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The Future of PostgreSQL

Fostering Adoption Through Extensibility

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Initial Postgres Concept

- Complex datatypes support
- **Extensibility**
- Rules
- Heap as replacement of undo/redo logs
- Object-oriented elements

Stonebraker M., Rowe L. A., Hirohama M. The implementation of POSTGRES //IEEE Transactions on Knowledge & Data Engineering. - 1990. – #. 1. – pp. 125-142.

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Extendability – the core idea

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Extensibility

It is imperative that a user be able to construct new access methods to provide efficient access to instances of nontraditional base types Michael Stonebraker, Jeff Anton, Michael Hirohama. Extendability in POSTGRES , IEEE Data Eng. Bull. 10 (2) pp.16-23, 1987

- Data types
- Functions
- Procedural languages
- Operators
- Operator classes
- **Access Methods (index & table)**
- **Hooks, custom shared memory, custom workers**

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Tons of extensions

🗺️🐘 1000+ PostgreSQL EXTENSIONs

This is a list of URLs to PostgreSQL EXTENSION repos, listed in alphabetical order of parent repo, with active forks listed under each parent.

⭐ >= 10 stars
⭐⭐ >= 100 stars
⭐⭐⭐ >= 1000 stars
Numbers of stars might not be up-to-date.

If some repo is missing, please write a comment with the url.

- Uncategorized
- Access Methods
- Aggregate Functions
- Data Types
- Dictionaries
- Foreign Data Wrappers
- Procedural Languages
- Spatial and Geographic Objects

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Super extensions

- PostGIS – defines new datatypes, functions & operators on them, operator classes for indexing.
- Citus – heavily uses hooks, custom shmem, and custom workers to provide distributed database for dashboarding. Provides columnar table AM.
- TimescaleDB – heavily uses hooks, custom shmem, and custom workers to provide distributed database for timeseries.

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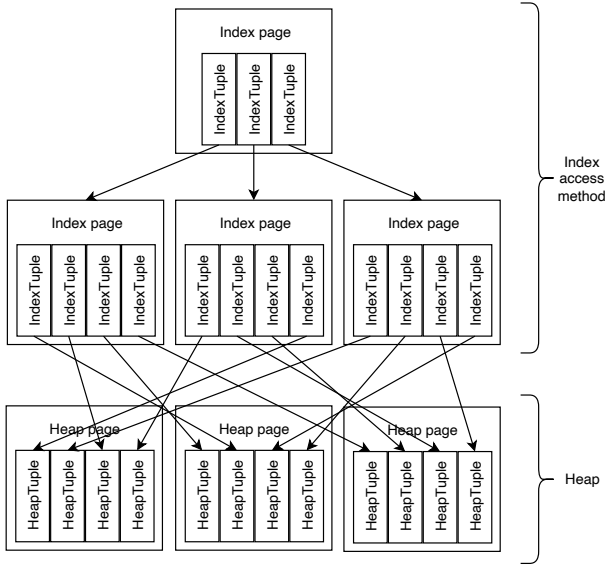
PostgreSQL Core principles

Heap table access method



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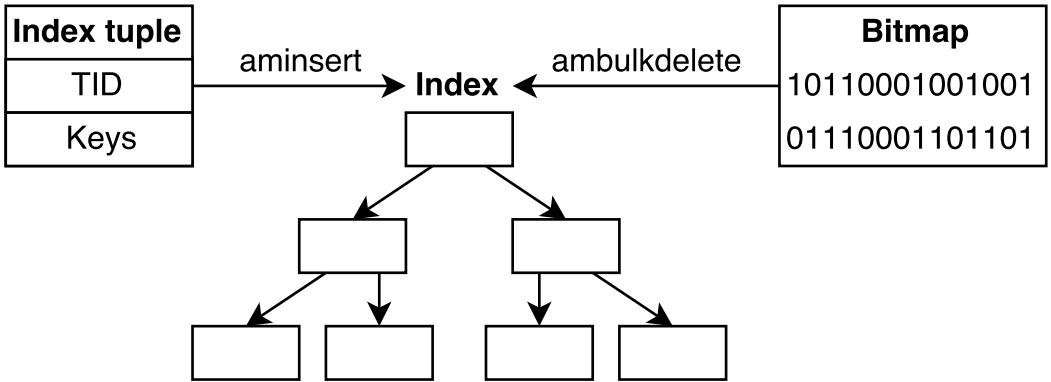
Index access method API



