Critical Threats in Modern Systems Step 5 - Second Implementation of the Database Application System (PostgreSQL)

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Abstract

In this step, we port our fully normalized schema to PostgreSQL to demonstrate cross-DBMS compatibility and robustness. After creating tables with all keys and constraints, we load sample data and execute the suite of ten core queries—capturing psql outputs (including the PostgreSQL version banner) as screenshots. This phase validates our design in a second environment and highlights any SQL dialect considerations for future application development.

Section A - Second Implementation (PostgreSQL)

Here we implement the database in PostgreSQL using psql. We recreate our tables, enforce all primary/foreign keys and constraints, then run each of the ten core queries from Step 3. Screenshots include the PostgreSQL version banner to prove platform specificity.

1. **Query 1:** Retrieve a list of all vulnerability instances, showing each CVE ID, the corresponding vulnerability type, severity, and discovery date, sorted by discovery date in descending order (most recent first).

```
SELECT
    VI.CVE_ID,
    VC.CategoryName AS VulnerabilityType,
    VI.Severity,
    VI.DiscoveryDate
FROM
    VulnerabilityInstances VI

JOIN
    VulnerabilityCategories VC
    ON VI.CategoryID = VC.CategoryID

ORDER BY
    VI.DiscoveryDate DESC;
```

This query provides a comprehensive overview of all vulnerabilities recorded in the system. By retrieving the CVE IDs, vulnerability types, severity levels, and discovery dates, it allows security analysts and decision makers to quickly identify the most recent vulnerabilities. This information is crucial for prioritizing remediation efforts and ensuring that the latest threats are addressed promptly.

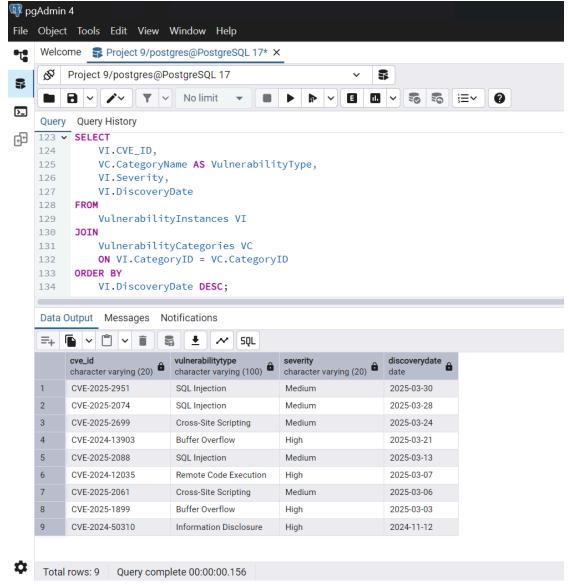


Figure 1: Execution Output for Query 1 - Vulnerability Overview Dashboard

2. **Query 2:** Display a list of products including the vendor and version, along with the number of vulnerabilities affecting each product, sorted by the vulnerability count in descending order.

```
P.ProductName,
P.Vendor,
P.Version,
COUNT(PV.VulnerabilityInstanceID) AS VulnerabilityCount

FROM
Products P

JOIN
Product_Vulnerability PV ON P.ProductID = PV.ProductID

GROUP BY
P.ProductID, P.ProductName, P.Vendor, P.Version

ORDER BY
VulnerabilityCount DESC;
```

This query aggregates data from the Products and Product_Vulnerability tables. By joining these tables, the query counts the number of vulnerabilities associated with each product. It then displays the product's name, vendor, and version along with this count, sorted from highest to lowest vulnerability count. This is useful for identifying which products are at greatest risk, allowing security teams to prioritize remediation efforts

