Your remote PostgreSQL DBA team

data egret

Elephant in a nutshell 2.0

PostgreSQL community, people, and processes.

Valeria Kaplan

SECURING YOUR DATABASE AVAILABILITY, SO THAT YOUR TEAM CAN FOCUS ON NEW FEATURE DEVELOPMENT.

- Migration
- DB audit
- Performance optimisation
- Backup & recovery
- Architectural review
- Consulting for data science and analytics teams
- Change Data Capture (CDC)
- Developer training

Contributing sponsor to PostgreSQL

Open Alliance
For PostgreSQL Education

OSB Open Source Business ALLIANCE
Bundesverband für digitale Souveränität e.V.
MITGLIED

EXPERTISE

Senior DBA with 10+ years of experience in PostgreSQL administration.

DEVELOPMENT

Involved in new PostgreSQL feature and extention development.

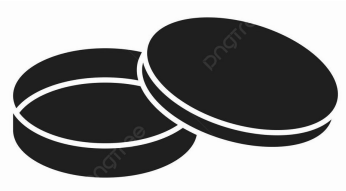
CUSTOMISATION

Flexible approach and dedicated team focused on success of your project.

COMMUNITY

Recognised as significant contributing sponsor to PostgreSQL.

Science



Pharma

Databases

PostgreSQL

- PgUS User Group Committee (Chair)
- Diversity Task Force - PostgreSQL Europe
- Funds Group
- PgConf.DE Programme Committee
- PgConf.EU Organising Committee
- PostgreSQL Contributor

About me

1. To provide a bird eye view of the PostgreSQL community.

2. To help to understand how PostgreSQL community works.

3. Provide ideas for communicating effectively within PostgreSQL community and beyond.

4. Provide and overview of contributing opportunities and motivation.

Why this presentation?

connection_builder for PostgreSQL community PGConf.EU ‘24

Elephant in a nutshell 101 - PGConf.EU ‘23

Disclaimer

This presentation is my earnest effort to compile community-related information from the postgresql.org website, Postgres wiki, Google, mailing list announcements and with the help from generous individuals within Postgres community.

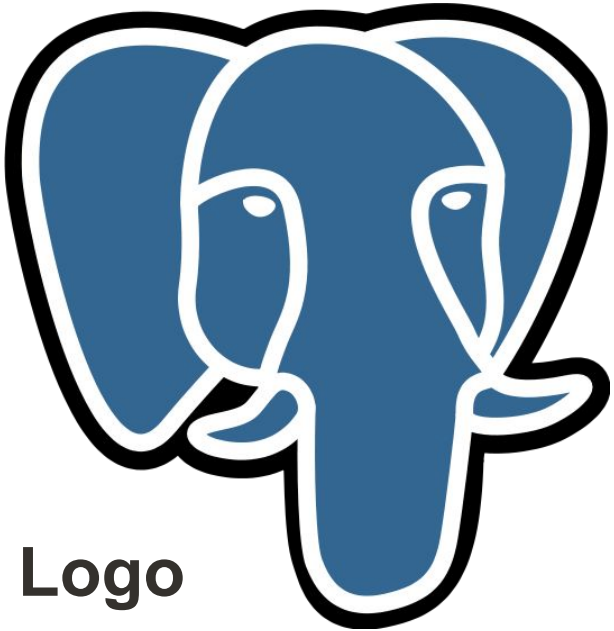
It is accurate to the best of my knowledge, but up-to-date information may vary.

What is PostgreSQL?

*"PostgreSQL is a **powerful, open source object-relational database system** that uses and extends the SQL language combined with many features that safely store and scale the most complicated data workloads. The origins of PostgreSQL date back to 1986 as part of the POSTGRES project at the University of California at Berkeley and has more than 35 years of active development on the core platform."*

postgresql.org

Is that it?



Logo

Mascot

Is that it?

