

Programming the SQL Way with Common Table Expressions

BRUCE MOMJIAN



Common Table Expressions (CTEs) allow queries to be more imperative, allowing looping and processing hierarchical structures that are normally associated only with imperative languages.

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Outline

1. Imperative vs. declarative
2. Syntax
3. Recursive CTEs
4. Examples
5. Writable CTEs
6. Why use CTEs

1. Imperative vs. Declarative



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Imperative Programming Languages

In computer science, **imperative** programming is a programming paradigm that describes computation in terms of statements that change a program state. In much the same way that imperative mood in natural languages expresses commands to take action, imperative programs define sequences of commands for the computer to perform.

Declarative Programming Languages

The term is used in opposition to **declarative** programming, which expresses what the program should accomplish without prescribing how to do it in terms of sequence.

Imperative

BASIC:

```
10 PRINT "Hello";  
20 GOTO 10
```

C:

```
while (1)  
    printf("Hello\n");
```

Perl:

```
print("Hello\n") while (1);
```

Declarative

SQL:

```
SELECT 'Hello'  
UNION ALL  
SELECT 'Hello'  
UNION ALL  
SELECT 'Hello'  
UNION ALL  
SELECT 'Hello'
```

...

An infinite loop is not easily implemented in simple SQL.

Imperative Database Options

- Client application code (e.g., libpq, JDBC, DBD::Pg)
- Server-side programming (e.g., PL/pgSQL, PL/Perl, C)
- **Common table expressions**

2. Syntax



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Common Table Expression (CTE) Syntax

```
WITH [ RECURSIVE ] with_query_name [ ( column_name [, ...] ) ] AS  
    ( select ) [ , ... ]  
SELECT ...
```

Keep Your Eye on the Red (Text)



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/alltheaces/>

A Simple CTE

```
WITH source AS (  
    SELECT 1  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;  
?column?  
-----  
1
```

The CTE created a *source* table that was referenced by the outer SELECT.

All queries in this presentation can be downloaded from <https://momjian.us/main/writings/pgsql/cte.sql>.

Let's Name the Returned CTE Column

```
WITH source AS (  
    SELECT 1 AS col1  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;  
col1  
-----  
1
```

The CTE returned column is *source.col1*.

The Column Can Also Be Named in the WITH Clause

```
WITH source (col1) AS (  
    SELECT 1  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;  
col1  
-----  
1
```

Columns Can Be Renamed

```
WITH source (col2) AS (  
    SELECT 1 AS col1  
)  
SELECT col2 AS col3 FROM source;  
col3  
-----  
1
```

The CTE column starts as *col1*, is renamed in the WITH clause as *col2*, and the outer SELECT renames it to *col3*.

Multiple CTE Columns Can Be Returned

```
WITH source AS (  
    SELECT 1, 2  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;  
?column? | ?column?  
-----+-----  
1 | 2
```


UNION Refresher

```
SELECT 1
UNION
SELECT 1;
?column?
-----
      1
```

```
SELECT 1
UNION ALL
SELECT 1;
?column?
-----
      1
      1
```

Possible To Create Multiple CTE Results

```
WITH source AS (  
    SELECT 1, 2  
)  
    source2 AS (  
    SELECT 3, 4  
)  
SELECT * FROM source  
UNION ALL  
SELECT * FROM source2;  
?column? | ?column?
```

```
-----+-----  
      1 |      2  
      3 |      4
```

CTE with Real Tables

```
WITH source AS (  
    SELECT lanname, rolname  
    FROM pg_language JOIN pg_roles ON lanowner = pg_roles.oid  
)
```

```
SELECT * FROM source;
```

lanname	rolname
internal	postgres
c	postgres
sql	postgres
plpgsql	postgres

CTE Can Be Processed More than Once

```
WITH source AS (  
    SELECT lanname, rolname  
    FROM pg_language JOIN pg_roles ON lanowner = pg_roles.oid  
    ORDER BY lanname  
)  
SELECT * FROM source  
UNION ALL  
SELECT MIN(lanname), NULL  
FROM source;
```

lanname	rolname
c	postgres
internal	postgres
plpgsql	postgres
sql	postgres
c	

CTE Can Be Joined

```
WITH class AS (  
    SELECT oid, relname  
    FROM pg_class  
    WHERE relkind = 'r'  
)  
SELECT class.relname, attname  
FROM pg_attribute, class  
WHERE class.oid = attrelid  
ORDER BY 1, 2  
LIMIT 5;
```

relname	attname
pg_aggregate	aggfinalfn
pg_aggregate	aggfnoid
pg_aggregate	agginitval
pg_aggregate	aggstktop
pg_aggregate	aggtransfn

