erudika

Scoold vs Apache Answer

TL;DR: Both score high on cost-effectiveness and are open source, but Scoold has easier initial setup and is more feature-rich.

Scoold and Apache Answer are open-source Q&A platforms aimed at team knowledge-sharing. Scoold (by Erudika) is a lightweight Java-based platform modeled on Stack Overflow – it offers free community edition (Apache 2.0) and a paid "Pro" license (self-hosted)[1], plus optional hosted "Scoold Cloud" service. Apache Answer (an Apache project) is a community-driven Q&A system, also Apache 2.0 licensed and free, designed for any-scale deployment[2][3]. Both support core Q&A features (questions, answers, voting, search), tagging and reputation. Key differences: Scoold is easy to deploy (self-host or in cloud) and customizable via its open codebase[4][5]. Apache Answer emphasizes enterprise scalability and rich integrations (REST API, plugins, containerization)[3]. In short, Scoold appeals to teams needing a familiar SO-like Q&A (with optional hosting services), while Apache Answer targets larger communities.

Scoold offers on-premise or cloud deployment[4] and provides both free and paid licensing (open-source core and a paid Pro license for advanced features)[1]. It integrates with Slack/Mattermost/Teams, Zapier and supports SAML/LDAP 2FA for authentication[6][7]. Security includes standard measures plus GDPR cookie consent. Support is community-based (chat, GitHub) with paid priority support for Pro customers[8]. Apache Answer likewise self-hosts on any server or container (Docker/Kubernetes) and is fully free under Apache 2.0[2][3]. It provides plugin extensibility (OAuth, caching, etc. via plugins)[5] and enterprise features like role-based access control, audit logs, and GDPR-ready settings[9][3]. Integrations are enabled through RESTful APIs and webhooks[10]. Both platforms are customizable.

Aspect	Scoold (OSS/Pro)	Apache Answer (OSS)
Features	Full Q&A (questions, answers, comments, votes, reputation)[11]; simple Articles; MathJax; notifications; search & similar-post suggestions.	Full Q&A and discussion forum; advanced search (filters, tags)[12]; threaded comments; reputation/badges; real-time suggestions; content revision history[13].
Deployment	Self-host (on-premise/VPS/docker) or Scoold's managed cloud[4][14]. Supports on AWS, Azure, etc.	Self-host (on-premise or any cloud) – supports container/Kubernetes. (No official hosted SaaS; community on forums)[3].
Hosting	Optionally hosted by Scoold Cloud (SaaS) or user-hosted container.	Self-host only (community provides deployment guides; some marketplace images exist).
Pricing/License	Free (Apache 2.0) core; Pro license is one-time (~€299–€499)[1][15]; Scoold Cloud starts ~€49/month[16].	Free, open-source (Apache 2.0); no paid tiers or official commercial version. (All features included)[2].
Target Audience	Dev/tech teams and organizations wanting a Stack Overflow-style Q&A for internal use[17]; also suitable for support forums.	Any organization or community of any size needing a scalable Q&A/knowledge-base (public forums, help centers, enterprise KB)[2][18].
Integrations	Slack, Mattermost, Microsoft Teams; Zapier, n8n; webhooks; Para backend (Optionally GitHub/GitLab via API).	REST API, webhooks; plugin ecosystem (OAuth, search, caching, etc.)[5]; supports generic integrations via customizable plugins.
Customization	Open-source code; themes (light/dark, Materialize CSS); custom badges; can alter backend (Para) if self-	Theming via Bootstrap templates[10]; plugin-driven extensibility; fully configurable front/back

Aspect	Scoold (OSS/Pro)	Apache Answer (OSS)
	hosted. Translated in 14 languages.	split; community translators for languages.
Security/ Compliance	Supports SAML, OAuth2, LDAP login[6], 2FA, mTLS; cookie consent banner; all data stored under your control.	Role-based access control and permission model; audit logging; login-domain restrictions[9]; containerized isolation recommended[3].
Support	Community forums, Gitter chat, GitHub issues; email/priority support with Pro plan[8].	Community-driven support (mailing lists, user forums); extensive docs; vendor backing via Apache community (no paid support).

Scoold / Scoold Pro:

- **Pros:** Open-source with optional one-time Pro license; easy setup (Docker/AWS scripts) and well-known SO-like UX; extensive authentication (SSO, LDAP, SAML) and search features[6].
- **Cons:** Fewer analytics features (no built-in analytics or AI); paid Pro for full features; smaller community.

Apache Answer:

- **Pros:** Free and fully open-source; built for scale (supports thousands of users)[3]; rich plugin/APIs for customization; built-in role/permission controls and audit logs[9][3].
- **Cons:** Requires self-hosting and maintenance (no hosted option); setup can be more involved (monolithic stack); fewer out-of-box integrations (relies on plugins and APIs).

Sources: Official docs and sites[1][4][19][3]; community reviews (G2)[18].

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[1] [4] [6] [7] [8] [11] [17] Scoold | An Open Source Q&A Platform

https://scoold.com/

[2] Apache Answer | Free Open-source Q&A Platform

https://answer.apache.org/

[3] [10] [18] Apache Answer Reviews 2026: Details, Pricing, & Features | G2

https://www.g2.com/products/apache-answer/reviews

[5] [9] [12] [13] [19] Introduction | Apache Answer

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[14] Announcing Scoold Cloud | Erudika

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[15] [16] Scoold Pricing 2026

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