Core Team

Contributors

Committers

CommitFest Managers

Slonik Events Canada

Diversity Task Force

Code of Conduct Committee

Conference Committee

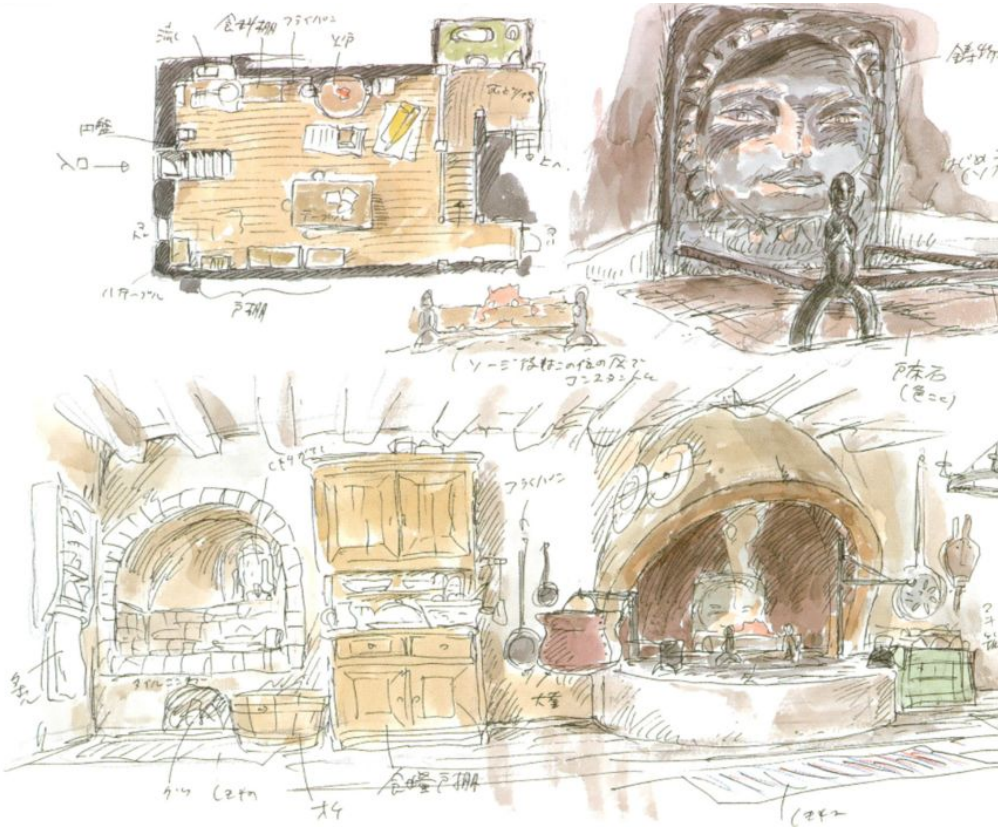
PgUS

PGEU

PGCA

Core Team, User Group organisers, PGUS board, PGEU Board, Postgres hackers, Infrastructure team, events organizers, working groups, code reviewers, Postgres users, contributors, committees, security team, PUG committee, funds group, Planet Postgres team, IRC, events organizers, Slonik events Canada, PGCA, Postgres Europe, User groups, PostgreSQL individual contributors, contributing sponsors, financial sponsors, server sponsors, commitfest manager, contributor, committer, patch reviewers, mailing lists…

Entities



PostgreSQL Entities

PostgreSQL Europe - (European region non-profit) User Group support, events and advocacy of PostgreSQL groups within (geographical) Europe. Among other European conferences it organises PGconf.EU

PostgreSQL United States (PgUS) - (US non profit) - PUG activities and events outside the EU.

Slonik Events Canada - a Canadian NPO for the management of pgconf.dev (former PGCon).

The PostgreSQL Community Association (PGCA) of Canada - domain names and trademarks.

L'association PostgreSQLFr, Japan PostgreSQL User Association and more…

PostgreSQL Europe

PostgreSQL.**EU**

Events

- PGconf.EU
- FOSDEM
- Support in the organisation of all pgDay events under PGEU umbrella: Nordic PGDAY, pgDay Paris, PGConf.DE, etc.
- User Group meetups

Membership

- All persons living in (geographical) Europe,
- €10 for each 2-year period,
- can participate in elections,
- can be elected to EU board.

Advocacy Task Force

being created

Board

President: **Magnus Hagander,** Sweden
Vice-president: **Andreas Scherbaum**, Germany
Treasurer: **TBD**
Vice-treasurer: **Karen Jex,** France
Secretary: **Dave Page**, United Kingdom

https://www.postgresql.eu/about/board/

Annual elections (February)
General Assembly (December)

Diversity Task Force

https://www.postgresql.eu/diversity/

Karen Jex (Chair)
Stacey Haysler (Advisor)
Valeria Kaplan
Stefanie Janine Stölting
Floor Drees
Jimmy Angelakos
Flavio Gurgel

PostgreSQL Europe

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Donate!

Follow!

mastodon.social/@pgconfeu

youtube.com/@pgeu

linkedin.com/company/postgresqleu

Become a member!

United States PostgreSQL Association (PgUS)

PostgreSQL.**US**

Conference committee
organisation of events in the US
ccomm(at)postgresql.us

User Group committee
support for PUGs in organisation of meetups
ugcomm(at)postgresql.us

Diversity committee
scholarship for underrepresented PostgreSQL users in the US (apply here)
diversity(at)postgresql.us

Expo committee
increase exposure to PostgreSQL at non-Postgres events in the US
ecomm(at)postgresql.us

Board

President: **Stacey Haysler,** US
Treasurer: **Mark Wong**, US
Secretary: **Michael Brewer**, US
Director: **Jonathan S. Katz**, US
Director: **Elizabeth Christensen**, US

https://postgresql.us/corporate/

Annual elections (April) – 3-9 April, 2024
General Assembly (August)

Membership

- $25 / year,
- can participate in the elections,
- can join committees,
- can be nominated to PgUS board.

United States PostgreSQL Association (PgUS)

PostgreSQL.**US**

Conference committee
organisation of events in the US
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.

Donate!

Follow!

twitter.com/pgus

Fosstodon: @pgus

youtube.com/@pgus
youtube.com/user/postgresopen

Become a member!

Additional Groups

Funds Group

postgresql.org/about/policies/funds-group/

Role:
To consider and fund following:

- ➔ Travel to technical conferences or tradeshows.
- ➔ Funds to assist speakers of various PostgreSQL related conferences with their travel expenses.
- ➔ Swag (T-shirts, folders, flyers, etc.).
- ➔ Cost of operations.
- ➔ PostgreSQL community infrastructure (for web, email, git, etc.).
- ➔ Professional services (video editing, graphics).

Members:
wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/PGFGMembers
funds-group [at] lists [dot] postgresql [dot] org

_____
Fundraising Group appoints its own members.

Core Team

postgresql.org/community/contributors/

Role:

- ➔ Coordinating release activities.
- ➔ Acting as a conduit for confidential communication.
- ➔ Making policy announcements.
- ➔ Managing permissions for commits, infrastructure, etc..
- ➔ Handling disciplinary issues.
- ➔ Making difficult decisions when consensus is lacking.

Members:
postgresql.org/community/contributors/
pgsql-core [at] postgresql [dot] org

_____
Core Team members are appointed by existing Core Team members.

Code of Conduct Committee

postgresql.org/about/policies/coc/

Role: to receive and investigate all complaints regarding a breach of PostgreSQL code of conduct.

Members:
postgresql.org/about/policies/coc_committee/
coc [at] postgresql [dot] org

_____

Core Team will appoint a Code of Conduct Committee and its Chair.
Any member of the community may volunteer to be on the Committee.

What people within Committees and Task Forces do?

Goal

- Focusing on specific area
- Identify the problems in that area and suggest solutions
- Divide and conquer on tactical level for implementation

What exactly do you do as part of a committee?

