Implementing PostgreSQL Replication and Failover Solutions Using repmgr

Objective: To enhance database reliability, performance, and management through PostgreSQL replication and failover.

Key Benefits:

• High Availability:

- o Goal: Minimize downtime and maintain continuous database availability.
- How: By replicating data from a primary server to standby servers, ensuring service continuity even during server failures.

• Data Redundancy:

- o Goal: Protect against data loss and ensure data integrity.
- How: Real-time replication to standby servers provides an up-to-date backup, crucial for disaster recovery.

• Automatic Failover:

- Goal: Ensure seamless transition in case of primary server failure.
- How: repmgr facilitates automatic failover, promoting standby servers to primary status without manual intervention.

• Scalability:

- Goal: Optimize database performance and handle increasing workloads.
- How: Distributes read queries and load across multiple servers, enhancing overall system performance.

• Backup and Recovery:

- Goal: Improve backup efficiency and recovery processes.
- How: Standby servers can be utilized for backups, reducing the impact on the primary server and ensuring quick recovery.

Overall Impact: Implementing PostgreSQL replication and failover with repmgr delivers robust data protection, high availability, and streamlined database management, positioning your organization to effectively handle database challenges and growth.

On the Primary Server:

1. Install PostgreSQL 14 RPM:

```
[root@localhost tmp]# rpm -ivh postgresql14-libs-14.8-1PGDG.rhel9.x86 64.rpm
Verifying...
                              Preparing ...
                              ############################# [100%]
Updating / installing...
  1:postgresql14-libs-14.8-1PGDG.rhel################################ [100%]
[root@localhost tmp]# rpm -ivh postgresql14-14.8-1PGDG.rhel9.x86_64.rpm
                              ########### [100%]
Verifying...
                              Preparing ...
Updating / installing...
  1:postgresql14-14.8-1PGDG.rhel9
                              ########### [100%]
[root@localhost tmp]# rpm -ivh postgresql14-server-14.8-1PGDG.rhel9.x86 64.rpm
Verifying...
                              ########### [100%]
                              ########### [100%]
Preparing ...
Updating / installing...
  1:postgresql14-server-14.8-1PGDG.rh######################### [100%]
[root@localhost tmp]# rpm -ivh postgresql14-contrib-14.8-1PGDG.rhel9.x86 64.rpm
Verifying...
                              ########### [100%]
Preparing ...
                              ########### [100%]
Updating / installing...
  1:postgresql14-contrib-14.8-1PGDG.r############################ [100%]
```

2. Install repmgr 14:

• Install repmgr using RPM:

sudo dnf install -y repmgr_14*

3. Configure PostgreSQL for Replication:

• Edit \$PGDATA/postgresql.conf

vim \$PGDATA/postgresql.conf

Add or update the following parameters:

```
listen_addresses = '*'
wal_level = replica
max_wal_senders = 10
```

```
max_replication_slots = 10

wal_keep_size = 1GB

hot_standby = on

shared_preload_libraries = 'repmgr'

Save and exit.
```

The **shared_preload_libraries** setting in PostgreSQL is used to load certain libraries at server startup. When you set **shared_preload_libraries** = **'repmgr'**, it tells PostgreSQL to preload the repmgr extension, which is necessary for repmgr to function correctly.

Here's why you need this setting:

- Replication Management: repmgr is a tool used for managing replication and failover in PostgreSQL. For repmgr to integrate with PostgreSQL and manage replication effectively, it needs to be loaded as a shared library when PostgreSQL starts.
- Extended Functionality: Loading repmgr as a shared library allows it to extend PostgreSQL's capabilities with additional functionality required for replication and failover operations.
- Configuration and Monitoring: The repmgr extension allows you to configure and monitor replication from within PostgreSQL, and it needs to be available as soon as PostgreSQL starts to manage these tasks properly.

To apply this change, you need to update the PostgreSQL configuration file (postgresql.conf), add repmgr to the shared_preload_libraries list, and then restart the PostgreSQL server for the changes to take effect.

