

# Everything Everywhere All at Once: PostgreSQL configuration guide

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[https://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/Tuning\\_Your\\_PostgreSQL\\_Server](https://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/Tuning_Your_PostgreSQL_Server)

### [Tuning Your PostgreSQL Server - PostgreSQL wiki](#)

Tuning Your PostgreSQL Server. by Greg Smith, Robert Treat, and Christopher Browne. PostgreSQL ships with a basic configuration tuned for wide compatibility rather than performance. Odds are good the default parameters are very undersized for your system....

[https://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/Tuning\\_Your\\_PostgreSQL\\_Server](https://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/Tuning_Your_PostgreSQL_Server)

## Tuning Your PostgreSQL Server - PostgreSQL wiki

Tuning Your PostgreSQL shipping performance. Oc

<https://www.percona.com/blog/tuning-postgresql-database-parameters-to-optimize-perf...>

## Exploring PostgreSQL Performance Tuning Parameters

Key areas include: Configuration parameter tuning: This tuning involves altering variables such as memory allocation, disk I/O settings, and concurrent connections based on specific hardware and requirements.

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<https://www.enterprisedb.com/postgres-tutorials/introduction-postgresql-performance-tuning>

## An Introduction to PostgreSQL Performance Tuning and Optimization

This document provides an introduction to tuning PostgreSQL and EDB Postgres Advanced Server (EPAS), versions 10 through 13. The system used is the RHEL family of linux distributions, version 8.

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Tuning Your PostgreSQL

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## Performance Tuning Parameters

Parameter tuning: This tuning involves altering variables such as settings, and concurrent connections based on specific

<https://www.crunchydata.com/blog/optimize-postgresql-server-performance>

## Optimize PostgreSQL Server Performance Through Configuration - Crunchy Data

The value of `work_mem` is used for complex sort operations, and defines the maximum amount of memory to be used for intermediate results, such as hash tables, and for sorting. When the value for `work_mem` is properly tuned, then the majority of sort actions are performed in the...

...

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## Tuning Your PostgreSQL Server - PostgreSQL wiki

Tuning Your PostgreSQL

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<https://rhaas.blogspot.com/2019/01/how-much-maintenance-workmem-do-i-need.html>

