

Reindex+vacuum+analyze vs vacuum full:-

1. REINDEX + VACUUM + ANALYZE

This option is **non-blocking**, and here's what it does:

VACUUM: Cleans dead tuples but doesn't shrink the table's disk usage.

REINDEX: Rebuilds indexes that may have become **bloated** due to dead tuples.

ANALYZE: Refreshes statistics for the query planner to make better decisions.

✓ Advantages:

Non-blocking: The table is still accessible, and you can continue querying while the maintenance is being done.

No table lock: It doesn't require an exclusive lock on the table, so the operation can be done with minimal disruption.

Rebuilds indexes: Rebuilding the indexes can directly improve the performance of queries like yours, which rely on efficient index usage.

✗ Disadvantages:

Does not shrink the table: The dead rows will remain on disk, occupying space.

May still leave some bloat: Depending on the level of bloat, this may not be enough for extreme cases of inefficiency.

2. VACUUM FULL

VACUUM FULL reclaims disk space by completely rewriting the table, removing dead tuples, and reducing its size on disk. It also rebuilds the indexes as part of the process.

✓ Advantages:

Fully reclaims disk space: It will **shrink the table** and reduce disk usage, which is crucial when there are significant dead tuples.

Improves performance significantly: For tables with lots of dead tuples, `VACUUM FULL` will give a much better performance improvement compared to just a regular `VACUUM`.

Rebuilds both the table and indexes: It can be highly effective in fixing bloated indexes as well as the table itself.

✗ Disadvantages:

Exclusive lock on the table: The table will be **locked** during the operation, meaning **no read/write** operations can occur. This could lead to downtime, depending on the size of the table and the workload.

Time-consuming: If the table is very large, it could take a long time to complete.

Which Option is Better?

In your case, since you have a large table with significant bloat (5 crore dead tuples), and you're facing **performance issues**, here's what I recommend:

1. **If you can afford downtime** or perform the operation during a **maintenance window**, `VACUUM FULL` will give the best results. It will clean the table and rebuild the indexes effectively, providing **maximum performance gains** for future queries.
2. **If you need to minimize downtime** or avoid locking the table for too long, then `REINDEX + VACUUM + ANALYZE` is a good alternative. This will help clean up the table and indexes without requiring an exclusive lock on the table, but it **won't shrink** the table as effectively as `VACUUM FULL`.

Recommendation:-

If **performance is a priority** and you can schedule a maintenance window, `VACUUM FULL` is the best option.

If **availability is critical** and you need to avoid downtime, start with `REINDEX + VACUUM + ANALYZE`, and then follow up with a `VACUUM FULL` when possible.

