

Transforming Data with the Power of PostgreSQL and SQL

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Agenda

- 01 ETL vs ELT
 - 02 Loading Data
 - 03 SQL/PostgreSQL Building Blocks
 - 04 Common Table Expressions (CTE)
 - 05 Recursive CTEs
- Demo



WORDLE

A DAILY WORD GAME

A few functions are
only included with
PostgreSQL >=14

Advent of Code Examples

Dec 07 Puzzle (2023)

- Listing of 5 playing cards by face value
- Bid value to use later in puzzle
- Order of cards in hand is important

Dec 07 Puzzle (2022)

- List of commands to move around file system
- Translate commands into disk hierarchy and file sizes within each directory

01/05

ETL vs ELT

Convert non-relational data
into relational, tabular data.

ETL vs ELT

Extract, Transform, Load

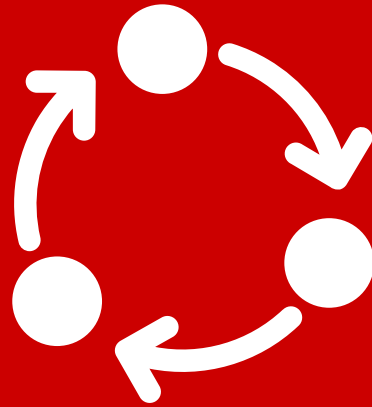
- External
- Not SQL focused

Extract, Load, Transform

- Internal
- SQL focused

Why Has ETL Been So Popular?

- External tools brought specialized functionality
- Databases didn't speak web languages well
 - ie. XML or JSON
- Specialized tools = specialized jobs



Iteration is slow

Keep processing close to
the data for faster iteration

ELT in PostgreSQL

- Retain transactional consistency and control
- Plethora of functions to process and transform data
 - Regex
 - JSON
 - String
- Array and JSON data types often useful