## Robert Haas: How Much `maintenance_work_mem` Do I Need?

`maintenance_work_mem` controls the amount of memory that the system will allocate in two different cases which are basically unrelated to each other. First, it controls the maximum amount of memory that the system will use when building an index.

```

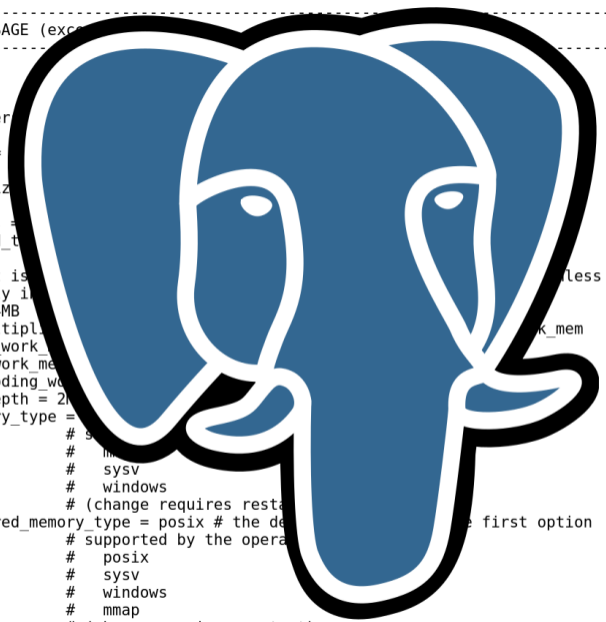
#-----
# RESOURCE USAGE (except WAL)
#-----

# - Memory -

#shared_buffers = 128MB          # min 128kB
                                # (change requires restart)
#huge_pages = try                # on, off, or try
                                # (change requires restart)
#huge_page_size = 0             # zero for system default
                                # (change requires restart)
#temp_buffers = 8MB             # min 800kB
#max_prepared_transactions = 0  # zero disables the feature
                                # (change requires restart)
# Caution: it is not advisable to set max_prepared_transactions nonzero unless
# you actively intend to use prepared transactions.
#work_mem = 4MB                 # min 64kB
#hash_mem_multiplier = 2.0      # 1-1000.0 multiplier on hash table work_mem
#maintenance_work_mem = 64MB   # min 1MB
#autovacuum_work_mem = -1      # min 1MB, or -1 to use maintenance_work_mem
#logical_decoding_work_mem = 64MB # min 64kB
#max_stack_depth = 2MB         # min 100kB
#shared_memory_type = mmap      # the default is the first option
                                # supported by the operating system:
                                #   mmap
                                #   sysv
                                #   windows
                                # (change requires restart)
#dynamic_shared_memory_type = posix # the default is usually the first option
                                # supported by the operating system:
                                #   posix
                                #   sysv
                                #   windows
                                #   mmap
                                # (change requires restart)

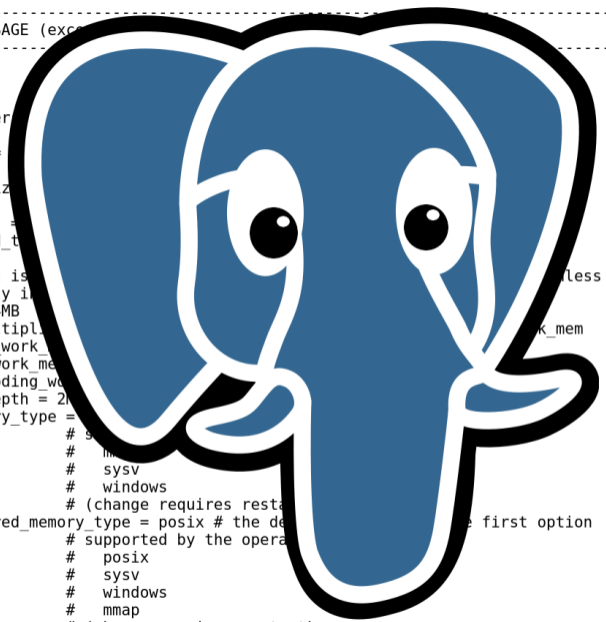
```

```
#-----  
# RESOURCE USAGE (except CPU)  
#-----  
  
# - Memory -  
  
#shared_buffers = 1GB  
  
#huge_pages = off  
  
#huge_page_size = 1GB  
  
#temp_buffers = 8MB  
#max_prepared_transactions = 0  
  
# Caution: it is not recommended to use shared_buffers unless  
# you actively monitor memory usage. Please see the manual page  
#work_mem = 4MB  
#hash_mem_multiplier = 1.0  
#maintenance_work_mem = 64MB  
#autovacuum_work_mem = -1  
#logical_decoding_work_mem = 1GB  
#max_stack_depth = 2MB  
#shared_memory_type = posix  
#   s  
#   m  
#   sysv  
#   windows  
# (change requires restart)  
#dynamic_shared_memory_type = posix # the default on the first option  
# supported by the operating system:  
#   posix  
#   sysv  
#   windows  
#   mmap  
# (change requires restart)
```





