

Making Postgres Central in Your Data Center

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This talk explores why Postgres is uniquely capable of functioning as a central database in enterprises. *Title concept from Josh Berkus*
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Outline

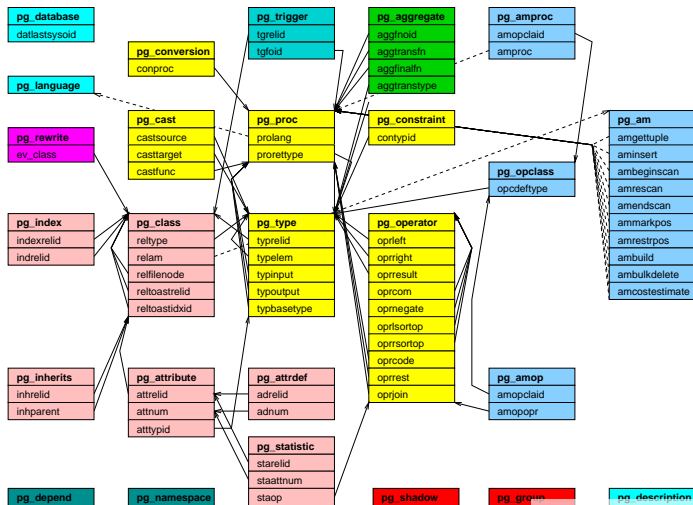
1. Object-relational (extensibility)
2. NoSQL
3. Data analytics
4. Foreign data wrappers (database federation)
5. Central role

1. Object-Relational (Extensibility)

Object-relational databases like Postgres support support classes and inheritance, but most importantly, they define database functionality as objects that can be easily manipulated.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Object-relational_database

How Is this Accomplished?



<http://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/static/catalogs.html>

Example: ISBN Data Type

```
CREATE EXTENSION isn;
```

```
\dT
```

List of data types

Schema	Name	Description
public	ean13	International European Article Number (EAN13)
public	isbn	International Standard Book Number (ISBN)
public	isbn13	International Standard Book Number 13 (ISBN13)
public	ismn	International Standard Music Number (ISMN)
public	ismn13	International Standard Music Number 13 (ISMN13)
public	issn	International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)
public	issn13	International Standard Serial Number 13 (ISSN13)
public	upc	Universal Product Code (UPC)

<http://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/static/isn.html>

ISBN Behaves Just Like Built-In Types

\dT

...

pg_catalog | integer | -2 billion to 2 billion integer, 4-byte storage

...

public | isbn | International Standard Book Number (ISBN)

The System Catalog Entry for INTEGER

```
SELECT * FROM pg_type WHERE typename = 'int4';
```

```
-[ RECORD 1 ]-----
```

typename		int4
typnamespace		11
typowner		10
typlen		4
typbyval		t
typtype		b
typcategory		N
typispreferred		f
typisdefined		t
typdelim		,
typrelid		0
typelem		0
typarray		1007
typinput		int4in
typoutput		int4out
typreceive		int4recv
typsend		int4send
typmodin		-
typmodout		-
typanalyze		-
typalign		i
typstorage		p
typnotnull		f

The System Catalog Entry for ISBN

```
SELECT * FROM pg_type WHERE typename = 'isbn';
```

```
-[ RECORD 1 ]-----
```

typename	isbn
typnamespace	2200
typowner	10
typlen	8
typbyval	t
typtype	b
typcategory	U
typispreferred	f
typisdefined	t
typdelim	,
typrelid	0
typelem	0
typarray	16405
typinput	isbn_in
typoutput	public.isn_out
typreceive	-
typsend	-
typmodin	-
typmodout	-
typanalyze	-
typalign	d
typstorage	p
typnotnull	f

Not Just Data Types, Languages

```
CREATE EXTENSION plpythonu;
```

```
\dL
```

List of languages

Name	Owner	Trusted	Description
plpgsql	postgres	t	PL/pgSQL procedural language
plpythonu	postgres	f	PL/PythonU untrusted procedural language

<http://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/static/plpython.html>

