

# Aims

This exercise aims to get you to:

- set up your directories on the /srvr file system
- install a PostgreSQL database server on /srvr

You ought to get it done before the middle of Week 3.

## Background

**Notation:** In the examples below, we have used the \$ sign to represent the prompt from the command interpreter (shell). The actual prompt may look quite different on your computer (e.g. it may contain the computer's hostname, or your username, or the current directory name). In the example interactions, all of the things that the computer displays are in this font. The commands that **you** are supposed to type are in **this bold font**. Comments in the examples are introduced by '.' and are written in this grey font; comments do not appear on the computer screen, they simply aim to explain what is happening. Whenever we use the word **edit**, this means that you should use your favourite text editor (e.g. vi, emacs, gedit, etc.) Finally, all references to **you** should be replaced by your CSE username.

PostgreSQL has three major components:

- the source code (and the compiled \*.o files) (approx 135MB)
- the installed executables (like pg\_ctl and psql) (approx 20MB)
- the data (including configuration files and databases) (at least 30MB)

You will not be able to fit the above components under your CSE home directory (insufficient disk quota), so what we have arranged is for you to have an additional directory (folder) called /srvr/YOU with enough space to hold all of the above. You can access this directory via the command:

```
$ cd /srvr/YOU
```

You must put your PostgreSQL source code and installed executables under /srvr/YOU. The data can be located either under /srvr/YOU or under the /tmp filesystem on the machine where you're working. You can edit, compile and execute PostgreSQL on any workstation within CSE. You can also use the server grieg; you must not use any of the other general-purpose servers (such as wagner, weill, etc.) for running PostgreSQL servers. You will need to configure things slightly differently depending on where you run PostgreSQL; how to do this is described below.

If you're doing all of this work on a laptop or PC at home, then you can configure things however you like. You will still need folders for the same three components (source code, executables, and data), but you can place them wherever you like. PostgreSQL doesn't require any special privileges to run (at least on Unix-based

systems like Linux and Mac OSX), so you do not need to create a special privileged PostgreSQL user; you can run the server as yourself.

## Setting Up your /srvr Directory (optional)

You should have a directory on /srvr already. If not, the way to create one is to run the following commands from any CSE workstation:

```
$ ssh grieg
... you are now logged into the computer called "grieg"
$ priv srvr
... create the directory /srvr/YOU
$ exit
... you are now logged off the computer called "grieg"
```

You should only need to do this once. Once your /srvr/YOU directory exists, repeating the above achieves nothing.

## Setting up your PostgreSQL Server

**Reminder:** all of the commands related to compiling and running and using your PostgreSQL server run fastest on the computer called grieg. The times below are approximate; they could double or triples depending on which machine you use.

### Installation Details(for non-experts):

#### Setting up directories

The first step is to make sure that the directory /srvr/YOU exists. You can check this via the command:

```
$ ls -l /srvr/YOU
```

If the above command says something like "No such file or directory", then you should create it using the instructions [above](#).

Once you have a directory on the /srvr filesystem, the next step is to place a copy of the PostgreSQL source code under this directory. The following commands will do this:

```
$ ssh grieg
$ cd /srvr/YOU
$ cp /home/cs9311/web/15s2/postgresql/postgresql-9.3.3.tar.bz2 /srvr/YOU/
$ tar xvfj /srvr/YOU/postgresql-9.3.3.tar.bz2
```

This creates a subdirectory called postgresql-9.3.3 under your /srvr/YOU directory and unpacks all of the source code there. This produces no output and will take around 2 minutes to complete. If you want to watch as tar unpacks the files, use xvfj instead of xvj as the first argument to tar.

## Initial compilation

Once you've unpacked the source code, you should change into the newly created postgresql-9.3.3 directory and configure the system so that it uses the directory /srvr/YOU/pgsql to hold the executables for your PostgreSQL server. (Note that /srvr/YOU/pgsql does not exist yet; it will be created in the make install step). The following commands will do the source code configuration:

```
$ cd /srvr/YOU/postgresql-9.3.3
$ ./configure --prefix=/srvr/YOU/pgsql
```

The configure command will print lots of messages about checking for various libraries/modules/etc. This process will take around 1 minute, and should produce no errors.

