

PERCONA LIVEONLINE MAY 12 - 13th

Tuning PostgreSQL for High Performance and Optimization

PostgreSQL High Performance

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Who am I?





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Software Career

Software industries since 1998.

PostgreSQL Career

- Working on PostgreSQL Since 2006.
- EnterpriseDB (Associate Software
 Architect core Database Engine)
 2006-2009
- EnterpriseDB (Software Architect core
 Database Engine) 2011 2016
- EnterpriseDB (Senior Software Architect core Database Engine) 2016 – 2018

Postereso(Senso Reftware Architect core

- Database Engine) 2018 Present PostgreSQL Developer's Guide
- PostgreSQL 9.6 High Performance





01 Database Performance

02 PostgreSQL Modules

03 PostgreSQL Performance Tuning

04 Linux Kernel Tuning

05 Parallel Query Optimizations

Questions and Answers



Timeline







Parallel Query Optimization



5 Minutes 10 Minutes 15 Minutes 5 Minutes 5 Minutes 5 Minutes





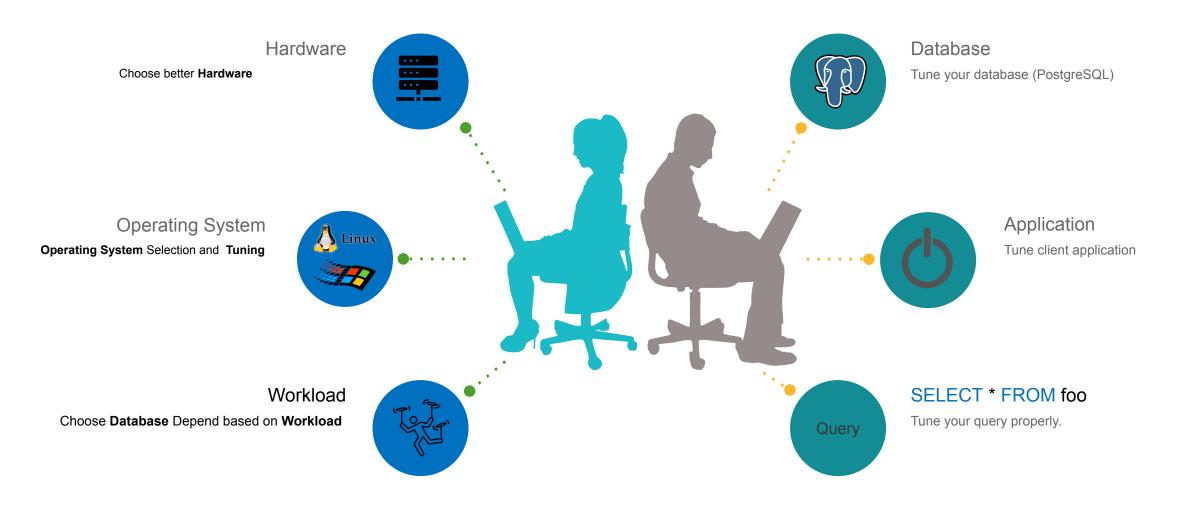




1. Database Performance

Overall Database System Performance

