

Installing PostgreSQL

Installing PostgreSQL

- PostgreSQL can be installed on almost all modern operating systems.
- It can be installed on all recent Linux distributions, Windows 2000 SP4 and later, FreeBSD, OpenBSD, macOS, AIX, and Solaris.
- Also, PostgreSQL can work on various CPU architectures, including x86, x86_64, and IA64.
- You can check whether a platform (operating system and CPU architecture combination) is supported by exploring the PostgreSQL build farm at <http://buildfarm.postgresql.org>.
- You can compile and install.

- In order to automate PostgreSQL installation and to reduce server administrative tasks, it's recommended you use PostgreSQL binaries, which come with the operating system packaging system.
- This approach normally has one drawback: binaries that aren't up to date.
- However, PostgreSQL's official website maintains the binaries for the most common platforms, including BSD, Linux, macOS, Solaris, and Windows.

- The instructions, as well as the binaries, to install PostgreSQL can be found on the official web page (<https://www.postgresql.org/download/>).

My environment

- Windows 10 Professional
- Hyper-V
- Ubuntu 18.04.1 LTS
- PostgreSQL 11.1

Enable Hyper-V

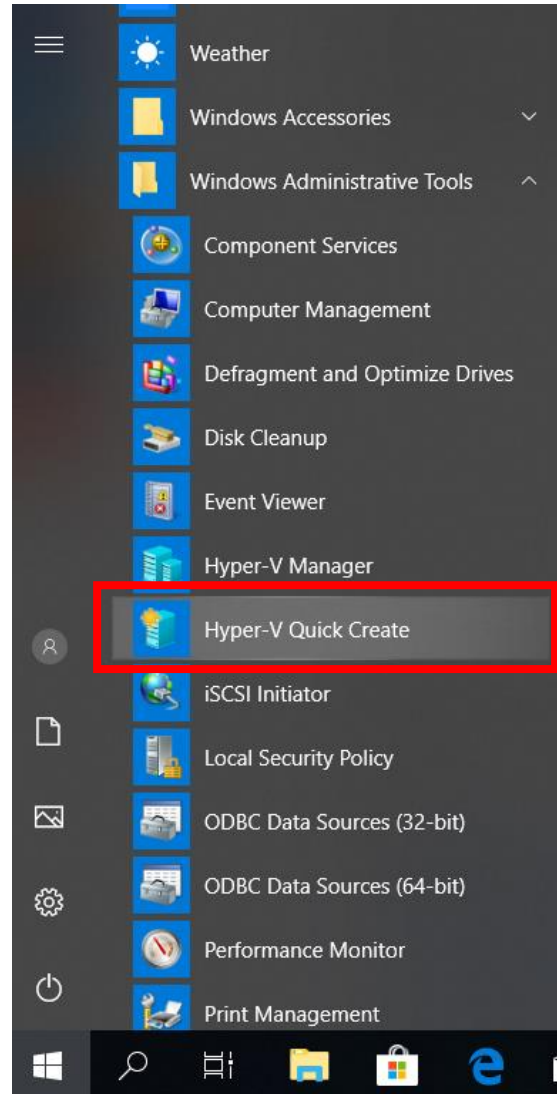
- **Check Requirements**

- Windows 10 Enterprise, Pro, or Education
 - 64-bit Processor with Second Level Address Translation (SLAT).
 - CPU support for VM Monitor Mode Extension (VT-c on Intel CPUs).
 - Minimum of 4 GB memory.
- <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/virtualization/hyper-v-on-windows/quick-start/enable-hyper-v>

Create a Virtual Machine with Hyper-V

- <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/virtualization/hyper-v-on-windows/quick-start/quick-create-virtual-machine>

Windows 10 Fall Creators Update





Create Virtual Machine



Select an operating system



Windows 10 dev environment



Ubuntu 18.04.1 LTS



MSIX Packaging Tool Environment



Local installation source



Ubuntu 18.04.1 LTS

Canonical Group Ltd

Ubuntu is used by thousands of development teams around the world because of its versatility, reliability and extensive developer libraries.

This LTS release comes with five years of support meaning that you can be assured of secure and dependable operating system giving you the fastest route from development to deployment on desktop, devices, server, cloud and IoT edge.