Available Languages

- ▶ PL/Java
- ▶ PL/Perl
- ▶ PL/pgSQL (like PL/SQL)
- ▶ PL/PHP
- ▶ PL/Python
- ▶ PL/R (like SPSS)
- ▶ PL/Ruby
- ▶ PL/Scheme
- ▶ PL/sh
- ▶ PL/Tcl
- ▶ SPI (C)

<http://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/static/external.html>



Specialized Indexing Methods

- ▶ BRIN
- ▶ BTREE
- ▶ Hash
- ▶ GIN (generalized inverted index)
- ▶ GiST (generalized search tree)
- ▶ SP-GiST (space-partitioned GiST)

<http://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/static/indexam.html>

Index Types Are Defined in the System Catalogs Too

```
SELECT amname FROM pg_am ORDER BY 1;
```

```
amname
```

```
-----
```

```
brin
```

```
btree
```

```
hash
```

```
gin
```

```
gist
```

```
spgist
```

<http://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/static/catalog-pg-am.html>

Operators Have Similar Flexibility

Operators are function calls with left and right arguments of specified types:

```
\doS
```

Schema	Name	Left arg type	Right arg type	Result type	Description
--------	------	---------------	----------------	-------------	-------------

```
...
```

pg_catalog	+	integer	integer	integer	add
------------	---	---------	---------	---------	-----

```
\dfS
```

Schema	Name	Result data type	Argument data types	Type
--------	------	------------------	---------------------	------

```
...
```

pg_catalog	int4pl	integer	integer, integer	normal
------------	--------	---------	------------------	--------

Other Extensibility

- ▶ Casts are defined in `pg_cast`, `int4(float8)`
- ▶ Aggregates are defined in `pg_aggregate`, `sum(int4)`

Externally Developed Plug-Ins

- ▶ PostGIS (Geographical Information System)
- ▶ PL/v8 (server-side JavaScript)
- ▶ experimentation, e.g. full text search was originally externally developed

Offshoots of Postgres

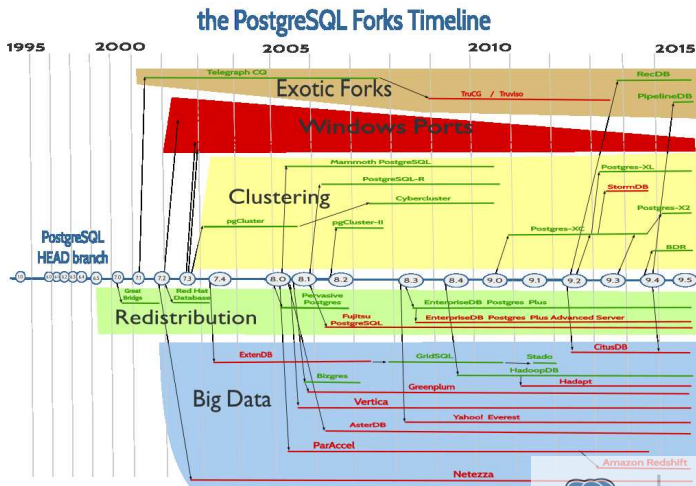
- ▶ AsterDB
- ▶ Greenplum
- ▶ Informix
- ▶ Netezza
- ▶ ParAccel
- ▶ Postgres XC
- ▶ Redshift (Amazon)
- ▶ Truviso
- ▶ Vertica
- ▶ Yahoo! Everest

https://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/PostgreSQL_derived_databases

<http://de.slideshare.net/pgconf/elephant-roads-a-tour-of-postgres-forks>



Offshoots of Postgres



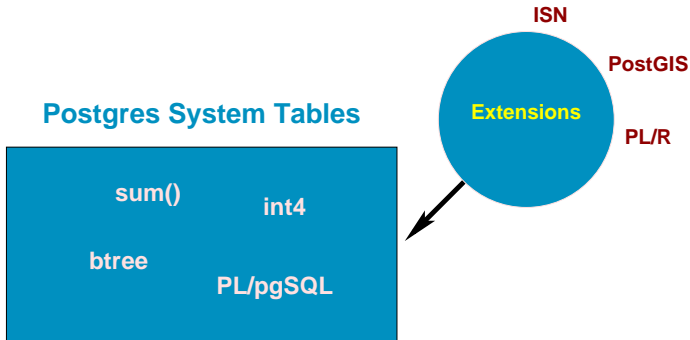
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/daamien/artwork/master/inkscape/PostgreSQL_timeline/timeline_postgresql.png



Plug-In Is Not a Bad Word

Many databases treat extensions as special cases, with serious limitations. Postgres built-ins use the same API as extensions, so all extensions operate just like built-in functionality.