Database Performance

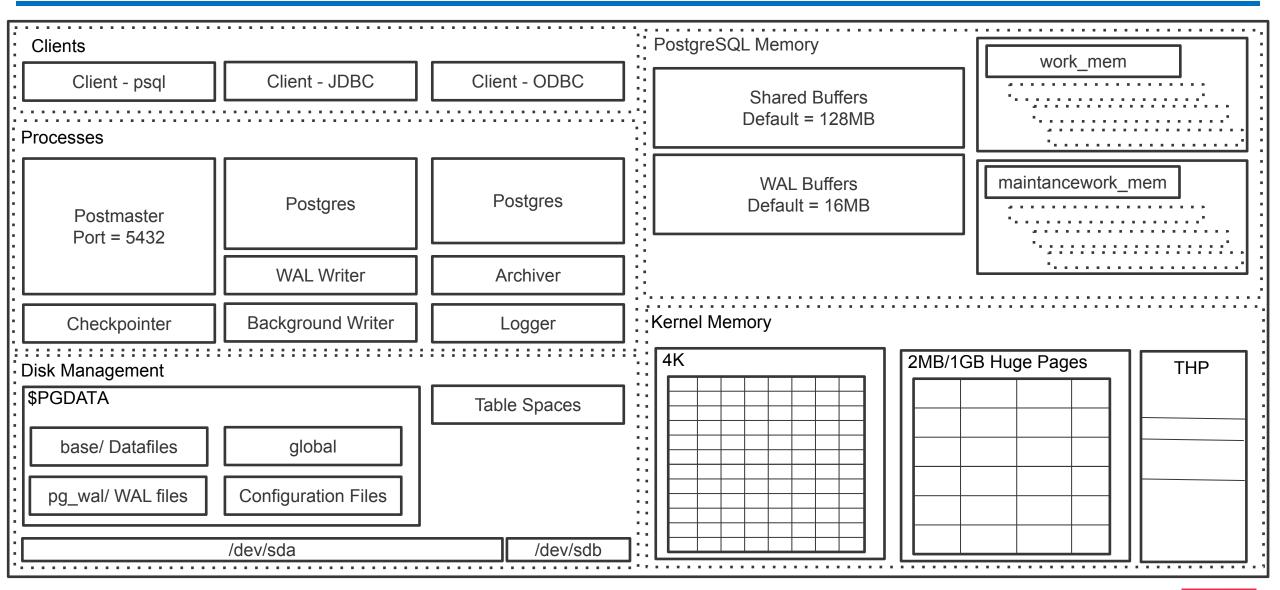




2. PostgreSQL Modules

PostgreSQL

PostgreSQL Modules





3. PostgreSQL Performance Tuning

PostgreSQL

Tuning Parameters

- shared_buffers
- wal_buffers
- effective_cache_size
- maintenance_work_mem
- synchronous_commit
- checkpoint_timeout
- checkpoint_completion_target
- temp_buffers
- huge_pages



PostgreSQL Tuning / shared_buffers

- PostgreSQL uses its own buffer along with kernel buffered I/O.
- PostgreSQL does not change the information on disk directly then how?
- Writes the data to shared buffer cache.
- The backend process writes that these blocks kernel buffer.

```
postgresql=# SHOW shared_buffers;
shared_buffers
------
128MB
(1 row)
```







PostgreSQL Tuning / max_connections

- Maximum connection for PostgreSQL
- Default is 100

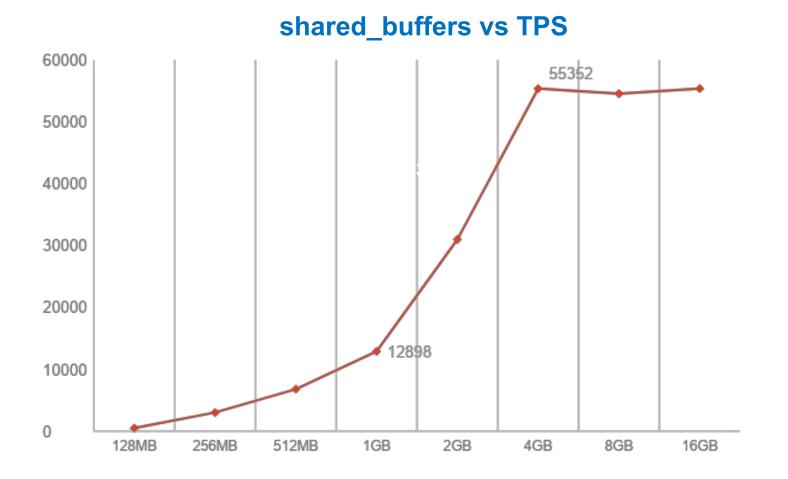
```
postgres=# SELECT pg_backend_pid();
pg_backend_pid
           3214
(1 row)
postgres=# SELECT pg_backend_pid();
pg backend pid
           3590
(1 row)
postgres=# SELECT pg backend pid();
pg_backend_pid
           3616
(1 row)
```

