.