A6: Indices, triggers, user functions and population

SegFault is a collaborative platform for programmers to learn, discuss different approaches, present ideas and share knowledge in a Q&A style.

To this end, the following sections provide detailed insight into the inner workings of the project's database. The first section depicts the expected workload on the system, the second section specifies and explains the proposed indices to the database, and the third section comprises the database's triggers.

1. Database Workload

A study of the predicted system load (database load), organized in subsections.

1.1. Tuple Estimation

Estimate of tuples at each relation.

Relation reference	Relation Name	Order of magnitude	Estimated growth
R01	Table1	units	dozens
R02	Table2	units	dozens
R03	Table3	units	dozens
R04	Table4	units	dozens

1.2. Frequent Queries

Most important queries (SELECT) and their frequency.

1.3. Frequent Updates

Most important updates (INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE) and their frequency.

2. Proposed Indices

This section presents the proposed indices on the database. It is important to note that many indices, mainly on high cardinality, would theoretically be better off being implemented as hash indices. We purposefuly did not choose these, because the PostgreSQL documentation actively discourages the usage of hash indices, as seen on the warning below.

Caution

Hash index operations are not presently WAL-logged, so hash indexes might need to be rebuilt with REINDEX after a database crash if there were unwritten changes. Also, changes to hash indexes are not replicated over streaming or file-based replication after the initial base backup, so they give wrong answers to queries that subsequently use them. For these reasons, hash index use is presently discouraged.

Figure 1: Hash Indices - Caution

2.1. Performance Indices

Indices proposed to improve performance of the identified queries.

Index reference	IDX01	
Related queries	SELECT01,	
Index relation	Relation where the index is applied	
Index attribute	Attribute where the index is applied	
Index type	B-tree, Hash, GiST or GIN	
Cardinality	Attribute cardinality: low/medium/high	
Clustering	Clustering of the index	
Justification	Justification for the proposed index	
SQL code		

2.2. Full-text Search Indices

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Index reference | IDX01 |
Related queries | SELECT01, ... |
Index relation | Relation where the index is applied |
Index attribute | Attribute where the index is applied |
Index type | B-tree, Hash, GiST or GIN |
Clustering | Clustering of the index |
____ | ___ |
Justification | Justification for the proposed index |
```

2.3. Contraint-enforcing Indices

3. Triggers

User-defined functions and trigger procedures that add control structures to the SQL language or perform complex computations, are identified and described to be trusted by the database server. Every kind of function (SQL functions, Stored procedures, Trigger procedures) can take base types, composite types, or combinations of these as arguments (parameters). In addition, every kind of function can return a base type or a composite type. Functions can also be defined to return sets of base or composite values.

4. Complete SQL Code

The database script must also include the SQL to populate a database with test data with an amount of tuples suitable for testing and with plausible values for the fields of the database. This code should also be included in the group's github repository as an SQL script, and a link include here.

Revision history

Changes made to the first submission: 1. Item 1 1. Item 2

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