



## PostgreSQL not running on Mac

Asked 8 years, 5 months ago   Modified 1 year, 9 months ago   Viewed 306k times



The error in its entirety reads:

132



psql: could not connect to server: No such file or directory. Is the server running locally and accepting connections on Unix domain socket "/tmp/.s.PGSQL.5432"?



This is my second time setting up Postgresql via Homebrew on my Mac, and I have no clue what is going on. Previously, it had been working. At some point, I must've entered a command that messed things up. I'm not sure. Now, whenever I enter a SQL command from the command line, I receive the above message. I've run a command to check whether the server is running, and it apparently is not. If I attempt to start the server using

```
$ postgres -D /usr/local/pgsql/data
```

I receive the following error:

```
postgres cannot access the server configuration file  
"/usr/local/pgsql/data/postgresql.conf": No such file or directory
```

I've uninstalled and reinstalled Postgresql via Homebrew, but the problem persists. I'm completely at a loss as to how to get this working. Any help would be appreciated.

postgresql

mac-os-x

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edited Jun 25, 2020 at 9:07



[a\\_horse\\_with\\_no\\_name](#)

76k   14   152   189

asked Aug 28, 2014 at 14:50



[Michael P.](#)

1,981   2   12   8

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The problem can also be attributed to a crashed process that left `postmaster.pid` file behind.

154

```
$ brew services stop postgresql
# adjust path accordingly to your install, e.g.
`/opt/homebrew/var/postgres/postmaster.pid`
$ rm /usr/local/var/postgres/postmaster.pid
$ brew services start postgresql
```



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edited Apr 19, 2021 at 16:43

answered Apr 20, 2017 at 23:37



demisx

1,641

2


7

5

11 On MacOSX, this answer saved me. Had the same error as OP after my computer hard rebooted. The `brew services` command were not helpful because they made it seem like everything was working. Removing the `postmaster.pid` is what finally got everything working again. Thanks! – [vinhboy](#) Mar 5, 2018 at 22:47

3 This happened to me too. Hard crash of Mac OS X caused a restart, after that Postgres didn't come up. `brew services start/stop/restart` doesn't work, you have to manually remove the pid file. – [Matthijs](#) May 29, 2019 at 9:49

The recommended way would be to run Postgres in a docker container, of course. Very easy to start and everything is cleaned up when a container is shut down. I'd say running any third party app in a docker container should be de facto nowadays. – [demisx](#) May 29, 2019 at 13:27

For any folks that might have multiple version of postgres for multiple projects, I recommend to check which postgres is psql by using `which psql`. In my case, I normally config my postgres to be postgres@9.6. So I need to do this instead `$ brew services stop postgresql@9.6` `$ rm /usr/local/var/postgresql@9.6/postmaster.pid` `$ brew services start postgresql@9.6` – [CatFly](#) Apr 13, 2021 at 14:16 

1 Recently, on Mac, I had to remove `rm /opt/homebrew/var/postgres/postmaster.pid`. I use brew. Leaving this here in case I run into this issue again. – [Touch](#) Apr 17, 2021 at 19:00

I was getting the same

74

Is the server [running](#) locally [and](#) accepting connections [on](#) Unix domain socket `"/tmp/.s.PGSQL.5432"`?

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answered Jun 12, 2018 at 2:39



senbenito

841 6 2

1 brew postgresql-upgrade-database fixed the issue for me on Catalina – seniorpreacher Oct 9, 2020 at 9:54

It worked for me – Vishal Oct 22, 2020 at 5:00

This worked for me as well. My problem was that the database files were created by postgres@12.4 and my current installation was postgres@13.1 – x85ms16 Aug 2, 2021 at 6:26

This worked for me trying to do a Udemy course with Phoenix and Ecto, it updated my database from version 10 to 14. This was on a Mac Monterey – Brandon Culley Sep 6, 2022 at 17:00

I'm having an issue trying to upgrade a very old postgres database. It appears that an intermediate version is so old that Homebrew no longer supports it. I've already upgraded the postgres installation and really want to save this database. Is there a way to make this work? \$brew postgresql-upgrade-database Warning: Use postgresql@14 instead of deprecated postgresql ==> brew install postgresql@9.4 Error: postgresql@9.4 has been disabled because it is not supported upstream! Error: No postgresql 9.4.\* version installed! – MasterOfNone Sep 13, 2022 at 20:35



The answer is [here](#).