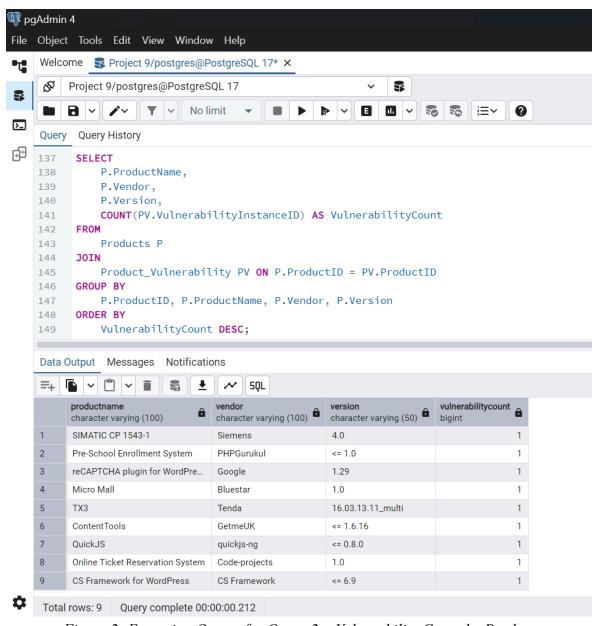


Figure 2: Execution Output for Query 2 – Vulnerability Count by Product

3. **Query 3:** Retrieve details for all vulnerabilities of type 'SQL Injection'—including the CVE ID, CVSS score, severity, impact, and mitigation details—and list the names of all products affected by each of these vulnerabilities.

```
SELECT
    VI.CVE_ID,
    VI.CVSS_Score,
    VI.Severity,
    VI.Impact,
    VI.Mitigation,
    STRING_AGG(P.ProductName, ', ') AS AffectedProducts
FROM
    VulnerabilityInstances VI
JOIN
    VulnerabilityCategories VC ON VI.CategoryID = VC.CategoryID
JOIN
    Product_Vulnerability PV ON VI.VulnerabilityInstanceID = PV.VulnerabilityInstanceID
JOIN
    Products P ON PV.ProductID = P.ProductID
WHERE
    VC.CategoryName = 'SQL Injection'
```

```
GROUP BY

VI.VulnerabilityInstanceID;
```

This query narrows down the results to only include vulnerabilities classified as 'SQL Injection.' For each case, it pulls essential details like the CVE ID, CVSS score, severity level, potential impact, and recommended mitigation steps. It also compiles the names of all affected products using the STRING_AGG function, creating a unified view. This output gives security teams a clearer understanding of the risks tied to SQL Injection flaws and highlights exactly which products need focused remediation.

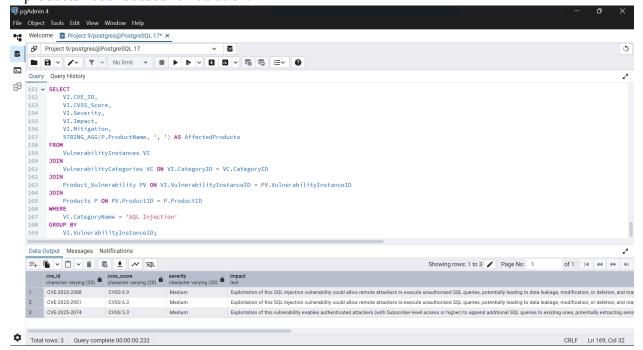


Figure 3: Execution Output for Query 3 – SQL Injection Vulnerabilities and Affected Products

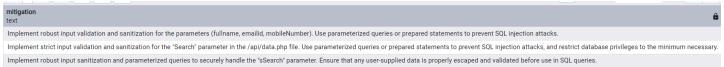


Figure 4: Execution Output for Query 3 – SQL Injection Vulnerabilities and Affected Products (2)

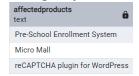


Figure 5: Execution Output for Query 3 – SQL Injection Vulnerabilities and Affected Products (3)

