JSON by the other elephant





FOSDEM PGDay January 2016 Stefanie Janine Stölting @sjstoelting



JSON



- JavaScript Object Notation
- Don't have to care about encoding, it is always Unicode, most implementations use UTF8
- Used for data exchange in web application
- Currently two standards RFC 7159 by Douglas Crockford und ECMA-404
- PostgreSQL impementation is RFC 7159



JSON Datatypes



JSON

Available since 9.2

BSON

Available as extension on GitHub since 2013

JSONB

Available since 9.4

Crompessed JSON



ACID



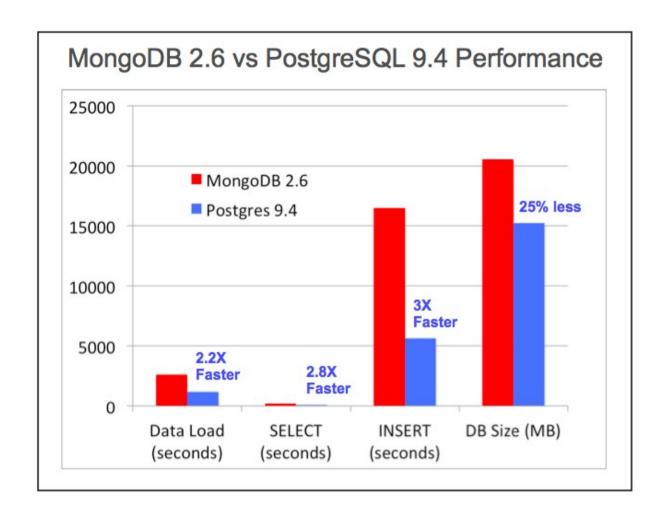
Atomicity, Consistency, Isolation, Durability is a set of properties that guarantee that database transactions are processed reliably. ¹

1 See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ACID



Performance





Test done by EnterpriseDB, see the article by Marc Linster



JSON Functions



```
row_to_json({row})
Returns the row as JSON
```

array_to_json({array})
Returns the array as JSON

jsonb_to_recordset
Returns a recordset from JSONB



JSON Opertators



Array element

->{int}

Array element by name

->{text}

Object element

->> {text}

Value at path #> {text}



Index on JSON



Index JSONB content for faster access with indexes

GIN index overall

CREATE INDEX idx_1 ON jsonb.actor USING GIN (jsondata);

Even unique B-Tree indexes are possible

CREATE UNIQUE INDEX actor_id_2 ON jsonb.actor((CAST(jsondata->>'actor_id' AS INTEGER)));



New JSON functions



PostgreSQL 9.5 new JSONB functions:

jsonb_pretty

jsonb_set

Available as extions for 9.4 at PGXN: jsonbx



Data sources



The Chinook database is available at chinookdatabase.codeplex.com

Amazon book reviews of 1998 are available at

examples.citusdata.com/customer_reviews nested 1998.json.gz



Chinook Tables



	T tablename	
1	Artist	
2	Invoice	
3	Employee	
4	Customer	
5	Playlist	
6	InvoiceLine	
7	Album	
8	Genre	
9	PlaylistTrack	
10	MediaType	
11	Track	

	▼ table_name ◊	▼ column_name	፲ data_type ♣️
1	Artist	ArtistId	integer
2	Artist	Name	character varying (120)

	I table_name ↔	▼ column_name	T data_type ♣
1	Album	AlbumId	integer
2	Album	Title	character varying (160)
3	Album	ArtistId	integer

	I table_name ↔	▼ column_name	፲ data_type
1	Track	TrackId	integer
2	Track	Name	character varying (200)
3	Track	AlbumId	integer
4	Track	MediaTypeId	integer
5	Track	GenreId	integer
6	Track	Composer	character varying (220)
7	Track	Milliseconds	integer
8	Track	Bytes	integer
9	Track	UnitPrice	numeric



