# info.sp\_whoisactive – Technical Documentation

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## Summary

This function returns current session activity from `pg\_stat\_activity`. It mimics the behavior of SQL Server’s `sp\_whoisactive` by exposing long-running queries, blocked sessions, and system wait states.

## Output Columns

- `duration`: interval – Query duration  
- `pid`, `datname`, `usename`, `application\_name`  
- `client\_addr`, `backend\_start`, `xact\_start`, `query\_start`  
- `state`, `wait\_event\_type`, `wait\_event`, `query`

## Filters & Logic

1. Excludes self using `sa.pid <> pg\_backend\_pid()`  
2. If `p\_show\_all\_idle = TRUE`: show everything  
3. Else:  
 - If `p\_show\_idle\_in\_transaction = TRUE`: includes 'idle in transaction'  
 - Else: includes only active sessions (state ≠ 'idle')  
4. Filters to `p\_database\_name` if provided

## Use Cases

- Monitor blocking chains  
- Identify long-running or stuck queries  
- Debug client connection behavior  
- Audit application connections by `application\_name`

## Limitations

- Does not resolve blocking hierarchy (requires join to `pg\_locks`)  
- View is read-only — no cancel/terminate integration  
- Cannot access historical queries once gone from memory

## References

- https://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/monitoring-stats.html  
- https://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/view-pg-stat-activity.html

## TL;DR

Live session monitoring function. Debug query durations, wait states, and idle behavior safely.