**PostgreSQL Tutorial**

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PostgreSQL is a powerful, open source object-relational database system. It has more than 15 years of active development and a proven architecture that has earned it a strong reputation for reliability, data integrity, and correctness. PostgreSQL runs on all major operating systems, including Linux, UNIX (AIX, BSD, HP-UX, SGI IRIX, Mac OS X, Solaris, Tru64), and Windows. This tutorial will give you quick start with PostgreSQL and make you comfortable with PostgreSQL programming.

**Audience**

This tutorial has been prepared for the beginners to help them understand the basic to advanced concepts related to PostgreSQL Database.

**Prerequisites**

Before you start practicing with various types of examples given in this reference, I'm making an assumption that you are already aware of what a database is, especially RDBMS and what a computer language is.

What is PostgreSQL?

PostgreSQL (pronounced as **post-gress-Q-L**) is an open source relational database management system (DBMS) developed by a worldwide team of volunteers. PostgreSQL is not controlled by any corporation or other private entity and the source code is available free of charge.

Key Features of PostgreSQL

PostgreSQL runs on all major operating systems, including Linux, UNIX (AIX, BSD, HP-UX, SGI IRIX, Mac OS X, Solaris, Tru64), and Windows. It supports text, images, sounds, and video, and includes programming interfaces for C / C++, Java, Perl, Python, Ruby, Tcl and Open Database Connectivity (ODBC).

PostgreSQL supports a large part of the SQL standard and offers many modern features including the following −

* Complex SQL queries
* SQL Sub-selects
* Foreign keys
* Trigger
* Views
* Transactions
* Multiversion concurrency control (MVCC)
* Streaming Replication (as of 9.0)
* Hot Standby (as of 9.0)

You can check official documentation of PostgreSQL to understand the above-mentioned features. PostgreSQL can be extended by the user in many ways. For example by adding new −

* Data types
* Functions
* Operators
* Aggregate functions
* Index methods

Procedural Languages Support

PostgreSQL supports four standard procedural languages, which allows the users to write their own code in any of the languages and it can be executed by PostgreSQL database server. These procedural languages are - PL/pgSQL, PL/Tcl, PL/Perl and PL/Python. Besides, other non-standard procedural languages like PL/PHP, PL/V8, PL/Ruby, PL/Java, etc., are also supported.