02/05

Inserting Data

Inserting Data

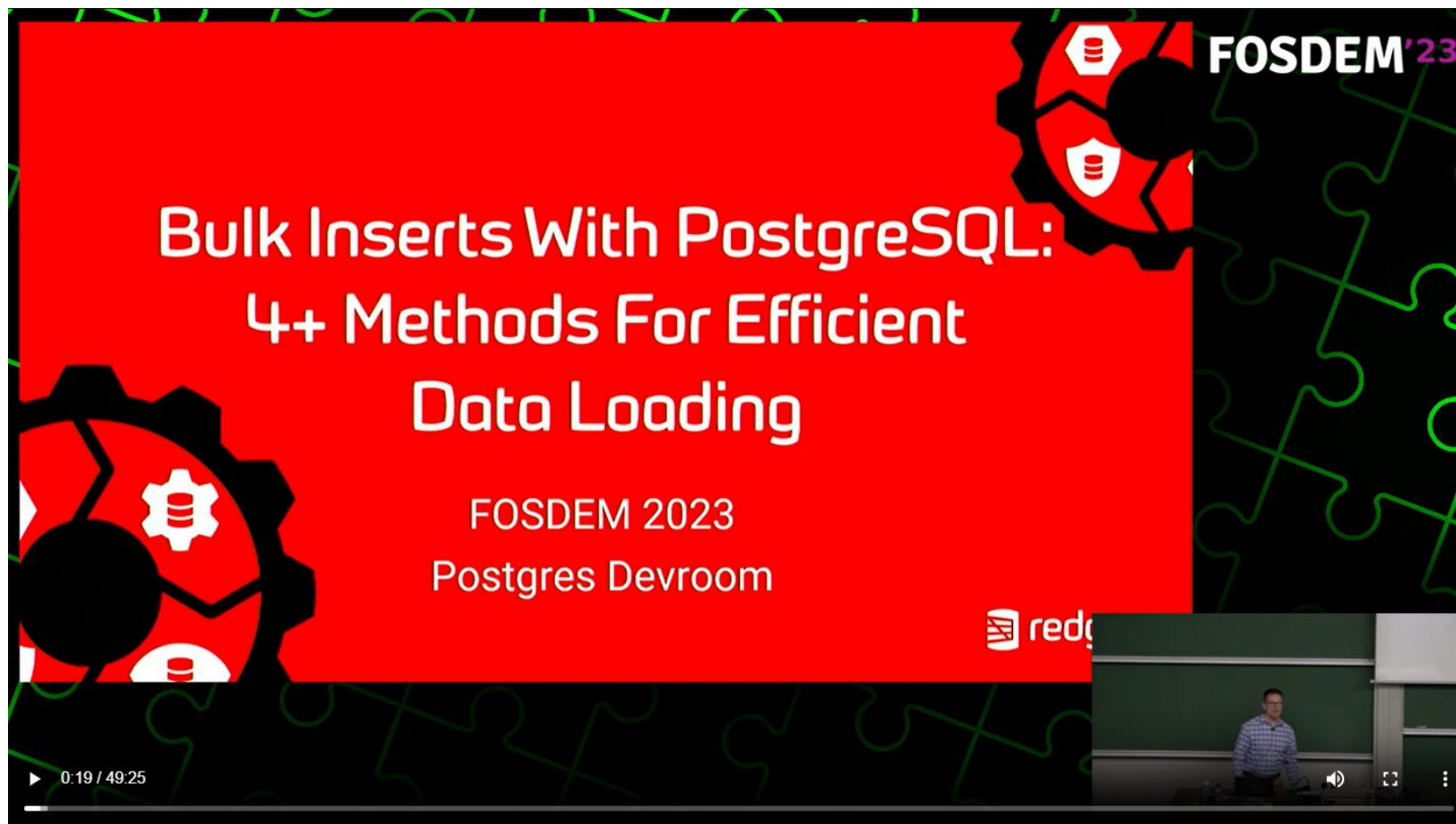
- Quickly dump data to tables with simple schema
- Post-process JSON, XML, strings, arrays, etc.
- Use **COPY**:
 - most supported method of getting data in quickly
 - CSV or custom delimiters
- Use code:
 - work in batches of rows to reduce transaction overhead

COPY vs \copy

- COPY is a PostgreSQL command, not SQL standard
- `COPY` requires files local to the server
- My examples primarily use `psql \copy` command
- `\copy` streams local files to `COPY`'s `STDIN`

COPY Caution

- Requires correct column order, matching data types, and clean data (no conversion)
- Options like [pgloader](#) overcome some limitations
 - pre-checks on certain columns of data



<https://bit.ly/ryan-booz-2023-talks>

Data Import Rules – K.I.S.S



- 1 Create a generated ID for ordering later if needed
- 2 Add a timestamp column if it's time-series data
- 3 Pre-processes what makes sense, but don't go overboard

K.I.S.S. – Advent of Code

```
create table dec07 (  
    id integer generated by default as identity,  
    lines text  
) ;  
  
-- COPY the text into the appropriate columns  
\COPY dec07 (lines) FROM input.txt NULL ' ';
```

K.I.S.S. – Wordle

```
{
  "data": {
    "author_id": "395950789",
    "created_at": "2022-01-15T03:09:22.000Z",
    "id": "1482188130191122123",
    "text": "Wordle 209
3/6\n\n\u2b1b\u2b1b\u2b1b\ud83d\ude9\u2b1b\n\u2b1b\u2b1b\u2b1b\ud83d\ude8\u2b1b\ud83d\ude8\n\u2b1b\ud83d\ude9\u2b1b\ud83d\ude9\u2b1b\ud83d\ude9\u2b1b\ud83d\ude9
3d\ude9\u2b1b\ude9"
  },
  "includes": {
    "users": [
      {
        "id": "395950789",
        "location": "Cali",
        "name": "Hall & Oates Enjoyer",
        "username": "wordlemaster",
        "verified": false
      }
    ]
  },
  "matching_rules": [
    {
      "id": "1482188147178053123",
      "tag": "wordle"
    }
  ]
}
```