- Attend regular meetings (normally, 1-2 times a month)
- Volunteer to take on a specific task and implement it
- Figure out how to do things

→ **Considering joining a committee?**
- ◆ **Talk to people mentioned on previous slides.**
- ◆ **Consider in what way you would like to contribute.**
- ◆ **Go to the websites to see how to join.**

PgUS Conference committee

PgUS User Group committee

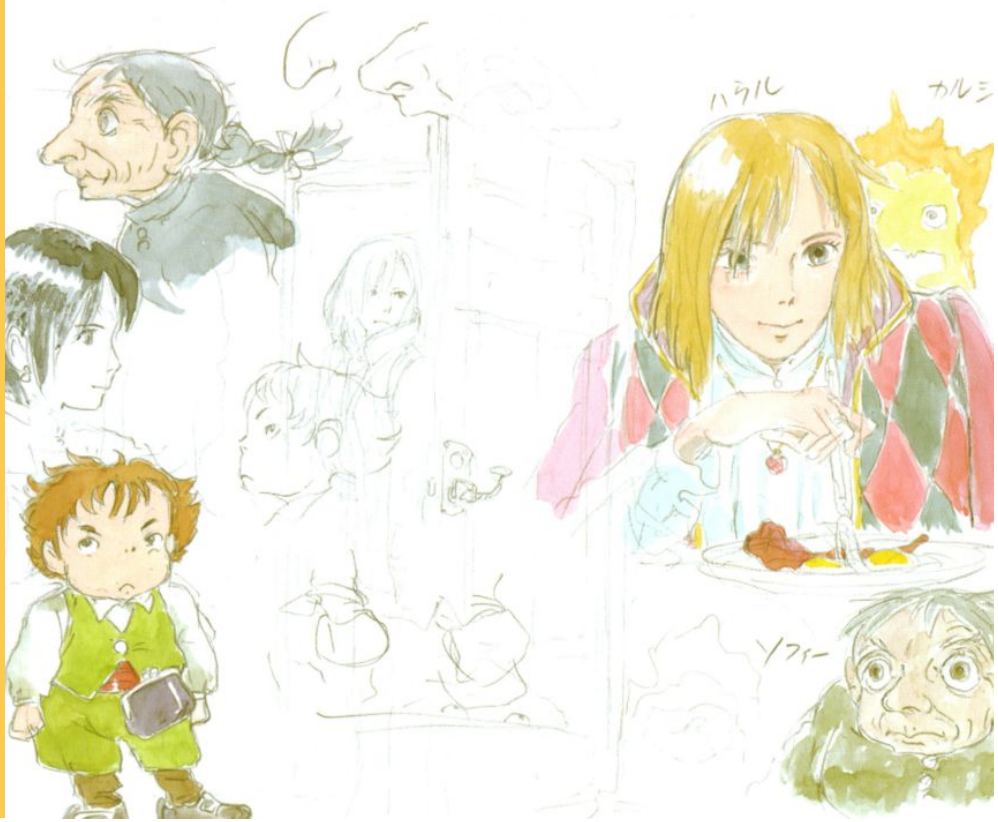
PgUS EXPO committee

PGEU Diversity committee

PGEU Diversity Task Force

PGEU Advocacy Task Force

Meeting PostgreSQL People



Meeting PostgreSQL People

Why connect?

1. Grow professionally
2. Grow personally
3. Better understand the product that you're using
4. Stronger connections within the community will ensure that Postgres serves your company/your product for years to come

Meeting PostgreSQL People

Online opportunities:

- Planet PostgreSQL https://planet.postgresql.org/ - blog entries from members of the PostgreSQL community
- Postgres weekly https://postgresweekly.com/ - weekly email roundup of Postgres news and articles
- Mailing lists pgsql-announce, pgsql-general
- Interviews: postgresql.life/ PostgreSQL Person of the Week
  What I learned interviewing the PostgreSQL Community, Andreas Scherbaum

Face to Face Opportunities:

- Events https://www.postgresql.org/about/events/
- Local User Groups https://www.postgresql.org/community/user-groups/
- Postgres Chess club https://lichess.org/team/postgresql-chess-club
- Postgres Karaoke club (contact FloorDrees@gmail.com)

➔ Sign up for Postgres Karaoke!
tomorrow, May 8,
starting 21:00
Monster Ronson's Ichiban Karaoke

Meeting PostgreSQL People
Social media

Telegram channels:

- https://t.me/pg_sql (2445 members)
- https://t.me/postgreschat (1787 members)

PostgreSQL Slack: http://postgresteam.slack.com

IRC Libera Chat IRC network https://www.postgresql.org/community/irc/

Facebook groups:

- PostgreSQL Server https://www.facebook.com/groups/134695436611709 (14807 members)
- PostgreSQL Global Community https://www.facebook.com/groups/857516171859322 (2361 members)
- PostgreSQL user group https://www.facebook.com/groups/2762963637101351 (2267 members)
- PostgreSQL DBA https://www.facebook.com/groups/476440145808148 (3633 members)

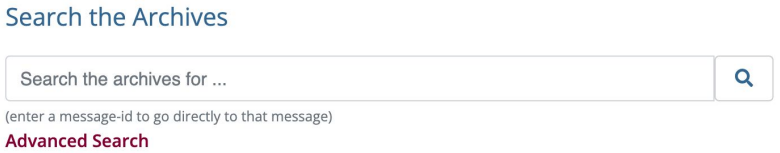
Mastodon and Bluesky channels

and many others…

Meeting PostgreSQL People
Mailing lists

Mailing Lists https://www.postgresql.org/list/

One of the primary ways to interact with the community. The mailing lists are an effective way to communicate and contribute to PostgreSQL and there are lists that cover a variety of topics, including:



- Ongoing PostgreSQL development
- General support
- Product release & event announcements
- Coordinate community outreach

➔ pgsql-novice
➔ pgsql-general
➔ regional lists

Subscribe

Everyone who is subscribed to the mailing list will receive your message!

Meeting PostgreSQL People
How to ask a question?

