

Intro to Postgres: Takeaways

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Syntax

- Connecting to a database using psycopg2 :

```
import psycopg2
conn = psycopg2.connect("dbname=database_name user=username")
```

- Creating a table:

```
CREATE TABLE tableName(
    column1 dataType1 PRIMARY KEY,
    column2 dataType2,
    column3 dataType3,
    ...
);
```

- Inserting values using psycopg2:

```
import psycopg2
conn = psycopg2.connect("dbname=database_name user=username")
cur = conn.cursor()
cur.execute("INSERT INTO users VALUES (%s, %s, %s, %s);", (10, 'hello@dataquest.io', 'Some Name', '123 Fake St.'))
conn.commit()
```

- Loading in a file using psycopg2:

```
conn = psycopg2.connect('dbname=database_name user=username')
cur = conn.cursor()
# sample_file.csv has a header row.
with open('sample_file.csv', 'r') as f:
    # Skip the header row.
    next(f)
    cur.execute("INSERT INTO users VALUES (%s, %s, %s, %s);", row)
```

- Returning the first result of a query:

```
cur.execute(query_string)
cur.fetchone()
```

- Returning all results of a query:

```
cur.execute(query_string)
cur.fetchall()
```

Workflow

- Connect to a database using the [psycopg2.connect\(\) function](#).
- Obtain a [cursor object](#) using the [connection.cursor\(\) method](#).
- Execute SQL queries using the [cursor.execute\(\) method](#).

- Commit your changes using the [connection.commit\(\) method](#).
- When you are done, close the connection using the [connection.close\(\) method](#).

Concepts

- Data engineers need to have the skills to build a data pipeline that connects all the pieces of the data ecosystem together and keep it running.
- The parts of a data pipeline are the following:
 - Collecting
 - Short-term storage
 - Processing
 - Long-term storage
 - Presenting
- Relational databases are the most common storage used for web content, large business storage, and for data platforms.
- Postgres (or PostgreSQL) is one of the biggest open source relational databases.
- Postgres is one of the best options for data analysts.
- Postgres is a more robust engine that is implemented as a server. Postgres can also handle multiple connections and can implement more advanced querying features.
- `psycopg2` is an open source library that implements the Postgres protocol to connect to our Postgres server.
- SQL transactions prevent loss of data by ensuring all queries in a transaction block are executed at the same time. If any transactions fail, then the whole group fails, and no changes are made to the database.
- A new transaction will automatically be created when we open a connection in `psycopg2`.
- When a commit is called, the Postgres engine will run all the queries at once. Not calling a commit or rollback will cause the transaction to stay in a pending state, and the changes will not be made.
- Parametrized queries should use the `cursor.execute()` method and not Python string formatting.

Resources

- [Comparison of Relational Databases](#)
- [Psycopg2 documentation](#)
- [PostgreSQL documentation](#)
- [Passing parameters to SQL queries](#)