K.I.S.S. – Wordle

```
CREATE TABLE tweets_raw(  
    ts timestamptz NOT NULL,  
    tweet_id bigint NOT NULL,  
    tweet_raw JSONB NOT null,  
);
```

K.I.S.S. – Wordle

```
CREATE TABLE wordle_tweet (  
    ts timestampz NOT NULL,  
    created_at timestampz NOT NULL,  
    author_id bigint NOT NULL,  
    author_handle TEXT NOT NULL,  
    author_verified bool,  
    author_location TEXT,  
    tweet_id bigint NOT NULL,  
    tweet TEXT NOT null,  
    game int NULL,  
    guess_total int null  
);
```

Derived Table for Quick Prototyping

```
SELECT regexp_split_to_table('32T3K 765
T55J5 684
KK677 28
KTJJT 220
QQQJA 483', '\n') lines;
```

lines	
32T3K	765
T55J5	684
KK677	28
KTJJT	220
QQQJA	483

Dollar Quoting

```
-- Dollar Quoting
```

```
SELECT $$32T3K 765
```

```
T55J5 684
```

```
KK677 28
```

```
KTJJT 220
```

```
QQQJA 483$$;
```

```
-- Useful with functions like format()
```

```
SELECT format($$This is demo is for %s!!$$, 'Scale 21x');
```

03/05

SQL/PostgreSQL Building Blocks

WITH ORDINALITY

- Set Returning Function in FROM clause
- Adds ordinal value of each emitted row
- Faster than ROW_NUMBER()
 - No need to rescan the entire table
- Retains order without an ORDER BY

CROSS JOIN

- For every row on the left table, iterate all rows on right table
- Output is the product of both sets

CROSS JOIN

```
SELECT * FROM
    generate_series(1,2) gs1
    CROSS JOIN generate_series(1,4) gs2;
```

gs1	gs2
1	1
1	2
1	3
1	4
2	1
2	2
2	3
2	4

CROSS JOIN LATERAL

- When right-hand table is an SRF the join is implicitly a LATERAL
- Functions can reference any column of output tables the left
- Allows chained queries to "reach back" to previous result sets for data

CROSS JOIN LATERAL

```
SELECT * FROM  
    generate_series(1,2) gs1,  
    generate_series(1,4) gs2;
```

gs1	gs2
1	1
1	2
1	3
1	4
2	1
2	2
2	3
2	4

```
SELECT T.a, CJ.b, CJ2.c FROM T
```

```
string_to_table(T.a, null) AS b
```

```
string_to_array(CJ.a, null) AS c
```

,

CJ,

CJ2

CROSS JOIN LATERAL

- Simplify SQL at a higher level by hiding calculations lower in the query
- Reorganize data by returning VALUES

CROSS JOIN LATERAL

```
SELECT id AS hand,  
       t.* AS card,  
       (split_part(lines, ' ', 2)) AS bid  
FROM dec07, --> CROSS JOIN LATERAL  
     string_to_table(split_part(lines, ' ', 1)) t;
```

CROSS JOIN LATERAL

```
SELECT id AS hand,  
       t.card,  
       t.position,  
       bid  
FROM dec07,  
     string_to_table(split_part(lines, ' ', 1), null)  
                   WITH ORDINALITY t(card, position),  
     split_part(lines, ' ', 2) bid;
```