Once you have configured the source code, the next step is to build all of the programs:

```
$ cd /srvr/YOU/postgresql-9.3.3
$ make
```

This compiles all of the PostgreSQL source code, and takes around 10 minutes. It will produce lots of output, but should compile everything ok and end with the message:

All of PostgreSQL successfully made. Ready to install.

## Installing executables

Once the PostgreSQL programs are compiled, you need to install them. The following command does this:

```
$ cd /srvr/YOU/postgresql-9.3.3
$ make install
```

This creates the directory /srvr/YOU/pgsql and copies all of the executables (such as pg\_ctl and psql) under that directory. It will take 3-5 minutes to do this, and will produce quite a bit of output while it's doing it. Ultimately, it should end with the message:

PostgreSQL installation complete.

## Data directories

You're not finished yet, however, since PostgreSQL has no directory in which to store all of its data. There are two possibilities in how to proceed at this stage:

- you could install the data directories under /srvr/YOU/pgsql, which has the advantage that you can leave them there permanently, but has the disadvantage that building databases will be relatively slow (although it seems not as slow as in 2011)

- you could install the data directories under `/tmp`, which has the advantage that it's much faster to manipulate databases, but has the disadvantage that you'll need to re-create the data directories each time you want to use PostgreSQL and ensure that you stop the server and remove the data before you log out

We discuss both possibilities below.

Before doing anything with the database, however, you need to ensure that your Unix environment is set up correctly. We have written a small script called `env` that will do this. In this set up stage, you should copy this script to your `/srvr` directory:

```
$ cp /home/cs9311/web/15s2/postgresql/env /srvr/YOU
```

The `env` script contains the following:

```
PGHOME=/srvr/$USER/pgsql
export PGDATA=/tmp/pgsql.$USER
export PGDATA=$PGHOME/data
export PGHOST=$PGDATA
export PGPORT=5432
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=$PGHOME/lib
export PATH=$PGHOME/bin:/home/cs9311/bin:$PATH
```

This script sets up a number of environment variables. The critical ones are:

- **PGDATA** : which tells the PostgreSQL server where its data directories are located
- **PGHOST** : which tells PostgreSQL clients where are the socket files to connect to the server

Note that there are two definitions for `PGDATA`. The second one is the default and will use data directories under `/srvr/YOU/pgsql`. If you want to put the data directories under `/tmp` instead, simply swap the two `export PGDATA=...` lines. What's the difference? If you use `/tmp` for the data, you will need to create the data directories and fix the PostgreSQL configuration file each time you have a session with PostgreSQL. It is also essential that you stop the server and remove the data directories at the end of your session in this case. If you use `/srvr` for the data, it will persist between your login sessions, so you have less setup each time but all of your interaction with the database will be slower.

Note that in the discussion below, we will use the string `YOUR_PGDATA` to refer to that value that you assigned to `PGDATA` in your `env` file and which has been set via `source` in your shell.

The precise combination of values in the `env` file depends on where you are running the server. Here are the suggested configurations:

## Running server on grieg

You can put the data directories on either `/srvr` or `/tmp`. However, you may need to

change the PGPORT value, since the port-space is shared and someone else might already be using port 5432. You will detect this when you try to run the server and it fails to start (check the /srvr/YOU/pgsql/log file if your server will not start).

## Running server on CSE lab workstation

You will need to put the data directories under /tmp. You may need to change the PGPORT value, if some anti-social COMP9311 student had left their PostgreSQL server running on your workstation and was using port 5432.

## Initialising data directories and running server

Once you have a copy of the env script and have set the values appropriately, you need to invoke it in every shell window where you plan to interact with the database. You can do this by explicitly running the following command in each window:

```
$ source /srvr/YOU/env
```

If that gets tedious, you might consider adding the above command to your .bash\_profile script.

Once you've set up the environment, check that it's ok via the following commands:

```
$ echo $PGHOME
/srvr/YOU/pgsql
$ echo $PGDATA
YOUR_PGDATA ... i.e. whatever value you set it to ...
$ which initdb
/srvr/YOU/pgsql/bin/initdb
$ which pg_ctl
/srvr/YOU/pgsql/bin/pg_ctl
```

If the system gives you different path names to the above, then your environment is not yet set up properly. Are you sure that you source'd your env file?