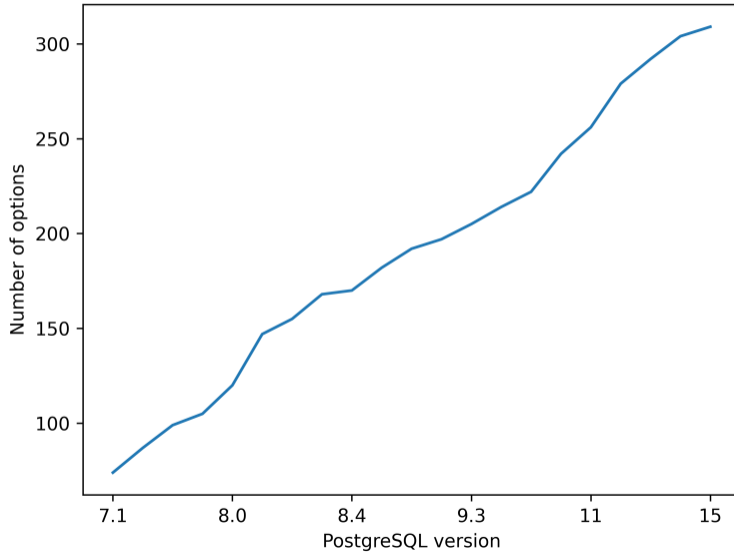
```
#-----  
# RESOURCE USAGE (except CPU)  
#-----  
  
# - Memory -  
  
#shared_buffers = 1GB  
  
#huge_pages = off  
  
#huge_page_size = 1GB  
  
#temp_buffers = 8MB  
#max_prepared_transactions = 0  
  
# Caution: it is not recommended to use shared_buffers unless  
# you actively use a workload that is memory-intensive.   
#work_mem = 4MB  
#hash_mem_multiplier = 1.0  
#maintenance_work_mem = 64MB  
#autovacuum_work_mem = 0  
#logical_decoding_work_mem = 1GB  
#max_stack_depth = 2MB  
#shared_memory_type = posix  
#   s  
#   m  
#   sysv  
#   windows  
# (change requires restart)  
#dynamic_shared_memory_type = posix # the default on the first option  
# supported by the operating system:  
#   posix  
#   sysv  
#   windows  
#   mmap  
# (change requires restart)
```



# Types of configuration

# Grand Unified Configuration

Number of postgresql.conf options per version



## Postgres95 1.01 Distribution

```
/* _____  
 * specify the size of buffer pool  
 * _____  
 */  
NBuffers = atoi(optarg);
```

*[...] one can achieve a substantial portion of the performance gain from configurations generated by ML-based tuning algorithms by setting two knobs according to the DBMS's documentation. These two knobs control the amount of RAM for the buffer pool cache and the size of the redo log file on disk.*

Van Aken, D., Yang, D., Brillard, S., Fiorino, A., Zhang, B., Billen, C. and Pavlo, A., 2021. An inquiry into machine learning-based automatic configuration tuning services on real-world database management systems. Proceedings of the VLDB Endowment, 14(7), pp.1241-1253.

## initdb

<code>--wal-segsize=SIZE</code>	size of WAL segments, in megabytes
<code>--data-checksums</code>	use data page checksums

## ”Public” code-based configuration

```
--with-blocksize=8  
--with-wal-blocksize=8  
  
// pg_config_manual.h  
  
#define PG_CACHE_LINE_SIZE          128  
#define PG_IO_ALIGN_SIZE            4096  
#define NUM_SPINLOCK_SEMAPHORES    128
```



## ”Internal” code-based configuration

```
/*  
 * When maintenance_io_concurrency is not saturated,  
 * we're prepared to look ahead up to N times  
 * that number of block references.  
 */  
#define XLOGPREFETCHER_DISTANCE_MULTIPLIER 4
```

## ”Internal” code-based configuration

```
/*  
 * Space/time tradeoff parameters: do these need  
 * to be user-tunable?  
 *  
 * To consider truncating the relation, we want  
 * there to be at least REL_TRUNCATE_MINIMUM  
 * or (relnsize / REL_TRUNCATE_FRACTION).  
 */  
#define REL_TRUNCATE_MINIMUM          1000  
#define REL_TRUNCATE_FRACTION        16
```

## ”Internal” code-based configuration

```
/*  
 * Size of the LRU list.  
 *  
 * XXX: What's a good value? It should be large  
 * enough to hold the maximum number of large  
 * tables scanned simultaneously. But a larger  
 * value means more traversing of the LRU list  
 * when starting a new scan.  
 */  
#define SYNC_SCAN_NELEM 20
```

## ”Internal” code-based configuration

```
/* TODO: Unscientifically determined threshold */  
LLVMPassManagerBuilderUseInlinerWithThreshold(  
    llvm_pmb, 512);
```

How smart PostgreSQL should be?  
How many parameters to expose?  
Who is the configuration consumer?