CROSS JOIN LATERAL

```
...
select hm.step,
       hm.x, hm.y,
       h.x, h.y,
       t.x, t.y

from tmove tm
  join hmove hm on tm.step+1 = hm.step
cross join lateral
  (VALUES (tm.hx+hm.x, tm.hy+hm.y)) as h(x,y)
cross join lateral
  (VALUES (
    case when abs(h.y-tm.ty) = 2 then h.x
        when abs(tm.tx-h.x) <= 1 then tm.tx
        else tm.tx + hm.x end,
    case when abs(h.x-tm.tx) = 2 then h.y
        when abs(tm.ty-h.y) <= 1 then tm.ty
        else tm.ty + hm.y end
  )) t(x,y)
...
```

CROSS JOIN LATERAL

```
...
select hm.step,
       hm.x, hm.y,
       h.x, h.y,
       t.x, t.y
from tmove tm
     join hmove hm on tm.step+1 = hm.step
cross join lateral
  (VALUES (tm.hx+hm.x, tm.hy+hm.y)) as h(x,y)
cross join lateral
  (VALUES (
    case when abs(h.y-tm.ty) = 2 then h.x
    when abs(tm.tx-h.x) <= 1 then tm.tx
    else tm.tx + hm.x end,
    case when abs(h.x-tm.tx) = 2 then h.y
    when abs(tm.ty-h.y) <= 1 then tm.ty
    else tm.ty + hm.y end
  )) t(x,y)
...
```

04/05

Common Table Expression

Common Table Expression (CTE)

- WITH queries
- Reference the output of the query by a unique name
- Prior to Postgres 12 the CTE was materialized first
 - PG12+ planner attempts to in-line unless you add MATERIALIZED

Common Table Expression (CTE)

- Chain multiple CTEs together
- Reference any previous CTE
- Particularly helpful for query reuse (readability)
- Name output columns with parenthesis

WITH

CTE_1

SELECT c1, c2, c3 FROM T

CTE_2

SELECT ... FROM ...

CTE_1

CTE_3

SELECT ... FROM ...

CTE_1

CTE_2

SELECT... FROM...

CTE_1

CTE_2

CTE_3


```

SELECT * FROM (
    SELECT id AS hand,
           t.*,
           bid
    FROM dec07,
         string_to_table(split_part(lines, ' ', 1), null)
                        WITH ORDINALITY t(card, position),
         split_part(lines, ' ', 2) bid
) cb
JOIN (
    SELECT * FROM (VALUES ('2', 2),
                          ('3', 3),
                          ('4', 4),
                          ('5', 5),
                          ('6', 6),
                          ('7', 7),
                          ('8', 8),
                          ('9', 9),
                          ('T', 10),
                          ('J', 11),
                          ('Q', 12),
                          ('K', 13),
                          ('A', 14)) AS t(card, value)
) vals USING (card)
ORDER BY hand, position;

```

```

WITH given_hand (hand,card,position,bid) AS (
SELECT id, t.*, bid
      FROM dec07,
      string_to_table(split_part(lines,' ',1),null)
      WITH ORDINALITY t(card,position),
      split_part(lines,' ',2) bid
),
card_converter (card,value) AS (
      VALUES ('2',2),
              ('3',3),
              ('4',4),
              ('5',5),
              ('6',6),
              ('7',7),
              ('8',8),
              ('9',9),
              ('T',10),
              ('J',11),
              ('Q',12),
              ('K',13),
              ('A',14)
),
SELECT * FROM given_hand
      JOIN card_converter USING (card);

```

Readability is often cited as
the primary benefit.