Imperative Control With CASE

```
CASE  
WHEN condition THEN result  
ELSE result  
END
```

For example:

```
SELECT col,  
       CASE  
         WHEN col > 0 THEN 'positive'  
         WHEN col = 0 THEN 'zero'  
         ELSE 'negative'  
       END  
FROM tab;
```

3. Recursive CTEs



Looping

```
WITH RECURSIVE source AS (  
    SELECT 1  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;  
?column?  
-----  
1
```

This does not loop because *source* is not mentioned in the CTE.

This Is an Infinite Loop

```
SET statement_timeout = '1s';

WITH RECURSIVE source AS (
    SELECT 1
    UNION ALL
    SELECT 1 FROM source
)
SELECT * FROM source;
ERROR: canceling statement due to statement timeout
```

Flow Of Rows

WITH RECURSIVE **source** AS (
 SELECT 1
 UNION ALL
 SELECT 1 FROM **source**
)
SELECT * FROM **source**;

```
graph TD; 1((1)) --> source1[source]; 2((2)) --> source2[source]; 3((3)) --> source3[source];
```

The 'Hello' Example in SQL

```
WITH RECURSIVE source AS (  
    SELECT 'Hello'  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT 'Hello' FROM source  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;  
ERROR: canceling statement due to statement timeout  
  
RESET statement_timeout;
```

UNION without ALL Avoids Recursion

```
WITH RECURSIVE source AS (  
    SELECT 'Hello'  
    UNION  
    SELECT 'Hello' FROM source  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;  
?column?  
-----  
Hello
```

CTEs Are Useful When Loops Are Constrained

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter) AS (  
    -- seed value  
    SELECT 1  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT counter + 1  
    FROM source  
    -- terminal condition  
    WHERE counter < 10  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;
```

Output

```
counter
-----
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
```

Of course, this can be more easily accomplished using `generate_series(1, 10)`.

Perl Example

```
for (my $i = 1; $i <= 10; $i++)  
{  
    print "$i\n";  
}
```

Perl Using Recursion

```
sub f
{
    my $arg = shift;
    print "$arg\n";
    f($arg + 1) if ($arg < 10);
}
f(1);
```


Perl Recursion Using an Array

```
my @table;
sub f
{
    my $arg = shift // 1;
    push @table, $arg;
    f($arg + 1) if ($arg < 10);
}
f();
map {print "$_\n"} @table;
```

This is the most accurate representation of CTEs because it accumulates results in an array (similar to a table result).

4. Examples



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/82134796@N03/>

Ten Factorial Using CTE

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter, product) AS (  
    SELECT 1, 1  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT counter + 1, product * (counter + 1)  
    FROM source  
    WHERE counter < 10  
)  
SELECT counter, product FROM source;
```

Output

counter		product
-----+-----		
1		1
2		2
3		6
4		24
5		120
6		720
7		5040
8		40320
9		362880
10		3628800

Only Display the Desired Row

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter, product) AS (  
    SELECT 1, 1  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT counter + 1, product * (counter + 1)  
    FROM source  
    WHERE counter < 10  
)  
SELECT counter, product  
FROM source  
WHERE counter = 10;  
  counter | product  
-----+-----  
       10 | 3628800
```

Ten Factorial in Perl

```
my @table;
sub f
{
    my ($counter, $product) = @_;
    my ($counter_new, $product_new);
    if (!defined($counter)) {
        $counter_new = 1;
        $product_new = 1;
    } else {
        $counter_new = $counter + 1;
        $product_new = $product * ($counter + 1);
    }
    push(@table, [$counter_new, $product_new]);
    f($counter_new, $product_new) if ($counter < 10);
}
f();
map {print "@$_\n" if ($_->[0]) == 10} @table;
```

String Manipulation Is Also Possible

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (str) AS (  
    SELECT 'a'  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT str || 'a'  
    FROM source  
    WHERE length(str) < 10  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;
```

