Upgrading Postgres from 12.4 to 13.0 (major upgrade).docx

Dear Reader.

In this post, we will see how can we upgrade the major version upgrade of postgres.

- Before PG 10, if upgrade changes any of the first 2 sets of digits then it will get considered as a major version upgrade (e.g. from 9.5.8 to 9.6.4 OR 9.5.8 to 10.1) but if 3rd digit changes then it's a minor version upgrade (e.g. 9.6.2 to 9.6.3)
- After PG 10, if 1st digit changes after the upgrade (e.g. pg 12.4 to 13.0) then it's a major upgrade but if the 2nd set of digits are changing after the upgrade then it's a minor upgrade (e.g. from 12.1 to 12.4).
- In this document, we will see how to perform the major version upgrade. We will use pg_upgrade utility
- For the minor version, mostly I will create a separate post (but trust me it's very simple).
- 1. A freshly installed Postgres 12.4 cluster is running

2. Let's create a new database and add some data to it.

As we can see, I have created a database dvdrental and it's film table has 1000 rows in it.

```
[postgres@pgserver1 tmp]$lt dvdrental.zip
-rw-rw-r--. 1 postgres postgres 538K Sep 13 13:17 dvdrental.zip
[postgres@pgserver1 tmp]$chmod 755 dvdrental.zip
[postgres@pgserver1 tmp]$unzip dvdrental.zip
[postgres@pgserver1 tmp]$lt dvdrental.tar
-rw-r---. 1 postgres postgres 2.8M May 12 2019 dvdrental.tar

[postgres@pgserver1 tmp]$createdb -O postgres -U postgres dvdrental
[postgres@pgserver1 tmp]$pg_restore -d dvdrental -Ft dvdrental.tar

[postgres@pgserver1 tmp]$pg_restore -d dvdrental -Ft dvdrental.tar
```

```
[postgres@pgserver1 tmp]$1t dvdrental.zip
-rw-rw-r--. 1 postgres postgres 538K Sep 13 13:17 dvdrental.zip
[postgres@pgserver1 tmp]$chmod 755 dvdrental.zip
[postgres@pgserver1 tmp]$unzip dvdrental.zip
Archive: dvdrental.zip
inflating: dvdrental.tar
[postgres@pgserver1 tmp]$1t dvdrental.tar
-rw-r----. 1 postgres postgres 2.8M May 12 2019 dvdrental.tar
[postgres@pgserver1 tmp]$
[postgres@pgserver1 tmp]$psql -d dvdrental -c "select count(*) from film;"
count
------
1000
(1 row)
```

3. As a little twist, I'm also installing 1 postgres extension pg_buffercache. This extension we use to understand which table pages are occupying space in the shared buffers.

The purpose of adding an extension is to show how we can upgrade those extensions also to their higher versions. However, we must first read the documentation of the extension to make sure that the extension is supported in the newer version of the Postgres.

pg_buffercache gets shipped as a utility with contrib so I'm installing it first and then enabling pg_buffercache in the dvdrental database. Please note that for installing contrib I'm using yum so either root or sudo access is needed.

[root@pgserver1 postgres-master]# yum install postgresql12-contrib

```
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$psql -d dvdrental dvdrental=# CREATE EXTENSION pg_buffercache; dvdrental=# \dx
```

```
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$psql -d dvdrental
psql (12.4)
Type "help" for help.
dvdrental=# \dx
                 List of installed extensions
 Name
                                          Description
plpgsql | 1.0 | pg catalog | PL/pgSQL procedural language
(1 row)
dvdrental=# CREATE EXTENSION pg buffercache;
CREATE EXTENSION
dvdrental=#
dvdrental=# \dx
                      List of installed extensions
     Name
                | Version |
                                                   Description
                                       | examine the shared buffer cache
pg buffercache | 1.3
                          | public
plpgsql
                          | pg catalog | PL/pgSQL procedural language
                1.0
(2 rows)
dvdrental=# \q
```

4. Install postgres 13 as a root user

Here, we are just installing and initializing a cluster but we are not starting it.

