stackoverflow

Questions   Tags   Tour   Users   Ask Question

Stack Overflow is a question and answer site for professional and enthusiast programmers. It's 100% free, no registration required.

Take the tour   ✕

PostgreSQL: Select data with a like on timestamp field

3

⭐
4

I am trying to select data from a table, using a "like" on date field "date_checked" (timestamp). But I have this error :

```
SQLSTATE[42883]: Undefined function: 7 ERROR:  operator does not exist: timestamp
```

My request is :

```
SELECT my_table.id
FROM my_table
WHERE my_table.date_checker LIKE '2011-01-%'
```

I don't want to use :

```
SELECT my_table.id
FROM my_table
WHERE my_table.date_checker >= '2011-01-01 00:00:00'
    AND  my_table.date_checker < '2011-02-01 00:00:00'
```

tagged

postgresql × 22186

timestamp × 3310

like × 1558

asked   **2 years ago**
viewed   **12774 times**
active   **2 years ago**

Community Bulletin

event **Annual user survey ends - make your voice heard!**
– ends in 19 hours

postgresql   timestamp   like

share | improve this question

Kevin Campion
529 ●2 ●6 ●17

add comment

4 Answers

active   oldest   **votes**

▲

15

▼

✓

It's all very well not "wanting to use" < and > with timestamps, but those operators can be converted into index scans, and a string-match... well, it can, but EWWWW.

Well, the error is occurring because you need to explicitly convert the timestamp to a string before using a string operation on it, e.g.:

```
date_checker::text LIKE '2011-01-%'
```

and I *suppose* you could then create an index on `(date_checker::text)` and that expression would become an index scan but.... EWWWW.

share | improve this answer

araqnid
28.6k ●4 ●51 ●67

---

1   +1 for discouraging the use of such a solution – a_horse_with_no_name Jan 25 '11 at 23:27

1   I think if index scans are you primary concern, you'd probably have a better change with the `LIKE` approach. The selectivity estimations of inequalities can fall down pretty quickly. Just saying ... ;-) – Peter Eisentraut Jan 26 '11 at 5:14

1   +1 for the "EWWWWWW" :) – divesh premdeep Aug 31 '12 at 11:15

add comment

Related

1110 How do you get a timestamp in JavaScript?

1 Data corruption in PostgreSQL timestamp field

0 Timestamp manipulations in PostgreSQL - problem with hours/time zone

3 Timestamps with varying time zones in PostgreSQL

1 Postgresql timestamp issues

0 Retrieving queries when the hour of starting timestamp is less than the hour of ending timestamp

0 Postgresql timestamp and

7

Perhaps the `date_trunc` function would be more to your liking:

```
... WHERE date_trunc('month', my_table.date_checker) = '2011-01-01'
```

You can also put an index on that expression, if needed.

share | improve this answer

answered Jan 25 '11 at 22:54

Peter Eisentraut
10.6k ●2 ●21 ●31

add comment

Hot Network Questions

2

If you need to do a comparison on some part of a timestamp, it's far better to use extract:

http://www.postgresql.org/docs/8.4/static/functions-datetime.html#FUNCTIONS-DATETIME-EXTRACT

share | improve this answer

answered Jan 26 '11 at 8:16

Scott Marlowe
1,926 ●4 ●7

or date_trunc if you need something like the first x part of a date. you can turn '2011-01-13 12:15:23' into '2011-01-01 00:00:00' – Scott Marlowe Jan 26 '11 at 8:18

add comment

1

I don't believe you can do a `like` on a date column without converting it to a string representation first.

You can use the between query to select between two dates, for instance:

```
SELECT id FROM my_table WHERE date_checker BETWEEN '2011-01-01' AND '2011-02-01';
```

share | improve this answer

answered Jan 25 '11 at 22:46

Patrick

6,010 ●2 ●19 ●45

It's possible to do a like on a date column – Kevin Campion Nov 22 '11 at 21:20

@KevinCampion: No it's not. Not without converting it first. – Patrick Nov 22 '11 at 23:41

add comment

Your Answer

B *I* | 🌐 66 {} 🖼️ | ≣ ≣ ≣ ≣ | ↶ ↷

Sign up or login

Post as a guest

Name

Email

Post Your Answer

By posting your answer, you agree to the privacy policy and terms of service.

Not the answer you're looking for? Browse other questions tagged `postgresql` `timestamp` `like` or **ask your own question**.

 question feed

TECHNOLOGY

Stack Overflow
Server Fault
Super User
Web Applications
Ask Ubuntu
Webmasters

Programmers
Unix & Linux
Ask Different (Apple)
WordPress Answers
Geographic Information Systems

Database Administrators
Drupal Answers
SharePoint
User Experience
Mathematica

LIFE / ARTS

Photography
Science Fiction & Fantasy
Seasoned Advice (cooking)
Home Improvement
more (13)

CULTURE / RECREATION

English Language & Usage
Skeptics
Mi Yodeya (Judaism)
Travel
Christianity

SCIENCE

Mathematics
Cross Validated (stats)
Theoretical Computer Science
Physics
MathOverflow

OTHER

Stack Apps
Meta Stack Overflow
Area 51
Stack Overflow Careers

Game Development

TeX - LaTeX

Electrical Engineering   **more (14)**

Android Enthusiasts

Information Security

Arqade (gaming)

Bicycles

Role-playing Games

more (21)

more (7)

open in browser PRO version   Are you a developer? Try out the HTML to PDF API   pdfcrowd.com