Output

str

a

aa

aaa

aaaa

aaaaa

aaaaaa

aaaaaaa

aaaaaaaa

aaaaaaaaa

aaaaaaaaaa

Characters Can Be Computed

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (str) AS (  
    SELECT 'a'  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT str || chr(ascii(right(str, 1)) + 1)  
    FROM source  
    WHERE length(str) < 10  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;
```

Output

str

a

ab

abc

abcd

abcde

abcdef

abcdefg

abcdefgh

abcdefghi

abcdefghij

ASCII Art Is Even Possible

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter) AS (  
    SELECT -10  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT counter + 1  
    FROM source  
    WHERE counter < 10  
)  
SELECT repeat(' ', 5 - abs(counter) / 2) ||  
       'X' ||  
       repeat(' ', abs(counter)) ||  
       'X'  
FROM source;
```

Output

?column?

[illegible]

How Is that Done?

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter) AS (  
    SELECT -10  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT counter + 1  
    FROM source  
    WHERE counter < 10  
)  
SELECT counter,  
    repeat(' ', 5 - abs(counter) / 2) ||  
    'X' ||  
    repeat(' ', abs(counter)) ||  
    'X'  
FROM source;
```

This generates Integers from -10 to 10, and these numbers are used to print an appropriate number of spaces.

Output

counter	?column?	
-----+		
-10	X	X
-9	X	X
-8	X	X
-7	X	X
-6	X	X
-5	X	X
-4	X	X
-3	X	X
-2	X	X
-1	X	X
0	XX	
1	X	X
2	X	X
3	X	X
4	X	X
5	X	X
6	X	X
7	X	X
8	X	X
9	X	X
10	X	X

ASCII Diamonds Are Even Possible

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter) AS (  
    SELECT -10  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT counter + 1  
    FROM source  
    WHERE counter < 10  
)  
SELECT repeat(' ', abs(counter)/2) ||  
       'X' ||  
       repeat(' ', 10 - abs(counter)) ||  
       'X'  
FROM source;
```

A Diamond

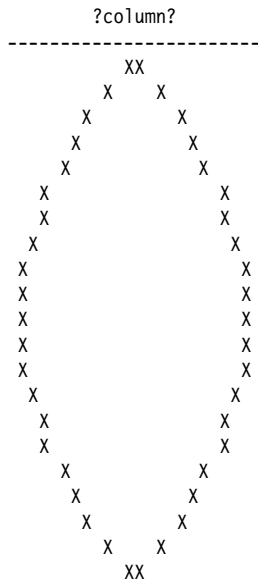
?column?

[illegible]

More Rounded

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter) AS (  
    SELECT -10  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT counter + 1  
    FROM source  
    WHERE counter < 10  
)  
SELECT  repeat(' ', int4(pow(counter, 2)/10)) ||  
        'X' ||  
        repeat(' ', 2 * (10 - int4(pow(counter, 2)/10))) ||  
        'X'  
FROM source;
```

An Oval



A Real Circle

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter) AS (  
    SELECT -10  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT counter + 1  
    FROM source  
    WHERE counter < 10  
)  
SELECT  repeat(' ', int4(pow(counter, 2)/5)) ||  
        'X' ||  
        repeat(' ', 2 * (20 - int4(pow(counter, 2)/5))) ||  
        'X'  
FROM source;
```

Output

?column?

A diagram showing a circular arrangement of 'X' marks. The marks are positioned to form a ring. At the top center, there are two 'X' marks ('XX'). At the bottom center, there are also two 'X' marks ('XX'). The rest of the ring is composed of individual 'X' marks. A dashed horizontal line is located above the top 'XX'.

Prime Factors

The prime factors of X are the prime numbers that must be multiplied to equal a X , e.g.:

$$10 = 2 * 5$$

$$27 = 3 * 3 * 3$$

$$48 = 2 * 2 * 2 * 2 * 3$$

$$66 = 2 * 3 * 11$$

$$70 = 2 * 5 * 7$$

$$100 = 2 * 2 * 5 * 5$$

Prime Factorization in SQL

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter, factor, is_factor) AS (  
    SELECT 2, 56, false  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN counter  
        ELSE counter + 1  
    END,  
    CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN factor / counter  
        ELSE factor  
    END,  
    CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN true  
        ELSE false  
    END  
    FROM source  
    WHERE factor <> 1  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;
```

Output

counter	factor	is_factor
2	56	f
2	28	t
2	14	t
2	7	t
3	7	f
4	7	f
5	7	f
6	7	f
7	7	f
7	1	t

Only Return Prime Factors

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter, factor, is_factor) AS (  
    SELECT 2, 56, false  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN counter  
        ELSE counter + 1  
    END,  
    CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN factor / counter  
        ELSE factor  
    END,  
    CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN true  
        ELSE false  
    END  
    FROM source  
    WHERE factor <> 1  
)  
SELECT * FROM source WHERE is_factor;
```