## ”Developer” code-based configuration

```
--enable-profiling  
--enable-debug  
--enable-coverage  
--enable-cassert
```

## ”Developer” code-based configuration

```
/*  
 * This assert is too expensive  
 * to have on normally ...  
 */  
#ifdef CHECK_WRITE_VS_EXTEND  
    Assert(blocknum ≥ mdnblocks(reln, forknum));  
#endif
```

## ”Developer” code-based configuration

```
#ifndef CHECK_DEADLOCK_RISK
/*
 * Issue warning if we already hold a lower-level
 * lock on this object and do not hold a lock of
 * the requested level or higher. This indicates
 * a deadlock-prone coding practice.
```



## “Developer” code-based configuration

```
/* This is just to allow attaching to startup
 * process with a debugger */
#ifdef XLOG_REPLAY_DELAY
    if (ControlFile->state  $\neq$  DB_SHUTDOWNED)
        pg_usleep(600000000L);
#endif
```

## ”Developer” code-based configuration

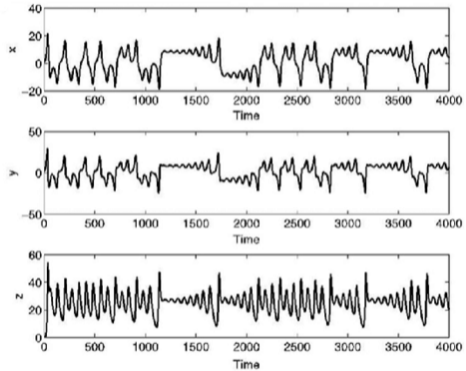
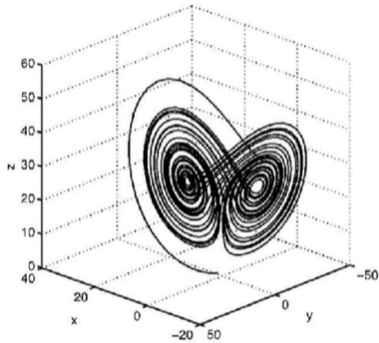
```
/*
```

```
* This helps detect intermittent faults caused  
* by code that reads a cache entry and then  
* performs an action that could invalidate the  
* entry, but rarely actually does so. This can  
* spot issues that would otherwise only arise  
* with badly timed concurrent DDL, for example.
```

```
*/
```

```
#ifdef DISCARD_CACHES_ENABLED
```

# System model



The phase space plot of the Lorenz attractor,  
Kuznetsov, N., Bonnette, S. and Riley, M.A., 2013. Nonlinear time series methods  
for analyzing behavioural sequences. In Complex systems in sport (pp. 111-130).

## Dimensions?

DB parameters

Hardware resources

Workload parameters

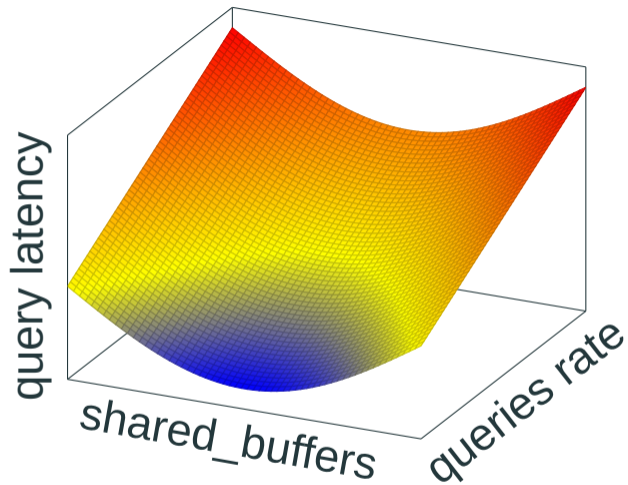
Performance results

# System dynamics

Full system model is unknown  
Approximate with bunch of simpler models?  
Explore the full model experimentally?