CTE

Common Table Expressions will be used in examples

Example:

```
WITH RECURSIVE t(n) AS (
        VALUES (1)
    UNION ALL
        SELECT n+1 FROM t WHERE n < 100
)
SELECT sum(n), min(n), max(n) FROM t;</pre>
```

• Result:

	sum	min	max
	bigint	integer	integer
1	5050	1	100



Live Examples



Let's see, how it does work.





```
-- Step 1: Tracks as JSON with the album identifier
WITH tracks AS

(

SELECT "AlbumId" AS album_id

, "TrackId" AS track_id

, "Name" AS track_name

FROM "Track"
)

SELECT row_to_json(tracks) AS tracks
FROM tracks
:
```







```
-- Step 2 Abums including tracks with aritst identifier
WITH tracks AS
        SELECT "AlbumId" AS album id
            , "TrackId" AS track \overline{i}d
            , "Name" AS track name
        FROM "Track"
, json tracks AS
        SELECT row to json(tracks) AS tracks
        FROM tracks
, albums AS
        SELECT a. "ArtistId" AS artist id
            , a. "AlbumId" AS album id
            , a. "Title" AS album tītle
            , array agg(t.tracks) AS album tracks
        FROM "Album" AS a
            INNER JOIN json tracks AS t
            ON a. "AlbumId" = (t.tracks->>'album id')::int
        GROUP BY a. "ArtistId"
            . a. "AlbumId"
            , a. "Title"
SELECT artist id
    , array_agg(row to json(albums)) AS album
FROM albums
GROUP BY artist id
```



	nartist_id ↔	••• album	
1	251	{"artist_id":251,"album_id":319,"album_title":"Armada: Music from the Courts of England and Spain","albu	
2	120	{"artist_id":120,"album_id":183,"album_title":"Dark Side Of The Moon","album_tracks":[{"album_id":183,"tr	
3	227	{"artist_id":227,"album_id":293,"album_title":"Pavarotti's Opera Made Easy","album_tracks":[{"album_id":2	
4	8	'{"artist_id":8,"album_id":271,"album_title":"Revelations","album_tracks":[{"album_id":271,"track_id":3389,"	
5	247	{"artist_id":247,"album_id":314,"album_title":"English Renaissance","album_tracks":[{"album_id":314,"track	
6	138	{"artist_id":138,"album_id":211,"album_title":"The Singles","album_tracks":[{"album_id":211,"track_id":2591	
7	242	{"artist_id":242,"album_id":307,"album_title":"Adams, John: The Chairman Dances","album_tracks":[{"albur	
168	168 row(s) fetched - 38ms		



```
-- Step 3 Return one row for an artist with all albums as VIEW
CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW v json artist data AS
WITH tracks AS
        SELECT "AlbumId" AS album id
            , "TrackId" AS track id
            , "Name" AS track name
        FROM "Track"
, json tracks AS
        SELECT row to json(tracks) AS tracks
        FROM tracks
, albums AS
        SELECT a. "ArtistId" AS artist id
            , a. "AlbumId" AS album id
            , a. "Title" AS album title
            , array agg(t.tracks) AS album tracks
        FROM "Album" AS a
            INNER JOIN json tracks AS t
                ON a. "AlbumId" = (t.tracks->>'album id')::int
        GROUP BY a. "ArtistId"
            , a. "AlbumId"
            , a. "Title"
, json albums AS
        SELECT artist id
            , array agg(row to json(albums)) AS album
        FROM albums
        GROUP BY artist id
-- -> Next page
```