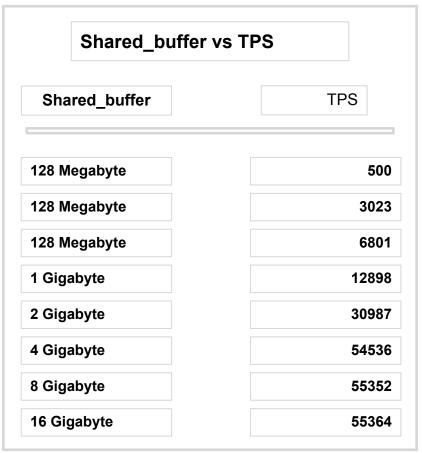
```
ps aux | grep postgres | grep idle
       3214 0.0 1.2 194060 12948 ?
                                               15:09
vagrant
                                                        0:00
postgres: vagrant postgres [local] idle
vagrant 3590 0.0 1.2 193840 12936 ?
                                               15:11
                                                        0:00
postgres: vagrant postgres [local] idle
       3616 0.0 1.2 193840 13072 ?
                                            Ss 15:11
                                                        0:00
vagrant
postgres: vagrant postgres [local] idle
```





PostgreSQL Tuning / shared_buffers







PostgreSQL Tuning / wal_buffer

Do you have Transaction? Obviously



- WAL (Write Ahead LOG) Log your transactions
- Size of WAL files 16MB with 8K Block size (can be changed at compile time)
- PostgreSQL writes WAL into the buffers(wal_buffer) and then these buffers are flushed to disk.





PostgreSQL Tuning effective_cache_size

- This used by the optimizer to estimate the size of the kernel's disk buffer cache.
- The effective_cache_size provides an estimate of the memory available for disk caching.
- It is just a guideline, not the exact allocated memory or cache size.





PostgreSQL Tuning / work_mem

- This configuration is used for complex sorting.
- It allows PostgreSQL to do larger in-memory sorts.
- Each value is per session based, that means if you set that value to 10MB and 10 users issue sort queries then 100MB will be allocated.
- In case of merge sort, if x number of tables are involved in the sort then x * work mem will be used.
- It will allocate when required.
- Line in EXPLAIN ANALYZE "Sort Method: external merge Disk: 70208kB"



PostgreSQL Tuning / work_mem

```
postgres=# SET work_mem = '2MB';
postgres=# EXPLAIN ANALYZE SELECT * FROM foo ORDER BY id;

QUERY PLAN

Gather Merge (cost=848382.53..1917901.57 rows=9166666 width=9) (actual time=5646.575..12567.495 rows=11000000 loops=1)
Workers Planned: 2
Workers Launched: 2
-> Sort (cost=847382.51..858840.84 rows=4583333 width=9) (actual time=5568.049..7110.789 rows=3666667 loops=3)
Sort Key: id
Sort Method: external merge Disk: 74304kB
Worker 0: Sort Method: external merge Disk: 70208kB
Worker 1: Sort Method: external merge Disk: 70208kB
-> Parallel Seq Scan on foo (cost=0.00..105293.33 rows=4583333 width=9) (actual time=0.018..985.524 rows=3666667 loops=3)
Planning Time: 0.055 ms
Execution Time: 13724.353 ms
(11 rows)
```

```
postgres=# SET work_mem ='1GB';
postgres=# EXPLAIN ANALYZE SELECT * FROM foo ORDER BY id;

QUERY PLAN

Sort (cost=1455965.01..1483465.01 rows=11000000 width=9) (actual time=5346.423..6554.609 rows=11000000 loops=1)
Sort Key: id
Sort Method: quicksort Memory: 916136kB

-> Seq Scan on foo (cost=0.00..169460.00 rows=11000000 width=9) (actual time=0.011..1794.912 rows=11000000 loops=1)
Planning Time: 0.049 ms
Execution Time: 7756.950 ms
(6 rows)

Time: 7757.595 ms (00:07.758)
```



maintenance work mem

- maintmaintenance_work_mem is a memory setting used for maintenance tasks.
- The default value is 64MB.
- Setting a large value helps in tasks like VACUUM, RESTORE, CREATE INDEX, ADD FOREIGN KEY and ALTER TABLE.



maintenance work mem



synchronous_commit

- This is used to enforce that commit will wait for WAL to be written on disk before returning a success status to the client.
- This is a trade-off between performance and reliability.
- Increasing reliability decreases performance and vice versa.





checkpoint_timeout

- PostgreSQL writes changes into WAL. The checkpoint process flushes the data into the data files.
- More checkpoints have a negative impact on performance.
- Frequent checkpoint reduces the recovery time