A simpler model: increase the value of  $X$  will lead to better performance, but more memory consumption.





## A simpler model: more formalized

[github.com/leopard/pgtune](https://github.com/leopard/pgtune)

[github.com/timescale/timescaledb-tune](https://github.com/timescale/timescaledb-tune)

[github.com/pgconfig/api](https://github.com/pgconfig/api)

[github.com/gregs1104/pgtune](https://github.com/gregs1104/pgtune)



"The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage", Sydney Padua, 2015

Simpler model usually do not include **higher order** parameters interaction.

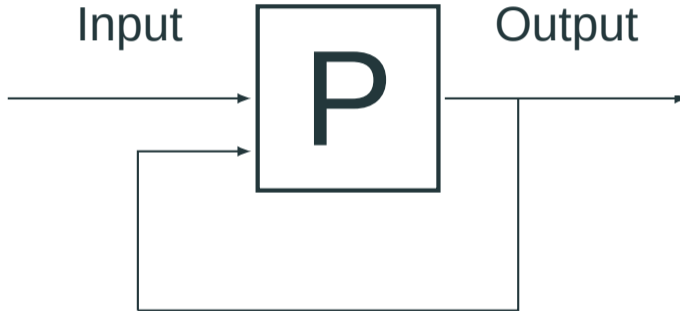
# $2^2$ factorial experiment

	A	B
(1)	-	-
a	+	-
b	-	+
ab	+	+

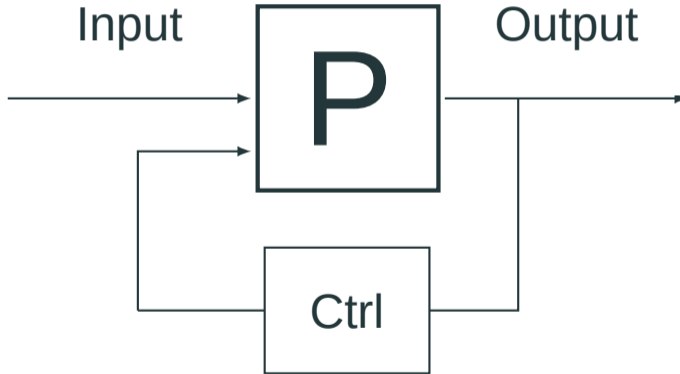
Box, G.E., Hunter, J.S. and Hunter, W.G., 2005. Statistics for experimenters.  
In Wiley series in probability and statistics. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.



# Feedback loop



# Feedback loop



# Adaptive Self-Tuning Memory in DB2

Adam J. Storm	Christian Garcia-Arellano	Sam S. Lightstone	Yixin Diao	M. Surendra
IBM Canada	IBM Canada	IBM Canada	IBM TJ Watson	IBM TJ Watson
ajstorm@ca.ibm.com	cmgarcia@ca.ibm.com	light@ca.ibm.com	Research Center	Research Center
			diao@us.ibm.com	suren@us.ibm.com

## ABSTRACT

DB2 for Linux, UNIX, and Windows Version 9.1 introduces the Self-Tuning Memory Manager (STMM), which provides adaptive self tuning of both database memory heaps and cumulative database memory allocation. This technology provides state-of-the-art memory tuning combining control theory, runtime simulation modeling, cost-benefit analysis, and operating system resource analysis. In particular, the novel use of cost-benefit analysis and control theory techniques makes STMM a breakthrough technology in database memory management. The cost-benefit analysis allows STMM to tune memory between radically different memory consumers such as compiled statement cache, sort, and buffer pools. These methods allow for the fast convergence of memory settings while also providing stability in the presence of system noise. The tuning model has been found in numerous experiments to tune memory allocation as well as expert human administrators, including OLTP, DSS, and mixed environments. We believe this is the first known use of cost-benefit analysis and control theory in database memory tuning across heterogeneous memory consumers.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

be relieved of the need to invest time in understanding how the database uses memory before tuning can begin.