While true, increased complexity
might be less performant

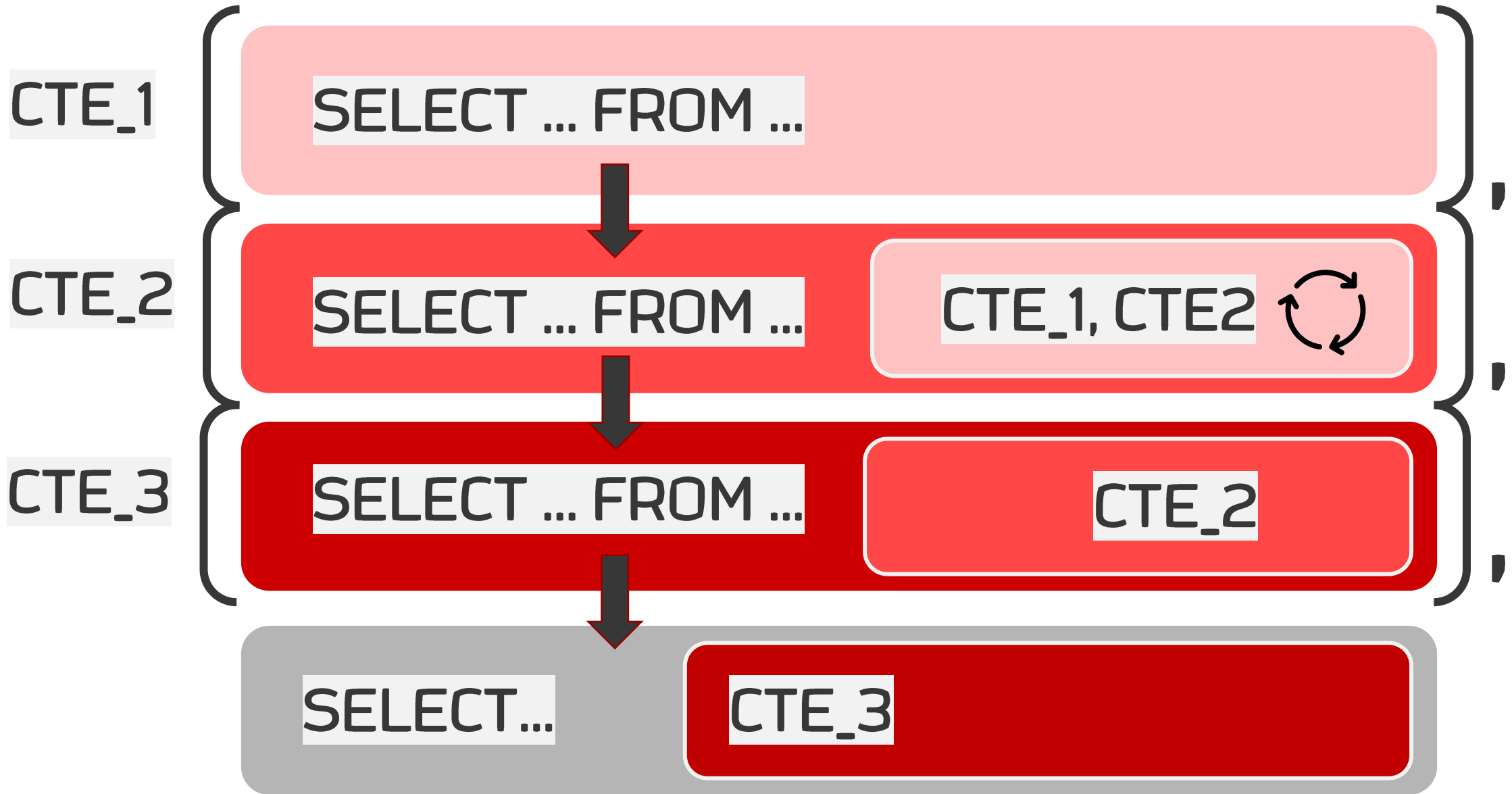
05/05

Recursive CTEs

Recursive CTEs

- The SQL language is declarative and batch-based
- Recursive CTEs = iterative processing using SQL
- Not otherwise be possible
- Recursive CTEs allow SQL to be Turing complete

WITH RECURSIVE



name	parent_folder	size
Folder_A		
Folder_A_1	Folder_A	
Folder_B	Folder_A	
Folder_A_2	Folder_A	
Folder_B_1	Folder_B	
File_A1.txt	Folder_A	1234
File_A2.txt	Folder_A	9876
File_B1.txt	Folder_B	4567

