



# 1A. Install the software

- There is no single way to do this—we have different machines, platforms, and comfort zones, so go here and find the best fit for you:

<https://www.postgresql.org/download/>

- The common thread is that we will want to learn how to use PostgreSQL at the most direct level, which is via the `psql` command line utility, so as long as your installation mechanism provides access to that, then you should be good to go

# 1B. Initialize the database

- Installation typically ensures command line access—if not, check in with me
- Some installers will initialize a database for you—still it’s nice to know how to do it yourself:

```
initdb --locale=C -E UTF-8 location-of-cluster
```

- “Cluster” is the PostgreSQL term for the file structure of a PostgreSQL database instance

# 1C. Start the server

- As with initialization, some installers will start the server for you—this is how to do it yourself:

```
pg_ctl start -D location-of-cluster
```

- There are lots of options to starting up the server—this is merely the simplest way to get going
- If you can start it, you should be able to stop it:

```
pg_ctl stop -D location-of-cluster
```

# 3. Use psql locally

- Once more, there are many ways to connect to a running database server with psql, but for consistency with using psql with RDS, we choose this form:

```
psql postgresql://localhost/postgres
```

- Just as with running the server, additional options abound—this way is just meant to get you going as quickly as possible