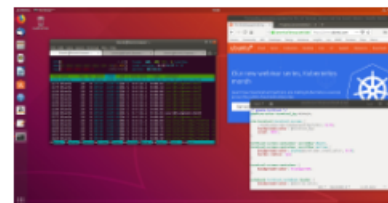
Ubuntu is free and will always be, and you have the option to get support and Landscape from Canonical. See <https://www.ubuntu.com/legal> for terms and conditions.

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Bionic Beaver

18.04.1 LTS

Version 18.04.1 LTS



ubuntu

More options

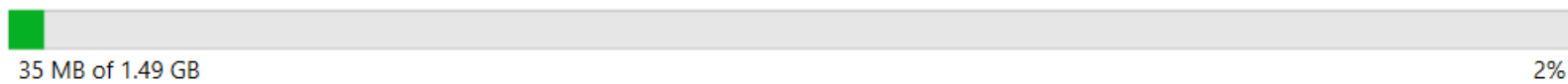
Close

Create Virtual Machine

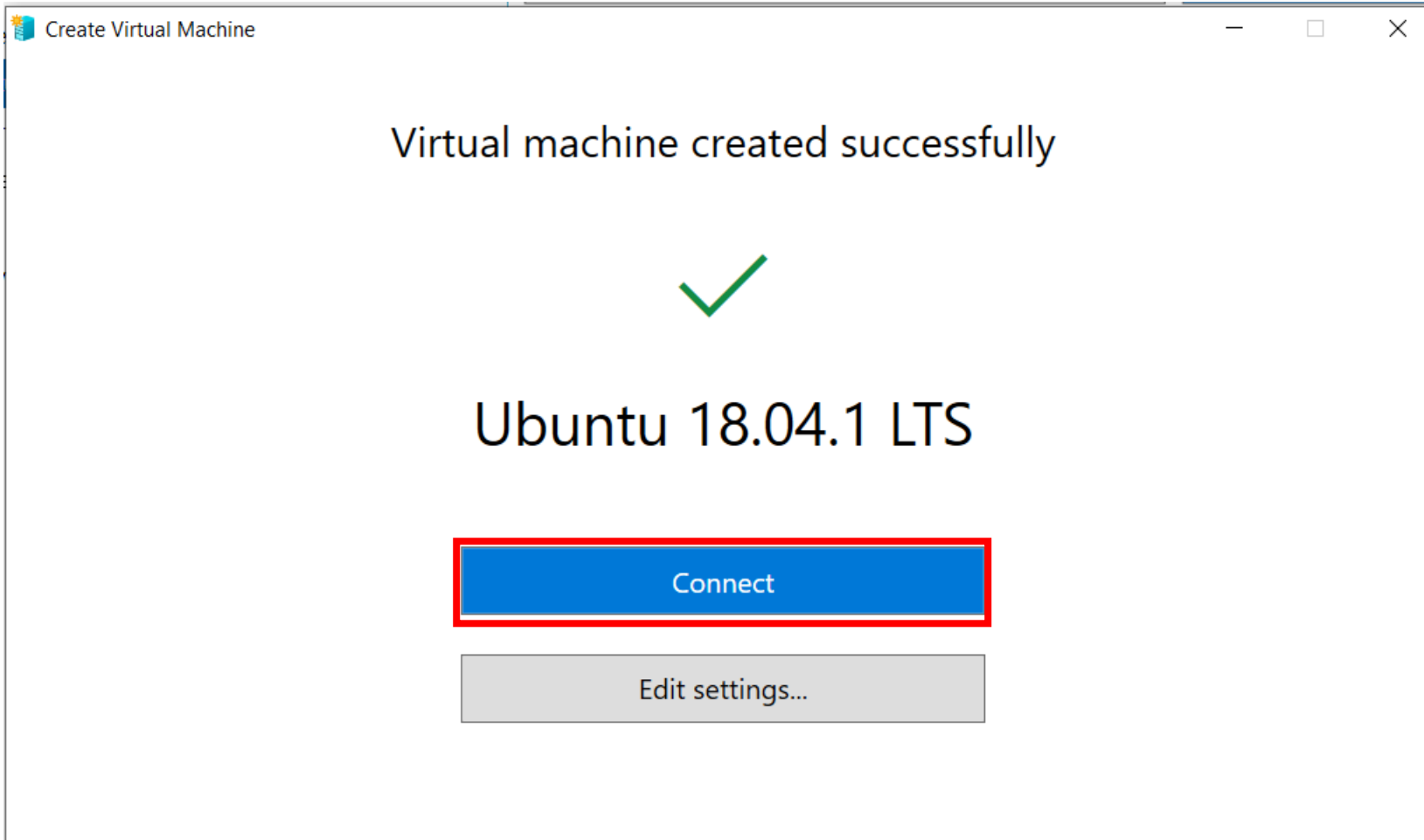
Create Virtual Machine

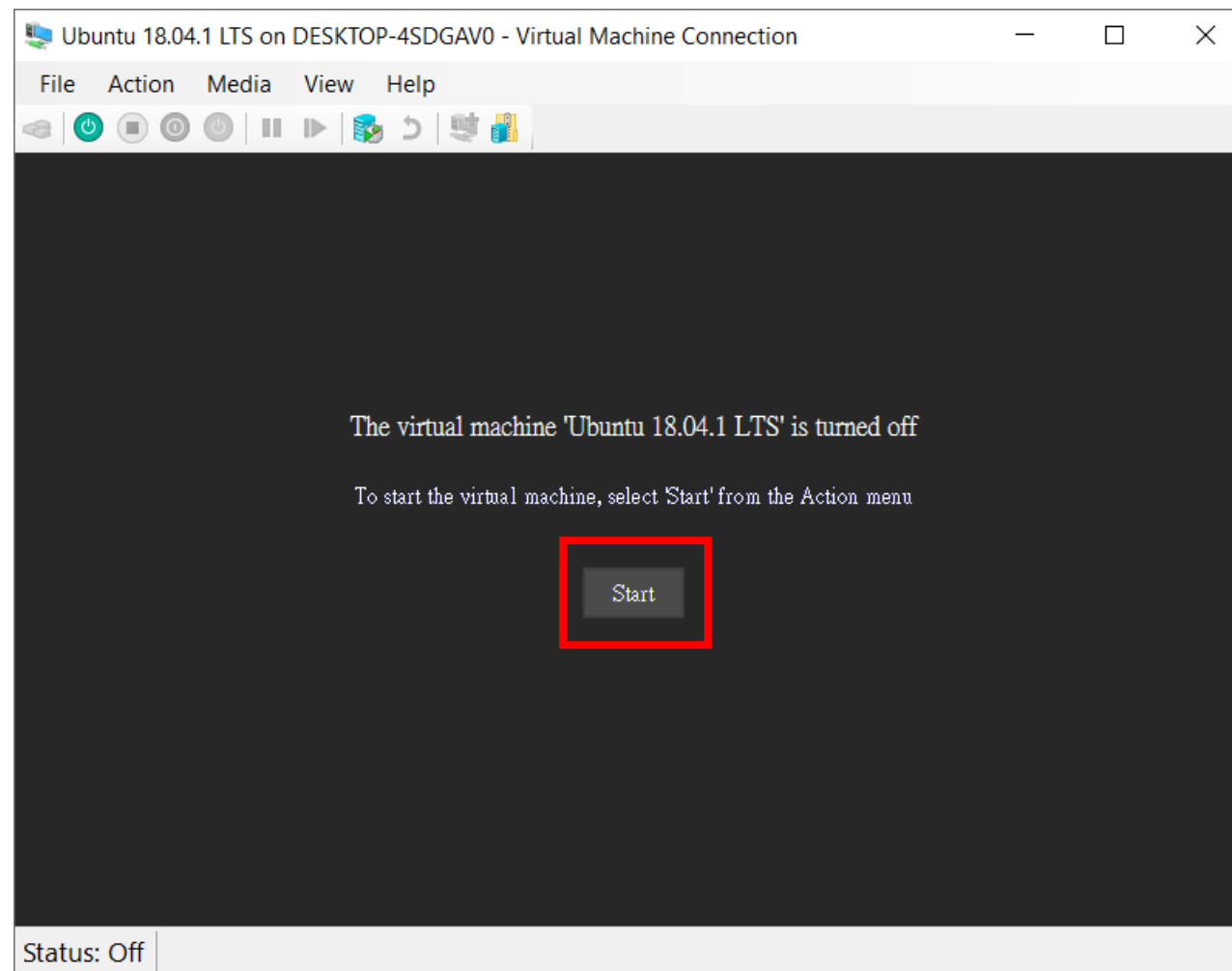


Downloading image 'Ubuntu 18.04.1 LTS'...