Output

counter	factor	is_factor
2	28	t
2	14	t
2	7	t
7	1	t

Factors of 322434

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter, factor, is_factor) AS (  
    SELECT 2, 322434, false  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN counter  
        ELSE counter + 1  
    END,  
    CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN factor / counter  
        ELSE factor  
    END,  
    CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN true  
        ELSE false  
    END  
    FROM source  
    WHERE factor <> 1  
)  
SELECT * FROM source WHERE is_factor;
```

Output

counter	factor	is_factor
2	161217	t
3	53739	t
3	17913	t
3	5971	t
7	853	t
853	1	t

Prime Factors of 66

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter, factor, is_factor) AS (  
    SELECT 2, 66, false  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN counter  
        ELSE counter + 1  
    END,  
    CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN factor / counter  
        ELSE factor  
    END,  
    CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN true  
        ELSE false  
    END  
    FROM source  
    WHERE factor <> 1  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;
```

Inefficient

counter	factor	is_factor
2	66	f
2	33	t
3	33	f
3	11	t
4	11	f
5	11	f
6	11	f
7	11	f
8	11	f
9	11	f
10	11	f
11	11	f
11	1	t

Skip Evens >2, Exit Early with a Final Prime

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter, factor, is_factor) AS (  
    SELECT 2, 66, false  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN counter  
        -- is 'factor' prime?  
        WHEN counter * counter > factor THEN factor  
        -- now only odd numbers  
        WHEN counter = 2 THEN 3  
        ELSE counter + 2  
    END,  
    CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN factor / counter  
        ELSE factor  
    END,  
    CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN true  
        ELSE false  
    END  
    FROM source  
    WHERE factor <> 1  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;
```

Output

counter	factor	is_factor
2	66	f
2	33	t
3	33	f
3	11	t
5	11	f
11	11	f
11	1	t

Return Only Prime Factors

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (counter, factor, is_factor) AS (  
    SELECT 2,66, false  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN counter  
        -- is 'factor' prime?  
        WHEN counter * counter > factor THEN factor  
        -- now only odd numbers  
        WHEN counter = 2 THEN 3  
        ELSE counter + 2  
        END,  
        CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN factor / counter  
        ELSE factor  
        END,  
        CASE  
        WHEN factor % counter = 0 THEN true  
        ELSE false  
        END  
    FROM source  
    WHERE factor <> 1  
)  
SELECT * FROM source WHERE is_factor;
```


Output

counter	factor	is_factor
2	33	t
3	11	t
11	1	t

Optimized Prime Factors of 66 in Perl

```
my @table;
sub f
{
    my ($counter, $factor, $is_factor) = @_;
    my ($counter_new, $factor_new, $is_factor_new);
    if (!defined($counter)) {
        $counter_new = 2;
        $factor_new = 66;
        $is_factor_new = 0;
    } else {
        $counter_new = ($factor % $counter == 0) ?
            $counter :
            ($counter * $counter > $factor) ?
                $factor :
                ($counter == 2) ?
                    3 :
                    $counter + 2;
        $factor_new = ($factor % $counter == 0) ?
            $factor / $counter :
            $factor;
        $is_factor_new = ($factor % $counter == 0);
    }
    push(@table, [$counter_new, $factor_new, $is_factor_new]);
    f($counter_new, $factor_new) if ($factor != 1);
}
f();
map {print "$_->[0] $_->[1] $_->[2]\n" if ($_->[2]) == 1} @table;
```

Recursive Table Processing: Setup

```
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE part (parent_part_no INTEGER, part_no INTEGER);
```

```
INSERT INTO part VALUES (1, 11);  
INSERT INTO part VALUES (1, 12);  
INSERT INTO part VALUES (1, 13);  
INSERT INTO part VALUES (2, 21);  
INSERT INTO part VALUES (2, 22);  
INSERT INTO part VALUES (2, 23);  
INSERT INTO part VALUES (11, 101);  
INSERT INTO part VALUES (13, 102);  
INSERT INTO part VALUES (13, 103);  
INSERT INTO part VALUES (22, 221);  
INSERT INTO part VALUES (22, 222);  
INSERT INTO part VALUES (23, 231);
```

