Service file:-

What is Type=forking in systemd?

It tells systemd:

"I (the program) will start myself, then go into the background. Wait until I'm fully ready before you say I'm running."

PostgreSQL works with Type=forking because:-

You start it using pg_ctl, which knows how to wait for PostgreSQL to be ready.

It creates a PID file so systemd knows which process to track.

So systemd is happy and says: "Okay, the service is running."

MongoDB and MySQL usually don't work with Type=forking because:

They don't tell systemd properly that they are ready.

They start in background, but the process systemd is watching exits too quickly.

So systemd gets confused and thinks the service stopped, even though it's actually running.

Then how should MongoDB and MySQL run?

They should use:

Type=simple – systemd just starts the service and assumes it's running.

Or Type=notify – the service tells systemd when it's ready (used by MySQL).

And for MongoDB:

In the config file, set:

processManagement:

fork: false

Summary Table

| Database | Works with Type=forking? | Why / Why not? |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--|
| PostgreSQL 🔇 | / Yes | <pre>pg_ctl waits and gives systemd the right info</pre> |
| MongoDB > | ≺ No | Forks early and confuses systemd |

Database Works with Type=forking?

Why / Why not?

MySQL X No

Uses different method (notify) to signal ready

Service file for postgresql:-

vi /etc/systemd/system/postgresql-16.service

[Unit]

Description=PostgreSQL Database Server After=network.target

[Service]

Type=forking

User=postgres

ExecStart=/usr/lib/pgsql-16.8/bin/pg_ctl -D /data/pgdata start

ExecStop=/usr/lib/pgsql-16.8/bin/pg ctl-D/data/pgdata stop

ExecReload=/usr/lib/pgsql-16.8/bin/pg_ctl -D /data/pgdata reload

TimeoutSec=-10

[Install]

WantedBy=multi-user.target

[Unit]

Description=PostgreSQL Database Server

After=network.target

[Service]

Type=forking

User=postgres

Group=postgres

ExecStart=/usr/lib/postgresql/14/bin/pg ctl start -D

/pg_data/db/postgresql/14/main -o "-c

config file=/etc/postgresql/14/main/postgresql.conf"

ExecStop=/usr/lib/postgresql/14/bin/pg_ctl stop -D

/pg data/db/postgresql/14/main

ExecReload=/usr/lib/postgresql/14/bin/pg ctl reload -D

/pg_data/db/postgresql/14/main

TimeoutSec=0

PIDFile=/pg data/db/postgresql/14/main/postmaster.pid

Restart=always

RestartSec=5

[Install]

WantedBy=multi-user.target

• Service file for mysql:-

vi /etc/systemd/system/mysqld.service

[Unit]

Description=MySQL Server After=network.target

[Service]

User=mysql

Group=mysql

Type=simple

ExecStart=/usr/bin/mysqld --defaults-file=/etc/mysql/my.cnf --datadir=/var/lib/mysql --socket=/var/run/mysqld/mysqld.sock

[Install]

WantedBy=multi-user.target

Service file for mongodb:-

vi /etc/systemd/system/mongod.service

[Unit]

Description=MongoDB Database Server After=network.target

[Service]

User=mongo

ExecStart=/usr/local/mongodb/bin/mongod --config

/etc/mongodb_primary/mongodb.conf

Restart=always

[Install]

WantedBy=multi-user.target