

**dba.sp\_whoisactive(technical page)**

**Purpose:**

The dba.sp\_whoisactive function provides a snapshot of current activity in your PostgreSQL instance. It is modeled after SQL Server’s popular "sp\_whoisactive" and is designed to help DBAs monitor running queries, idle sessions, wait events, and more in real-time.

**🔧 What It Does**

- Shows active sessions and queries.  
- Displays how long each query has been running.  
- Includes information like database name, user, client IP, application name, wait events, and more.  
- Allows filtering by database or idle session state.

**🔐 Input Parameters**

This function accepts the following parameters:  
- p\_database\_name (TEXT): Filter by specific database name (optional).  
- p\_show\_idle\_in\_transaction (BOOLEAN): Include sessions that are idle in transaction (default FALSE).  
- p\_show\_all\_idle (BOOLEAN): Include all idle sessions (default FALSE).

**📥 Usage Syntax**

***SELECT \* FROM dba.sp\_whoisactive();***

***✅ Example with filters:  
SELECT \* FROM dba.sp\_whoisactive('mydb', true, false);***

**❓ Troubleshooting**

- If no rows return, it may mean all sessions are idle and filtering is too strict.  
- Make sure you have permission to view `pg\_stat\_activity`.  
- Filtering by database name is case-sensitive unless quoted.

**🛠️ Technical Information**

**⚠️ Important Notes**

- This function filters out the current backend (the one running the function itself).  
- Intended to help DBAs monitor real-time activity without needing external tools.  
- Can be combined with other monitoring views or automation.

**🧾 What Gets Returned**

The function returns a result set with the following columns:  
- duration: How long the query has been running  
- pid: Process ID  
- datname: Database name  
- usename: User name  
- application\_name: Name of the client application  
- client\_addr: Client IP address  
- backend\_start, xact\_start, query\_start, state\_change: Timestamps  
- state: Current state (e.g., active, idle)  
- wait\_event\_type & wait\_event: Details about what the backend is waiting on  
- query: The full SQL text being executed

**🔄 How It Works (Behind the Scenes)**

1. Queries pg\_stat\_activity for session details.  
2. Calculates query duration as NOW() - query\_start.  
3. Filters based on idle/active state and database name.  
4. Orders results by duration (longest-running queries first).

**✅ Setup Checklist (One-Time)**

Make sure these steps are done first (included in the .sql file):  
- [x] dba schema exists.  
- [x] dba.sp\_whoisactive function is created and tested.

**🧹 Optional Cleanup**

***If you need to update or remove the function:  
DROP FUNCTION dba.sp\_whoisactive(text, boolean, boolean);***