4. Linux Tuning for PostgreSQL

Ubuntu

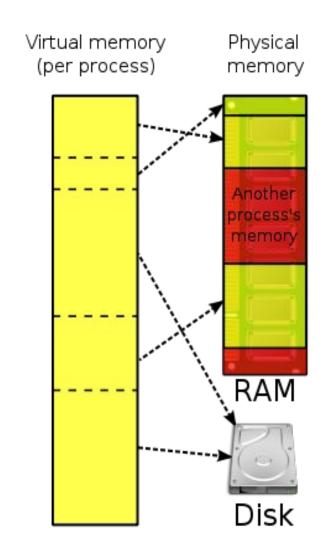
Input Output Handling

- Direct IO, Buffered IO and Double buffering
- PostgreSQL believes that the Operating system (Kernel) knows much better about storage and IO scheduling.
- PostgreSQL has its own buffering; and also needs the pages cache. Double Buffering
- It Increase the use of memory.
- And different kernel and setting behave differently.



Virtual Memory

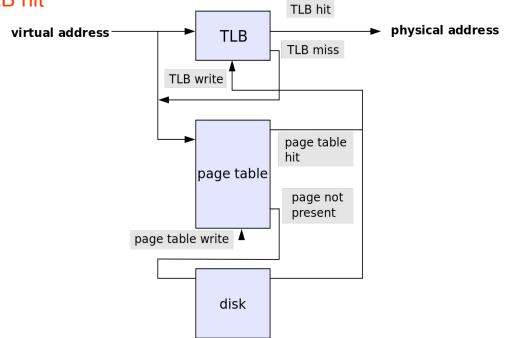
- Every process is given the impression that it is working with large, contiguous sections of memory
- Each process runs in its own dedicated address space
- Pages Table are used to translate the virtual addresses seen by the application into Physical Address





Translation Lookaside Buffer (TLB)

- Translation Lookaside Buffer is a memory cache
- It reduce the time to access a user memory location
- If a match is found the physical address of the page is returned → TLB hit
- If match not found scan the page table (walk)
- looking for the address mapping (entry) → TLB miss







Memory Pages

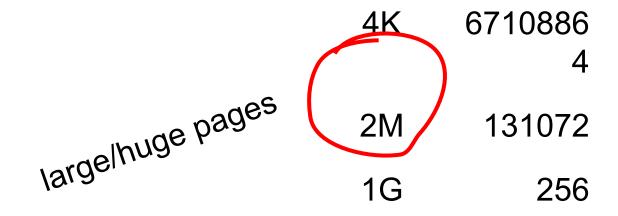
- Different OS has different size of Pages
- Linux has a concept of Classic Huge Pages and Transparent Huge Pages.
- BSD has Super Pages.
- Windows has Large Pages.



Linux Page sizes

- Linux Page size is 4K
- Many modern processors support other page sizes

If we consider a server with 256G of RAM:





Classic Huge Pages

```
# cat /proc/meminfo
MemTotal: 264041660 kB
...
Hugepagesize: 2048 kB
DirectMap4k: 128116 kB
DirectMap2M: 3956736 kB
DirectMap1G: 266338304 kB
sysctl -w vm.nr_hugepages=256
```



Classic Huge Pages

```
# vi /etc/default/grub
 GRUB CMDLINE LINUX DEFAULT="hugepagesz=1GB default hugepagesz=1G"
# update-grub
     Generating grub configuration file ...
     Found linux image: /boot/vmlinuz-4.4.0-75-generic
     Found initrd image: /boot/initrd.img-4.4.0-75-generic
     Found memtest86+ image: /memtest86+.elf
     Found memtest86+ image: /memtest86+.bin
     Done
# shutdown -r now
```



Classic Huge Pages

```
# vim /etc/postgresql/10/main/postgresql.conf
huge_pages=ON # default is try
# service postgresql restart
```



Transparent Huge pages

- The kernel works in the background (khugepaged) trying to:
 - o "create" huge pages.
 - Find enough contiguous blocks of memory
 - Convert them into a huge page
- Transparently allocate them to processes when there is a "fit"



