

Reset Forgotten Password For postgres User

Summary: in this tutorial, you will learn step-by-step how to reset the password of the postgres user in PostgreSQL.

For some reason, after installing PostgreSQL, you may forget the password of the postgres user. In such cases, you need to know how to reset the password to regain access to the PostgreSQL server.

PostgreSQL uses the pg_hba.conf configuration file stored in the database data directory (e.g., C:\Program Files\PostgreSQL\16\data on Windows) to control the client authentication. The hba in pg_hba.conf means host-based authentication.

To reset the password for the postgres user, you need to follow these steps:

First, modify some parameters in the pg_hba.conf configuration file. Log in to the PostgreSQL server using the postgres user account without a password. Reset the password. The following steps show you how to reset a password for the postgres user:

Step 1. Backup the pg_hba.conf file by copying it to a different location or rename it to pg_hba.conf.bk

Step 2. Edit the pg_hba.conf file and change all local connections from scram-sha-256 to trust. By doing this, you can log in to the PostgreSQL database server without using a password.

```
# TYPE DATABASE USER ADDRESS METHOD

# IPv4 local connections:
host all all 127.0.0.1/32 trust
# IPv6 local connections:
host all all ::1/128 trust
# Allow replication connections from localhost, by a user with the
# replication privilege.
host replication all 127.0.0.1/32 trust
host replication all ::1/128 trust
```

Step 3. Restart the PostgreSQL server. If you are on Windows, you can restart the PostgreSQL from Services.

Alternatively, you can run the following command from the Command Prompt (notice that you need to run the Command Prompt as the Administrator):

```
pg_ctl -D "C:\Program Files\PostgreSQL\16\data" restart
```

Step 4. Connect to PostgreSQL database server using any tool such as psql or pgAdmin: psql -U postgres
PostgreSQL will not require a password to log in.

Step 5. Execute the following command to set a new password for the postgres user.

```
postgres=# ALTER USER postgres WITH PASSWORD 'new_password';
```

Step 6. Restore the pg_dba.conf file, restart the PostgreSQL database server, and connect to the PostgreSQL database server with the new password.

In this tutorial, you have learned how to reset the password of the postgres user.