If all of the above went as expected, you are now ready to create the data directories and run the server. You can do this via the command:

```
$ initdb
... some output eventually finishing with something like ...
Success. You can now start the database server using:
```

```
postgres -D YOUR_PGDATA
or
pg_ctl -D YOUR_PGDATA -l logfile start
```

If you look at your data directory now, you should see something like:

```
$ ls $PGDATA
PG_VERSION pg_clog      pg_multixact pg_stat_tmp pg_twophase
base       pg_hba.conf pg_notify    pg_subtrans pg_xlog
global     pg_ident.conf pg_serial    pg_tblspc   postgresql.conf
```

You shouldn't start the server straight away, however, since there's one more bit of configuration needed. You need to edit the `postgresql.conf` file in the `$PGDATA` directory and change the values of the following:

- change the value of the `listen_addresses` parameter
- reduce the value of `max_connections` (saves resources)
- set the value of the `unix_socket_directories` parameter

Once you're done, the modified part of the `postgresql.conf` file should look like (with the changes highlighted in red):

```
#-----  
# CONNECTIONS AND AUTHENTICATION  
#-----  
  
# - Connection Settings -  
  
listen_addresses = ''          # what IP address(es) to listen on;  
                                # comma-separated list of addresses;  
                                # defaults to 'localhost', '*' = all  
                                # (change requires restart)  
#port = 5432                    # (change requires restart)  
max_connections = 15           # (change requires restart)  
# Note: Increasing max_connections costs ~400 bytes of shared memory per  
# connection slot, plus lock space (see max_locks_per_transaction).  
#superuser_reserved_connections = 3 # (change requires restart)  
unix_socket_directories = 'YOUR_PGDATA'  
#unix_socket_group = ''        # (change requires restart)  
#unix_socket_permissions = 0777 # begin with 0 to use octal notation  
                                # (change requires restart)
```

**Note that it doesn't matter that the file says `port=5432`. This value will be overridden by whatever you set your `PGPORT` environment variable to.**

**Note also that the 5432 also doesn't matter because the `#` at the start of the line means that it's a comment. In the case of the lines that you are supposed to change, **make sure that you remove the `#` from the start of those lines.****

Everything is now ready to start your PostgreSQL server, which you can do via the command:

```
$ pg_ctl start -l $PGDATA/log
```

Note that PostgreSQL says "server starting", whereas it should probably say "attempting to start server". It is possible that the server may not start correctly. If the server does not appear to have started, you can check why by looking at the tail of the server log:

```
$ tail -20 $PGDATA/log  
... information about what happened at server start-time ...
```

Note that you'll get error messages about not being able to run the statistics collector, and a warning that autovacuum was not started. These are not an issue at

this stage.

A quick way to check whether the server is working is to run the command:

```
$ psql -l
```

```
          List of databases
Name | Owner | Encoding | Collate | Ctype | Access privileges
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
postgres | YOU | LATIN1 | C      | en_AU |
template0 | YOU | LATIN1 | C      | en_AU | =c/YOU
          |     |       |       |      | YOU=CTc/YOU
template1 | YOU | LATIN1 | C      | en_AU | =c/YOU
          |     |       |       |      | YOU=CTc/YOU
(3 rows)
```

which will give you a list of databases like the above if the server is running. If the server is not running, you'll get a message something like:

```
psql: could not connect to server: No such file or directory
Is the server running locally and accepting
connections on Unix domain socket "YOUR_PGDATA/.s.PGSQL.5432"?
```

If this happens, you should check the log file to find out what went wrong. (Other things to check in case of problems are described [below](#)).

Assuming that the server is running ok, you can now use it to create and manipulate databases (see the example below). Once you've finished your session using PostgreSQL, you need to stop the server.

```
$ pg_ctl stop
```

```
waiting for server to shut down.... done
```

If you still have a process that's using the database (e.g. a psql process in another window), then the server won't be able to shut down. You'll need to quit all of the processes that are accessing the database before the above command will work.

If you put your data under /tmp, you must also remove the data directories. You can do this via the command:

```
$ rm -r /tmp/pgsql.YOU
```

## The pgs script

Since the above process is rather fiddly, we have provided a script that provides a single command to setup your data directory (if needed) and start your server. It still requires you to set the values in your env file appropriately, however. The script is called pgs and is located in the directory /home/cs9311/bin.

