

## Data Types in PostgreSQL

The basic datatype in PostgreSQL

### Looking at Data Types

- Text fields (small and large)
- Binary fields (small and large)
- Numeric fields
- `AUTO_INCREMENT` fields

#### String Fields

`CHAR` is using for **short string**, which below the 64 characters

`VARCHAR` is using for **string which you do not know the length**. Most of time we use this.

### String Fields

- Understand character sets and are indexable for searching
- **`CHAR(n)`** allocates the entire space (faster for small strings where length is known)
- **`VARCHAR(n)`** allocates a variable amount of space depending on the data length (less space)

#### Text Fields

If you do not want the database to **limit the length on you**, use the text field instead of string.

# Text Fields

- Have a character set - paragraphs or HTML pages
  - **TEXT** varying length
- Generally not used with indexing or sorting - and only then limited to a prefix

## Binary Types

# Binary Types (rarely used)

- Character = 8 - 32 bits of information depending on character set
- Byte = 8 bits of information
  - **BYTEA**(n) up to 255 bytes
- Small Images - data
- Not indexed or sorted

## Integer Numbers

# Integer Numbers

Integer numbers are very efficient, take little storage, and are easy to process because CPUs can often compare them with a single instruction.

- **SMALLINT** (-32768, +32768)
- **INTEGER** (2 Billion)
- **BIGINT** - ( $10^{18}$  ish)

<https://www.postgresql.org/docs/9.1/datatype-numeric.html>

## Floating Number

Notice that, both **REAL** and **DOUBLE PRECISION** may lose some accuracy within the decimals. So, if we're dealing with important records (For instance, deal with money), please use **NUMERIC** type.

# Floating Point Numbers

Floating point numbers can represent a wide range of values, but accuracy is limited.

- **REAL** (32-bit)  $10^{38}$  with seven digits of accuracy
- **DOUBLE PRECISION** (64-bit)  $10^{308}$  with 14 digits of accuracy
- **NUMERIC(accuracy, decimal)** – Specified digits of accuracy and digits after the decimal point

<https://www.postgresql.org/docs/11/datatype-numeric.html>

## Dates

**TIMESTAMP** is the most common dates type (64 bits).

# Dates

- **TIMESTAMP** - 'YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS'  
(4713 BC, 294276 AD)
- **DATE** - 'YYYY-MM-DD'
- **TIME** - 'HH:MM:SS'
- Built-in PostgreSQL function **NOW()**