On mailing list or social channels

- do not post screenshots (rather use copy/paste)
- provide all the necessary context
- use email etiquette when on mailing list (see Bruce Momjian's post)
- be positive (see Robert Haas post)

★ Be humble
★ Don’t be rude
★ Be kind and tactful
★ Don’t expect immediate reply

➔ **Talk to the participants, sponsors, speakers, organisers.**
You might find your answers right here!

Meeting PostgreSQL People
Offline events

postgresql.org/about/events/

- Community recognised
- Commercial events
- External events where PostgreSQL has presence

Don’t miss the next Postgres event!

https://postgresql.life/

PostgreSQL Event Calendar

Conferences (CFP in the event description) **and Meetups**

https://proopensource.it/conference-calendar/

Postgres events and **Calls for Papers**

PUGs - PostgreSQL User Groups

PUGs - local communities of Postgres Users
Role: to advocate and educate users about PostgreSQL.

https://www.**postgresql.org**/community/user-groups/ (61 groups)
Your PUG is missing or needs to be removed? - contact usergroups [at] postgresql [dot] org

Meetup.com PRO account has 21 groups across 7 countries
https://www.**meetup.com**/pro/postgresql/ (run by PgUS)
Want your group to be listed under PostgreSQL account? - contact ugcomm [at] postgresql [dot] us

Meeting PostgreSQL People
Offline events

Hamburg PostgreSQL User Group
(289 members)
Sascha, Tobias, Lenz, Andreas

PostgreSQL User Group **NRW, Aachen**
(128 members)
Dirk Krautschick

PostgreSQL User Group **Frankfurt am Main** (315 members)
Ilya and Dirk Aumueller

PostgreSQL Meetup Group **Berlin**
(1,769 members)
Andreas and Oleksii

Stuttgart PostgreSQL Meetup Group
(70 members)
Daria

PostgreSQL User Group **Munich**
(166 members)
Evan, Ludwig

Meeting PostgreSQL People

Why PUG meetup?

- Grows the number of Postgres users
- Strengthens the community
- Stronger the community - the better is the database

Who can create local meetup?
anyone

How do I organise a meetup?
User Group Operating Manual (PostgreSQL Wiki)

Venue/Speaker/Announcements

➔ Check this blog post by Andreas S.: Attending, Organizing or Speaking at a Meetup - useful advice and talk to him at the conference.

Meeting PostgreSQL People

PostgreSQL Europe & PGUS

Can assist you with:

- logistics,
- contracts,
- budgeting,
- finances,
- Postgres swag,
- speakers,
- announcements,
- sponsors.

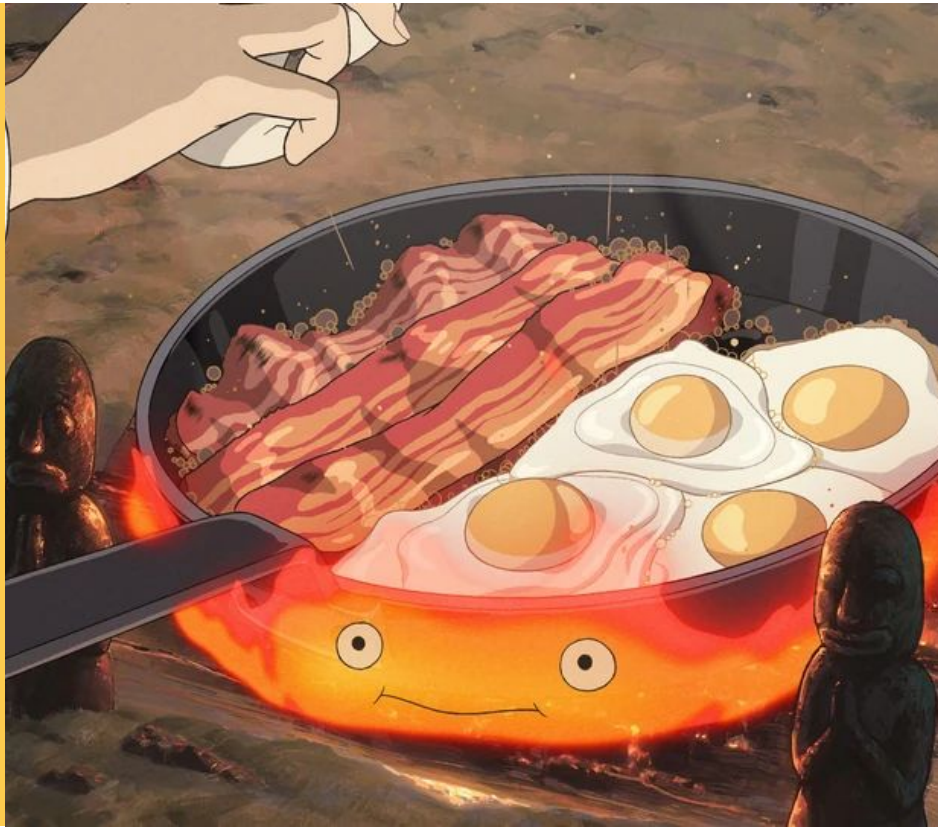
Want to organise a PUG and need guidance?
Contact PGEU Board
board [at] postgresql [dot] eu

Contact PgUS User Group Committee
ugcomm [at] postgresql.us

PUG recognition guidelines
postgresql.org/about/policies/user-groups/

- **Talk to conference organisers** - they will know all about organisation of events and will be able to give you helpful tips.
- **Talk to participants** - they might also be looking to organise a meetup in your region and you can join the forces.