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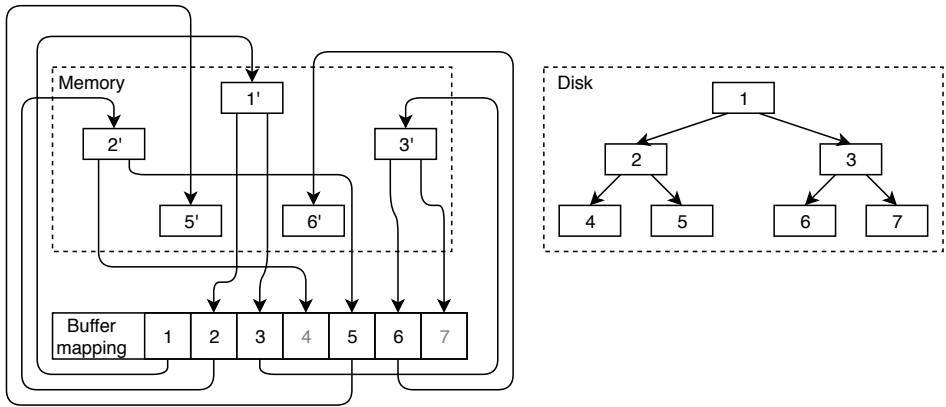
Buffer manager



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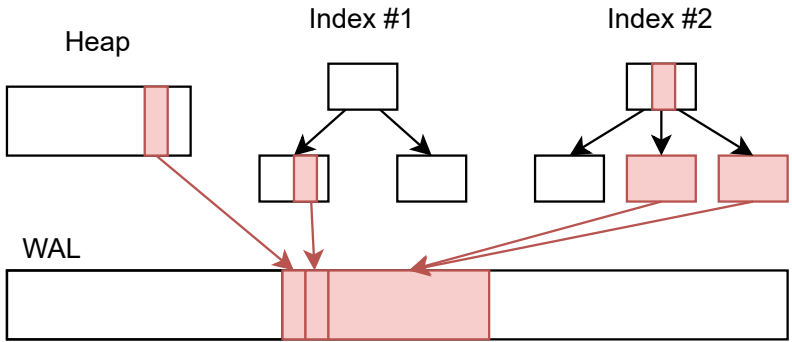
Block-level WAL



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Could we have a new core?

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OrioleDB – new core for PostgreSQL

PostgreSQL

Block-level WAL

Buffer mapping

Buffer locking

Bloat-prone MVCC

Cumbersome block-level WAL replication

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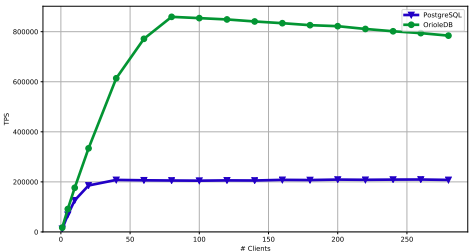
Row-level WAL

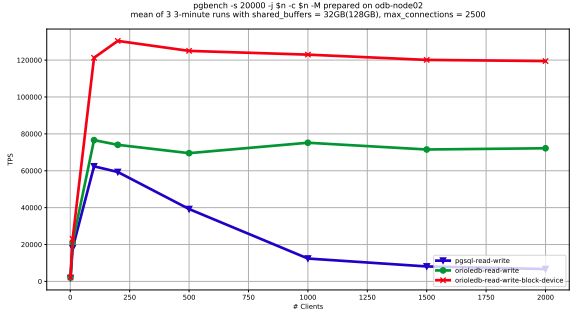
Direct page links

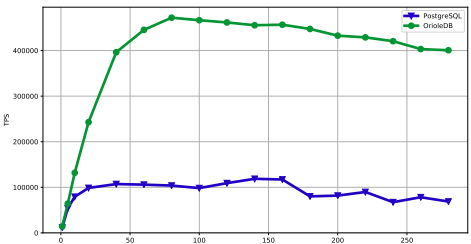
Lock-less access

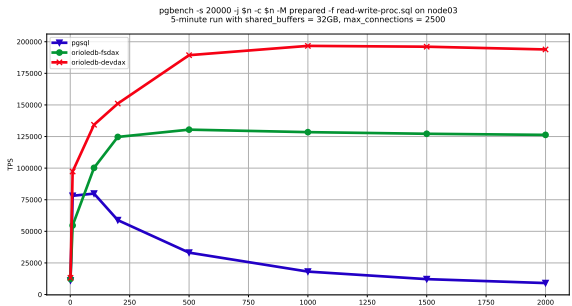
Undo log

Raft-based multimaster replication of row-level WAL


Read-only scalability test PostgreSQL vs OrioleDB
1 minute of pgbench script reading 9 random values of 100M
PostgreSQL
OrioleDB
TPS
Clients


pgbench -s 20000 -j $n -c $n -M prepared on odb-node02
mean of 3 3-minute runs with shared_buffers = 32GB(128GB), max_connections = 2500
pgsql-read-write
orioledb-read-write
orioledb-read-write-block-device
TPS
Clients