56

Run this command to manually start the server:



```
pg_ctl -D /usr/local/var/postgres -l /usr/local/var/postgres/server.log start
```



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edited May 23, 2017 at 12:40

answered Aug 28, 2014 at 15:36



Community Bot

1



Michael P.

1,981 2 12 8



I've just resolved the same problem. It's just because I **forgot to *run it properly*** before use.

12

For *pure installing* postgresql on Mac OS, the process will be (using [brew](#) command):



```
brew install postgresql
```



then if you want to automatically run postgresql at login:

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If your case is more complicated, let's `brew uninstall postgresql` and redo these steps.

Hope it helps!

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edited Sep 9, 2015 at 16:36

answered Sep 9, 2015 at 16:17



Hoang Le

221 2 5

- 
- 2 Update: for Homebrew-installed postgres, `brew services start postgresql` is now the preferred way to start postgres at login – [henry](#) Jul 2, 2019 at 17:29
- 



6

`psql: could not connect to server: No such file or directory`  
`Is the server running locally and accepting`  
`connections on Unix domain socket"/var/pgsql_socket/.s.PGSQL.5432"?`



I kept on getting the above error and none of the above solutions worked for me. Finally the following solution solved my problem on Mac OS X



Install postgres using brew

```
brew install postgres
```

Install brew services

```
brew tap homebrew/services
```

To start postgres as a background service

```
brew services start postgresql
```

To stop postgres manually

```
brew services stop postgresql
```

We can also use `brew services` to restart Postgres

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answered Jan 23, 2017 at 12:30



Sudharshan

161 1 2

▲ This happens when postgres server is not running. Steps to properly install Postgres via Homebrew on MAC :

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- ▼
1. `brew install postgres`
  2. `initdb /Users/<username>/db -E utf8` [This initializes postgres to use the given directory as the database directory. Normally it is not advised to use the user directory for database storage. Edit sudoers file to add initdb and similar commands and then run initdb on `/usr/local/var/postgres`]
  3. `pg_ctl -D /Users/<username>/db -l logfile start` [After getting success with step 2 it will prompt to run step 3. This command manually starts the server.]
- 🔖
- 🕒

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answered Jan 4, 2018 at 6:53



Souvik Das

51 1 1

This helped me after I tried dozens of non-working steps – [Aswin Kumar K P](#) Oct 29, 2020 at 6:04

▲ I was looking for a long time, and this was the most clean and neat solution:

2

▼ I recently upgraded Postgres from 9.2 to 9.3 using `brew upgrade postgres`. The process was smooth and `pg_upgrade` is a very handy tool.

🔖 However, trouble struck once I tried to run any specs that needed to connect to Postgres. Even though Postgres was definitely running, suddenly I was getting:

🕒 could not connect to server: No such file or directory (PG::ConnectionBad) Is the server running locally and accepting connections on Unix domain socket `"/var/pgsql_socket/.s.PGSQL.5432"`? The problem was that the new version of Postgres listens on `/tmp/.s.PGSQL.5432` instead. I could've messed around with the config and made Postgres use the domain socket it was previously, or told Rails explicitly how to connect, but both of those approaches seemed like work I shouldn't have to do. At no point had I told Rails to connect to postgres on that path. Rails had assumed it, and now its assumptions were wrong.

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```
$ cd my-rails-app/
$ bundle install
```

<http://daniel.fone.net.nz/blog/2014/12/01/fixing-connection-errors-after-upgrading-postgres/>

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edited Aug 10, 2018 at 20:38

answered Aug 10, 2018 at 20:33



jalebaro

21 2

1 Please [edit](#) your answer so it [provides value if the link stops working](#). You can find guidance on how to do this correctly in [How to reference material written by others](#). Thank you. – Paul White ♦ Aug 10, 2018 at 20:36

This was exactly my problem. Cheers! – Subtletree Aug 31, 2020 at 21:57 ✎



It worked for me. Change your postgresql directory according to version in your system.

2

Common path- `rm /usr/local/var/postgres/postmaster.pid`



but for postgresql@9.6 in my system path is `rm`



`/usr/local/var/postgresql@9.6/postmaster.pid`



restart postgresql@9.6- `brew services restart postgresql@9.6`

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answered Dec 3, 2018 at 5:17



rahulworld

121 1



I just uncomment in `/etc/postgresql/9.5/main/postgresql.conf`

1

`unix_socket_permissions = 0777`



and restart postgres. And for me it works.



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answered Nov 14, 2016 at 12:44



Roxana

11 1

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Solution is changing port.



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answered Mar 31, 2017 at 12:08



rain

111 2



For me this also happened after a reboot and none of the above solutions worked for me. After checking the server log like this:

1