I copied the code from the official postgres site and removed the startup command.

```
[root@pgserver1 ~]# cat install_pg13.sh
# Install the repository RPM:
yum install -y https://download.postgresql.org/pub/repos/yum/reporpms/EL-7-x86_64/pgdg-
redhat-repo-latest.noarch.rpm

# Install PostgreSQL:
yum install -y postgresql13-server

# Optionally initialize the database and enable automatic start:
/usr/pgsql-13/bin/postgresql-13-setup initdb
systemctl enable postgresql-13

[root@pgserver1 ~]# sh install_pg13.sh
```

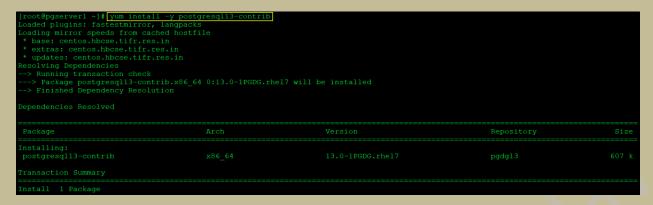
After the installation, we can see that new base directory 13 is created which will be used like a new \$PGDATA after the upgrade.

```
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$ls -ld 12 13
drwx-----. 4 postgres postgres 51 Oct 11 12:20 12
drwx----. 4 postgres postgres 51 Oct 11 15:45 13
 [postgres@pgserver1 ~]$ls -1 13
 total 8
drwx----. 2 postgres postgres
                                                                        6 Sep 23 02:55 backups
 drwx----. 20 postgres postgres 4096 Oct 11 15:45 data
 -rw----. 1 postgres postgres 920 Oct 11 15:45 initdb.log
 [postgres@pgserver1 ~]$ls -1 13/data/
 drwx----. 5 postgres postgres
                                                                        41 Oct 11 15:45 base
 drwx----. 2 postgres postgres 4096 Oct 11 15:45 global
 drwx----. 2 postgres postgres
 drwx----. 2 postgres postgres
 -rw----. 1 postgres postgres 4548 Oct 11 15:45 pg hba.conf
 -rw-----. 1 postgres postgres 1636 Oct 11 15:45 pg ident.conf
drwx----- 4 postgres postgres 36 Oct 11 15:45 pg_logical drwx----- 2 postgres postgres 6 Oct 11 15:45 pg_multixact drwx----- 2 postgres postgres 6 Oct 11 15:45 pg_notify drwx----- 2 postgres postgres 6 Oct 11 15:45 pg_replslot drwx---- 2 postgres postgres 6 Oct 11 15:45 pg_serial drwx---- 2 postgres postgres 6 Oct 11 15:45 pg_snapshots drwx---- 2 postgres postgres 6 Oct 11 15:45 pg_snapshots drwx---- 2 postgres postgres 6 Oct 11 15:45 pg_stat drwx---- 2 postgres postgres 6 Oct 11 15:45 pg_stat tmp drwx---- 2 postgres postgres 6 Oct 11 15:45 pg_subtrans drwx---- 2 postgres postgres 6 Oct 11 15:45 pg_tblspc drwx---- 2 postgres postgres 6 Oct 11 15:45 pg_tblspc drwx---- 2 postgres postgres 6 Oct 11 15:45 pg_twophase -rw---- 1 postgres postgres 60 Oct 11 15:45 pg_wal drwx---- 2 postgres postgres 7 Oct 11 15:45 pg_xact -rw---- 1 postgres postgres 88 Oct 11 15:45 postgresql.au -rw---- 1 postgres postgres 27985 Oct 11 15:45 postgresql.au
drwx----. 4 postgres postgres 68 Oct 11 15:45 pg_logical
                                                                        88 Oct 11 15:45 postgresql.auto.conf
  -rw----. 1 postgres postgres 27985 Oct 11 15:45 postgresql.conf
```

5. Let's install postgres contrib 13 for PG 13 database cluster as we have 1 extension in the PG 12 database which is supposed to be migrated to PG 13 compatible version of it's own. Please note that we are just installing PG 13 and PG contrib 13, we are not running any "CREATE EXTENSION....." command. It will automatically get created under the appropriate database during the upgrade process.

