



# Now What?

- Now that you have a schema (including the audit tables), you're going to want to change it and add to it over time.
- But, `create_all` doesn't diff your schema, it just generates and executes DDL for whatever is defined in your model classes at build time (the whole thing), and only if you have an empty DB to start with.
- It doesn't make sense to drop and rebuild your database every time you need to change the schema. Even if you cooked up a way to do that, it would certainly mean **downtime** 😞



# Alembic

- Alembic is a tool for versioning changes to your database schema. Initialize it by running `alembic init alembic`
- ‘Versions’ are a linked-list of python scripts with distinct IDs, each having an `upgrade()` and `downgrade()` function.
- The `autogenerate` command can be used to generate migration scripts from changes detected in your models.
- A table called `alembic_version` is created in the DB to track which version your database conforms to.