Use CTEs To Walk Through Parts Hierarchy

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (part_no) AS (  
    SELECT 2  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT part.part_no  
    FROM source JOIN part ON (source.part_no = part.parent_part_no)  
)  
SELECT * FROM source;  
part_no  
-----  
2  
21  
22  
23  
221  
222  
231
```

Using UNION without ALL here would avoid infinite recursion if there is a loop in the data, but it would also cause a part with multiple parents to appear only once.

Add Dashes

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (level, part_no) AS (  
    SELECT 0, 2  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT level + 1, part.part_no  
    FROM source JOIN part ON (source.part_no = part.parent_part_no)  
)  
SELECT '+' || repeat('-', level * 2) || part_no::text AS part_tree  
FROM source;  
part_tree  
-----  
+2  
+--21  
+--22  
+--23  
+----221  
+----222  
+----231
```

The Parts in ASCII Order

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (level, tree, part_no) AS (  
    SELECT 0, '2', 2  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT level + 1, tree || ' ' || part.part_no::text, part.part_no  
    FROM source JOIN part ON (source.part_no = part.parent_part_no)  
)  
SELECT '+' || repeat('-', level * 2) || part_no::text AS part_tree, tree  
FROM source  
ORDER BY tree;
```

part_tree	tree
+2	2
+--21	2 21
+--22	2 22
+----221	2 22 221
+----222	2 22 222
+--23	2 23
+----231	2 23 231

The Parts in Numeric Order

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (level, tree, part_no) AS (  
    SELECT 0, '{2}'::int[], 2  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT level + 1, array_append(tree, part.part_no), part.part_no  
    FROM source JOIN part ON (source.part_no = part.parent_part_no)  
)  
SELECT '+' || repeat('-', level * 2) || part_no::text AS part_tree, tree  
FROM source  
ORDER BY tree;
```

part_tree	tree
+2	{2}
+--21	{2,21}
+--22	{2,22}
+----221	{2,22,221}
+----222	{2,22,222}
+--23	{2,23}
+----231	{2,23,231}

Full Output

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (level, tree, part_no) AS (  
    SELECT 0, '{2}'::int[], 2  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT level + 1, array_append(tree, part.part_no), part.part_no  
    FROM source JOIN part ON (source.part_no = part.parent_part_no)  
)  
SELECT *, '+' || repeat('-', level * 2) || part_no::text AS part_tree  
FROM source  
ORDER BY tree;
```

level	tree	part_no	part_tree
0	{2}	2	+2
1	{2,21}	21	+--21
1	{2,22}	22	+--22
2	{2,22,221}	221	+----221
2	{2,22,222}	222	+----222
1	{2,23}	23	+--23
2	{2,23,231}	231	+----231

CTE for SQL Object Dependency

```
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE deptest (x1 INTEGER);
```

CTE for SQL Object Dependency

```
WITH RECURSIVE dep (classid, obj) AS (  
    SELECT (SELECT oid FROM pg_class WHERE relname = 'pg_class'),  
           oid  
    FROM pg_class  
    WHERE relname = 'deptest'  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT pg_depend.classid, objid  
    FROM pg_depend JOIN dep ON (refobjid = dep.obj)  
)  
SELECT (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = classid) AS class,  
       (SELECT typename FROM pg_type WHERE oid = obj) AS type,  
       (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = obj) AS class,  
       (SELECT relkind FROM pg_class WHERE oid = obj::regclass) AS kind,  
       (SELECT pg_get_expr(adbin, classid) FROM pg_attrdef WHERE oid = obj) AS attrdef,  
       (SELECT conname FROM pg_constraint WHERE oid = obj) AS constraint  
FROM dep  
ORDER BY obj;
```

Output

class	type	class	kind	attrdef	constraint
pg_class		deptest	r		
pg_type	_deptest				
pg_type	deptest				

Do Not Show *deptest*