The pgs script is designed to help you manage your PostgreSQL servers and do a bit of error checking along the way to see if everything is ok. It has four possible arguments:

- **setup** : create a new PGDATA directory (complains if one already exists)

- **cleanup** : remove the PGDATA directory (make sure you backup anything important before doing this)
- **start** : start your PostgreSQL server (waiting until it actually starts ok)
- **stop** : stop your PostgreSQL server (waiting until it actually stops ok)

The pgs script is just a wrapper around two of the PostgreSQL commands mentioned above:

- **initdb** : sets up the PGDATA directory
- **pg\_ctl** : controls the operation of the PostgreSQL server

As noted above, the pgs script has four modes of operation:

- **setting up the data directory:**

If you leave your data under /srvr/YOU/pgsql, then you only need to do this once. If your data is on /tmp, you will need to do this each time you want to have a session using PostgreSQL.

#### **\$ pgs setup**

Using PostgreSQL with data directory /your/PGDATA/directory

The files belonging to this database system will be owned by user "YOU".

This user must also own the server process.

... more lines of out eventually finishing with something like ...

Success. You can now start the database server using:

```
postgres -D YOUR_PGDATA
or
pg_ctl -D YOUR_PGDATA -l logfile start
```

After doing the above, your PostgreSQL server is ready to start and use.

- **starting the PostgreSQL server:**

#### **\$ pgs start**

Using PostgreSQL with data directory YOUR\_PGDATA

waiting for server to start..... done

server started

Check whether the server started ok via the command 'psql -l'.

If it's not working, check YOUR\_PGDATA/log for details.

If the "waiting for server to start" is followed by an ever-growing sequence of dots, it means that the server is not starting properly. You'll need to do some additional debugging (see [below](#)) for such cases.

- **stopping the PostgreSQL server:**

The following command stops the PostgreSQL server:

```
$ pgs stop
```



Using PostgreSQL with data directory YOUR\_PGDATA  
waiting for server to shut down.... done

If you get an ever-growing sequence of dots, it means that the server cannot shut down. This is typically caused by some other process being connected to your PostgreSQL server, as discussed earlier.

- **cleaning (removing) the data directory:**

You only need to do this if you are not keeping your databases between sessions with PostgreSQL, i.e. because you have put the data directory under /tmp.

**\$ pgs cleanup**

Using PostgreSQL with data directory YOUR\_PGDATA  
This will remove all files under YOUR\_PGDATA  
Do you want to continue? **y**

If you decide that you really don't want to remove the data directories, typing anything other than y or yes will not do the cleanup. If you accidentally remove your data directory, it is easy enough to restore them using pgs setup.

## **Quick summary (for experts only)[Please Read the Installation Details part first]:**

Non-experts should go to the detailed instructions [above](#).

```
$ ssh grieg
$ cd /srvr/YOU
$ cp /home/cs9311/web/15s2/postgresql/postgresql-9.3.3.tar.bz2 /srvr/YOU/
$ tar xfvj /srvr/YOU/postgresql-9.3.3.tar.bz2
... produces no output; takes approx 2 minutes; creates/populates a directory called postgresql-9.3.3 ...
$ cd postgresql-9.3.3
$ ./configure --prefix=/srvr/YOU/pgsql
... produces lots of output; takes approx 1 minute ...
$ make
... produces lots of output; takes approx 5 minutes ...
$ make install
... produces lots of output; takes approx 1 minute ...
$ cp /home/cs9311/web/15s2/postgresql/env /srvr/YOU/env
$ edit /srvr/YOU/env
... select the appropriate PGDATA directory ...
$ source /srvr/YOU/env
$ which initdb
/srvr/YOU/pgsql/bin/initdb
$ initdb
... produces some output; should be quite quick ...
$ edit $PGDATA/postgresql.conf
... set unix_socket_directories = 'name of PGDATA directory' ...
... set max_connections = 15 ...
... set listen_addresses = " ...
$ which pg_ctl
/srvr/YOU/pgsql/bin/pg_ctl
$ pg_ctl start -l $PGDATA/log
```

server starting

\$ **psql -l**

List of databases

Name	Owner	Encoding	Collation	Ctype	Access privileges
postgres	YOU	LATIN1	C	C	
template0	YOU	LATIN1	C	C	=c/YOU :YOU=CTc/YOU
template1	YOU	LATIN1	C	C	=c/YOU :YOU=CTc/YOU

(3 rows)

\$ ... use your PostgreSQL server e.g. create example database ...