4. **Query 4:** Retrieve all vulnerabilities that were discovered in March 2025, displaying their CVE IDs, vulnerability types, severity levels, and the names of the products affected.

```
SELECT
    VI.CVE_ID,
    VC.CategoryName AS VulnerabilityType,
    VI.Severity,
    STRING_AGG(P.ProductName, ', ') AS AffectedProducts
FROM
    VulnerabilityInstances VI
JOIN
    VulnerabilityCategories VC ON VI.CategoryID = VC.CategoryID
JOIN
    Product_Vulnerability PV ON VI.VulnerabilityInstanceID = PV.VulnerabilityInstanceID
JOIN
    Products P ON PV.ProductID = P.ProductID
```

```
WHERE

VI.DiscoveryDate BETWEEN '2025-03-01' AND '2025-03-31'

GROUP BY

VI.CVE_ID, VC.CategoryName, VI.Severity, VI.VulnerabilityInstanceID

ORDER BY

VI.CVE_ID;
```

This query is useful for focusing on a specific time period, allowing security teams to analyze vulnerabilities discovered during that month and quickly identify the risk associated with the affected products.

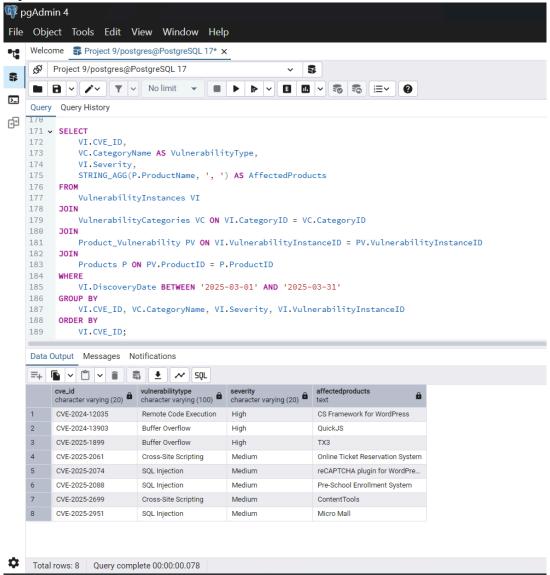


Figure 6: Execution Output for Query 4 – Vulnerabilities Discovered in March 2025

5. **Query 5:** Retrieve all vulnerabilities where the mitigation strategy includes the phrase 'input validation'. For each matching record, display the CVE ID, vulnerability type, detailed mitigation steps, and the names of all products affected by these vulnerabilities.

```
SELECT
    VI.CVE_ID,
    VC.CategoryName AS VulnerabilityType,
    VI.Mitigation,
    STRING_AGG(P.ProductName, ', ') AS AffectedProducts
FROM
    VulnerabilityInstances VI
JOIN
```

```
VulnerabilityCategories VC ON VI.CategoryID = VC.CategoryID

JOIN
    Product_Vulnerability PV ON VI.VulnerabilityInstanceID = PV.VulnerabilityInstanceID

JOIN
    Products P ON PV.ProductID = P.ProductID

WHERE
    VI.Mitigation LIKE '%input validation%'
GROUP BY
    VI.CVE_ID, VC.CategoryName, VI.Severity, VI.VulnerabilityInstanceID
```

This query filters the vulnerability records to include only those where the mitigation strategy mentions 'input validation'. This is useful for quickly identifying vulnerabilities that rely on input validation as part of their remediation strategy, helping security teams focus on a common mitigation approach.

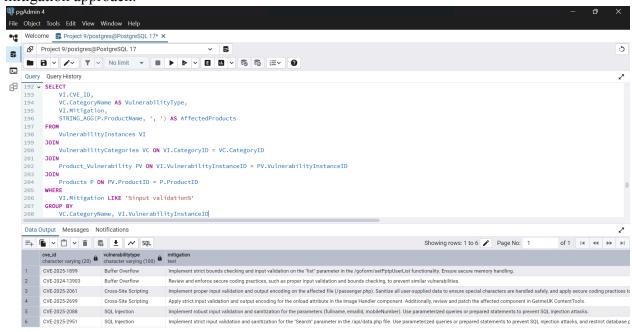


Figure 7: Execution Output for Query 5 – Vulnerabilities with 'Input Validation' in Mitigation

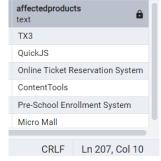


Figure 8: Execution Output for Query 5 – Vulnerabilities with 'Input Validation' in Mitigation (2)

