

Interactive - 24 - truncate table

PostgreSQL (and most other SQL databases, Oracle, DB/2, DB/2 Universal etc) provide the ability to discard ALL the data in a table. This is implemented as a re-write of the table header info and putting all the data in the table on the re-claim block list. So it is linear time(fast).

Also it is a part of the Data Definition Language (not Data Manipulation) so it often can not be used in a transaction. It can not be rolled back if the transaction fails.

Also when you use truncate stuff like triggers for delete will not fire.

```
TRUNCATE TABLE name_list;  
SELECT count(1) from name_list;
```

You should get back 0 rows.

Tags: “truncate”, “fast delete”, “delete all rows”

Validate: SQL-Select, “select ‘PASS’ as x”