Cancel





System Configuration

Welcome

Asturianu	Bahasa Indonesia	Bosanski	Català
Čeština	Cymraeg	Dansk	Deutsch
Eesti	English	Español	Esperanto
Euskara	Français	Gaeilge	Galego
Hrvatski	Íslenska	Italiano	Kurdî
Latviski	Lietuviškai	Magyar	Nederlands
No localization (UTF-8)	Norsk bokmål	Norsk nynorsk	Polski
Português	Português do Brasil	Română	Sámegillii
Shqip	Slovenčina	Slovenščina	Suomi

[Continue](#)

System Configuration

Keyboard layout

Choose your keyboard layout:

English (Ghana)

English (Nigeria)

English (South Africa)

English (UK)

English (US)

Esperanto

Estonian

Faroese

Filipino

English (US)

English (US) - Cherokee

English (US) - English (Colemak)

English (US) - English (Dvorak)

English (US) - English (Dvorak, alt. intl.)

English (US) - English (Dvorak, intl., with dead keys)

English (US) - English (Dvorak, left-handed)

English (US) - English (Dvorak, right-handed)

English (US) - English (Macintosh)

Type here to test your keyboard

Detect Keyboard Layout

Back

Continue



System Configuration

Where are you?



Taipei

Back

Continue



System Configuration

Who are you?

Your name: Joshua ✓

Your computer's name: joshua-Virtual-Machine ✓
The name it uses when it talks to other computers.

Pick a username: joshua ✓

Choose a password: ●●●●●●●● Fair password

Confirm your password: ●●●●●●●● ✓

- ☐ Log in automatically
☒ Require my password to log in

Back

Continue



System Configuration

Welcome to Ubuntu

Fast and full of new features, the latest version of Ubuntu makes computing easier than ever. Here are just a few cool new things to look out for...



► Configuring keyboard...

Skip



- **Advanced Package Tool (APT)** is used to handle the installation and removal of software on Debian and Debian-based distributions, such as the Ubuntu operating system.
- Recent PostgreSQL binaries might not yet be integrated with the official Debian and Ubuntu repositories.
- To set up the PostgreSQL apt repository on Debian or Ubuntu, execute the following:
 - `sudo sh -c 'echo "deb
http://apt.postgresql.org/pub/repos/apt/
$(lsb_release -cs)-pgdg main" >
/etc/apt/sources.list.d/pgdg.list'`
 - `wget --quiet -O -
https://www.PostgreSQL.org/media/keys/ACCC4CF8.asc |
sudo apt-key add -`
 - `sudo apt-get update`

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

```
joshua@joshua-Virtual-Machine:~$ sudo sh -c 'echo "deb http://apt.postgresql.org/pub/repos/apt/ $(lsb_release -cs)-pgdg main" > /etc/apt/sources.list.d/pgdg.list'
joshua@joshua-Virtual-Machine:~$ wget --quiet -O - https://www.PostgreSQL.org/media/keys/ACCC4CF8.asc | sudo apt-key add -
```

OK

```
joshua@joshua-Virtual-Machine:~$ sudo apt-get update
```

```
Get:1 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security InRelease [88.7 kB]
Hit:2 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic InRelease
Get:3 http://apt.postgresql.org/pub/repos/apt bionic-pgdg InRelease [41.3 kB]
Get:4 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates InRelease [88.7 kB]
Get:5 http://apt.postgresql.org/pub/repos/apt bionic-pgdg/main amd64 Packages [146 kB]
Get:6 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/main amd64 Packages [266 kB]
Get:7 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-backports InRelease [74.6 kB]
Get:8 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/main Translation-en [99.6 kB]
Get:9 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/main amd64 DEP-11 Metadata [204 B]
Get:10 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/universe amd64 Packages [119 kB]
Get:11 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/universe Translation-en [67.3 kB]
Get:12 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/universe amd64 DEP-11 Metadata [20.7 kB]
Get:13 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/universe amd64 Packages [8570 kB]
Get:14 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/universe DEP-11 48x48 Icons [12.2 kB]
Get:15 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/universe DEP-11 64x64 Icons [50.1 kB]
Get:16 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/multiverse amd64 Packages [3332 B]
Get:17 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/multiverse Translation-en [1848 B]
Get:18 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/multiverse amd64 DEP-11 Metadata [2464 B]
Get:19 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/multiverse DEP-11 48x48 Icons [29 B]
Get:20 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/multiverse DEP-11 64x64 Icons [2638 B]
24% [13 Packages 2061 kB/8570 kB 24%]
```

277 kB/s 1min 43s

- After adding a new apt repository, it's good to upgrade your system as follows:
 - `sudo apt-get upgrade`