6. **Query 6:** Retrieve all products affected by 'Buffer Overflow' vulnerabilities. For each product, display the product name, vendor, and the count of 'Buffer Overflow' vulnerabilities associated with it, ordered by the vulnerability count in descending order.

```
SELECT
    P.ProductName,
    P.Vendor,
    COUNT(VI.VulnerabilityInstanceID) AS BufferOverflowCount
FROM
    Products P
JOIN
```

```
Product_Vulnerability PV ON P.ProductID = PV.ProductID

JOIN
     VulnerabilityInstances VI ON PV.VulnerabilityInstanceID = VI.VulnerabilityInstanceID

JOIN
     VulnerabilityCategories VC ON VI.CategoryID = VC.CategoryID

WHERE
     VC.CategoryName = 'Buffer Overflow'
GROUP BY
     P.ProductID, P.ProductName, P.Vendor

ORDER BY
     BufferOverflowCount DESC;
```

This query focuses on identifying products that are affected by 'Buffer Overflow' vulnerabilities. It joins the Products, Product_Vulnerability, and VulnerabilityInstances tables along with the VulnerabilityCategories table to filter for vulnerabilities that are classified as 'Buffer Overflow'.

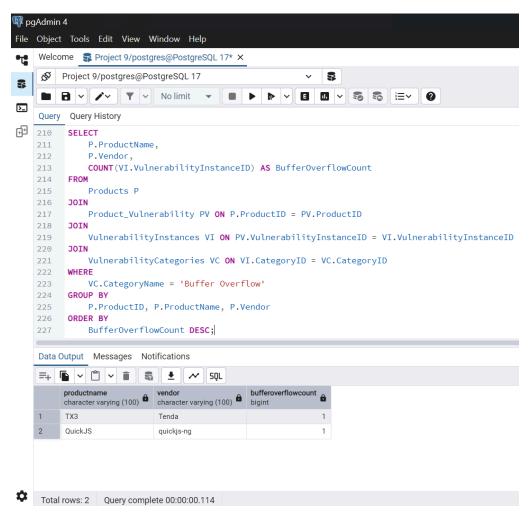


Figure 9: Execution Output for Query 6 – Products Affected by 'Buffer Overflow' Vulnerabilities

7. **Query 7:** Retrieve aggregated vulnerability data: for each vulnerability type, display the total number of vulnerabilities and the average CVSS score, sorted by the total count in descending order.

```
SELECT
    VC.CategoryName AS VulnerabilityType,
    COUNT(VI.VulnerabilityInstanceID) AS TotalVulnerabilities,
    AVG(CAST(SPLIT_PART(VI.CVSS_Score, ' ', array_length(string_to_array(VI.CVSS_Score, ' '), 1)) AS
DECIMAL(3,1))) AS AverageCVSS
FROM
```

```
VulnerabilityInstances VI

JOIN
    VulnerabilityCategories VC ON VI.CategoryID = VC.CategoryID

GROUP BY
    VC.CategoryName
ORDER BY
    TotalVulnerabilities DESC;
```

This query aggregates vulnerability data by vulnerability type. For each type (e.g., 'SQL Injection', 'Buffer Overflow', etc.), it counts the total number of vulnerability instances. Calculates the average CVSS score. Sorting by the total count in descending order helps identify the vulnerability types with the highest number of occurrences, which can be useful for prioritization and risk assessment.