Disabling Transparent Huge pages

```
# cat /proc/meminfo | grep AnonHuge
AnonHugePages:
                    2048 kB
# ps aux | grep huge
            42 0.0 0.0
                                    0 ?
                                                    Jan17
                                                            0:00 [khugepaged]
root
To disable it:
    • at runtime:
  # echo never > /sys/kernel/mm/transparent hugepage/enabled
  # echo never > /sys/kernel/mm/transparent hugepage/defrag
    • at boot time:
  GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX_DEFAULT="(...) transparent_hugepage=never"
```



vm.swappiness

- This is another kernel parameter that can affect the performance of the database.
- Used to control the swappiness (swapping pages to swap memory into RAM) behavior on a Linux system.
- The parameter can take anything from "0" to "100".
- The default value is 60.
- Higher value means more aggressively swap.

```
sudo sh -c 'echo 1 > /proc/sys/vm/swappiness'
sudo sh -c 'echo "vm.swappiness = 1" >> /etc/sysctl.conf'
```



vm.overcommit_memory and vm.overcommit_ratio

- Applications acquire memory and free that memory when it is no longer needed.
- But in some cases, an application acquires too much memory and does not release it. This can invoke the OOM killer.
- This is used to control the memory over-commit.
- It has three options
 - 0 Heuristic overcommits, Do it intelligently (default); based kernel heuristics
 - 1 Allow overcommit anyway
 - 2 Don't over commit beyond the overcommit ratio.

```
sudo sh -c 'echo 2 > /proc/sys/vm/overcommit_memory'
sudo sh -c 'echo 50 > /proc/sys/vm/overcommit_ratio'
```



vm.dirty_background_ratio and vm.dirty_background_bytes

- The vm.dirty_background_ratio is the percentage of memory filled with dirty pages that need to be flushed to disk.
- Flushing is done in the background.
- The value of this parameter ranges from 0 to 100;



vm.dirty_ratio / vm.dirty_bytes

- The vm.dirty_background_ratio is the percentage of memory filled with dirty pages that need to be flushed to disk.
- Flushing is done in the foreground.
- The value of this parameter ranges from 0 to 100;



5. Parallel Query Optimizations

Parallel Query

Parallel Query

- How Parallel Query Works?
 - Actual working mechanism of parallel queries.
- When Can Parallel Query Be Used?
 - When parallel query can be used, and when it can not.
- Parallel Plans
 - Different parallel plans available.
- Parallel Safety
 - Parallel query operations are parallel safe, parallel restricted, or parallel unsafe.





How Parallel Query Works - Configuration

max_worker_processes The default is 8

Sets the maximum number of background processes that the system can support. This parameter can only be set at server start..

max_parallel_workers_per_gather (integer) The default value is 2

Sets the maximum number of workers that can be started by a single Gather or Gather Merge node.

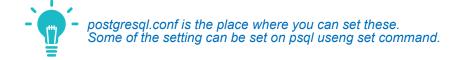
max_parallel_workers (integer) The default value is 8

Sets the maximum number of workers that the system can support for parallel queries.

dynamic_shared_memory_type (enum)

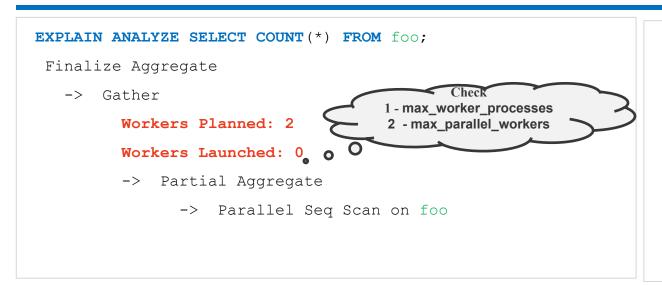
Parallel query requires dynamic shared memory in order to pass data between cooperating processes, so there should not be set to "none"

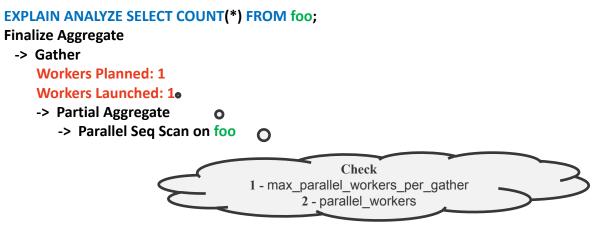
- Posix
- sysv
- windows
- mmap
- parallel workers (integer) Sets the number of workers that should be used to assist a parallel scan of this table