Read-write scalability test PostgreSQL vs OrioleDB
1 minute of pgbench TPC-B like transactions wrapped into stored procedure
PostgreSQL
OrioleDB
TPS
Clients


pgbench -s 20000 -j $n -c $n -M prepared -f read-write-proc.sql on node03
5-minute run with shared_buffers = 32GB, max_connections = 2500
pgsql
orioledb-fsdax
orioledb-devdax
TPS
Clients

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OrioleDB's answer to 10 wicked problems of PostgreSQL [1]

Problem name	Solution
1. Wraparound	**Native 64-bit transaction ids**
2. Failover Will Probably Lose Data	**Multimaster replication**
3. Inefficient Replication That Spreads Corruption	**Row-level replication**
4. MVCC Garbage Frequently Painful	**Non-persistent undo log**
5. Process-Per-Connection = Pain at Scale	**Migration to multithread model**
6. Primary Key Index is a Space Hog	**Index-organized tables**
7. Major Version Upgrades Can Require Downtime	**Multimaster + per-node upgrade**
8. Somewhat Cumbersome Replication Setup	**Simple setup of raft-based multimaster**
9. Ridiculous No-Planner-Hints Dogma	**In-core planner hints**
10. No Block Compression	**Block-level compression**

*** Scalability on modern hardware**

[1] https://gist.github.com/akorotkov/f5e98ba5805c42ee18bf945b30cc3d67

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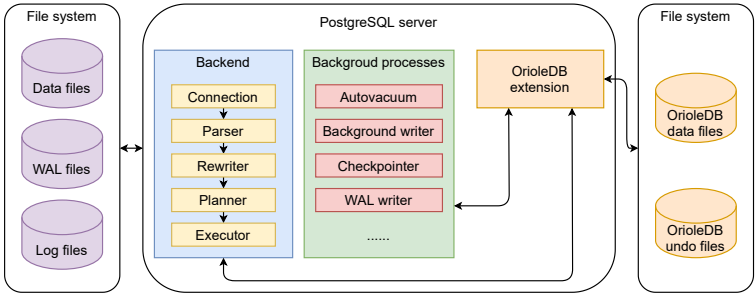
PostgreSQL extendability improvements



- Extended table AM.
- Custom toast handlers.
- Custom row identifiers.
- Custom error cleanup.
- Recovery & checkpointer hooks.
- Snapshot hooks.
- Some other miscellaneous hooks total 3K lines patch to PostgreSQL Core

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TableAM improvements

- Custom RowId
- INSERT ... ON CONFLICT ... patch
- tuple_is_current() patch
- Custom analyze table
- Control on the index definition
- Control both table and index options
- Allow complex rd_amcache

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rowId issue

- Currently the row must be identified by ctid (32-bits block number, 16-bits offset number). Some code paths still assumes that row version is also identified by ctid.
- Show stopper for index-organized tables.

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rowId patch (1/2)

```
typedef enum RowRefType
{
    ROW_REF_TID,
    ROW_REF_ROWID, /* bytea! */
    ROW_REF_COPY   /* used for FDWs */
} RowRefType;
.........................
typedef struct TableAmRoutine
{
.........................
    RowRefType (*get_row_ref_type) (Relation rel);
.........................
```

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rowId patch (2/2)

```
typedef struct TableAmRoutine
{
.........................
    /* see table_tuple_delete() for reference about parameters */
    TM_Result   (*tuple_delete) (Relation rel, Datum tupleid,
.........................
    /* see table_tuple_update() for reference about parameters */
    TM_Result   (*tuple_update) (Relation rel, Datum tupleid,
.........................
    /* see table_tuple_lock() for reference about parameters */
    TM_Result   (*tuple_lock) (Relation rel, Datum tupleid,
.........................
    TupleTableSlot *(*tuple_insert) (Relation rel, TupleTableSlot *slot,
.........................
```

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RowId patch summary

- Allow bytea row identifier, which could potentially hold anything.
- Bitmap scans should be replaced or disabled (currently we do this with hooks).

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INSERT ... ON CONFLICT ...

```
typedef struct TableAmRoutine
{
.........................
    /* see table_tuple_insert_speculative() for reference about parameters */
    void (*tuple_insert_speculative) (Relation rel, TupleTableSlot *slot,
                                      CommandId cid, int options,
                                      struct BulkInsertStateData *bistate,
                                      uint32 specToken);
    /* see table_tuple_complete_speculative() for reference about parameters */
    void (*tuple_complete_speculative) (Relation rel, TupleTableSlot *slot,
                                        uint32 specToken, bool succeeded);
```

Seems like **very** implementation-depended API.