As a root user run:

[root@pgserver1 ~]# yum install -y postgresgl13-contrib



6. For the upgrade process, pg_upgrade utility will be used. During the upgrade process, this utility will connect old and new clusters several times so we should adjust pg_hba.conf or use ~/.pgpass file. For me, I'm having local + peer rule for both 12 and 13 clusters which is sufficient.

```
# TYPE DATABASE USER ADDRESS METHOD

# "local" is for Unix domain socket connections only
local all peer
```

7. I created 2 simple separate environment files for PG 12 and 13 clusters. Those will come handy at the time of upgrade.

```
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$lt *.env
-rw-r--r--. 1 postgres postgres 94 Oct 11 12:24 pg12.env
-rw-r--r--. 1 postgres postgres 94 Oct 11 16:24 pg13.env

[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$cat pg12.env
export PATH=/usr/pgsql-12/bin/:$PATH
export PGDATA=/var/lib/pgsql/12/data/
export PGPORT=5432

[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$cat pg13.env
export PATH=/usr/pgsql-13/bin/:$PATH
export PGDATA=/var/lib/pgsql/13/data/
export PGPORT=5432
```

```
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$It *.env

-rw-r--r-. 1 postgres postgres 94 Oct 11 12:24 pg12.env

-rw-r--r-. 1 postgres postgres 94 Oct 11 16:24 pg13.env

[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$cat pg12.env

export PATH=/usr/pgsql-12/bin/:$PATH

export PGDATA=/var/lib/pgsql/12/data/

export PGPORT=5432

[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$cat pg13.env

export PATH=/usr/pgsql-13/bin/:$PATH

export PGDATA=/var/lib/pgsql/13/data/

export PGPORT=5432
```

8. Take a proper backup of the existing cluster in case we need to undo the upgrade process. This is a very important step and must be followed to be double sure.I'm using pg_basebackup but you can use anything good for your environment.As a postgres user run:

```
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$source pg12.env
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$pg_basebackup -D /backup -Fp
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$lt /backup
```

```
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$source pg12.env
  [postgres@pgserver1 ~]$pg basebackup
                                                                                                              /backup -Fp
 [postgres@pgserver1 ~]$lt /backup
 -rw-----. 1 postgres postgres 224 Oct 11 16:34 backup label
-rw-----. 1 postgres postgres
drwx-----. 2 postgres postgres
drwx-----. 4 postgres postgres
drwx-----. 2 postgres postgres
drwx-----. 5 postgres postgres
drwx-----. 6 postgres postgres
drwx-----. 6 postgres postgres
drwx-----. 6 postgres postgres

224 Oct 11 16:34 backup_label
6 Oct 11 16:34 pg_subtrans
6 Oct 11 16:34 pg_snapshots
6 Oct 11 16:34 pg_notify
36 Oct 11 16:34 pg_multixact
6 Oct 11 16:34 pg_dynshmem
 drwx----. 6 postgres postgres 54 Oct 11 16:34 base
  -rw----. 1 postgres postgres 88 Oct 11 16:34 postgresql.auto.conf
 drwx----. 2 postgres postgres 18 Oct 11 16:34 pg xact
-rw----- 1 postgres postgres 3 Oct 11 16:34 PG_VERSION drwx----- 2 postgres postgres 6 Oct 11 16:34 pg_tblspc drwx----- 2 postgres postgres 6 Oct 11 16:34 pg_stat_tmp drwx----- 2 postgres postgres 6 Oct 11 16:34 pg_stat_drwx---- 2 postgres postgres 6 Oct 11 16:34 pg_replslot
drwx----. 4 postgres postgres 68 Oct 11 16:34 pg logical
  -rw----. 1 postgres postgres 4.5K Oct 11 16:34 pg hba.conf
  -rw-----. 1 postgres postgres 27K Oct 11 16:34 postgresql.conf 11102020 1
 -rw----. 1 postgres postgres 27K Oct 11 16:34 postgresql.conf
  -rw----. 1 postgres postgres 1.6K Oct 11 16:34 pg ident.conf
 drwx----. 2 postgres postgres 32 Oct 11 16:34 log drwx----. 2 postgres postgres 4.0K Oct 11 16:34 global
  -rw----. 1 postgres postgres 30 Oct 11 16:34 current logfiles
```