How Parallel Query Works - Configuration





```
EXPLAIN ANALYZE SELECT COUNT (*) FROM foo;

Finalize Aggregate

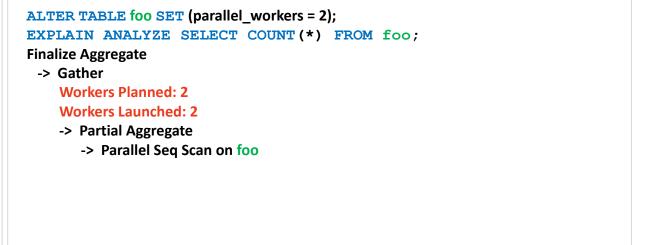
-> Gather

Workers Planned: 1

-> Partial Aggregate

-> Parallel Seq Scan on foo

ALTER TABLE foo SET (parallel_workers = 2);
```







How Parallel Query Works - Example

```
QUERY PLAN

Gather (cost=1000.00..217018.43 rows=1 width=97)

Workers Planned: 2

-> Parallel Seq Scan on pgbench_accounts (cost=0.00..216018.33 rows=1 width=97)

Filter: (filler ~~ '%x%'::text) (4 rows)
```





When Can Parallel Query Be Used?

- Number of backgrounds < max_worker_processes.
- Background workers for purposes of parallel query < max_parallel_workers.
- The client sends an execute message with a non-zero fetch count.
- When a prepared statement is executed using a CREATE TABLE .. AS EXECUTE .. statement.
- When the transaction isolation level is serializable*.
- The query uses any function marked PARALLEL UNSAFE.
- The query is running inside of another query that is already parallel.
- The query might be suspended during execution.
 - PL/pgSQL Loops of the form FOR x IN query LOOP .. END LOOP
 - DECLARE CURSOR
- The query writes any data or locks any database rows. If a query contains a data-modifying operation (top level/within a











When Can Parallel Query Be Used? 2/2

Windowed functions and ordered-set aggregate functions are non-parallel*.



Support for FULL OUTER JOIN





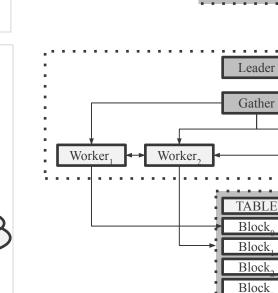
Parallel Plans

- Parallel Scans
 - Parallel Sequential Scan
 - o Parallel Bitmap Heap Scan
 - Parallel Index Scan
 - Parallel Index Only Scan
- Parallel Joins
- Parallel Aggregation
- Parallel Append



Parallel Sequential Scan

```
CREATE TABLE foo AS SELECT id AS id, 'name'::TEXT||id::TEXT AS name FROM
generate_series(1,10000000) AS id;
EXPLAIN ANALYZE SELECT * FROM foo WHERE id %2 = 10;
                                  QUERY PLAN
----Seq Scan on foo (cost=0.00..204052.90 rows=49999 width=15)
Planning Time: 0.063 ms
                                                         Planning time
Execution Time: 1657.964 ms
```



Process

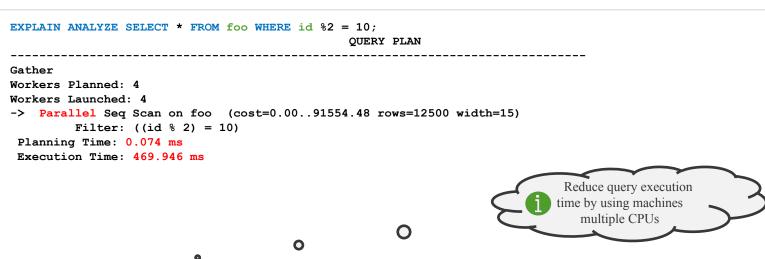
FABLE

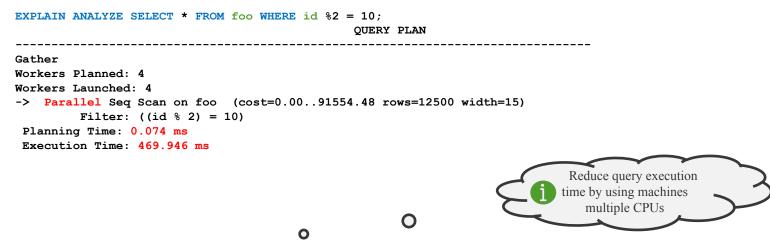
Block

Block.

Block.

Block









Worker

Worker.