```
WITH RECURSIVE dep (classid, obj) AS (  
    SELECT classid, objid  
    FROM pg_depend JOIN pg_class ON (refobjid = pg_class.oid)  
    WHERE relname = 'deptest'  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT pg_depend.classid, objid  
    FROM pg_depend JOIN dep ON (refobjid = dep.obj)  
)  
SELECT (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = classid) AS class,  
       (SELECT typename FROM pg_type WHERE oid = obj) AS type,  
       (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = obj) AS class,  
       (SELECT relkind FROM pg_class WHERE oid = obj::regclass) AS kind,  
       (SELECT pg_get_expr(adbin, classid) FROM pg_attrdef WHERE oid = obj) AS attrdef,  
       (SELECT conname FROM pg_constraint WHERE oid = obj) AS constraint  
FROM dep  
ORDER BY obj;
```

Output

class	type	class	kind	attrdef	constraint
pg_type	_deptest				
pg_type	deptest				

Add a Primary Key

```
ALTER TABLE deptest ADD PRIMARY KEY (x1);
```

NOTICE: ALTER TABLE / ADD PRIMARY KEY will create implicit index
"deptest_pkey" for table "deptest"

Output With Primary Key

```
WITH RECURSIVE dep (classid, obj) AS (  
    SELECT (SELECT oid FROM pg_class WHERE relname = 'pg_class'),  
           oid  
    FROM pg_class  
    WHERE relname = 'deptest'  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT pg_depend.classid, objid  
    FROM pg_depend JOIN dep ON (refobjid = dep.obj)  
)  
SELECT (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = classid) AS class,  
       (SELECT typename FROM pg_type WHERE oid = obj) AS type,  
       (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = obj) AS class,  
       (SELECT relkind FROM pg_class where oid = obj::regclass) AS kind,  
       (SELECT pg_get_expr(adbin, classid) FROM pg_attrdef WHERE oid = obj) AS attrdef,  
       (SELECT conname FROM pg_constraint WHERE oid = obj) AS constraint  
FROM dep  
ORDER BY obj;
```

Output

class	type	class	kind	attrdef	constraint
pg_class		deptest	r		
pg_type	_deptest				
pg_type	deptest				
pg_class		deptest_pkey	i		
pg_constraint					deptest_pkey

Add a SERIAL Column

```
ALTER TABLE deptest ADD COLUMN x2 SERIAL;
```

NOTICE: ALTER TABLE will create implicit sequence "deptest_x2_seq" for serial column "deptest.x2"

Output with SERIAL Column

```
WITH RECURSIVE dep (classid, obj) AS (  
    SELECT (SELECT oid FROM pg_class WHERE relname = 'pg_class'),  
           oid  
    FROM pg_class  
    WHERE relname = 'deptest'  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT pg_depend.classid, objid  
    FROM pg_depend JOIN dep ON (refobjid = dep.obj)  
)  
SELECT (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = classid) AS class,  
       (SELECT typename FROM pg_type WHERE oid = obj) AS type,  
       (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = obj) AS class,  
       (SELECT relkind FROM pg_class where oid = obj::regclass) AS kind,  
       (SELECT pg_get_expr(adbin, classid) FROM pg_attrdef WHERE oid = obj) AS attrdef  
       -- column removed to reduce output width  
FROM dep  
ORDER BY obj;
```

Output

class	type	class	kind	attrdef
pg_class		deptest	r	
pg_type	_deptest			
pg_type	deptest			
pg_class		deptest_pkey	i	
pg_constraint				
pg_class		deptest_x2_seq	S	
pg_type	deptest_x2_seq			
pg_attrdef				nextval('deptest_x2_seq'::regclass)
pg_attrdef				nextval('deptest_x2_seq'::regclass)

Show Full Output

```
WITH RECURSIVE dep (level, tree, classid, obj) AS (  
    SELECT 0, array_append(null, oid)::oid[],  
           (SELECT oid FROM pg_class WHERE relname = 'pg_class'),  
           oid  
    FROM pg_class  
    WHERE relname = 'deptest'  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT level + 1, array_append(tree, objid),  
           pg_depend.classid, objid  
    FROM pg_depend JOIN dep ON (refobjid = dep.obj)  
)  
SELECT tree,  
       (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = classid) AS class,  
       (SELECT typename FROM pg_type WHERE oid = obj) AS type,  
       (SELECT relname FROM pg_class WHERE oid = obj) AS class,  
       (SELECT pg_get_expr(adbin, classid) FROM pg_attrdef WHERE oid = obj) AS attrdef  
       -- column removed to reduce output width  
FROM dep  
ORDER BY tree, obj;
```

Output

tree	class	type	class	kind
{16458}	pg_class		deptest	r
{16458,16460}	pg_type	deptest		
{16458,16460,16459}	pg_type	_deptest		
{16458,16462}	pg_constraint			
{16458,16462,16461}	pg_class		deptest_pkey	i
{16458,16463}	pg_class		deptest_x2_seq	S
{16458,16463,16464}	pg_type	deptest_x2_seq		
{16458,16463,16465}	pg_attrdef			
{16458,16465}	pg_attrdef			

5. Writable CTEs



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/dmelchordiaz/>

Writable CTEs

- Allow data-modification commands (INSERT/UPDATE/DELETE) in WITH clauses
 - These commands can use RETURNING to pass data up to the containing query.
- Allow WITH clauses to be attached to INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE statements

Use INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE in WITH Clauses