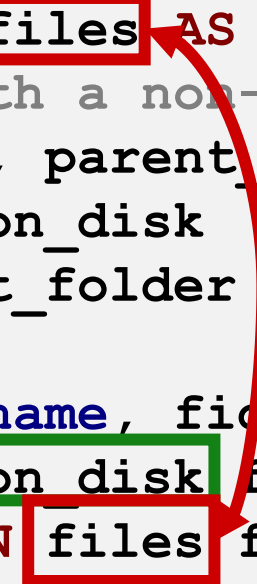
Recursive CTEs

```
WITH recursive files AS (  
    -- start with a non-recursive, initial query  
    SELECT name, parent_folder, SIZE FROM files_on_disk  
    WHERE parent_folder IS NULL  
)  
SELECT * FROM files;
```

name	parent_folder	size
Folder_A		

Recursive CTEs

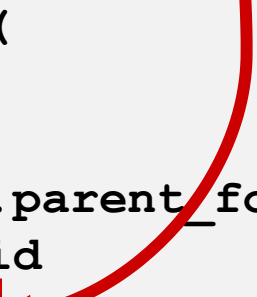
```
WITH recursive files AS (  
    -- start with a non-recursive, initial query  
    SELECT name, parent_folder, SIZE  
    FROM files_on_disk  
    WHERE parent_folder IS NULL  
    UNION ALL  
    SELECT fid.name, fid.parent_folder, fid.SIZE  
    FROM files_on_disk fid  
        INNER JOIN files f ON fid.parent_folder = f.name  
)  
SELECT * FROM files;
```



Recursive CTEs

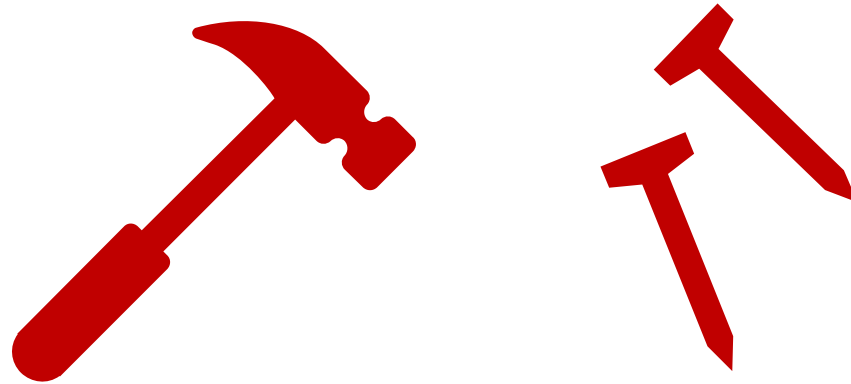
name	parent_folder	size	
Folder A			<-- Initial query
Folder_A_1	Folder_A		<--
Folder_B	Folder_A		
Folder_A_2	Folder_A		- Result of first join
File_A1.txt	Folder_A	1234	
File_A2.txt	Folder_A	6789	<--

```
WITH recursive files AS (  
    ...  
    UNION ALL  
        SELECT fid.name, fid.parent_folder, fid.SIZE  
        FROM files_on_disk fid  
        INNER JOIN files f ON fid.parent_folder = f.name  
)  
SELECT * FROM files;
```



Recursive CTEs – Caution!

- Recursion continues until working table is empty
- Make sure there is an ending point (or add one!)



DEMO

Explore More Functions

- FILTER clause
- string_to_array()
- regexp_matches()
- JSON functions
- WINDOW functions
- RANGE types

PostgreSQL Community

- Vik Fearing
- Feike Steenbergen
- David Kohn
- Sven Klemm
- John Pruitt
- Tobias Petry
- Bruce Momjain
- Andreas Scherbaum
- Ryan Lambert
- More, more, more...

What Questions do you have?

 THANK YOU! 

github.com/ryanbooz/presentations