Parallel Bitmap Heap Scan

- One process is chosen as the leader.
- Leader performs a scan of one or more indexes and builds a bitmap indicating which table blocks need to be visited.
- These blocks are then divided among the cooperating processes as in a parallel sequential scan.

```
EXPLAIN (COSTS OFF ) SELECT COUNT(*) FROM foo JOIN bar ON id =
v WHERE v > 10 AND name ~ 'name%';
                          QUERY PLAN
 Finalize Aggregate
   -> Gather
         Workers Planned: 2
         -> Partial Aggregate
             -> Nested Loop
                -> Parallel Bitmap Heap Scan on bar
                Recheck Cond: (v > 10)
                     -> Bitmap Index Scan on idx1
                           Index Cond: (v > 10)
                 -> Bitmap Heap Scan on foo
                     Recheck Cond: (id = bar.v)
                     Filter: (name ~ 'name%'::text)
                     -> Bitmap Index Scan on idx
                           Index Cond: (id = bar.v)
```





Parallel Index Scan

```
EXPLAIN (costs off) SELECT id FROM foo WHERE val % 100 = 2 and id < 200000;

QUERY PLAN

Gather

Workers Planned: 2

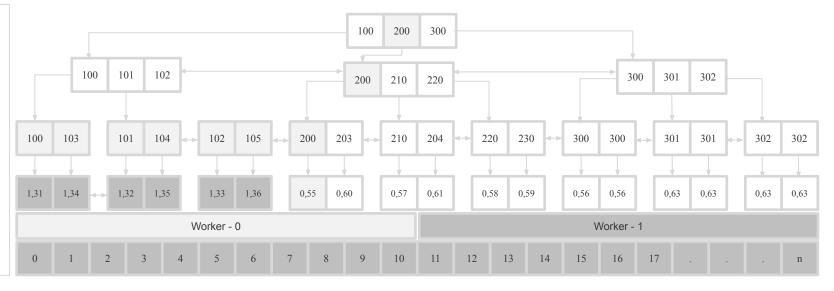
-> Parallel Index Only Scan using idx1 on foo

Index Cond: (id < 200000)

Filter: ((val % 100) = 2)

(5 rows)
```

- Worker-0 will start from the root node and scan until the leaf node 200.
- It'll handover the next block under node
 105 to Worker-1, which is in a blocked
 and wait-state.
- If there are other workers, blocks are divided into the workers





Parallel Joins

Parallel Hash Join

In case of hash join the inner side is executed in full by every cooperating process

to build identical copies of the hash table.



In parallel hash join the inner side is a parallel hash that divides the work of building a shared hash table over the cooperating processes.

All workers participate in creating the Hash table.

After the hash, each worker can perform the join.

Merge Join

The inner side is always a non-parallel plan and therefore executed in full.

This may be inefficient, especially if a sort must be performed, because the work and resulting data are duplicated in every cooperating process.

Nested Loop Join

The inner side is always non-parallel.

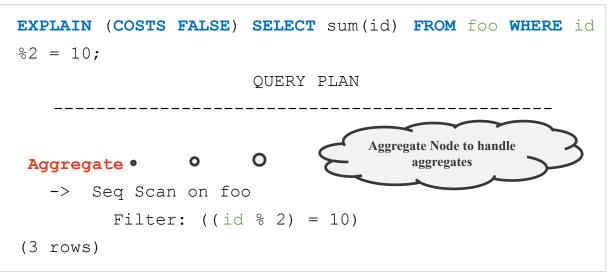
The outer tuples and thus the loops that look up values in the index are divided over the cooperating processes.

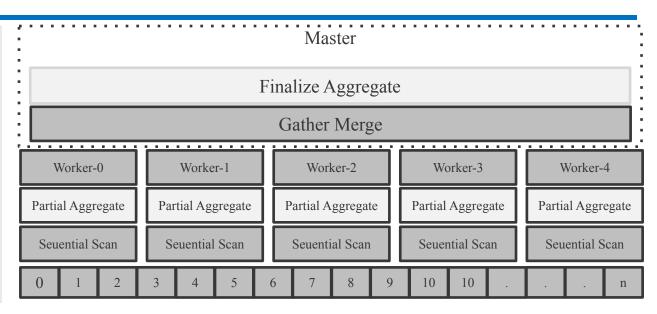
```
EXPLAIN ANALYZE SELECT COUNT (*)
FROM foo JOIN bar ON id = v WHERE v > 10;
                         QUERY PLAN
-Finalize Aggregate
   -> Gather
   Workers Planned: 2
   Workers Launched: 2
         -> Partial Aggregate
               -> Parallel Hash Join
                     Hash Cond: (bar.v = foo.id)
                     -> Parallel Seq Scan on)
                           Filter: (v > 10)
                           Rows Removed by Filter: 500058
                     -> Parallel Hash
                           -> Parallel Seg Scan on foo
Planning Time: 0.211 ms
Execution Time: 758.847 ms
```