```
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE retdemo (x NUMERIC);
```

```
INSERT INTO retdemo VALUES (random()), (random()), (random()) RETURNING x;  
x
```

```
-----  
0.00761545216664672  
0.85416117589920831  
0.10137318633496895
```

```
WITH source AS (  
    INSERT INTO retdemo  
    VALUES (random()), (random()), (random()) RETURNING x  
)  
SELECT AVG(x) FROM source;  
avg
```

```
-----  
0.46403147140517833
```


Use INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE in WITH Clauses

```
WITH source AS (  
    DELETE FROM retdemo RETURNING x  
)  
SELECT MAX(x) FROM source;  
      max  
-----  
0.93468171451240821
```

Supply Rows to INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE Using WITH Clauses

```
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE retdemo2 (x NUMERIC);
```

```
INSERT INTO retdemo2 VALUES (random()), (random()), (random());
```

```
WITH source (average) AS (  
    SELECT AVG(x) FROM retdemo2  
)
```

```
DELETE FROM retdemo2 USING source  
WHERE retdemo2.x < source.average;
```

```
SELECT * FROM retdemo2;
```

x

0.777186767663807

Recursive WITH to Delete Parts

```
WITH RECURSIVE source (part_no) AS (  
    SELECT 2  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT part.part_no  
    FROM source JOIN part ON (source.part_no = part.parent_part_no)  
)  
DELETE FROM part  
USING source  
WHERE source.part_no = part.part_no;
```

Using Both Features

```
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE retdemo3 (x NUMERIC);

INSERT INTO retdemo3 VALUES (random()), (random()), (random());

WITH source (average) AS (
    SELECT AVG(x) FROM retdemo3
),
    source2 AS (
        DELETE FROM retdemo3 USING source
        WHERE retdemo3.x < source.average
        RETURNING x
    )
SELECT * FROM source2;
      x
-----
0.185174203012139
0.209731927141547
```

Chaining Modification Commands

```
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE orders (order_id SERIAL, name text);

CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE items (order_id INTEGER, part_id SERIAL, name text);

WITH source (order_id) AS (
    INSERT INTO orders VALUES (DEFAULT, 'my order') RETURNING order_id
)
INSERT INTO items (order_id, name) SELECT order_id, 'my part' FROM source;

WITH source (order_id) AS (
    DELETE FROM orders WHERE name = 'my order' RETURNING order_id
)
DELETE FROM items USING source WHERE source.order_id = items.order_id;
```

Mixing Modification Commands

```
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE old_orders (order_id INTEGER, delete_user TEXT, delete_time TIMESTAMPTZ);

WITH source (order_id) AS (
    DELETE FROM orders WHERE name = 'my order' RETURNING order_id
), source2 AS (
    DELETE FROM items USING source WHERE source.order_id = items.order_id
)
INSERT INTO old_orders SELECT order_id, CURRENT_USER, CURRENT_TIMESTAMP FROM source;
```

6. Why Use CTEs

- Allows imperative processing in SQL
- Merges multiple SQL queries and their connecting application logic into a single, unified SQL query
- Improves performance by issuing fewer queries
 - reduces transmission overhead, unless server-side functions are being used
 - reduces parsing/optimizing overhead, unless prepared statements are being used
- Uses the same row visibility snapshot for the entire query, rather than requiring repeatable read isolation mode
- Possible optimization barrier after each CTE
 - necessary for recursion and writable CTEs
 - can hurt performance when a join query is changed to use CTEs
 - pre-Postgres 12, CTEs are always an optimization barrier
 - Postgres 12 and later, a barrier only when useful
 - can be forced by keyword `MATERIALIZED`

Conclusion



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