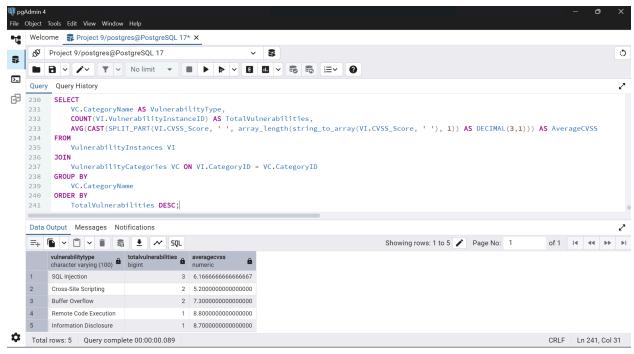


Figure 10: Execution Output for Query 7 – Aggregated Vulnerability Data

8. **Query 8:** Retrieve all vulnerabilities with a severity level of 'High' and display their CVE IDs, vulnerability types, and discovery dates, along with the names of the products affected by them. Sort the results by CVE ID.

```
SELECT
   VI.CVE ID,
   VC.CategoryName AS VulnerabilityType,
   VI.DiscoveryDate,
   STRING_AGG(P.ProductName, ', ') AS AffectedProducts
FROM
   VulnerabilityInstances VI
   VulnerabilityCategories VC ON VI.CategoryID = VC.CategoryID
    Product Vulnerability PV ON VI.VulnerabilityInstanceID = PV.VulnerabilityInstanceID
JOIN
    Products P ON PV.ProductID = P.ProductID
WHERE
   VI.Severity = 'High'
GROUP BY
   VC.CategoryName, VI.VulnerabilityInstanceID
ORDER BY
    VI.CVE_ID;
```

This query focuses on vulnerabilities with a high severity level. For each vulnerability we collect CVE_ID, VulnerabilityType, DiscoveryDate, AffectedProducts Sorting by CVE_ID provides an organized, easily navigable list of high-severity vulnerabilities, enabling security teams to quickly identify and address the most critical issues.

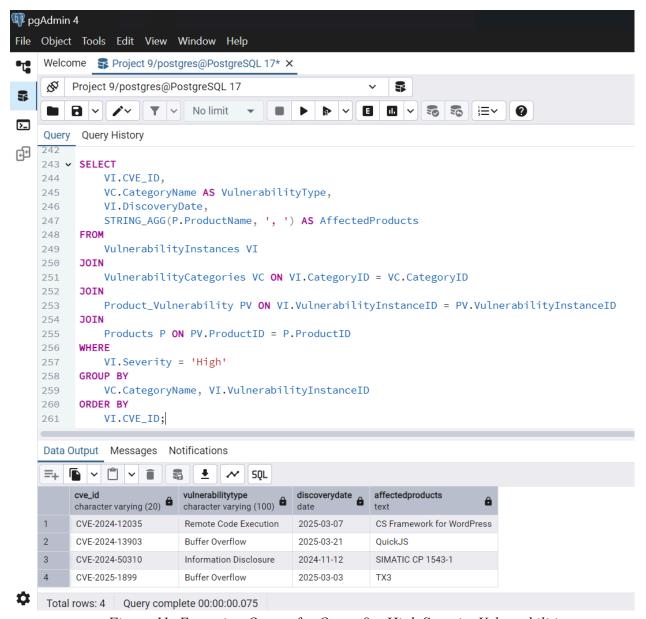


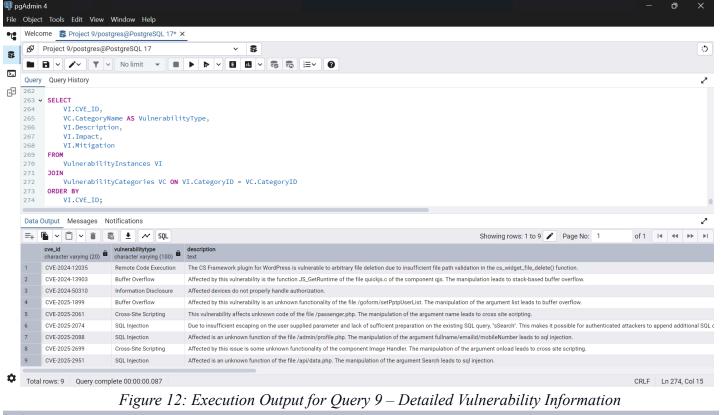
Figure 11: Execution Output for Query 8 – High Severity Vulnerabilities