\$ **pg\_ctl stop**

waiting for server to shut down.... done

server stopped

\$

Note that the above times will probably be less on a home PC where you are accessing the local disk.

## A Typical session with PostgreSQL

Once you've got your PostgreSQL server installed, this is what you'd normally do to use it:

\$ **source /srvr/YOU/env**

\$ **pgs setup**

... BUT ONLY if your PGDATA directory is on /tmp ...

\$ **pgs start**

... hopefully concluding with the message ...

server started

\$ **psql -l**

... hopefully giving a list of databases ...

\$ **createdb myNewDB**

\$ **psql myNewDB**

... do stuff with your database ...

\$ **pgs stop**

... hopefully concluding with the message ...

server stopped

## Reminder

You must shut down your server at the end of each session with PostgreSQL if you're working on the CSE workstations. Failure to do this means that the next student who uses that workstation may need to fiddle with their configuration in order to start their server.

## A Sample Database

Once your server is up-and-running, you ought to load up the beer database from lectures and try some of the queries that we did in the Week 01 Lecture. This is especially important if you haven't used PostgreSQL before; you need to get used to

its interactive interface.

You can set up the beer database as follows:

```
$ createdb beer
$ psql beer -f /home/cs9311/web/15s2/lab/01/beer.dump
... around 20 lines include SET, CREATE TABLE, ALTER TABLE...
$ psql beer
psql (9.3.3)
Type "help" for help.

beer=# select count(*) from beers;
count
-----
    24
(1 row)

beer=#
... explore/manipulate the database e.g. ...
beer=# \q
$
```

For exploring the database with psql, there are a collection of \d commands. You can find out more about these via psql's \? command or by reading the PostgreSQL manual [chapter on psql](#).

## Sorting out Problems

It is very difficult to diagnose problems with software over email, unless you give sufficient details about the problem. An email that's as vague as "My PostgreSQL server isn't working. What should I do?", is basically useless. Any email about problems with software should contain details of

- what you were attempting to do
- precisely what commands you used
- what output you got

One way to achieve this is to copy-and-paste the last few commands and responses into your email.

But even with all of that information, there's a whole host of other environment information that's need to be able to seriously work out why your server isn't running, that you can't put in an email. That's why it's better to come to a consultation, where we can work through the problem on a workstation (which is usually very quick).

### Can't start server?

When you use pgs start to try to start your PostgreSQL server, you observe something like:

## **\$ pgs start**

Using PostgreSQL with data directory YOUR\_PGDATA

waiting for server to start.....pg\_ctl: could not start server

Examine the log output.

Check whether the server started ok via the command 'psql -l'.

If it's not working, check /srvr/YOU/pgsql/log for details.

Take the advice given to you by the command and look at the end of the log file to see if there are any clues there. You can do this via the command:

## **\$ tail -20 /srvr/YOU/pgsql/log**

Sometimes you may need to look at more than the last 20 lines of the log file to find the relevant error message. Most of the error messages are self-explanatory, and you should learn what to do if any of them occurs. Some examples:

FATAL: lock file "postmaster.pid" already exists

HINT: Is another postmaster (PID 31265) running in data directory "YOUR\_PGDATA"?

# You may already have another PostgreSQL server running

# Or, the previous server may have quit without cleaning up the postmaster.pid file

# Note that the server process may be running on another machine if you run your

# server on the local machine rather than grieg

# If the server is running on another machine, log in there and run "pgs stop"

LOG: could not bind IPv4 socket: Address already in use

HINT: Is another postmaster already running on port 5432? If not, wait a few seconds and retry.