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

```
Get:47 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-backports/universe amd64 Packages [4308 B]
Get:48 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-backports/universe Translation-en [1604 B]
Get:49 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-backports/universe amd64 DEP-11 Metadata [7352 B]
Get:50 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-backports/universe DEP-11 48x48 Icons [29 B]
Get:51 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-backports/universe DEP-11 64x64 Icons [29 B]
Fetched 31.9 MB in 2min 26s (218 kB/s)
```

Reading package lists... Done

joshua@joshua-Virtual-Machine:~\$ **sudo apt-get upgrade**

Reading package lists... Done

Building dependency tree

Reading state information... Done

Calculating upgrade... Done

The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:

app-install-data apt-clone archdetect-deb btrfs-tools cryptsetup-bin dmeventd dmraid dpkg-repack
gir1.2-timezonemap-1.0 gir1.2-xkl-1.0 grub-pc-bin kpartx kpartx-boot libdebian-installer4 libdevmapper-event1.02.1
libdmraid1.0.0.rc16 libido3-0.1-0 liblvm2app2.2 liblvm2cmd2.02 libreadline5 libtimezonemap-data libtimezonemap1
lvm2 python3-icu python3-pam rdate u-boot-tools

Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.

The following packages have been kept back:

gir1.2-javascriptcoregtk-4.0 gir1.2-webkit2-4.0 libgl1-mesa-dri libgnome-desktop-3-17 libjavascriptcoregtk-4.0-18
libwayland-egl1-mesa libwebkit2gtk-4.0-37 libxatracker2 linux-cloud-tools-virtual linux-generic
linux-headers-generic linux-image-generic linux-tools-virtual netplan.io u-boot-tools

The following packages will be upgraded:

apparmor apport apport-gtk appstream apt apt-config-icons apt-utils apturl apturl-common avahi-autoipd
avahi-daemon avahi-utils base-files bind9-host binutils binutils-common binutils-x86-64-linux-gnu bolt brltty
bsdutils console-setup console-setup-linux cpp cpp-7 cryptsetup-bin cups cups-bsd cups-client cups-common
cups-core-drivers cups-daemon cups-ipp-utils cups-ppdc cups-server-common deja-dup desktop-file-utils dirmngr
distro-info-data dnsutils dpkg e2fsprogs evince evince-common evolution-data-server evolution-data-server-common
fdisk firefox fonts-liberation fonts-liberation2 fonts-noto-color-emoji fonts-opensymbol friendly-recovery fwupd
gcc-7-base gcc-8-base gdm3 gedit gedit-common gettext gettext-base ghostscript ghostscript-x gir1.2-gdm-1.0
gir1.2-gnomebluetooth-1.0 gir1.2-gnomedesktop-3.0 gir1.2-gweather-3.0 gir1.2-mutter-2 gir1.2-nm-1.0 gir1.2-nma-1.0
gir1.2-packagekitglib-1.0 gir1.2-pango-1.0 gir1.2-polkit-1.0 gir1.2-snapd-1 gir1.2-totem-1.0 gir1.2-udisks-2.0 gjs
gkbd-caplet gnome-bluetooth gnome-control-center gnome-control-center-data gnome-control-center-faces
gnome-desktop3-data gnome-initial-setup gnome-mines gnome-settings-daemon gnome-settings-daemon-schemas
gnome-shell gnome-shell-common gnome-shell-extension-ubuntu-dock gnome-software gnome-software-common
gnome-software-plugin-snap gnome-software-plugin-ubuntu1804 gnome-utils gnome-agent gnome-wks-client gnome-wks-server gnomeconf gnome