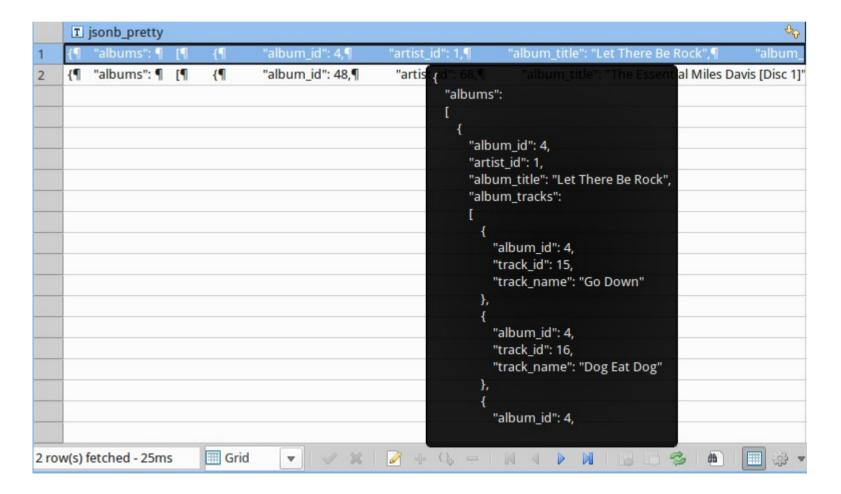
```
-- Select data from the view
SELECT *
FROM v_json_artist_data
;
```







```
-- SELECT data from that VIEW, that does querying
SELECT jsonb_pretty(artist_data)
FROM v_json_artist_data
WHERE artist_data->>'artist' IN ('Miles Davis', 'AC/DC');
```







```
-- SELECT some data from that VIEW using JSON methods
SELECT artist_data->>'artist' AS artist
   , artist_data#>'{albums, 1, album_title}' AS album_title
   , jsonb_pretty(artist_data#>'{albums, 1, album_tracks}') AS album_tracks
FROM v_json_artist_data
WHERE artist_data->'albums' @> '[{"album_title":"Miles Ahead"}]'
;
```







```
SELECT artist_data->>'artist_id' AS artist_id
   , artist_data->>'artist' AS artist
   , jsonb_array_elements(artist_data#>'{albums}')->>'album_title' AS album_title
   , jsonb_array_elements(jsonb_array_elements(artist_data#>'{albums}')#>'{album_tracks}')->>'track_name' AS song_titles
FROM v_json_artist_data
WHERE artist_data->>'artist' = 'Metallica'
ORDER BY 3
;
```

	■ artist_id ♦	T artist ↔	🔳 album_title 🖖	▼ song_titles	
1	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	Last Caress/Green Hell	
2	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	Hit The Lights	
3	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	The Prince	
4	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	Bleeding Me	
5	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	Low Man's Lyric	
6	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	The Frayed Ends Of Sanity	
7	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	Sad But True	
8	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	Fight Fire With Fire	
9	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	The Wait	
10	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	Ronnie	
11	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	Trapped Under Ice	
12	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	Purify	
13	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	(Anesthesia) Pulling Teeth	
14	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	Devil's Dance	
15	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	Turn The Page	
16	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	St. Anger	
17	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	Stone Dead Forever	
18	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	Astronomy	
19	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	The Unforgiven	
20	50	Metallica	And Justice For All	Poor Twisted Me	
200 ו	200 row(s) fetched - 26ms 🔠 Grid 🔻 🥒 🔉 📝 🕂 🗘 — 🔣 🔻				





```
-- Create a function, which will be used for UPDATE on the view v artrist data
CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION trigger v json artist data update()
     RETURNS trigger AS
$BODY$
      -- Data variables
     DECLARE rec
                              RECORD:
      -- Error variables
     DECLARE v state
                              TEXT;
     DECLARE v msq
                              TEXT;
                              TEXT:
     DECLARE v detail
     DECLARE v hint
                              TEXT:
     DECLARE v context
                              TEXT;
BEGIN
      -- Update table Artist
     IF (OLD.artist data->>'artist')::varchar(120) <> (NEW.artist data->>'artist')::varchar(120) THEN
            UPDATE "Artist"
           SET "Name" = (NEW.artist data->>'artist')::varchar(120)
           WHERE "ArtistId" = (OLD.artist data->>'artist id')::int;
     END IF:
-- Update table Album in a foreach
-- Update table Track in a foreach
RETURN NEW:
      EXCEPTION WHEN unique violation THEN
            RAISE NOTICE 'Sorry, but the something went wrong while trying to update artist data';
            RETURN OLD:
     WHEN others THEN
            GET STACKED DIAGNOSTICS
                  v state = RETURNED SQLSTATE,
                  v msg = MESSAGE TEXT,
                  v detail = PG EXCEPTION DETAIL,
                  v hint = PG EXCEPTION HINT,
                  v context = PG EXCEPTION CONTEXT;
            RAISE NOTICE '%', v msg;
            RETURN OLD:
END;
$BODY$
      LANGUAGE plpqsql;
```