Studying



Studying
Resources

PostgreSQL Documentation
https://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/

Planet PostgreSQL blog aggregator
https://planet.postgresql.org/ - blog entries from members of the PostgreSQL community
@planetpostgres

Postgres weekly newsletter
A weekly email roundup of Postgres news and articles
https://postgresweekly.com/

Mailing lists
pgsql-announce, pgsql-general

Googlable learning resources

Weekly videos Scaling Postgres
Weekly podcast Postgres.FM about all things PostgreSQL
use-the-index-luke.com
Dynamic observability tool pgstats.ru
Slides Extensions shape and future
Video A guide to PostgreSQL documentation and useful resources
Tutorials - https://www.postgresqltutorial.com/
Query planner visualisation https://www.depesz.com/
and many more…

Blogs

Personal blogs such as
momjian.us/main/blogs/pgblog/2023.html
pglife.momjian.us

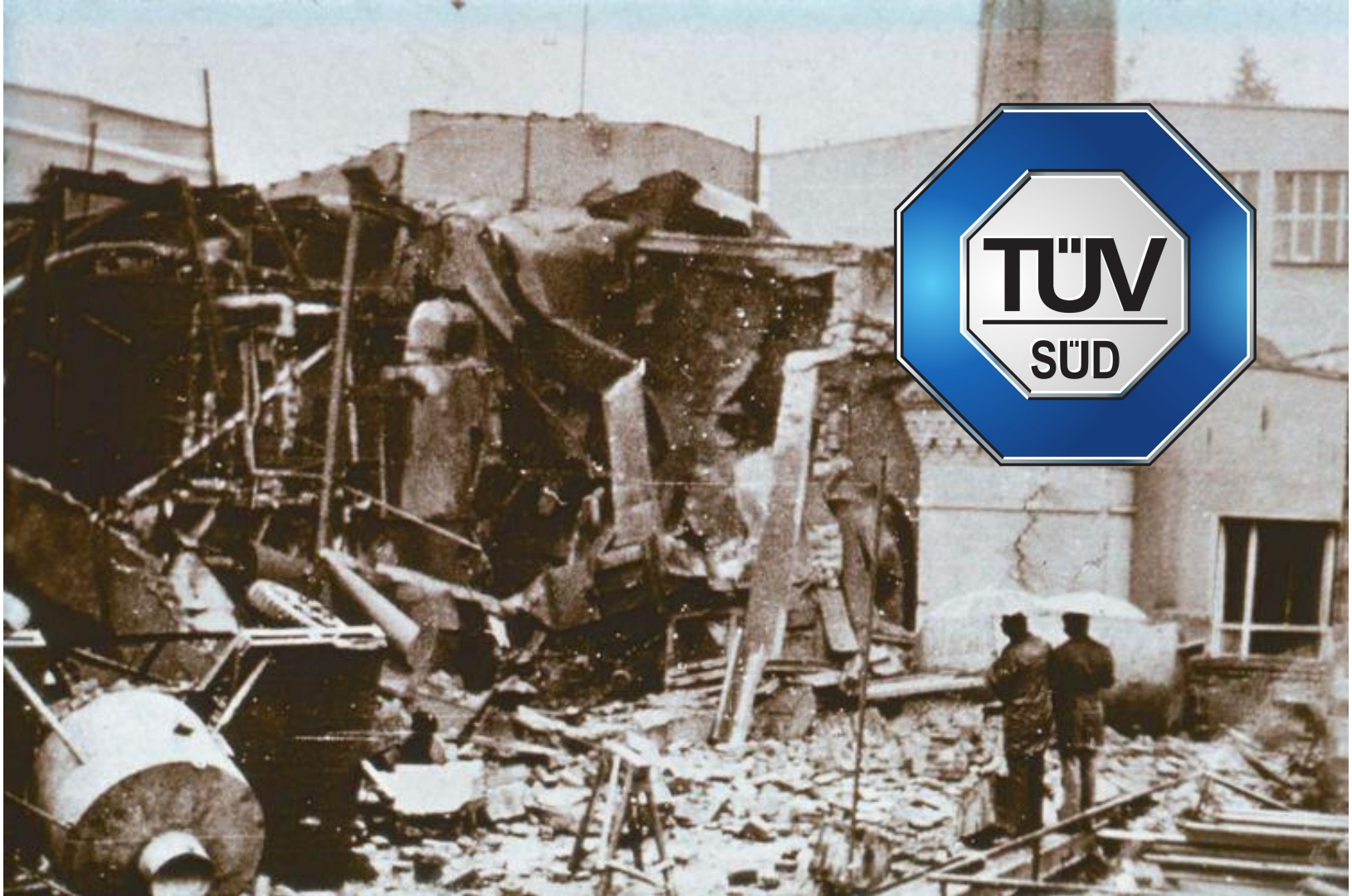
Blogs by PostgreSQL sponsor companies
https://www.postgresql.org/about/sponsors/

Studying
Courses

Courses
Vendor workshops, tutorials, courses (free/ paid)
https://www.postgresql.org/support/professional_support/
https://www.postgresql.org/about/sponsors/

Certification
There isn't official Postgres Community Certification
Vendors offer their own

- ➔ **Ask sponsors about courses and webinars they run**
- ➔ **Attend talks, talk to speakers & ask questions**


TÜV
SÜD

Open Alliance

For PostgreSQL Education

- Independent industry certification for PostgreSQL
- First launch at PGConf.DE 2025
- For more information visit booths of CYBERTEC, Data Egret and Proventa

Scan for Updates

oapg-edu.org

Getting help

Getting help - Professional Support

Commercial support is available from many different companies providing **professional services** to the PostgreSQL community.

https://www.postgresql.org/support/professional_support/

To be listed on the website - fill out this form.

– **PostgreSQL Sponsors** –

Sponsors - companies that are deeply involved and regularly contribute to the community and database development.

https://www.postgresql.org/about/sponsors/

Read on in the *Recognition* section.

PostgreSQL Sponsors

https://www.postgresql.org/about/sponsors/

Contributing Sponsors

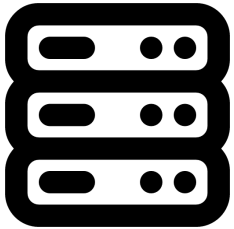
Companies that support the project by allowing their employees to spend time helping to build PostgreSQL and work on other projects within Postgres eco-system that benefit PostgreSQL users and the project in general.

