



Press release
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What's underneath Qwant's search engine?

HUGO VENTURINI, CTO AT QWANT GIVES THE KEYS TO QWANT'S TECHNOLOGICAL APPROACH DURING TECHROCK SUMMIT 2020

On December 10 & 11, 2020, tech leaders gather for the first virtual edition of the Tech Rock Summit 2020. Hugo Venturini, Qwant's Chief Technology Officer, took the opportunity to reveal the technological biases of the search engine. A speech full of lessons...

The TECH rock Summit is designed to give a voice to technology leaders and allow them to share their respective experiences. Hugo Venturini was invited to speak about his learning experiences and held a conference entitled "Make or buy?" to highlight the internalization and outsourcing issues in terms of research and technology.

Hugo Venturini holds a PhD in computer science. He worked as a software engineer and head of engineering at Facebook and Microsoft and then at Facebook before joining Qwant last March. As Chief Technology Officer, he drives Qwant's technology strategy and supervises the engineering teams.

During his conference, Hugo gets back on the decisions made by Qwant during the search engine's development phase. Qwant has been able to evolve and adapt in order to always offer the best service possible to its users while guaranteeing respect for its values, namely the protection of its users' freedom through privacy and neutrality. The choice to internalize or externalize a skill is a question that has been asked at each step of the search engine's design but it has been rethought over time according to the evolution of the company as well as of its partners. It was initially more interesting for Qwant to rely on Elasticsearch's technology for indexing and data search, and to obtain an added value that could later be reinvested to internalize the skill while benefiting from greater financial and human resources.

However, internalizing and externalizing are not the only two options. The implementation of partnerships can ease the development. Today, Qwant delegates parts of the indexing work to a partner sharing its values, Microsoft Bing, while internalizing the "Learning To Rank". In 40% of cases, Qwant is now able to respond to user requests with complete autonomy. By defining its core business, Qwant made sure to internalize as a priority the fundamental skills to be in line with the company's vision, while making sure to collaborate with partners that share its values in parallel with a progressive internalization.

Hugo Venturini, Chief Technical Officer of Qwant concludes: "At Qwant, the questions we ask ourselves in terms of make or buy are always - does this embody the company's values? and - do we offer a way out of this dependency in parallel? When we aim for a horizon, it does not necessarily mean that we will reach it. Above all, it means that everything will be done, technologically and humanly, to go as far as possible in this direction."

About Qwant

Designed and developed in France, Qwant is the first European search engine to have its own Web indexing technology, protecting the privacy of its users. Unlike the main search engines on the market, Qwant does not install any cookies on the user's browser, does not try to find out who they are or what they are doing, and does not keep a history of requests made. With a friendly interface that leaves a large place for results, Qwant allows users to find the information they are looking for efficiently across the Web and social networks, with total neutrality. Qwant treats all indexed sites and services without discrimination, without changing the order of results according to its own interests or the user's sensitivities.

For more information: <https://www.qwant.com>

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