Name	Value	
	:	nich will be used for UPDATE on the view v_artrist_data UNCTION trigger_v_json_artist_data_update() S
	Data variables DECLARE rec Error variables	RECORD;
	DECLARE v_state	TEXT;
	DECLARE v_msg	TEXT;
	DECLARE v detail	TFXT:
1 row(s) fetche	d - 8ms	





```
-- The trigger will be fired instead of an UPDATE statemen to save data
CREATE TRIGGER v_json_artist_data_instead_update INSTEAD OF UPDATE
        ON v_json_artist_data
        FOR EACH ROW
        EXECUTE PROCEDURE trigger_v_json_artist_data_update()
;
```

Name	Value	
Query	The trigger will be fired instead of an UPDATE statemen to save data CREATE TRIGGER v_json_artist_data_instead_update INSTEAD OF UPDATE ON v_json_artist_data FOR EACH ROW EXECUTE PROCEDURE trigger_v_json_artist_data_update()	
Updated Rows	0	
1 row(s) fetched	d - 13ms	





	ᠬᠬ album_id ↔	📅 artist_id 🍫	T album_title ↔	? album_tracks
1	152	50	Master Of Puppets	[{"album_id": 152, "track_id": 1853, "track_name": "Battery"}, {"album_i
2	35	50	Garage Inc. (Disc 1)	[{"album_id": 35, "track_id": 408, "track_name": "Free Speech For The D
3	154	50	Ride The Lightning	[{"album_id": 154, "track_id": 1874, "track_name": "Fight Fire With Fire"
4	149	50	Garage Inc. (Disc 2)	[{"album_id": 149, "track_id": 1813, "track_name": "Helpless"}, {"album_
5	150	50	Kill 'Em All	[{"album_id": 150, "track_id": 1829, "track_name": "Hit The Lights"}, {"a
6	151	50	Load	[{"album_id": 151, "track_id": 1839, "track_name": "Ain't My Bitch"}, {"a
7	153	50	ReLoad	[{"album_id": 153, "track_id": 1861, "track_name": "Fuel"}, {"album_id":
8	148	50	Black Album	[{"album_id": 148, "track_id": 1801, "track_name": "Enter Sandman"}, {'
9	155	50	St. Anger	[{"album_id": 155, "track_id": 1882, "track_name": "Frantic"}, {"album_i
10	156	50	And Justice For All	[{"album_id": 156, "track_id": 1893, "track_name": "Blackened"}, {"albu
10 rc	10 row(s) fetched - 29ms IIII Grid ▼ ✓ 💥 📝 🕂 🗘 — 🕅 🖣 ▶ 🔰 III 🗒 🗒 🤣 🛍 IIII 🛞 🔻			