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```
libegl1-mesa libevdocument3-4 libevview3-3 libexiv2-14 libext2fs2 libfdisk1 libfreerdp-client2-2 libfreerdp2-2
libfwupd2 libgbm1 libgcc1 libgd3 libgdm1 libgjs0g libgl1 libgl1-mesa-glx libglapi-mesa libgles2 libglib2.0-0
libglib2.0-bin libglib2.0-data libglvnd0 libglx-mesa0 libglx0 libgnome-bluetooth13 libgnomekbd-common libgnomekbd8
libgomp1 libgpgme11 libgpgmepp6 libgs9 libgs9-common libgssapi-krb5-2 libgweather-3-15 libgweather-common
libirs160 libisc-export169 libisc169 libisccc160 libisccfg160 libk5crypto3 libkmod2 libkpathsea6 libkrb5-3
libkrb5support0 liblcms2-2 liblcms2-utils libldap-2.4-2 libldap-common liblouis-data liblouis14 liblwres160
libmagickcore-6.q16-3 libmagickcore-6.q16-3-extra libmagickwand-6.q16-3 libmount1 libmozjs-52-0 libmutter-2-0
libnautilus-extension1a libnm0 libnma0 libnss-myhostname libnss-systemd libnss3 libpackagekit-glib2-18
libpam-systemd libpango-1.0-0 libpangocairo-1.0-0 libpangoft2-1.0-0 libpangoxft-1.0-0 libparted-fs-resize0
libparted2 libperl5.26 libplymouth4 libpolkit-agent-1-0 libpolkit-backend-1-0 libpolkit-gobject-1-0
libpoppler-glib8 libpoppler73 libpython2.7 libpython2.7-minimal libpython2.7-stdlib libpython3-stdlib libpython3.6
libpython3.6-minimal libpython3.6-stdlib libraw16 libreoffice-avmedia-backend-gstreamer libreoffice-base-core
libreoffice-calc libreoffice-common libreoffice-core libreoffice-draw libreoffice-gnome libreoffice-gtk3
libreoffice-impress libreoffice-math libreoffice-ogltrans libreoffice-pdfimport libreoffice-style-breeze
libreoffice-style-galaxy libreoffice-style-tango libreoffice-writer libsmartcols1 libsmclient libsnapd-glib1
libsnmp-base libsnmp30 libss2 libssh-4 libssl1.0.0 libssl1.1 libstdc++6 libsystemmetrics1 libsystemd0 libtiff5
libtotem0 libudev1 libudisks2-0 libuuid1 libvncclient1 libwavpack1 libwayland-client0 libwayland-cursor0
libwayland-server0 libwbclient0 libwinpr2-2 libx11-6 libx11-data libx11-xcb1 libxkbcommon-x11-0 libxkbcommon0
light-themes linux-cloud-tools-common linux-firmware linux-signed-generic linux-tools-common man-db mokutil mount
mutter mutter-common nautilus nautilus-data network-manager network-manager-config-connectivity-ubuntu
network-manager-gnome networkd-dispatcher nplan openssh-client openssl packagekit packagekit-tools parted perl
perl-base perl-modules-5.26 plymouth plymouth-label plymouth-theme-ubuntu-logo plymouth-theme-ubuntu-text
policykit-1 poppler-utils ppp psmisc python-apt-common python3 python3-apport python3-apt python3-brlapi
python3-distupgrade python3-gdbm python3-louis python3-minimal python3-problem-report python3-requests
python3-software-properties python3-uno python3-update-manager python3.6 python3.6-minimal rfkill samba-libs
secureboot-db shim shim-signed shotwell shotwell-common snapd software-properties-common software-properties-gtk
systemd systemd-sysv tar thermald thunderbird thunderbird-gnome-support totem totem-common totem-plugins tzdata
ubuntu-artwork ubuntu-drivers-common ubuntu-keyring ubuntu-mono ubuntu-release-upgrader-core
ubuntu-release-upgrader-gtk ubuntu-report ubuntu-settings ubuntu-software ubuntu-web-launchers udev udisks2
unattended-upgrades uno-libs3 update-manager update-manager-core update-notifier update-notifier-common ure
usbmuxd util-linux uuid-runtime wpasupplicant xbrlapi xdg-utils xserver-common xserver-xephyr xserver-xorg-core
xserver-xorg-legacy xwayland
```

407 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 15 not upgraded.

Need to get 391 MB of archives.

After this operation, 68.5 MB of additional disk space will be used.

Do you want to continue? [Y/n] **y**

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

```
joshua@joshua-Virtual-Machine:~$ sudo apt-get install postgresql-11
```

```
[sudo] password for joshua:
```

```
Reading package lists... Done
```

```
Building dependency tree
```

```
Reading state information... Done
```

```
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:
```

```
  app-install-data apt-clone archdetect-deb btrfs-tools cryptsetup-bin dmeventd dmraid dpkg-repack  
  gir1.2-timezonemap-1.0 gir1.2-xkl-1.0 grub-pc-bin kpartx kpartx-boot libdebian-installer4 libdevmapper-event1.02.1  
  libdmraid1.0.0.rc16 libido3-0.1-0 liblvm2app2.2 liblvm2cmd2.02 libreadline5 libtimezonemap-data libtimezonemap1  
  lvm2 python3-icu python3-pam rdate u-boot-tools
```