```
tail /usr/local/var/postgres/server.log
```



I noticed:



```
2019-11-06 11:04:31.797 CET [85029] FATAL: data directory
"/usr/local/var/postgres" has invalid permissions
2019-11-06 11:04:31.797 CET [85029] DETAIL: Permissions should be u=rwx (0700)
or u=rwx,g=rx (0750).
```

So I changed the permissions like this:

```
sudo chmod 700 /usr/local/var/postgres
```

and everything worked again and life was good.

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edited Nov 6, 2019 at 11:03



Michael Green

24k 13 50 94

answered Nov 6, 2019 at 10:17



Gijsriet

11 1

Same, using postgresql@12 on osx 10.15. Last thing needed was a `brew services restart postgresql` – Doug Feb 28, 2020 at 15:46



1. Check if postgres is already running using the following command:

1

```
pgrep -u postgres -fa -- -D
```



usually you'll get one or more lines depending on whether you are running one or multiple instances of the server. If postgres isn't running you'll get no lines.



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running. When the server crashes or is killed the database process needs to be stopped before

the `postmaster.pid` is removed otherwise the data directory could get corrupted.

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answered Jul 10, 2020 at 13:38



Tanya

11 1

update it by using command

0

```
brew postgresql-upgrade-database
```

if you have following error **Command 'brew' not found, but can be installed with: sudo apt install linuxbrew-wrapper**

then install it by using command

```
sudo apt install linuxbrew-wrapper
```

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answered Oct 9, 2019 at 18:10



Nadeem Qasmi

101

I got the exact same error message, where `psql` could not connect to the server, and `brew install postgresql` gave the error message *Failed to install plist file*.

The problem turned out to be that some software install had changed the ownership of `/usr/local/var` to root.

Solution: `$ sudo chown /usr/local/var `whoami``

I'm surprised that `brew doctor` did not detect this.

`psql: could not connect to server: No such file or directory. Is the server running locally and accepting connections on Unix domain socket "/tmp/.s.PGSQL.5432"?`

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answered Jun 7, 2020 at 13:13

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a. Maybe the port is not the default port used (which is 5432)- How to confirm this?



```
ps -ef | grep UID && ps -ef | grep postgres
```



Got the pid of 5833 from the output below:

```
UID  PID  PPID  C  STIME  TTY  TIME  CMD
501  5833  1      0  12:07PM  ??   0:00.13 /usr/local/opt/postgresql/bin/postgres -
D /usr/local/var/postgres
```

If you DO NOT get the output like above, most likely the postgres server is not running. You can confirm postgres server status with pg\_ctl or other commands to confirm. There are other articles on how to check the status

Find the log location with the pid (5833 is the pid of postgres from the above command, replace the pid with your pid from the command output you get):

```
$ lsof -p 5833 | grep log

postgres 5833 <username>    1u    REG                1,4  1610136
14411021 /usr/local/var/log/postgres.log
```

Open the log file and confirm the port number from the log line like below:

```
[5833] LOG:  listening on IPv4 address "127.0.0.1", port 5488
```

[5833] being the process id in this case

So, you can grep that as well like:

```
egrep "[5833]*listening*" /usr/local/var/log/postgres.log
```

Once you get the port, which was 5488 in my case, connect to postgres server with an option "-p" to connect (replace with the port found from the log):

```
psql -p 5488 <databasename> #add host and other options as needed
```

b. The process is not running at all or there is some other issue which can again be seen in the

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Hope this helps methodically troubleshoot this issue.

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20

53

68

[Venkata Krishnan](#)**1**

1



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