Financial Sponsors

People or companies who have donated money to help support one of the Recognised PostgreSQL Nonprofit Organisations that support the project around the world.

Server Sponsors

Companies that provide one or more servers and/or hosting to help support the project.



Why choose a vendor that is a PostgreSQL sponsor?

- Know how to work effectively with open source
- Can are better at navigating the patch-related process
- Know how to report bugs and get the community's attention faster
- Understand PostgreSQL internals — helpful in database administration
- Follow the direction of PostgreSQL development closely, or are directly involved — helping anticipate new features and manage database issues proactively

➔ **Talk to the participants, sponsors, speakers.**
➔ **You might find your answers right here at PGConf.DE!**

CommitFest

CommitFest

https://www.postgresql.org/developer/

Roadmap

- There isn't a formal roadmap.
- Developers are free to explore the topics of their choosing
- New features committed to PostgreSQL are thoroughly vetted by contributors and committers

Entry point

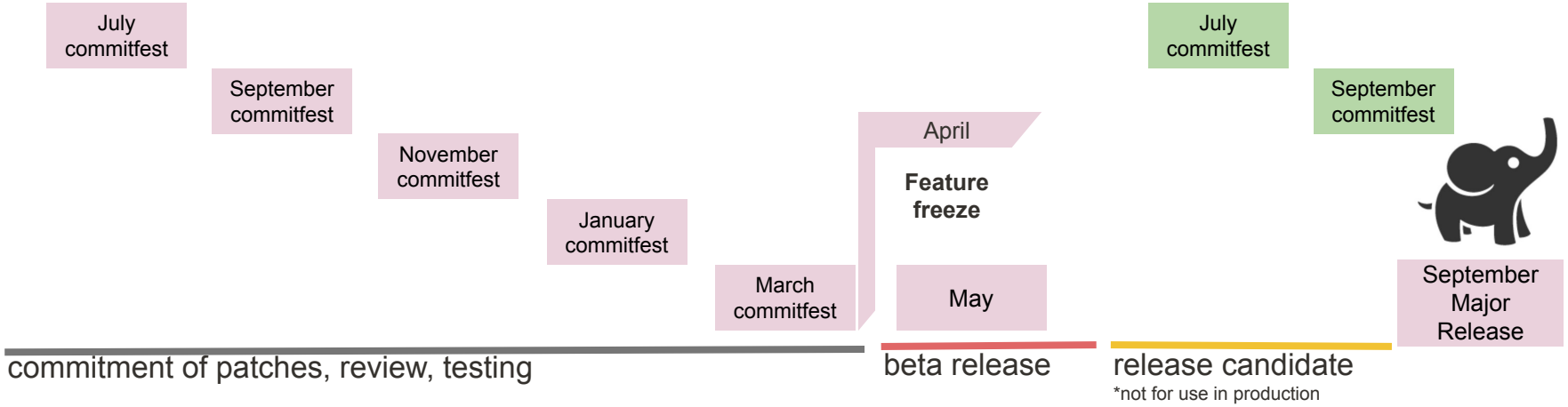
- subscribe to pgsql_hackers mailing list
- review patches first
- review prior discussions
- submit your patch to CommitFest https://commitfest.postgresql.org/

CommitFest

https://commitfest.postgresql.org/

Contributors - developers who review, test and getting new patches committed.
Committers - people with access to push to the git repository with their user names https://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/Committers.
CommitFest Manager - manages a CommitFest and has responsibilities to help manage the list of patches.

PostgreSQL versioning https://www.postgresql.org/support/versioning/



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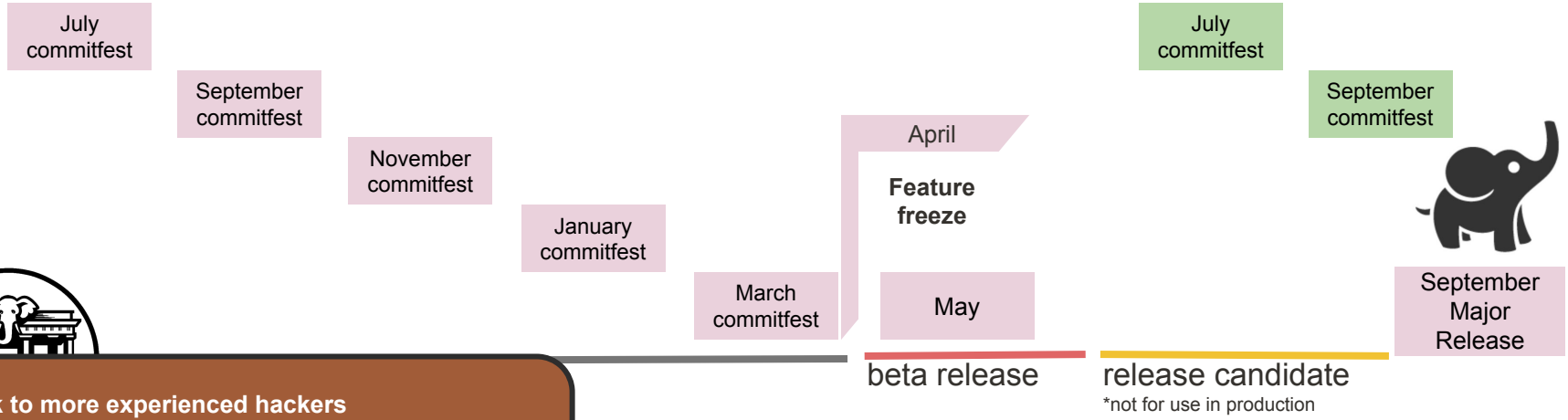
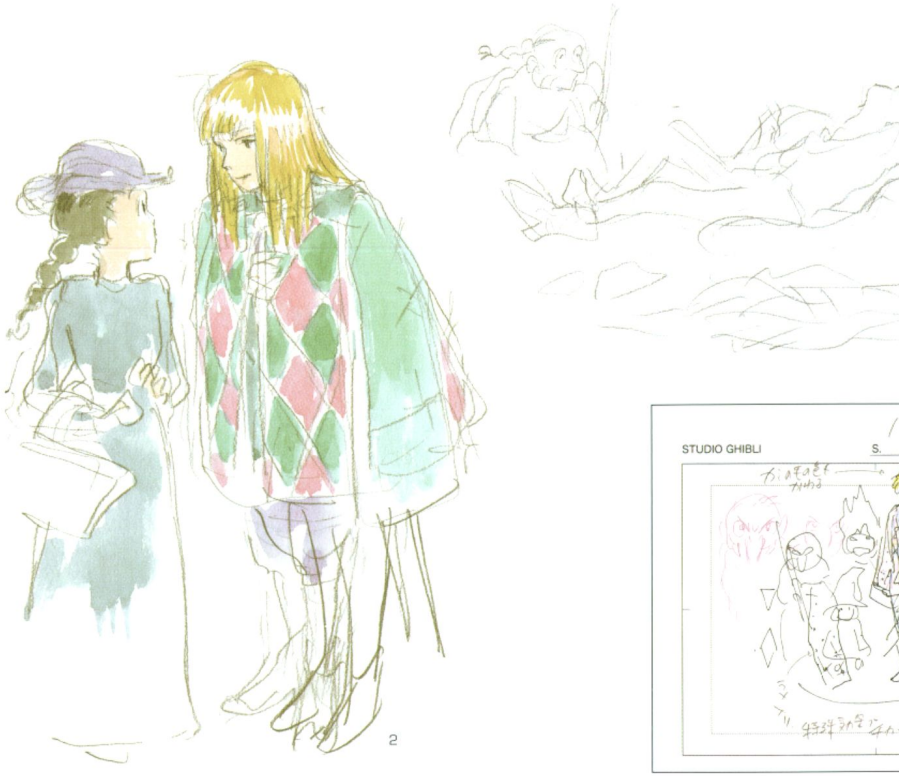


