**How can one restrict access to certain columns of a database table?**

GRANT SELECT (column1, column2) ON table TO role - this allows to specify which columns specific users can access, while hiding sensitive columns from unauthorized users.

**What is the difference between user identification and user authentication?**

* Identification is the process of determining who the user is, typically through a unique identifier or username.
* Authentication is the process of verifying the provided credentials, confirming that the user is who they claim to be.

**What are the recommended authentication protocols for PostgreSQL?**

* SCRAM-SHA-256 (most secure method for passwords)
* SSL/TLS certificates for encrypted connections
* LDAP authentication for corporate systems integration
* GSSAPI for Kerberos authentication
* PAM (Pluggable Authentication Modules) for flexible system authentication

**What is proxy authentication in PostgreSQL and what is it for? Why does it make the previously discussed role-based access control easier to implement?**

Proxy authentication in PostgreSQL lets one user "pretend" to be another when working with the database. For example, your application can connect as one technical user and then switch between different roles depending on who's actually working.

This makes access control easier because:

* No need to create a separate database user for each person
* Easy to manage permissions through roles
* You can see who did what in the logs
* More secure since real users don't have direct database access