**2. Uncertain memory requirements for a given workload** – In some cases, even experienced DBAs can find it difficult to tune a database's memory because the workload characteristics are unknown. With the introduction of this new feature, the system will now be able to continuously monitor database memory usage and tune when necessary to optimize performance based on the workload characteristics. As a result, the user will require no knowledge of their workload for the memory to be tuned well.

**3. Changing workload behavior** – For many industrial workloads, no single memory configuration can provide optimal performance because, at different points in time, the workload can exhibit dramatically different memory demands. If STMM is running and the workload's memory demands shift, the system will recognize the changing needs for memory and adapt the memory allocation accordingly. As a result, the user will rarely (if ever) need to manually change the affected memory configuration parameters to enhance performance.

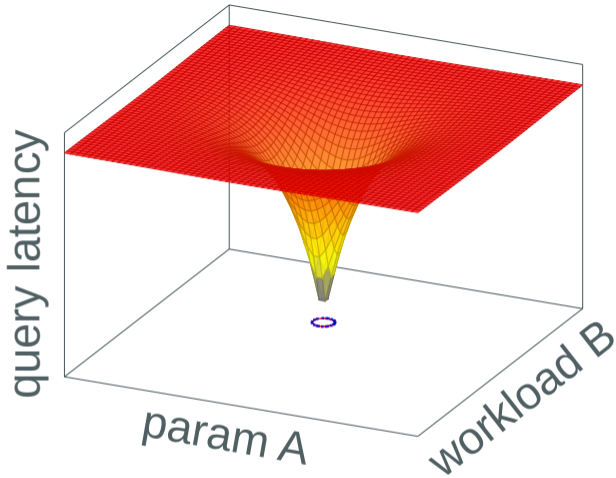
**4. Performance tuning is time-consuming** – Tuning a database's memory to achieve high levels of performance is extremely costly



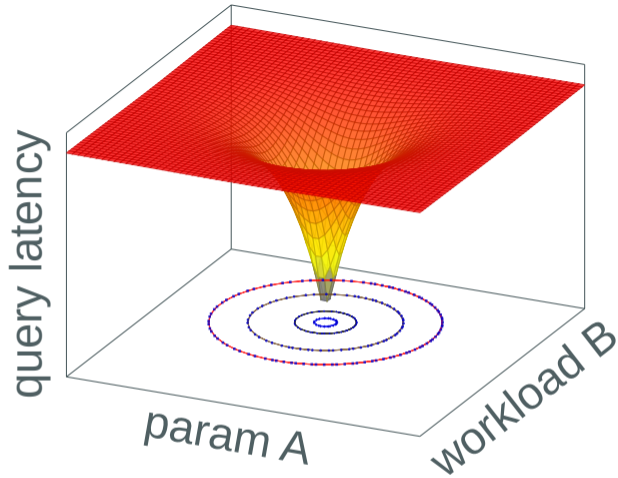


# System stability

Is highest performance enough?



Huynh, A., Chaudhari, H.A., Terzi, E. and Athanassoulis, M., 2021. Endure: A Robust Tuning Paradigm for LSM Trees Under Workload Uncertainty. arXiv preprint arXiv:2110.13801.



Huynh, A., Chaudhari, H.A., Terzi, E. and Athanassoulis, M., 2021. Endure: A Robust Tuning Paradigm for LSM Trees Under Workload Uncertainty. arXiv preprint arXiv:2110.13801.

# Final thoughts

Who's using?

An engineer or an algorithm.

What's missing?

Higher-order interaction and feedback.

What's the goal?

Best robust performance.

## Questions?

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