4. Restart and Check PostgreSQL Services:

```
systemctl restart postgresql-14.service systemctl status postgresql-14.service
```

5. Create User and Database for repmgr:

```
postgres=# CREATE USER repmgr WITH SUPERUSER;
CREATE DATABASE repmgr WITH OWNER repmgr;
CREATE ROLE
CREATE DATABASE
postgres=# ■
```

6. Configure Connectivity for repmgr User:

• Edit \$PGDATA/pg_hba.conf:

vim \$PGDATA/pg_hba.conf

Add the following entries:

# TYPE	DATABASE	USER	ADDRESS	METHOD							
# "local" is for Unix domain socket connections only											
local	all	all		trust							
local	replication	repmgr		trust							
local	repmgr	repmgr		trust							
# 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.											
local	replication	all		trust							
host	replication	all	127.0.0.1/32	trust							
host	replication	all	:: 1/128	trust							
host	replication	repmgr	192.168.0.103/32	trust							
host	repmgr	repmgr	192.168.0.103/32	trust							
host	replication	repmgr	192.168.0.104/32	trust							
host	repmgr	repmgr	192.168.0.104/32	trust							
host	replication	repmgr	127.0.0.1/32	trust							
host	repmgr	repmgr	127.0.0.1/32	trust							

Save and exit.

• Reload PostgreSQL configurations:

SELECT pg_reload_conf();

```
postgres=# SELECT pg_reload_conf();
  pg_reload_conf
  t
  (1 row)
```

• Check connectivity:

su - postgres -c "psql -d repmgr -U repmgr -h 192.168.0.103"

```
[root@localhost /]# su - postgres -c "psql -d repmgr -U repmgr -h 192.168.0.103"
psql (14.13)
Type "help" for help.
repmgr=# ■
```

7. Edit repmgr Configuration on Primary Server:

• Edit /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf:

vim /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf

Add the following entries:

Save and exit.

8. Register the Primary Server with repmgr:

```
[root@localhost /]# sudo -u postgres /usr/pgsql-14/bin/repmgr -f /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf primary register
INFO: connecting to primary database...
NOTICE: attempting to install extension "repmgr"
NOTICE: "repmgr" extension successfully installed
NOTICE: primary node_record (ID: 1) registered
```

• Check the cluster status:

```
[root@localhost /]# sudo -u postgres /usr/pgsql-14/bin/repmgr -f /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf cluster show

ID | Name | Role | Status | Upstream | Location | Priority | Timeline | Connection string

1 | node1 | primary | * running | | default | 100 | 1 | host=192.168.0.103 user=repmgr dbname=repmgr connect_timeout=2
[root@localhost /]# |
```

On the Standby Server:

9. Install PostgreSQL & Repmgr As Above:

10. Edit repmgr Configuration on Standby Server:

• Edit /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf:

vim /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf

Add the following entries:

Save and exit.

11. Perform a Dry Run for Configuration Validation:

```
[root@localhost /]# sudo -u postgres /usr/pgsql-14/bin/repmgr -h 192.168.0.103 -U repmgr -d repmgr -f /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf standby clone —dry-run
NOTICE: destination directory "/var/lib/pgsql/14/data" provided
ERROR: specified data directory "/var/lib/pgsql/14/data" appears to contain a running PostgreSQL instance
HINT: ensure the target data directory does not contain a running PostgreSQL instance
```

The error indicates that the target data directory /var/lib/pgsql/14/data appears to contain a running PostgreSQL instance. Here's what you can do to resolve this issue:

• Check if PostgreSQL is Running: Ensure that there is no active PostgreSQL instance using the target data directory. You can check the status of PostgreSQL with:

sudo systemctl start postgresql-14.service

• Verify the Data Directory: Make sure that the data directory specified is indeed the correct one and not being used by another PostgreSQL instance. You can verify the directory with:

```
sudo -u postgres psql -c "SHOW data_directory;"
```

• **Stop PostgreSQL:** If PostgreSQL is running and using the data directory, stop the PostgreSQL service before proceeding with the repmgr clone operation:

sudo systemctl stop postgresql-14.service

- **Verify the Directory Status:** Since the dry-run didn't show any issues with connecting or prerequisites, you should ensure that overwriting the existing data directory is the right step. Double-check that the /var/lib/pgsql/14/data directory should be overwritten and is not currently in use.
- **Proceed with Cloning (if appropriate):** If you're sure that overwriting the directory is correct, re-run the repmgr clone command with the -F/--force option:

```
[root@localhost /]# sudo systemctl stop postgresql-14
[root@localhost /]# sudo -u postgres /usr/pgsql-14/bin/repmgr -h 192.168.0.103 -U repmgr -d repmgr -f /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf standby clone --dry-run NOTICE: destination directory "/var/lib/pgsql/14/data" provided
INFO: connecting to source node
DETAIL: connection string is: host=192.168.0.103 user=repmgr dbname=repmgr
DETAIL: current installation size is 35 MB
INFO: "repmgr" extension is installed in database "repmgr"
WARNINO: target data directory appears to be a PostgreSQL data directory
DETAIL: target data directory is "/var/llb/pgsql/14/data"
HINT: use -F/--force to overwrite the existing data directory
INFO: replication slot usage not requested; no replication slot will be set up for this standby
INFO: parameter "max wal senders" set to 10
NOTICE: checking for available walsenders on the source node (2 required)
INFO: sufficient walsenders available on the source node
DETAIL: 2 required, 10 available
NOTICE: checking for palication connections can be made to the source server (2 required)
INFO: required number of replication connections could be made to the source server
DETAIL: 2 replication connections required
WARNING: data checksums are not enabled and "wal_log_hints" is "off"
DETAIL: consider using the -c/--fast-checkpoint option
INFO: consider using the -c/--fast-checkpoint option
INFO: would execute:
//usr/pgsql-14/bin/pg_basebackup -l "repmgr base backup" -D /var/lib/pgsql/14/data -h 192.168.0.103 -p 5432 -U repmgr -X stream
INFO: all prerequisites for "standby clone" are met
```

```
[root@localhost /]# sudo -u postgres /usr/pgsql-14/bin/repmgr -h 192.168.0.103 -U repmgr -d repmgr -f /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf standby clone -F NOTICE: destination directory "/var/lib/pgsql/14/data" provided INFO: connecting to source node
DETAIL: connection string is: host=192.168.0.103 user=repmgr dbname=repmgr
DETAIL: current installation size is 35 MB
INFO: replication slot usage not requested; no replication slot will be set up for this standby
NOTICE: checking for available walsenders on the source node (2 required)
NOTICE: checking replication connections can be made to the source server (2 required)
WARNING: data checksums are not enabled and "wal_log hints" is "off"
DETAIL: gp_rewind requires "wal_log hints" to be enabled
WARNING: directory "/var/lib/pgsql/14/data" exists but is not empty
NOTICE: -f7--force provided - deleting existing data directory "/var/lib/pgsql/14/data"
NOTICE: starting backup (using pg_basebackup) ...
HINT: this may take some time; consider using the -c/--fast-checkpoint option
INFO: executing:
    /usr/pgsql-14/bin/pg_basebackup -l "repmgr base backup" -D /var/lib/pgsql/14/data -h 192.168.0.103 -p 5432 -U repmgr -X stream
NOTICE: standby clone (using pg_basebackup) complete
NOTICE: standby clone (using pg_basebackup) complete
NOTICE: you can now start your PostgreSQL server
HINT: for example: pg_ctl -D /var/lib/pgsql/14/data start
HINT: after starting_the server, you need to register this standby with "repmgr standby register"
```

• **Start PostgreSQL:** Start the PostgreSQL service after proceeding with the repmgr clone operation:

sudo systemctl start postgresql-14.service

• Monitor the Process: After running the command, monitor the PostgreSQL logs and the replication process to ensure that the standby setup proceeds as expected.

• **Post-Setup Verification:** After the cloning process completes, verify the standby server's status and ensure that it has correctly attached to the primary node. You can check this with:

ID	Name	Role	Status	Upstream	Location	Priority	Timeline	r/14/repmgr.conf cluster show Connection string
			_* running		default			host=192.168.0.103 user=repmgr dbname=repmgr connect_timeout=2

Here's what you can do to properly register the standby node:

• **Start the Standby Node** (if not already started):

sudo systemctl start postgresql-14.service

• **Register the Standby Node**: Run the following command on the **standby node** to register it with the primary node in the repmgr cluster.

sudo -u postgres /usr/pgsql-14/bin/repmgr -f /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf standby register

This command registers the standby node with the primary node in the replication cluster.

• **Verify Registration**: After registering, verify the cluster's status by running the following command on **either node**:

sudo -u postgres /usr/pgsql-14/bin/repmgr -f /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf cluster show

"Note: If you don't want to clone into the default directory with overwrite, you can delete the old directory and run the cloning process again without using the force option."

