



# NoSQL with JSON in Postgres

1. Overview of AI Workflows	2. Why Postgres as a vector store	3. Storing and managing vectors	4. Querying the vector store
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look at high-level architecture - LLMs, vector stores and JSON</li> <li>Look at key vocabulary and concepts (embeddings, vectors, hybrid queries, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is a vector store? Key concepts and use cases.</li> <li>Why Postgres and how does it compare with other market tools</li> <li>Setting up Postgres with vector capabilities (pgvector)</li> <li><b>Lab:</b> Install and configure Postgres using Docker</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generating embeddings: Overview of tools and workflows</li> <li>Storing and organizing embeddings in Postgres</li> <li>Strategies for handling large datasets including chunking</li> <li>Dense and sparse vectors</li> <li><b>Lab:</b> Generate embeddings for a dataset and store them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Techniques for similarity search: k-NN, cosine similarity</li> <li>Using indexes to optimize vector queries</li> <li>Reranking results</li> <li><b>Lab:</b> Query stored vectors to retrieve similar items (document/image search)</li> </ul>
5. Querying LLMs with retrieved data	6. NoSQL with JSON in Postgres	7. Integrating Vector, Relational and JSON Data	8. Putting it all together
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recap on querying LLMs vis APIs</li> <li>Best practices for combining vector retrieval with LLM prompts</li> <li>Prompt configuration parameters (temperature, top-k, etc)</li> <li><b>Lab:</b> Build a pipeline where vector store results enhance LLM responses (context-aware Q&amp;A, etc)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of JSON/JSONB support in Postgres</li> <li>Querying JSONB data with SQL</li> <li>Indexing JSONB data for performance</li> <li><b>Lab:</b> Design a schema mixing vector, relational and JSONB data for a sample project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building hybrid queries to power advanced workflows</li> <li><b>Case study:</b> Combining embeddings, metadata (relational) and configurations (JSON)</li> <li><b>Lab:</b> Implement a hybrid query to support a sample AI use case</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full stack pipeline demo: Retrieve data, query the LLM and return results</li> <li>Debugging and optimising the workflow</li> <li>Spotlight on LLM frameworks</li> <li><b>Lab:</b> Build a working application combining all elements</li> </ul>



## Plan for the session

- **Understand JSON and JSONB Support in PostgreSQL**
- **Query JSONB Data Using SQL**
- **Optimize Performance by Indexing JSONB Columns**
- **Lab: Design a Schema Mixing Vector, Relational, and JSONB Data**

## *Structured + Flexible: The Power of JSON in Postgres*

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- **PostgreSQL is a relational database**, but it supports **NoSQL-style JSON storage**.
- Storing JSON allows **flexible, schema-less data handling** inside a structured database.
- **Use Cases:**
  - Storing **semi-structured data** (API responses, logs, metadata).
  - **Handling dynamic attributes** without modifying the schema.
  - **Combining relational and document-style data** in a single system.

 **Key Takeaway:**  
**PostgreSQL bridges the gap between relational and NoSQL databases.**

# Comparing JSON and JSONB in Postgres

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Feature	JSON (Text-based)	JSONB (Binary, Optimized)
Storage Format	Stored as raw <b>text</b>	Stored as <b>binary</b>
Read Performance	<b>Slower</b> (parses every time)	<b>Faster</b> (pre-parsed & indexed)
Write Performance	<b>Faster</b> (raw insert)	<b>Slower</b> (parses & indexes)
Indexing Support	❌ No native indexing	✅ Supports <b>GIN indexes</b>
Operators Supported	✅ -, ->, ->>	✅ -, ->, ->>, @>, ?, jsonb_path_query()
Best For	Storing JSON <b>as-is</b>	Querying & searching JSON efficiently

📌 **Key Takeaway:**  
Use **JSONB** when querying and indexing. Use **JSON** if only storing text data.

## Choosing JSONB for Semi-Structured Data

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### ✅ Use JSONB When:

- You need **fast querying and indexing** of JSON fields.
- Your data is **semi-structured**, but needs to be searchable.
- You want to **store API responses, logs, metadata, or user preferences**.
- Schema evolution is **frequent**, but you still need relational features.

### ❌ Avoid JSONB When:

- Data should be **strictly relational** (use **tables & foreign keys**).
- Queries mostly filter on **relational fields** rather than JSON content.
- JSON data is **write-heavy** but rarely read (use **JSON instead**).

### 💡 Example Schema Choice:

- **User table** stores structured info (id, email, created\_at).
- **Preferences column (JSONB)** holds flexible settings (theme, notifications, language).

## Extracting & Filtering JSONB Data in PostgreSQL

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### Key Points:

- JSONB allows **storing structured data** inside a relational database.
- We need efficient **querying techniques** to extract and filter JSON data.
- PostgreSQL provides **specialized operators and functions** to interact with JSONB.

### Example Use Case:

- A **product catalog** stores structured attributes (name, price) and flexible data (specifications, reviews) in JSONB.
- Queries must **filter products by price range, extract metadata, and search text within JSONB fields**.

## Essential JSONB Operators for Querying Data

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Operator	Description	Example Query
->	Extracts a JSON <b>object or array</b> as JSONB.	SELECT item_data->'category' FROM items;
->>	Extracts a <b>text value</b> from JSONB.	SELECT item_data->>'category' FROM items;
@>	Checks if JSONB contains a <b>specific key-value pair</b> .	WHERE item_data @> '{"category": "programming"}'
?	Checks if a <b>key exists</b> in JSONB.	WHERE item_data ? 'price'
jsonb_set()	Updates a specific key in JSONB.	UPDATE items SET item_data = jsonb_set(item_data, '{price}', '29.99');



Demo



# Lab



## **Design a Schema Mixing Vector, Relational, and JSONB Data** (*Hands-on Lab*)

- Integrate **vector embeddings (pgvector)**, structured **relational data**, and **semi-structured JSONB** in a unified model.
- Implement **queries that combine relational, vector, and JSON search** efficiently.