9. Stop the PG 12 cluster as a **postgres** user.

```
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$lk postgres
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$pg_ctl -D $PGDATA -mf stop
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$lk postgres
```

10. Source the environment file of PG 13 and run pg_upgrade with check mode.

While doing upgrade we must use the target version's pg_uprade utility.

Using a check flag only verifies the clusters based on several criteria but it doesn't change anything or never runs upgrade.

Every time we run pg_upgrade, it creates 3 files which we can read for more information:

- a. pg_upgrade_utility.log
- b. pg_upgrade_internal.log
- c. pg_upgrade_server.log

```
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$source pg13.env
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$pg_upgrade -V
pg_upgrade (PostgreSQL) 13.0
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$pg_upgrade \
   --old-datadir=/var/lib/pgsql/12/data/\
   --new-datadir=/var/lib/pgsql/13/data/\
   --old-bindir=/usr/pgsql-12/bin \
   --new-bindir=/usr/pgsql-13/bin \
>
   --old-options '-c config_file=/var/lib/pgsql/12/data/postgresql.conf' \
   --new-options '-c config_file=/var/lib/pgsql/13/data/postgresql.conf' \
   --check
Performing Consistency Checks
Checking cluster versions
Checking database user is the install user
                                                    ok
Checking database connection settings
                                                     ok
Checking for prepared transactions
                                                  ok
Checking for reg* data types in user tables
                                                    ok
Checking for contrib/isn with bigint-passing mismatch
Checking for presence of required libraries
Checking database user is the install user
                                                    ok
Checking for prepared transactions
                                                  ok
*Clusters are compatible*
```

```
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$source pg13.env
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$pg upgrade -V
  upgrade (PostgreSQL) 13.0
                    ~| pg upgrade
     --old-datadir=/var/lib/pgsgl/12/data/ \
     --new-datadir=/var/lib/pgsgl/13/data/
    --old-bindir=/usr/pgsgl-12/bin \
    --new-bindir=/usr/pgsql-13/bin \
    --old-options '-c config file=/var/lib/pgsql/12/data/postgresql.conf' \
     --new-options '-c config file=/var/lib/pgsql/13/data/postgresql.conf' \
    --check
Performing Consistency Checks
Checking cluster versions
Checking database user is the install user
Checking database connection settings
Checking for prepared transactions
Checking for reg* data types in user tables
Checking for contrib/isn with bigint-passing mismatch
Checking for presence of required libraries
Checking for prepared transactions
```

11. Run the pg_upgrade without a check flag i.e. running the actual upgrade process.

```
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$pg_upgrade \
> --old-datadir=/var/lib/pgsql/12/data/ \
> --new-datadir=/var/lib/pgsql/13/data/ \
> --old-bindir=/usr/pgsql-12/bin \
> --new-bindir=/usr/pgsql-13/bin \
> --old-options '-c config file=/var/lib/pgsql/12/data/postgresql.conf' \
> --new-options '-c config_file=/var/lib/pgsql/13/data/postgresql.conf'
Performing Consistency Checks
Checking cluster versions
Checking database user is the install user
                                                    ok
Checking database connection settings
                                                     ok
Checking for prepared transactions
                                                   ok
Checking for reg* data types in user tables
                                                     ok
Checking for contrib/isn with bigint-passing mismatch
Creating dump of global objects
Creating dump of database schemas
Checking for presence of required libraries
                                                     ok
Checking database user is the install user
                                                    ok
Checking for prepared transactions
If pg_upgrade fails after this point, you must re-initdb the
new cluster before continuing.
Performing Upgrade
```