- ➔ **Talk to more experienced hackers**
- ➔ **Brainstorm ideas for new patch with people at eth conference**
- ➔ **Get the initial buy-in for your patch at PGConf.DE**

Connecting



Connecting

Connected community is important for PostgreSQL

1. Ideas exchange
2. Community attracts new people and making them feel welcome
3. Community grows
4. Number of contributors grows
5. Variability of use cases grows

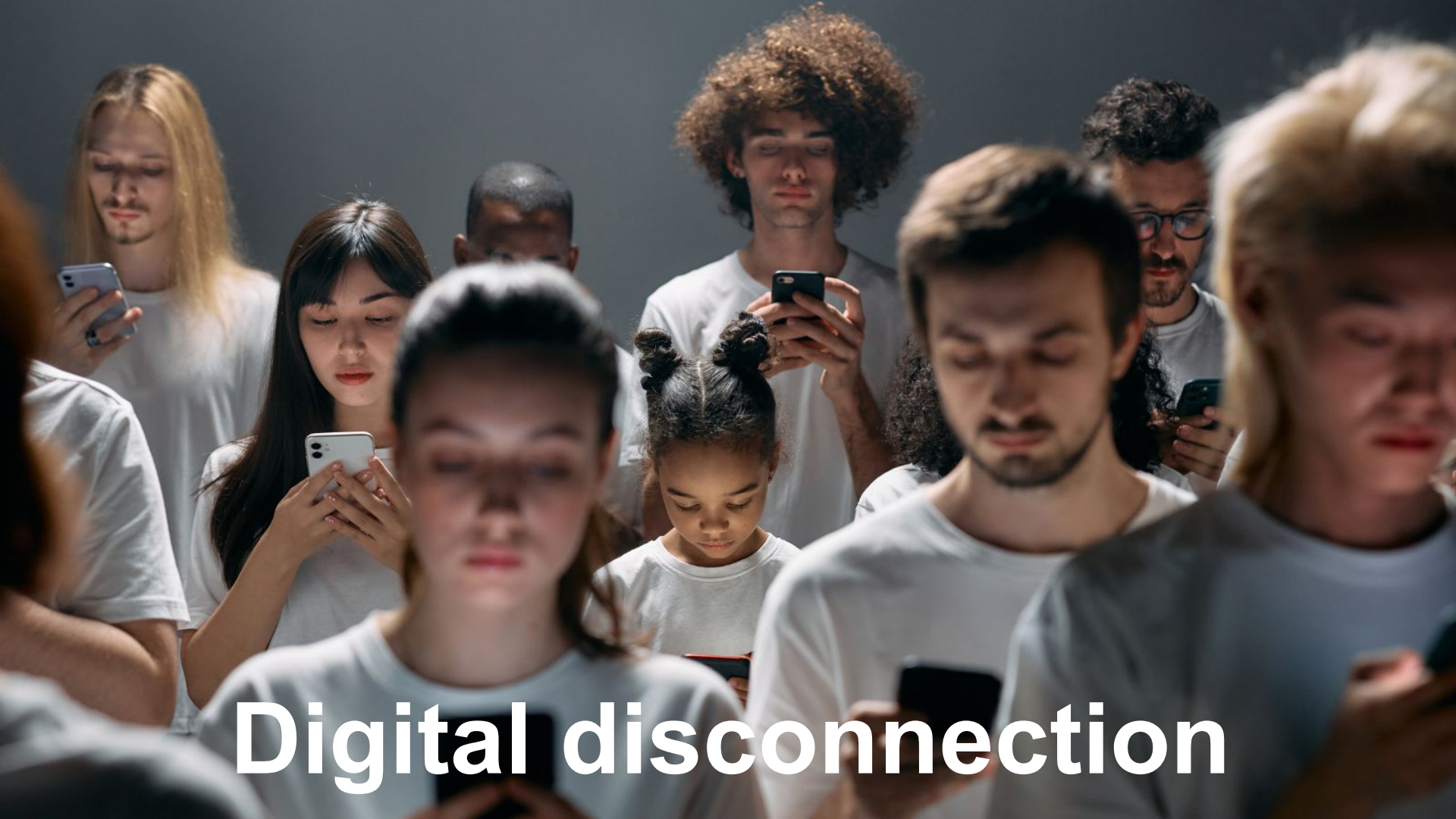
Connecting

Connecting to PostgreSQL People can be exciting!