```
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.
```

```
The following additional packages will be installed:
```

```
  libpq5 pgdg-keyring postgresql-client-11 postgresql-client-common postgresql-common sysstat
```

```
Suggested packages:
```

```
  postgresql-doc-11 libjson-perl isag
```

```
The following NEW packages will be installed:
```

```
  libpq5 pgdg-keyring postgresql-11 postgresql-client-11 postgresql-client-common postgresql-common sysstat
```

```
0 upgraded, 7 newly installed, 0 to remove and 15 not upgraded.
```

```
Need to get 16.1 MB of archives.
```

```
After this operation, 53.8 MB of additional disk space will be used.
```

```
Do you want to continue? [Y/n] 
```

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The files belonging to this database system will be owned by user "postgres".
This user must also own the server process.

The database cluster will be initialized with locales

COLLATE: en_US.UTF-8
CTYPE: en_US.UTF-8
MESSAGES: en_US.UTF-8
MONETARY: lzh_TW
NUMERIC: lzh_TW
TIME: lzh_TW

The default database encoding has accordingly been set to "UTF8".
The default text search configuration will be set to "english".

Data page checksums are disabled.

fixing permissions on existing directory /var/lib/postgresql/11/main ... ok
creating subdirectories ... ok
selecting default max_connections ... 100
selecting default shared_buffers ... 128MB
selecting dynamic shared memory implementation ... posix
creating configuration files ... ok
running bootstrap script ... ok
performing post-bootstrap initialization ... ok
syncing data to disk ... ok

Success. You can now start the database server using:

```
/usr/lib/postgresql/11/bin/pg_ctl -D /var/lib/postgresql/11/main -l logfile start
```

Ver	Cluster	Port	Status	Owner	Data directory	Log file
11	main	5432	down	postgres	/var/lib/postgresql/11/main	/var/log/postgresql/postgresql-11-main.log

update-alternatives: using /usr/share/postgresql/11/man/man1/postmaster.1.gz to provide /usr/share/man/man1/postmaster.1.gz (postmaster.1.gz) in auto mode
Processing triggers for systemd (237-3ubuntu10.12) ...
Processing triggers for ureadahead (0.100.0-20) ...
joshua@joshua-Virtual-Machine:~\$

- PostgreSQL initializes a storage area on the hard disk called a database cluster.
- A database cluster is a collection of databases managed by a single instance of a running database server.
- This means that one can have more than one instance of PostgreSQL running on the same server by initializing several database clusters.
- These instances can be of different PostgreSQL server versions or the same version.

- To check the installation, `grep` the `postgres` processes, as follows:

```
joshua@joshua-Virtual-Machine: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
joshua@joshua-Virtual-Machine:~$ pgrep -a postgres  
38160 /usr/lib/postgresql/11/bin/postgres -D /var/lib/postgresql/11/main -c config_file=/etc/postgresql/11/main/postgresql.conf  
38162 postgres: 11/main: checkpointer  
  
38163 postgres: 11/main: background writer  
38164 postgres: 11/main: walwriter  
38165 postgres: 11/main: autovacuum launcher  
38166 postgres: 11/main: stats collector  
38167 postgres: 11/main: logical replication launcher  
joshua@joshua-Virtual-Machine:~$
```

- The preceding query shows the main server process with two options: the `-D` option specifies the database cluster, and the `-c` option specifies the configuration file.
- Also, it shows many utility processes, such as `autovacuum`, and `statistics-collector` processes.

- If you have a PostgreSQL server already installed and you need to interact with it, you need to install the postgresql-client software package.
- In order to do so, open a Terminal and execute the following command:
 - `sudo apt-get install postgresql-client-11`

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```
joshua@joshua-Virtual-Machine:~$ sudo apt-get install postgresql-client-11
```

Reading package lists... Done

Building dependency tree

Reading state information... Done

postgresql-client-11 is already the newest version (11.1-3.pgdg18.04+1).

postgresql-client-11 set to manually installed.

The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:

app-install-data apt-clone archdetect-deb btrfs-tools cryptsetup-bin dmeventd dmraid dpkg-repack

gir1.2-timezonemap-1.0 gir1.2-xkl-1.0 grub-pc-bin kpartx kpartx-boot libdebian-installer4 libdevmapper-event1.02.1

libdmraid1.0.0.rc16 libido3-0.1-0 liblvm2app2.2 liblvm2cmd2.02 libreadline5 libtimezonemap-data libtimezonemap1

lvm2 python3-icu python3-pam rdate u-boot-tools

Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.

