

# Protocol Buffers

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**Source:** [The following is from Google "Protocol Buffers " site](#)

*Protocol buffers are Google's language-neutral, platform-neutral, extensible mechanism for serializing structured data - think XML, but smaller, faster, and simpler. You define how you want your data to be structured once, then you can use special generated source code to easily write and read your structured data to and from a variety of data streams and using a variety of languages.*

Table 1: Data Sheet for Protocol Buffers.

Characteristic	Value
Developer	Google
Initial release	10 November 2009 <sup>1)</sup>
Stable release	3.7.1 / March 26, 2019 <sup>2)</sup>
Repository	<a href="https://github.com/protocolbuffers/protobuf">https://github.com/protocolbuffers/protobuf</a>
Written in	Go, assembly language (gc); C++ (gccgo)
Operating system	Any
Available in	English
Type	Version control
License	BSD
Website	<a href="https://developers.google.com/protocol-buffers/">https://developers.google.com/protocol-buffers/</a>

<sup>1)</sup>

"Frequently Asked Questions | Protocol Buffers". Google Developers. Retrieved 2 October 2016.

<sup>2)</sup>

"Releases - google/protobuf". Retrieved 2 April 2019 - via GitHub.

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