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Scoold vs Talkyard

TL;DR: Both score high on cost (free self-host); Scoold is easier to set up while Talkyard offers broader features and equal scalability.

Scoold and Talkyard are both open-source Q&A platforms aimed at internal knowledge sharing, but they emphasize slightly different workflows. Scoold (by Erudika) is a lightweight Java-based Stack Overflow-style Q&A system; it's available under Apache 2.0 with optional paid "Pro" licenses and can be self-hosted or run on Scoold Cloud[1][2]. Talkyard is an AGPLv3-licensed discussion platform that blends Q&A with threaded forum discussions and idea voting[3][2]. It can be self-hosted or used via Talkyard's hosted service (€4–€12/user/month)[4] [5]. Key differences: Scoold focuses purely on Q&A with features like spaces and geolocation filtering, whereas Talkyard adds forum and ideation features (categories, tasks, team chat)[6][3].

Scoold offers on-premise or cloud deployment and supports advanced authentication flows (LDAP/SAML/OAuth2)[7][8]. Its core features include Q&A, comments, votes, reputation badges, and full-text search[2]. Scoold's open source version can be upgraded with a paid Pro license (~€499 one-time) for premium features. Official hosting is provided by Scoold Cloud and starts from €49/month[1][9]. Talkyard provides Q&A plus forum capabilities: idea voting, anonymous discussions, tasks, and a basic team chat[3][10]. It includes a modern permission system and custom branding (CSS/themes)[11]. Authentication options include password, social login (Google, Facebook), OpenID/Oauth. [12]. Talkyard's hosted plans start from €4/user/month (Standard) or €12/user·mo (Business)[4][13]. Both Scoold and Talkyard allow for unlimited team members (seats) [14][15]. In summary, Scoold is optimized for straight Q&A forums within tech teams, while Talkyard offers a broader set of discussion and collaboration features for organizations, with flexible self-host or SaaS options.

Aspect	Scoold (OSS/Pro)	Talkyard (OSS/SaaS)
Features	Q&A-centric: questions, answers, threaded comments; upvotes/downvotes; reputation & badges[2]; full-text search; geolocation filters; email/thread notifications.	Discussion + Q&A: threaded discussions, questions & answers[3]; idea voting; assignable tasks; team chat (basic)[6][10]; categories & groups; blog comment integration.
Deployment	Self-host on any server/VPS (on-premise or cloud)[7], including Docker images; optionally use Scoold Cloud (cloud.scoold.com).	Self-host via Docker on Debian/Ubuntu[5]; also available as hosted service (Talkyard.net).
Hosting Options	Scoold Cloud (managed SaaS) or user's infrastructure; supports AWS, Azure, etc.	Talkyard Cloud SaaS (subscription plans) or self-hosted Docker instance.
Pricing/License	Open-source (Apache 2.0); Scoold Pro one-time ~€499[1]; Scoold Cloud from ~€49/month[9].	Open-source (AGPLv3)[16]; Hosted plans: Standard €4/user·mo, Business €12/user·mo (min €300)[4][17]; Enterprise by quote.
Target Audience	Small to medium sized teams or companies needing a private Q&A/knowledge base[2].	Teams and organizations seeking combined Q&A and forum (ideation) capabilities (e.g., corporate communities, startups)[3].
Integrations	Slack/Mattermost/Teams (incoming webhooks); Zapier, n8n; REST API; data import from Stack Overflow.	APIs (read/write), webhooks[15]; social logins (Google, Facebook, etc.)[12]; OpenID/OAuth; SSO (Azure AD, OIDC)[12]; blog/comments integration.

Aspect	Scoold (OSS/Pro)	Talkyard (OSS/SaaS)
Customization	Branding support (white label); theming (light/dark); custom badges; can extend backend; full CSS customization.	Custom CSS/themes (branding)[11]; custom domains, user groups, terms; configurable notification settings; plugin-like features built-in.
Security/ Compliance	LDAP/Active Directory, SAML, OAuth2 logins, 2FA[8]; GDPR-compliant (cookie consent); data on your servers.	Role-based permissions; optional anonymous posting; GDPR-compliant hosting; HTTPS by default; social auth security (OIDC). Hosted plans include daily backups and secure SSL[18].
Support	Community support via GitHub/Gitter; documentation online; Pro users get email/priority support[19].	Community forum support; email support for paid plans (Business and above) [13]; documentation and guides.

Scoold:

- **Pros:** True Stack Overflow-like experience; light and easy to install (Java); strong enterprise auth (LDAP/SAML)[8]; can self-host or use cloud.
- **Cons:** Focuses only on Q&A; smaller developer community compared to other forum platforms.

- **Talkyard:**

- **Pros:** Combines Q&A and discussion (threaded, categories, tasks, idea voting)[3][6]; flexible auth (OAuth, OpenID, Azure AD)[12]; fully open-source with optional managed hosting.
- **Cons:** AGPL license may limit some enterprise use; chat feature is basic; self-host setup is more complex (requires Docker/Unix admin)[5].

Sources: Official documentation and pricing pages[1][4][5]; product homepages and user guides[6][3].

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[1] [7] [8] [19] Scoold | An Open Source Q&A Platform

https://scoold.com/

[2] Discourse vs. Scoold Comparison

https://sourceforge.net/software/compare/Discourse-vs-Scoold/

[3] [4] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [17] [18] Pricing for business | Talkyard

https://www.talkyard.io/pricing/

[5] Installing Talkyard | Talkyard API Docs

https://docs.talkyard.io/self-hosting/

[6] [10] [16] Talkyard

https://www.talkyard.io/

[9] Scoold Pricing 2026

https://www.g2.com/products/scoold/pricing