WARNING: could not create listen socket for "localhost"

FATAL: could not create any TCP/IP sockets

# Another user is running a PostgreSQL server on this machine

# Change the PGPORT value in /srvr/YOU/env

# and then reset your environment and try starting the server again

FATAL: could not open relation mapping file "global/pg\_filenode.map": No such file or directory

FATAL: could not open relation mapping file "global/pg\_filenode.map": No such file or directory

FATAL: could not open relation mapping file "global/pg\_filenode.map": No such file or directory

FATAL: could not open relation mapping file "global/pg\_filenode.map": No such file or directory

# This means that there is another PostgreSQL server of yours still running

# You'll need to find it e.g. using the command "pgs status"

# Note that the process could be running on any CSE machine where you ever

# ran a PostgreSQL server, so you may need to check on multiple machines

# Once you've found it, stop the server using the Unix kill command

# and then reset your environment and try starting the server again

Sometimes the pg\_ctl command will give a message that the server has failed to start but you'll get no error messages at the end of the log file, which will look something like:

LOG: database system was shut down at 2015-03-03 11:38:26 EST

LOG: database system is ready to accept connections

One cause of this is having different directories for PGHOST in the /srvr/YOU/env file and

for `unix_socket_directory` in the `YOUR_PGDATA/postgresql.conf` file. It is critical that these two both refer to the same directory. You can check this by running the command:

```
$ psql -l
```

```
psql: could not connect to server: No such file or directory
```

```
Is the server running locally and accepting
```

```
connections on Unix domain socket "/srvr/YOU/pgsql/.s.PGSQL.5432"?
```

You should then check the `YOUR_PGDATA/postgresql.conf` file to see whether `unix_socket_directory` has been set to `/srvr/YOU/pgsql`. Note that the directory name may not be exactly the same as this; the critical thing is that the directory be the same in both places.

## Can't shut server down?

When you use `pgs stop` to try to shut down your PostgreSQL server, you observe something like:

```
$ pgs stop
```

```
Using PostgreSQL with data directory YOUR_PGDATA
```

```
waiting for server to shut down.....
```

and no done ever appears.

This is typically because you have an `psql` session running in some other window (the PostgreSQL server won't shut down until all clients have disconnected from the server). The way to fix this is to find the `psql` session and end it. If you can find the window where it's running, simply use `\q` to quit from `psql`. If you can't find the window, or it's running from a different machine (e.g. you're in the lab and find that you left a `psql` running at home), then use `ps` to find the process id of the `psql` session and stop it using the Linux `kill` command.

## Can't restart server?

Occasionally, you'll find that your PostgreSQL server was not shut down cleanly the last time you used it and you cannot re-start it next time you try to use it. The symptoms are:

```
Using PostgreSQL with data directory YOUR_PGDATA
```

```
pg_ctl: another server might be running; trying to start server anyway
```

```
pg_ctl: could not start server
```

```
Examine the log output.
```

```
Check whether the server started ok via the command 'psql -l'.
```

```
If it's not working, check /srvr/YOU/pgsql/log for details.
```

If you actually go and check the log file, you'll probably find, right at the end, something like:

```
$ tail -2 /srvr/YOU/pgsql/log
```

```
FATAL: lock file "postmaster.pid" already exists
```

```
HINT: Is another postmaster (PID NNNN) running in data directory "YOUR_PGDATA"?
```

where NNNN is a process number.

There are two possible causes for this: the server is already running or the server did not terminate properly after the last time you used it. You can check whether the server is currently running by the command `psql -l`. If that gives you a list of your databases, then you simply forgot to shut the server down last time you used it and it's ready for you to use again. If `psql -l` tells you that there's no server running, then you'll need to do some cleaning up before you can restart the server ...

When the PostgreSQL server is run, it keeps a record of the Unix process that it's running as in a file called:

`YOUR_PGDATA/postmaster.pid`

Normally when your PostgreSQL server process terminates (e.g. via `pgs stop`), this file will be removed. If your PostgreSQL server stops, and this file persists, then `pgs` becomes confused and thinks that there is still a PostgreSQL server running even though there isn't.

The first step in cleaning up is to remove this file:

```
$ rm YOUR_PGDATA/postmaster.pid
```

You should also clean up the socket files used by the PostgreSQL server. You can do this via the command:

```
$ rm YOUR_PGDATA/.s.PGSQL.*
```

Once you've cleaned all of this up, then the `pgs` command ought to allow you to start your PostgreSQL server ok.

## **Following up on problems ...**