Extensions and Built-In Facilities Behave the Same



2. NoSQL



NoSQL Types

There is no single NoSQL technology. They all take different approaches and have different features and drawbacks:

- ▶ Key-value stores, e.g. Redis
- ▶ Document databases, e.g. MongoDB (JSON)
- ▶ Columnar stores: Cassandra
- ▶ Graph databases: Neo4j

Why NoSQL Exists

Generally, NoSQL is optimized for:

- ▶ Fast simple queries
- ▶ Auto-sharding
- ▶ Flexible schemas

NoSQL Sacrifices

- ▶ A powerful query language
- ▶ A sophisticated query optimizer
- ▶ Data normalization
- ▶ Joins
- ▶ Referential integrity
- ▶ Durability

Are These Drawbacks Worth the Cost?

- ▶ **Difficult Reporting** Data must be brought to the client for analysis, e.g. no aggregates or data analysis functions. Schema-less data requires complex client-side knowledge for processing
- ▶ **Complex Application Design** Without powerful query language and query optimizer, the client software is responsible for efficiently accessing data and for data consistency
- ▶ **Durability** Administrators are responsible for data retention

When Should NoSQL Be Used?

- ▶ Massive write scaling is required, more than a single server can provide
- ▶ Only simple data access pattern is required
- ▶ Additional resource allocation for development is acceptable
- ▶ Strong data retention or transactional guarantees are not required
- ▶ Unstructured duplicate data that greatly benefits from column compression

When Should Relational Storage Be Used?

- ▶ Easy administration
- ▶ Variable workloads and reporting
- ▶ Simplified application development
- ▶ Strong data retention

The Best of Both Worlds: Postgres

Postgres has many NoSQL features without the drawbacks:

- ▶ Schema-less data types, with sophisticated indexing support
- ▶ Transactional schema changes with rapid additional and removal of columns
- ▶ Durability by default, but controllable per-table or per-transaction

Schema-Less Data: JSON

```
CREATE TABLE customer (id SERIAL, data JSON);
```

```
INSERT INTO customer VALUES (DEFAULT, '{"name" : "Bill", "age" : 21}');
```

```
SELECT data->'name' FROM customer WHERE data->>'age' = '21';  
?column?
```

```
-----  
"Bill"
```

Easy Relational Schema Changes

```
ALTER TABLE customer ADD COLUMN status CHAR(1);  
BEGIN WORK;  
ALTER TABLE customer ADD COLUMN debt_limit NUMERIC(10,2);  
ALTER TABLE customer ADD COLUMN creation_date TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE;  
ALTER TABLE customer RENAME TO cust;  
COMMIT;
```

3. Data Analytics

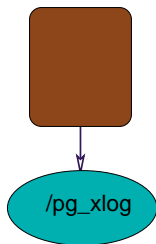
- ▶ Aggregates
- ▶ Optimizer
- ▶ Server-side languages, e.g. PL/R
- ▶ Window functions
- ▶ Bitmap heap scans
- ▶ Tablespaces
- ▶ Data partitioning
- ▶ Materialized views
- ▶ Common table expressions (CTE)
- ▶ BRIN indexes
- ▶ GROUPING SETS, ROLLUP, CUBE
- ▶ Parallelism
- ▶ Sharding (in progress)

<http://www.slideshare.net/PGExperts/really-big-elephants-postgresql-dw-15833438>
http://wiki.postgresql.org/images/3/38/PGDay2009-EN-Datawarehousing_with_PostgreSQL.pdf



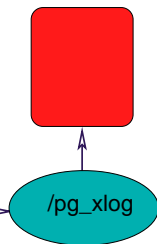
Read-Only Slaves for Analytics

Master Server



Data Warehouse

Network



4. Foreign Data Wrappers (Database Federation)

Foreign data wrappers (SQL MED) allow queries to read and write data to foreign data sources. Foreign database support includes:

- ▶ CouchDB
- ▶ Informix
- ▶ MongoDB
- ▶ MySQL
- ▶ Neo4j
- ▶ Oracle
- ▶ Postgres
- ▶ Redis

The transfer of joins, aggregates, and sorts to foreign servers is not yet implemented.