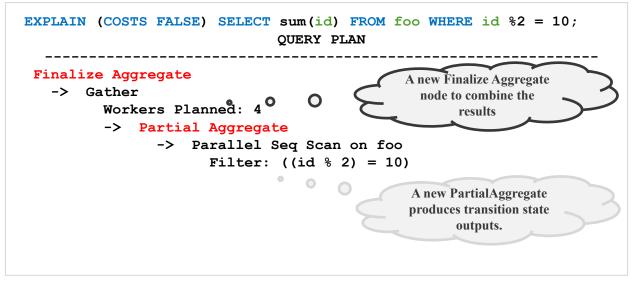


Parallel Aggregation

- Worker performs the scans on the pages and applies the filter.
- Transfer all the tuples to master.
- Master performs the final aggregate.











Parallel Append

- Append node used to combine rows from multiple sources into a single result set.
- In Append, all the participating processes cooperate to execute the first child plan until it is complete and then move to the second plan at around the same time
- In Parallel Append executor spread out the participating processes to its child plans, so that multiple child plans are executed simultaneously
- Avoids CPU contention and enhances I/O parallelism.

```
EXPLAIN (costs off) SELECT count(id) FROM foo WHERE id <= 201;
                        OUERY PLAN
 Finalize Aggregate
   -> Gather
                                        Used to combine rows from
                                            multiple sources
         Workers Planned: 2
         -> Partial Aggregate
                -> Parallel Append
                      -> Parallel Seq Scan on fool foo 1
                            Filter: (iQ <= 201)
                      -> Parallel Seq Scan on foo2 foo_2
                            Filter: (id <= 201)
```





Parallel Labeling for Functions and Aggregates 1/2

Parallel safe

A parallel safe operation is one which does not conflict with the use of parallel query

Parallel restricted

A parallel restricted operation is one which cannot be performed in a parallel worker, but which can be performed in the leader while parallel query is in use

Parallel unsafe

A parallel unsafe operation is one which cannot be performed while parallel query is in use, not even in the leader.

```
CREATE FUNCTION add (integer, integer) RETURNS integer
    AS 'select $1 + $2;'
    LANGUAGE SQL PARALLEL RESTRICTED;
CREATE FUNCTION add(integer, integer) RETURNS integer
    AS 'select $1 + $2;'
    LANGUAGE SQL PARALLEL SAFE;
\df+ add
                      List of functions
 Schema | Name | Parallel
public | add | safe
(1 row)
```





Parallel Labeling for Functions and Aggregates 2/2

- The following operations are always parallel restricted:
 - Scans of common table expressions (CTEs).
 - Scans of temporary tables.
 - Scans of foreign tables, unless the foreign data wrapper has an IsForeignScanParallelSafe API which indicates otherwise.
 - Plan nodes to which an InitPlan is attached.
 - Plan nodes which reference a correlated SubPlan.



Parallel Index Creation

- PostgreSQL can build indexes while leveraging multiple
 CPUs in order to process the table rows faster. This feature is known as parallel index build.
- Generally, a cost model automatically determines how many worker processes should be requested, if any.

```
CREATE INDEX idx ON foo(id);
CREATE INDEX
Time: 11815.685 ms (00:11.816)

SET max_parallel_maintenance_workers = 8;
CREATE INDEX idx ON foo(id);
CREATE INDEX
Time: 17281.309 ms (00:17.281)
```





Blog Posts

- Tuning PostgreSQL Database Parameters to Optimize Performance.
 - https://www.percona.com/blog/2018/08/31/tuning-postgresql-database-parameters-to-optimize-performance/
- Tune Linux Kernel Parameters For PostgreSQL Optimization
 - https://www.percona.com/blog/2018/08/29/tune-linux-kernel-parameters-for-postgresgl-optimization/



Thanks!

Any questions?

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