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INSERT ... ON CONFLICT ... patch

```
typedef struct TableAmRoutine
{
.........................
    TupleTableSlot *(*tuple_insert_with_arbiter) (
                ResultRelInfo *resultRelInfo,
                TupleTableSlot *slot, CommandId cid, int options,
                struct BulkInsertStateData *bistate, List *arbiterIndexes,
                EState *estate, LockTupleMode lockmode,
                TupleTableSlot *lockedSlot, TupleTableSlot *tempSlot);
```

- Inserts new tuple or locks the conflicting tuple.
- Leaves the TableAM with enough of freedom on how to do this.
- Still need some work to evade passing EState to TableAM.

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Check is tuple was created in the current transaction

```
bool
RI_FKey_fk_upd_check_required(Trigger *trigger, Relation fk_rel,
                              TupleTableSlot *oldslot,
                              TupleTableSlot *newslot)
.............................
    xminDatum = slot_getsysattr(oldslot, MinTransactionIdAttributeNumber,
                                &isnull);
    Assert(!isnull);
    xmin = DatumGetTransactionId(xminDatum);
    if (TransactionIdIsCurrentTransactionId(xmin))
        return true;
```

This also seems implementation-depended. Who said we have xmin?

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tuple_is_current() patch

```
typedef struct TableAmRoutine
{
.........................
    bool (*tuple_is_current) (Relation rel, TupleTableSlot *slot);
```

```
bool
RI_FKey_fk_upd_check_required(Trigger *trigger, Relation fk_rel,
                              TupleTableSlot *oldslot,
                              TupleTableSlot *newslot)
.........................
    if (table_tuple_is_current(fk_rel, oldslot))
        return true;
```

Checks if tuple was created in current transaction without implication on how this check should work.

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Custom analyze table

```
typedef struct TableAmRoutine
{
.........................
    void        (*analyze_table) (Relation relation,
                                  AcquireSampleRowsFunc *func,
                                  BlockNumber *totalpages);
```

I think this is must have...

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Bring more control on how we use indexes to TableAM

```
typedef struct TableAmRoutine
{
.........................
    TupleTableSlot *(*tuple_insert) (Relation rel, TupleTableSlot *slot,
                                     CommandId cid, int options,
                                     struct BulkInsertStateData *bistate,
                                     bool *insert_indexes);
    void        (*multi_insert) (Relation rel, TupleTableSlot **slots,
                                     int nslots, CommandId cid, int options,
                                     struct BulkInsertStateData *bistate,
                                     bool *insert_indexes);
```

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Bring more control on how we use indexes to TableAM

```
typedef struct TableAmRoutine
{
.........................
    bool        (*define_index_validate) (Relation rel, IndexStmt *stmt,
                                          bool skip_build, void **arg);

    bool        (*define_index) (Relation rel, Oid indoid, bool reindex,
                                 bool skip_constraint_checks, bool skip_build,
                                 void *arg);
```

Heavily needed if we override the index implementations.

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Control both table and index options

```
typedef struct TableAmRoutine
{
.........................
    bytea      *(*reloptions) (char relkind, Datum reloptions,
                               bool validate);

    bytea      *(*indexoptions) (amoptions_function amoptions, char relkind,
                                 Datum reloptions, bool validate);
```

TableAM might need to add more options for indexes.

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rd_amcache

```
typedef struct RelationData
{
.........................
    /*
     * If used, it must point to a single memory chunk palloc'd in
     * CacheMemoryContext ..........
     */
    void       *rd_amcache;    /* available for use by index/table AM */
```

- Too restrictive...

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rd_amcache patch

```
typedef struct TableAmRoutine
{
.........................
    void        (*free_rd_amcache) (Relation rel);
```

- Custom free method
- Allows usage of complex data structures in cache

OrioleDB roadmap

- Basic engine features ✔
- Table AM interface implementation ✔
- Data compression ✔
- Undo log ✔
- TOAST support ✔
- Parallel row-level replication ✔
- Partial and expression indexes ✔
- Parallel scan ✔
- **Beta release** ✔
- pg_rewind
- Production quality
- Vectorization
- GiST/GIN analogues
- Multimaster

OrioleDB status

- Beta version is released;
- Extensibility patches:
  `https://github.com/orioledb/postgres/commits/patches16`;
- OrioleDB extension:
  `https://github.com/orioledb/orioledb`;
- Try it, test it, benchmark it, report issues;
- Sponsor it `https://github.com/sponsors/orioledb`