Analyzing all rows in the new cluster ok Freezing all rows in the new cluster ok Deleting files from new pg_xact ok Copying old pg_xact to new server ok Setting next transaction ID and epoch for new cluster ok Deleting files from new pg_multixact/offsets ok Copying old pg multixact/offsets to new server ok Deleting files from new pg multixact/members ok Copying old pg_multixact/members to new server ok Setting next multixact ID and offset for new cluster ok Resetting WAL archives Setting frozenxid and minmxid counters in new cluster Restoring global objects in the new cluster Restoring database schemas in the new cluster

OK

Copying user relation files

ok

Setting next OID for new cluster ok
Sync data directory to disk
Creating script to analyze new cluster ok
Creating script to delete old cluster ok

Upgrade Complete

Optimizer statistics are not transferred by pg_upgrade so, once you start the new server, consider running:
./analyze_new_cluster.sh

Running this script will delete the old cluster's data files: ./delete_old_cluster.sh

- 12. After the upgrade completes successfully 2 files will be created in the same directory from where we run pg_upgrade:
 - a. analyze_new_cluster.sh: During the upgrade, optimizer stats won't get transferred so it's important to gather the stats. We can use this script or we can manually gather the stats. This script internally runs below command:
 - "/usr/pgsgl-13/bin/vacuumdb" --all --analyze-in-stages
 - b. delete_old_cluster.sh: This script will delete old cluster's datafiles i.e. old cluster's \$PGDATA
- 13. Start the upgraded cluster, verify the data:

```
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$pg_ctl -D $PGDATA -mf start
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$psql

postgres=# \l
postgres=# \c dvdrental
dvdrental=# select count(*) from film;
postgres=# \q

[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$psql -c "select version();"
```

```
| Ipostyres@pgserverl -| Second Collection | Ipostyres@pgserverl | | Ipostyres@pgs
```

14. If everything is good then we can run analyze_new_cluster.sh

```
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$sh analyze_new_cluster.sh
```

```
[postgres@pgserver1 ~] Sh analyze new cluster.sh
This script will generate minimal optimizer statistics rapidly
so your system is usable, and then gather statistics twice more
with increasing accuracy. When it is done, your system will
have the default level of optimizer statistics.

If you have used ALTER TABLE to modify the statistics target for
any tables, you might want to remove them and restore them after
running this script because they will delay fast statistics generation.

If you would like default statistics as quickly as possible, cancel
this script and run:
    "/usr/pgsql-13/bin/vacuumdb" --all --analyze-only

vacuumdb: processing database "dvdrental": Generating minimal optimizer statistics (1 target)
vacuumdb: processing database "templatel": Generating minimal optimizer statistics (1 target)
vacuumdb: processing database "dvdrental": Generating medium optimizer statistics (10 targets)
vacuumdb: processing database "dvdrental": Generating medium optimizer statistics (10 targets)
vacuumdb: processing database "templatel": Generating medium optimizer statistics (10 targets)
vacuumdb: processing database "templatel": Generating default (full) optimizer statistics
vacuumdb: processing database "dvdrental": Generating default (full) optimizer statistics
vacuumdb: processing database "templatel": Generating default (full) optimizer statistics
vacuumdb: processing database "templatel": Generating default (full) optimizer statistics
vacuumdb: processing database "templatel": Generating default (full) optimizer statistics
vacuumdb: processing database "templatel": Generating default (full) optimizer statistics
vacuumdb: processing database "templatel": Generating default (full) optimizer statistics
```

15. As a final step, we can run delete_old_cluster.sh and delete the old \$PGDATA directory.

[postgres@pgserver1 ~]\$sh delete_old_cluster.sh

```
[postgres@pgserver1 ~]$sh delete_old_cluster.sh
```