• Navigate to the data directory:

cd /var/lib/pgsql/14/data/

• Delete the contents of the directory:

rm -rf *

• Run the dry-run of the standby clone:

sudo -u postgres /usr/pgsql-14/bin/repmgr -h 192.168.0.103 -U repmgr -d repmgr -f /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf standby clone --dry-run

• Run the actual standby clone:

sudo -u postgres /usr/pgsql-14/bin/repmgr -h 192.168.0.103 -U repmgr -d repmgr -f /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf standby clone

```
[root@localhost data]# sudo -u postgres /usr/pgsql-14/bin/repmgr -h 192.168.0.103 -U repmgr -d repmgr -f /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf standby clone --dry-run NOTICE: destination directory "/var/lib/pgsql/14/data" provided
INFO: connecting to source node
DETAIL: connection string is: host=192.168.0.103 user=repmgr dbname=repmgr
DETAIL: current installation size is 35 MB
INFO: "repmgr" extension is installed in database "repmgr"
INFO: replication slot usage not requested; no replication slot will be set up for this standby
INFO: parameter "max_wal_senders" set to 10
NOTICE: checking for available walsenders on the source node (2 required)
INFO: sufficient walsenders available on the source node
DETAIL: 2 required, 10 available
NOTICE: checking replication connections can be made to the source server (2 required)
INFO: required number of replication connections could be made to the source server
DETAIL: 2 replication connections required
MANNING: data checksums are not enabled and "wal_log_hints" is "off"
DETAIL: pg rewind requires "val_log_hints" to be enabled
NOTICE: standby will attach to upstream node 1
HINT: consider using the -c/--fast-checkpoint option
INFO: would execute:
/usr/pgsql-14/bin/pg_basebackup -l "repmgr base backup" -D /var/lib/pgsql/14/data -h 192.168.0.103 -p 5432 -U repmgr -X stream
```

```
[root@localhost data]# sudo -u postgres /usr/pgsql-14/bin/repmgr -h 192.168.0.103 -U repmgr -d repmgr -f /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf standby clone
NOTICE: destination directory "/var/lib/pgsql/14/data" provided
INFO: connecting to source node
DETAIL: connection string is: host=192.168.0.103 user=repmgr dbname=repmgr
DETAIL: current installation size is 35 MB
INFO: replication slot usage not requested; no replication slot will be set up for this standby
NOTICE: checking for available walsenders on the source node (2 required)
NOTICE: checking replication connections can be made to the source server (2 required)
WARNING: data checksums are not enabled and "wal_log_hints" is "off"
DETAIL: pg_rewind requires "wal_log_hints" to be enabled
INFO: checking and correcting permissions on existing directory "/var/lib/pgsql/14/data"
NOTICE: starting backup (using pg_basebackup) ...
HINT: this may take some time; consider using the -c/--fast-checkpoint option
INFO: executing:
/usr/pgsql-14/bin/pg_basebackup -l "repmgr base backup" -D /var/lib/pgsql/14/data -h 192.168.0.103 -p 5432 -U repmgr -X stream
NOTICE: standby clone (using pg_basebackup) complete
NOTICE: you can now start your PostgreSQl server
HINT: for example: pg_ctl -D /var/lib/pgsql/14/data start
HINT: after starting the server, you need to register this standby with "repmgr standby register"
```

```
HINT: for example: pg_ctl -D /var/lib/pgsql/14/data start
HINT: after starting the server, you need to register this standby with "repmgr standby register"
[root@localhost data]# ll
total 248
 total 240

rrw------. 1 postgres postgres 218 Sep 12 00:52 backup_label
rrw------. 1 postgres postgres 182326 Sep 12 00:52 backup_manifest
drwx-----. 6 postgres postgres 54 Sep 12 00:52 base
rrw-----. 1 postgres postgres 30 Sep 12 00:52 current_logfiles
drux----- 2 postgres postgres
drux----- 2 postgres postgres
drux----- 2 postgres postgres
drux----- 2 postgres postgres
                                                                                                  4096 Sep 12 00:52 global
58 Sep 12 00:52 log
6 Sep 12 00:52 pg_commit_ts
6 Sep 12 00:52 pg_dynshmem
                                                                                                 6 Sep 12 00:52 pg_dynshmem 5350 Sep 12 00:52 pg_bha.conf 1636 Sep 12 00:52 pg_logical 36 Sep 12 00:52 pg_multixact 6 Sep 12 00:52 pg_multixact 6 Sep 12 00:52 pg_multixact 6 Sep 12 00:52 pg_serial 6 Sep 12 00:52 pg_serial 6 Sep 12 00:52 pg_ssapshots 6 Sep 12 00:52 pg_stat 6 Sep 12 00:52 pg_stat 16 Sep 12 00:52 pg_stat 16 Sep 12 00:52 pg_subtrans 6 Sep 12 00:52 pg_subtrans 6 Sep 12 00:52 pg_tblspc 6 Sep 12 00:52 pg_twophase
                                       postgres postgres
 -rw-----. 1 postgres postgres
drwx-----. 4 postgres postgres
 drwx----. 4
                                       postgres postgres
drwx-----. 2 postgres postgres
drwx-----. 2 postgres postgres
drwx----. 2
drwx----. 2
                                       postgres postgres
                                       postgres postgres
                                       postgres postgres
 drwx----. 2
drwx----. 2
drwx----. 2
                                      postgres postgres
postgres postgres
                                       postgres postgres
                                                                                            6 Sep 12 00:52 pg_twophase
6 Sep 12 00:52 pg_twophase
3 Sep 12 00:52 pg_vent
60 Sep 12 00:52 pg_wal
18 Sep 12 00:52 pg_wal
18 Sep 12 00:52 postgresql.auto.conf
28831 Sep 12 00:52 postgresql.conf
20 Sep 12 00:52 standby.signal
                                 2 postgres postgres
1 postgres postgres
 drwx----.
drwx----- 3 postgres postgres
drwx----- 2 postgres postgres
-rw----- 1 postgres postgres
-rw----- 1 postgres postgres
                                 1 postgres postgres
1 postgres postgres
```