9. **Query 9:** Retrieve a list of all vulnerabilities along with their CVE IDs, vulnerability types, detailed descriptions, impact, and corresponding mitigation strategies, sorted by the CVE ID.

```
SELECT
    VI.CVE_ID,
    VC.CategoryName AS VulnerabilityType,
    VI.Description,
    VI.Impact,
    VI.Mitigation
FROM
    VulnerabilityInstances VI
JOIN
    VulnerabilityCategories VC ON VI.CategoryID = VC.CategoryID
```

```
ORDER BY
VI.CVE_ID;
```

This query is particularly useful for providing a detailed overview of all vulnerabilities, which helps security analysts, auditors, and management in understanding the nature of each threat and planning appropriate mitigation strategies.



inpact
text

Exploitation of this vulnerability enables authenticated attackers (with Subscriber-level access or higher) to delete arbitrary files on the server. By targeting critical files such as wp-config.php, attackers can achieve remote code execution and fully compromise the set
Exploitation of this vulnerability allows remote attackers to trigger a stack-based buffer overflow within the JS_GetRuntime function, potentially leading to memory corruption, application crashes, and in the worst case, arbitrary code execution.

Exploitation of this vulnerability could allow unauthenticated remote attackers to bypass authorization mechanisms, gaining access to the filesystem. This may result in unauthorized data exposure, modification, or further system compromise.

Exploitation of this vulnerability may allow remote attackers to trigger a buffer overflow by manipulating the "list" parameter. This could result in memory corruption, system crashes, or potentially enable remote code execution, thereby compromising the affected dev
Exploitation of this vulnerability allows remote attackers to inject and execute malicious scripts in the context of a user's browser. This can lead to session hijacking, unauthorized actions, or theft of sensitive information.

Exploitation of this vulnerability enables authenticated attackers (with Subscriber-level access or higher) to append additional SQL queries to existing ones, potentially extracting sensitive information from the database or manipulating its contents.

Exploitation of this SQL Injection vulnerability could allow remote attackers to execute unauthorized SQL queries, potentially leading to data leakage, modification, or deletion, and may compromise the integrity of the system.

Exploitation of this SQL Injection vulnerability could allow remote attackers to execute unauthorized SQL queries, potentially leading to data leakage, modification, or deletion, and may compromise the integrity of the system.

Figure 13: Execution Output for Query 9 – Detailed Vulnerability Information (2)



Figure 14: Execution Output for Query 9 – Detailed Vulnerability Information (3)

10. **Query 10:** Retrieve a distinct list of mitigation strategies used for vulnerabilities, along with the count of vulnerabilities that use each mitigation strategy, sorted by the count in descending order.

```
SELECT

Mitigation,

COUNT(*) AS VulnerabilityCount

FROM

VulnerabilityInstances

GROUP BY

Mitigation

ORDER BY

VulnerabilityCount DESC;
```

This query retrieves a distinct list of mitigation strategies that are employed to address vulnerabilities across the system and counts the number of occurrences for each strategy. By grouping the vulnerabilities by their mitigation field, the query shows how frequently each mitigation approach is used. This insight can help in understanding prevalent remedial practices and may assist in further optimizing security measures by highlighting the most relied-upon strategies.

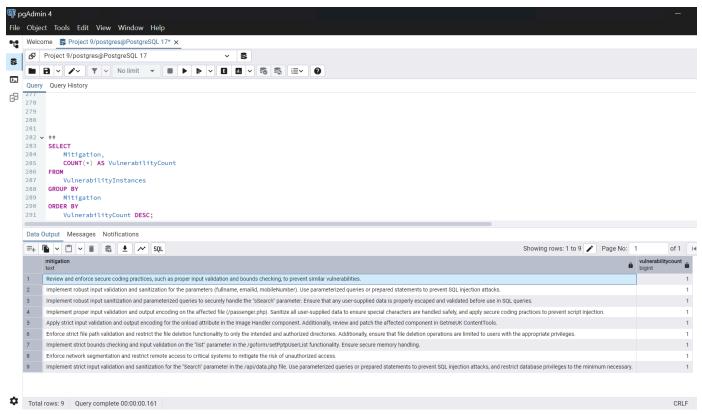


Figure 15: Execution Output for Query 10 – Mitigation Strategies and Vulnerability Counts