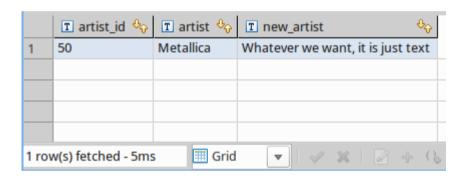


	📆 album_id 🍫	चित्र track_id ७०	■ track_name
1	35	408	Free Speech For The Dumb
2	35	409	It's Electric
3	35	410	Sabbra Cadabra
4	35	411	Turn The Page
5	35	412	Die Die My Darling
6	35	413	Loverman
7	35	414	Mercyful Fate
8	35	415	Astronomy
9	35	416	Whiskey In The Jar
10	35	417	Tuesday's Gone
11	35	418	The More I See
11 r	ow(s) fetched - 31n	ns IIII Grid	▼ ✓ × ≥ + ()





```
-- Manipulate data with jsonb_set
SELECT artist_data->>'artist_id' AS artist_id
   , artist_data->>'artist' AS artist
   , jsonb_set(artist_data, '{artist}', '"Whatever we want, it is just text"'::jsonb)->>'artist' AS new_artist
FROM v_json_artist_data
WHERE (artist_data->>'artist_id')::int = 50
.
```







```
-- Update a JSONB column with a jsonb_set result
UPDATE v_json_artist_data
SET artist_data= jsonb_set(artist_data, '{artist}', '"NEW Metallica"'::jsonb)
WHERE (artist_data->>'artist_id')::int = 50
;
```

Name	Value	
Query	Update a JSONB column with a jsonb_set result UPDATE json_artist_data SET artist_data= jsonb_set(artist_data, '{artist}', '"NEW Metallica"'::jsonb) WHERE (artist_data->>'artist_id')::int = 50	
Updated Rows	1	
1 row(s) fetched	d - 20ms	





```
-- View the changes done by the UPDATE statement
SELECT artist_data->>'artist_id' AS artist_id
   , artist_data->>'artist' AS artist
FROM v_json_artist_data
WHERE (artist_data->>'artist_id')::int = 50
:
```







```
-- Manipulate data with the concatenating / overwrite operator
SELECT artist_data->>'artist_id' AS artist_id
   , artist_data->>'artist' AS artist
   , jsonb_set(artist_data, '{artist}', '"Whatever we want, it is just text"'::jsonb)->>'artist' AS new_artist
   , artist_data || '{"artist":"Metallica"}'::jsonb->>'artist' AS correct_name
FROM v_json_artist_data
WHERE (artist_data->>'artist_id')::int = 50
;
```







```
-- Revert the name change of Metallica with in a different way: With the replace operator
UPDATE v_json_artist_data
SET artist_data = artist_data || '{"artist":"Metallica"}'::jsonb
WHERE (artist_data->>'artist_id')::int = 50
;
```

Name	Value
Query	Revert the name change of Metallica with in a different way: With the replace operator UPDATE json_artist_data SET artist_data = artist_data '{"artist":"Metallica"}'::jsonb WHERE (artist_data->>'artist_id')::int = 50
Updated Ro	ows 1





```
-- View the changes done by the UPDATE statement with the replace operator
SELECT artist_data->>'artist_id' AS artist_id
   , artist_data->>'artist' AS artist
FROM v_json_artist_data
WHERE (artist_data->>'artist_id')::int = 50
:
```







-- Create a table for JSON data with 1998 Amazon reviews CREATE TABLE reviews(review jsonb jsonb);

Name	Value		
Query	CREATE TABLE reviews(review_js	sonb jsonb)	
Updated Rows	0		
5.0			





```
-- Import customer reviews from a file
COPY reviews
FROM '/var/tmp/customer_reviews_nested_1998.json'
;
```

Name	Value		
Query	Import customer reviews fro COPY reviews FROM '/var/tmp/		eviews_nested_1998.json'
Updated Rows	0		
1 row(s) fetched	- 10730ms	?	V VX D





-- There should be 589.859 records imported into the table SELECT count(*)
FROM reviews

	🖬 count
1	589.859
1 rov	v(s) fetched - 104ms





```
SELECT jsonb_pretty(review_jsonb)
FROM reviews
LIMIT 1
.
```

```
I jsonb pretty
    {¶ "review": ¶ {¶
                                                                           "helpful votes": 0¶ },¶ "product": ¶ {¶
                                                                                                                   "id": "1551803542".¶
                                               "votes": 10,¶
                                                             "rating": 5,¶
                        "date": "1970-12-30".¶
                               "review":
                                 "date": "1970-12-30",
                                 "votes": 10,
                                 "rating": 5,
                                 "helpful_votes": 0
                               "product":
                                 "id": "1551803542",
                                 "group": "Book",
                                 "title": "Start and Run a Coffee Bar (Start Run a)",
                                 "category": "Business Investing",
                                 "sales rank": 11611,
                                 "similar ids":
                                   "0471136174",
                                   "0910627312",
                                   "047112138X",
                                   "0786883561",
                                   "0201570483"
                                 "subcategory": "General"
                               "customer_id": "AE22YDHSBFYIP"
                                                            # Grid
1 row(s) fetched - 4ms
```





```
-- Select data with JSON
SELECT review_jsonb#>> '{product,title}' AS title
    , avg((review_jsonb#>> '{review,rating}')::int) AS average_rating
FROM reviews
WHERE review_jsonb@>'{"product": {"category": "Sheet Music & Scores"}}'
GROUP BY 1
ORDER BY 2 DESC
:
```