0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 15 not upgraded.

```
joshua@joshua-Virtual-Machine:~$
```

Basic Server Configuration

- In order to access the server, we need to understand the PostgreSQL authentication mechanism.
- On Linux systems, you can connect to PostgreSQL using a Unix-socket or TCP/IP protocol.
- Also, PostgreSQL supports many types of authentication methods.

- When a PostgreSQL server is installed, a new operating system user, as well as a database user, with the name `postgres` is created.
- This user can connect to the database server using peer authentication.
- The peer authentication gets the client's operating system username and uses it to access the databases that can be accessed.
- Peer authentication is supported only by local connections—connections that use Unix sockets.
- Peer authentication is supported by Linux distribution but not by Windows.

- Client authentication is controlled by a configuration file named `pg_hba.conf`, where `pg` stands for PostgreSQL and `hba` stands for host-based authentication.
- To take a look at peer authentication, let's display the content of `pg_hba.conf`:

```
joshua@joshua-Virtual-Machine:~$ sudo su
[sudo] password for joshua:
root@joshua-Virtual-Machine:/home/joshua# grep -v '^#' /etc/postgresql/11/main/pg_hba.conf|grep 'peer'
local    all             postgres               peer
local    all             all                   peer
local    replication     all                   peer
root@joshua-Virtual-Machine:/home/joshua# exit
exit
joshua@joshua-Virtual-Machine:~$
```

- The `postgres` user can connect to all the databases using Unix-socket and the peer authentication method.

- To connect to the database servers using the `postgres` user, first we need to switch the operating system's current user to `postgres` and then invoke `psql`.

```
joshua@joshua-Virtual-Machine:~$ sudo -u postgres psql
psql (11.1 (Ubuntu 11.1-3.pgdg18.04+1))
Type "help" for help.

postgres=# SELECT version();
```

```
              version
-----
 PostgreSQL 11.1 (Ubuntu 11.1-3.pgdg18.04+1) on x86_64-pc-linux-gnu, compiled by gcc (Ubuntu 7.3.0-27ubuntu1~18.04) 7.3.0, 64-bit
(1 row)

(END)
```

```
joshua@joshua-Virtual-Machine:~$ sudo -u postgres psql
psql (11.1 (Ubuntu 11.1-3.pgdg18.04+1))
Type "help" for help.

postgres=# SELECT version();
postgres=# \q
joshua@joshua-Virtual-Machine:~$
```

- Prior to PostgreSQL 10, the PostgreSQL version number had three digits.
- Major releases occur roughly on an annual basis and usually change the internal format of the data.
 - This means that the stored data's backward compatibility between major releases isn't maintained.
- A major release is numbered by incrementing either the first or the second digit, such as 9.5 and 9.6.
- Minor releases are numbered by increasing the third digit of the release number, for example, 9.6.1 to 9.6.2.
 - Minor releases are only bug fixes.

- In PostgreSQL 10, the versioning policy has changed; major releases are numbered by incrementing the first number, that is, from 10 to 11.
- Minor releases are numbered by incrementing the second part of the number, for example, 10.0 to 10.1.

PostgreSQL Clients

- The PostgreSQL community unifies the look and feel of the client tools as much as possible; this makes it easy to use and learn.
- For example, the connection options are unified across all client tools.
- The following list shows the connection options for `psql`, which are common for other PostgreSQL clients, such as `createdb` and `createuser`:
 - `-d`: The database name
 - `-h`: The hostname or IP address
 - `-u`: The username
 - `-p`: The port

- Also, most PostgreSQL clients can use the environment variables supported by `libpq`, such as `PGHOST`, `PGDATABASE`, `PGPORT`, and `PGUSER`.
- The `libpq` environment variables can be used to determine the default connection parameter values.

The psql client

- The `psql` client tool is very handy in shell scripting, information retrieval, and learning the PostgreSQL internals.
- The following are some of the `psql` meta commands that are used daily:
 - `\d+ [pattern]`: This describes all the relevant information for a relation. In PostgreSQL, the term relation is used for a table, view, sequence, or index.
 - `\df+ [pattern]`: This describes a function.
 - `\z [pattern]`: This shows the relation access privileges.
 - `\timing`: Displays the execution time.
 - `\h`: Gives syntax help on the specified SQL command.
 - `\c`: Connects to a database.