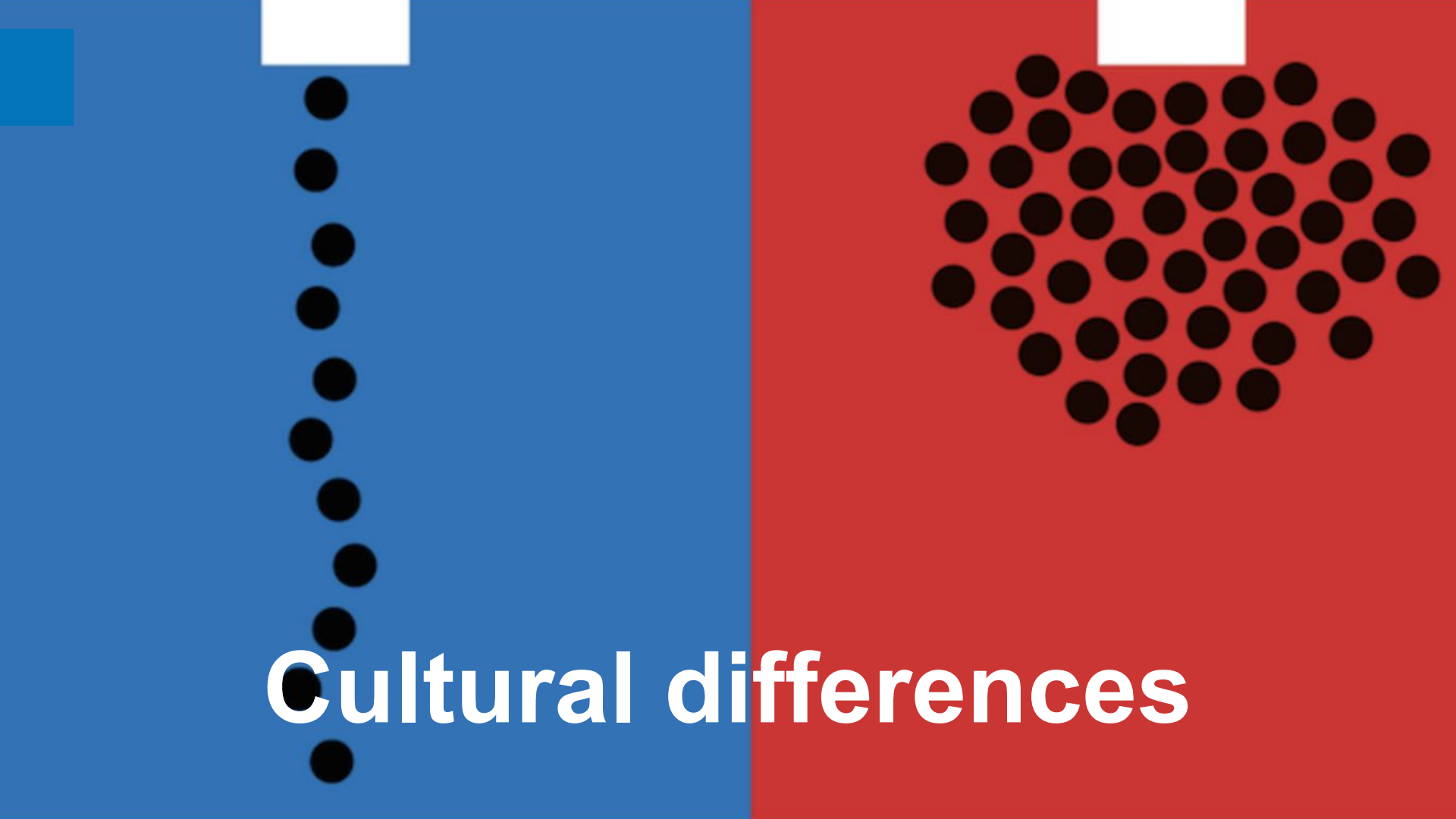
Connecting

Connecting to PostgreSQL People can be exciting!

It can be challenging too!


Digital disconnection

Social anxiety


Cultural differences

Fear of Judgment

Connecting

Coping tactics

1. **Listen**
2. Get out there and **practice**
3. Force your attention **outward**
4. Ask people **questions**
5. Build strong **one on one** relationships (SMART goals)
6. Have an **exit strategy**
7. **Pockets** of time
8. Prepare **talking points**
9. Fake it until you become it. Try **power posing**.
10. Change your state of mind: **asking for favours => sharing your gifts**

Amy Cuddy, TED
(Power posing)

Tips to remember

1. Offline dynamics boosts online dynamics and vice versa
2. Listen and learn the lingo
3. Take a break, breathe, step back, drink water, take a walk and then come back
4. Ask for help

Remember: we all have the same goal - we want to make Postgres better!

- ➔ **Listen more and ask questions**
- ➔ **Take breaks when you need to**
- ➔ **Build fewer, but stronger connections**
- ➔ **Submit a lightning talk while at PGConf.DE!**

connection_builder for PostgreSQL community recording (PGConf.EU 2024)

Key challenges

- Need for more **contributors**
- Help needed with **less popular tasks** (e.g., patch review)
- Need to revisit and modernize existing **processes**
- Need for **more young people** to get involved in the project
- Support with **legal and financial work**
- Raising **local awareness** about PostgreSQL (e.g., more PUGs)
- Raising **awareness among broader developer communities**

➔ **See a challenge that you can help with? - Talk to the board members, conference organisers and offer your help!**

Thank you!

for being a part of PostgreSQL Community!

Thank you!