Without an Index: 248ms

	▼ title 🗣	n average_rating ↔
1	Complete Works for Solo Keyboard	5
2	The Magic Flute (Die Zauberflote in Full Score)	5
3	Requiem in Full Score	5
4	The Four Seasons and Other Violin Concertos in Full Score	5
5	Symphony No. 3 (Dover Miniature Scores)	5
12 rc	w(s) fetched - 248ms Grid	▼ ✓ × Ø ·





-- Create a GIN index

CREATE INDEX review_review_jsonb ON reviews USING GIN (review_jsonb);

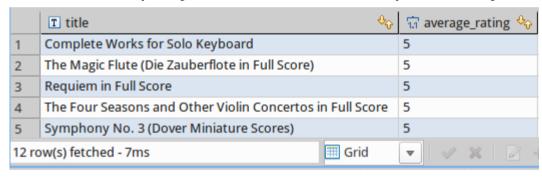
Name	Value				
Query	Create a GIN index CREATE INDEX review_review_json	b ON review	s USING GIN	(review_jso	nb)
Updated Rows	0				
1 row(s) fetched	d - 21079ms	III Grid	▼	X Ø	4





```
-- Select data with JSON
SELECT review_jsonb#>> '{product,title}' AS title
    , avg((review_jsonb#>> '{review,rating}')::int) AS average_rating
FROM reviews
WHERE review_jsonb@>'{"product": {"category": "Sheet Music & Scores"}}'
GROUP BY 1
ORDER BY 2 DESC
:
```

The same query as before with the previously created GIN Index: 7ms







```
-- SELECT some statistics from the JSON data
SELECT review_jsonb#>>'{product,category}' AS category
   , avg((review_jsonb#>>'{review,rating}')::int) AS average_rating
   , count((review_jsonb#>>'{review,rating}')::int) AS count_rating
FROM reviews
GROUP BY 1
:
```

Without an Index: 9747ms

	▼ category	র average_rating ↔	র count_rating ॐ
1		4,487	1.521
2	Accessories	4,703	37
3	Action & Adventure	4,261	3.938
4	African American Cinema	4,694	36
5	Alternative Rock	4,522	15.508
84 rd	ow(s) fetched - 9747ms	==	Grid ▼



-- Create a B-Tree index on a JSON expression CREATE INDEX reviews product category ON reviews ((review jsonb#>>'{product,category}'));

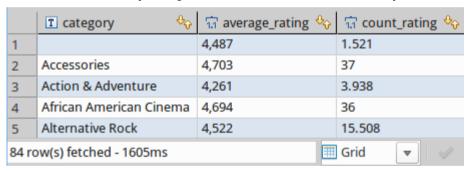
Name	Value
Query	Create a B-Tree index on a JSON expression CREATE INDEX reviews_product_category ON reviews ((review_jsonb#>>'{product,category}'))
Updated R	ows 0
4 I-3 E-4	ched - 11875ms





```
-- SELECT some statistics from the JSON data
SELECT review_jsonb#>>'{product,category}' AS category
   , avg((review_jsonb#>>'{review,rating}')::int) AS average_rating
   , count((review_jsonb#>>'{review,rating}')::int) AS count_rating
FROM reviews
GROUP BY 1
:
```

The same query as before with the previously created BTREE Index: 1605ms





JSON by example



This document by Stefanie Janine Stölting is covered by the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International