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Scoold vs Askbot

TL;DR: Both are open-source and great for Q&A; Scoold is easier to set up, and offers a feature-rich solution with a modern user interface.

Scoold and Askbot are both open-source Q&A platforms designed to build community knowledge bases, but they differ in features and target use cases. Scoold (by Erudika) is a Java-based, Stack Overflow-style system with rich enterprise features and optional paid “Pro” licenses[1][2]. It is licensed under Apache 2.0 and supports cloud or on-premise deployment, and perpetual license for the “Pro” version. Askbot, built on Django/Python, offers a traditional Q&A forum with karma, tagging, and moderation[3][2]. It is GPLv3-licensed and available for free self-hosting; commercial hosted plans start around \$15–\$45/user·month[4]. Scoold focuses on internal team knowledge sharing with unique features like spaces and geolocation[5], whereas Askbot emphasizes community forums with flexible moderation and reputation.

Scoold requires Java 21+ and can run on any server or cloud VM[7]; official hosting is also available on Scoold Cloud. Askbot runs on a Python/Django stack and can be deployed via virtual machine or Docker. Askbot is free to self-host, but its hosted plans are tiered by user count (per seat) (e.g. \$15/month up to 250 users)[4]. In terms of support, Scoold’s community edition gets community support (GitHub, Gitter) while Pro customers get priority support; Askbot provides documentation and a community forum, with official support included in paid plans. Scoold is aimed at enterprise teams seeking a privacy-first internal Q&A solution with integrations like Slack/Mattermost/Teams[8], whereas Askbot targets broader community or public forums needing voting, categories, moderation and social logins[9].

Aspect	Scoold (OSS/Pro)	Askbot (OSS/Hosted)
Features	Full Q&A (questions, answers, comments, votes) [10]; reputation & badges; full-text search; geolocation filtering[11]; Teams/Spaces; email notifications; social login, LDAP, 2FA[12]; Slack/Mattermost/Teams integration[13].	Q&A forum with threaded answers; karma/reputation system[14]; tagging and categories; comments on answers; voting identifies best answers[3]; moderation tools (suspend users, flag content)[15].
Deployment	Self-hosted or cloud (Scoold Cloud)[7]; can be deployed on K8s (Helm) and Docker.	Self-host (Linux/VM or Docker) or use Askbot.com hosted plans.
Hosting	Official cloud hosting available on Scoold Cloud: cloud.scoold.com	Hosting on Askbot.com
Pricing/License	Open-source (Apache 2.0) [6]; Scoold Pro €499 per instance (one-time)[1]; optional Scoold Cloud subscription.	Open-source (GPLv3); hosted plans: Basic \$15/mo (≤ 250 users), Medium \$45/mo (≤ 750 users)[4]; larger plans contact sales.
Target Audience	Small to medium sized teams looking for an internal Q&A/KB (e.g. support or dev docs)[7].	Communities or organizations needing a public or internal forum with Q&A (e.g. open communities, universities).
Integrations	Slack, Mattermost, Teams; Zapier, n8n; REST API; advanced SSO, email notifications, data import from Stack Overflow[16].	Social logins (Twitter, Facebook, Google, OpenID) [9]; email notifications; optional SSO; REST API (read/write via request)[2].
Customization	Fully customizable (white label) branding; light/dark themes; custom CSS styles, custom badges; open API[17].	Custom CSS/themes; custom HTML templates (with premium hosting)[2]; custom domains; public & private site settings[2].

Aspect	Scoold (OSS/Pro)	Askbot (OSS/Hosted)
Security/ Compliance	Enterprise-friendly: SAML, LDAP, OAuth2, mTLS support [18] ; GDPR cookie consent; 2FA, encryption at rest.	Basic roles/permissions; no built-in enterprise SAML (login via social/OpenID); site admins moderate content; GPLv3 license (all data exportable).
Support	Community (GitHub/Gitter) for free; email/priority support for Pro customers.	Community forum and docs for self-host; email/support included with paid hosted plans.

Scoold / Scoold Pro:

- **Pros:** Familiar Stack Overflow-like interface; supports enterprise auth (LDAP/SAML) for intranets[18]; deployable on many environments and scalable via cloud.
- **Cons:** Requires Java 21+ and a Para backend; core free version has limited “Spaces” (teams) support; paid upgrades needed for some features (e.g. more spaces, source code).

Askbot:

- **Pros:** Flexible Q&A forum (voting, tags, comments)[3]; robust reputation/karma system; many built-in auth options (social logins)[9].
- **Cons:** Older UI and fewer modern integrations; hosted plans can get expensive at scale; self-host setup requires Python/Django knowledge.

Sources: Official product pages and docs[7][3][4], plus community review sites where needed.

[1] [5] [6] [7] [8] [10] [11] [12] [13] [16] [17] [18] Scoold | An Open Source Q&A Platform

<https://scoold.com/>

[2] [3] [9] [14] [15] Create your own Q&A powered by Askbot in a minute.

<https://askbot.com/>

[4] Hosting Plans

<https://askbot.com/plans/>