<http://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/static/ddl-foreign-data.html>

http://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/Foreign_data_wrappers



Foreign Data Wrappers to Interfaces

- ▶ JDBC
- ▶ LDAP
- ▶ ODBC

Foreign Data Wrappers to Non-Traditional Data Sources

- ▶ Files
- ▶ HTTP
- ▶ AWS S3
- ▶ Twitter

Foreign Data Wrapper Example

```
CREATE SERVER postgres_fdw_test
FOREIGN DATA WRAPPER postgres_fdw
OPTIONS (host 'localhost', dbname 'fdw_test');

CREATE USER MAPPING FOR PUBLIC
SERVER postgres_fdw_test
OPTIONS (password '');

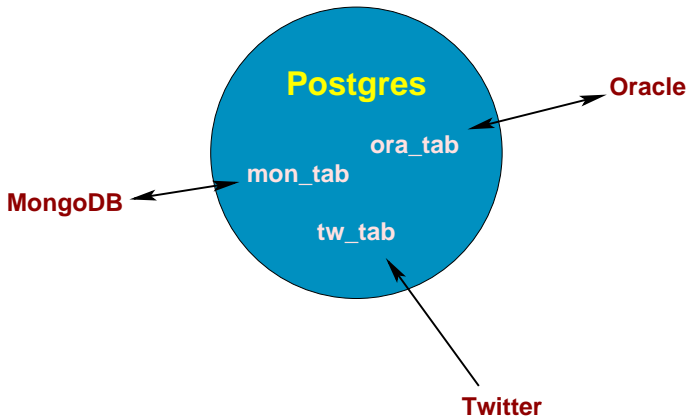
CREATE FOREIGN TABLE other_world (greeting TEXT)
SERVER postgres_fdw_test
OPTIONS (table_name 'world');

\det
List of foreign tables
Schema | Table | Server
-----+-----+-----
public | other_world | postgres_fdw_test
(1 row)
```

Foreign Postgres server name in red; foreign table name in



Read and Read/Write Data Sources



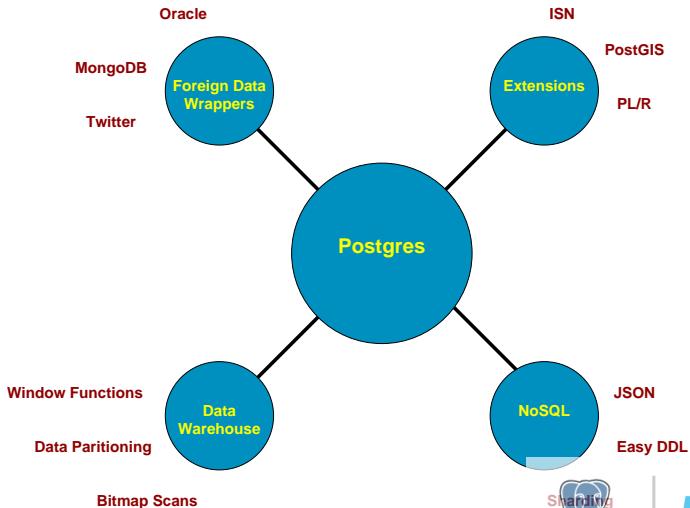
5. Postgres Centrality

Postgres can rightly take a central place in the data center with its:

- ▶ Object-relation flexibility and extensibility
- ▶ NoSQL-like workloads
- ▶ Powerful data analytics capabilities
- ▶ Access to foreign data sources

No other database has all of these key components.

Postgres's Central Role



Conclusion



<http://momjian.us/presentations>