12. Register the Standby Node with repmgr:

```
[root@localhost data]# sudo -u postgres /usr/pgsql-14/bin/repmgr -f /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf standby register INFO: connecting to local node "node2" (ID: 2)
INFO: connecting to primary database
WARNING: --upstream-node-id not supplied, assuming upstream node is primary (node ID: 1)
INFO: standby registration complete
NOTICE: standby node "node2" (ID: 2) successfully registered
[root@localhost data]# ■
```

• Check the cluster status:

```
[root@localhost data]# sudo -u postgres /usr/pgsql-14/bin/repmgr -f /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf cluster show

ID | Name | Role | Status | Upstream | Location | Priority | Timeline | Connection string

1 | node1 | primary | * running | | default | 100 | 1 | host=192.168.0.103 user=repmgr dbname=repmgr connect_timeout=2
2 | node2 | standby | running | node1 | default | 100 | 1 | host=192.168.0.104 user=repmgr dbname=repmgr connect_timeout=2
```

13. Verify Replication:

• On Primary Server:

SELECT * FROM pg_stat_replication;

```
[root@localhost /]# su postgres
bash-5.1$ psql
psql (14.13)
Type "help" for help.
postgres=# \x
usesysid
                       16384
usename
                      repmgr
application_name
                      node2
client addr
                      192.168.0.104
client_hostname
client_port
backend_start
                      59268
                      2024-09-12 01:04:39.799641+05:30
backend_xmin
state
                      streaming
                      0/50009B0
0/50009B0
sent_lsn
write_lsn
flush_lsn
                      0/50009B0
replay_lsn
write_lag
flush_lag
replay_lag
sync_priority
                      0/50009B0
                      0
sync_state
reply_time
                      async
                      2024-09-12 01:40:47.062372+05:30
postgres=#
```

• Create a database:

CREATE DATABASE testing;

• Connect to the new database:

\c testing

- Create a table:
- Insert records into the table:

- Check that the records are inserted:
- On the Standby Node:

```
postgres=# SELECT * FROM pg_stat_replication;
-[ RECORD 1 ]---+--
pid | 8
                       80417
usesysid
                       16384
usename
                       repmgr
node2
application_name
client_addr
client_hostname
client_port
backend_start
backend_xmin
                       59268
                       2024-09-12 01:04:39.799641+05:30
                       streaming
0/50009B0
0/50009B0
0/50009B0
state
sent_lsn
write_lsn
flush_lsn
flush_Lsn
replay_lsn
write_lag
flush_lag
replay_lag
sync_priority
sync_state
reply_time
                       async
2024-09-12 01:40:47.062372+05:30
postgres=# CREATE DATABASE testing;
CREATE DATABASE
name VARCHAR(100)
testing=# INSERT INTO test_table (name) VALUES ('Record 1'), ('Record 2'), ('Record 3'); INSERT 0 3
-[ RECORD 3 ]
```

To verify replication, connect to the standby node and check if the changes made on the primary are replicated:

- Connect to the standby node:
- Check if the table and records exist:

1. Check if the standby is in recovery mode:

If it returns true, the server is in standby mode.

```
| Troot@localhost data]# sudo -u postgres /usr/pgsql-14/bin/repmgr -f /etc/repmgr/14/repmgr.conf standby register | INPO: connecting to local node "node2" (ID: 2) | INPO: connecting to primary database | MARNING: -upstream-node is primary (node ID: 1) | INPO: standby registration complete | INPO: standby registration | InPO: stand
```