

# Postgres Conference Europe - 2022



Breaking the sound barrier

*Applications at light speed*

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# Introductions

# Why stay with this lecture?

You do not want to KIWI

You believe you can do more with less

You understand that apps are not magic

You have learned there are no silver bullets

You are smart?



# Hettie Dombrovskaya

Database Architect at DRW, Chicago II

Local Organizer of Chicago PostgreSQL User Group

39 years with databases

Started before relational databases

*There is only one Hettie in Postgres!*



# Jan Karremans / @Johnnyq72

## BACKGROUND

25 years of database technology

15 years of consulting

15 years of management

10 years of technology sales

5 years of community advocacy

5 years of international public speaking

## ACCREDITATION

Oracle ACE Alumni

EDB Postgres Advanced Server Professional





# Why us?

Hettie and Jan together

Common background and  
understanding

Diverse careers and unique  
perspectives

# Why this topic at PGConf.eu

1. Mutual passion to clear up misunderstandings
2. For getting access to the three P's, Postgres is the ideal platform

*There is more to discuss than we can hope to achieve!*



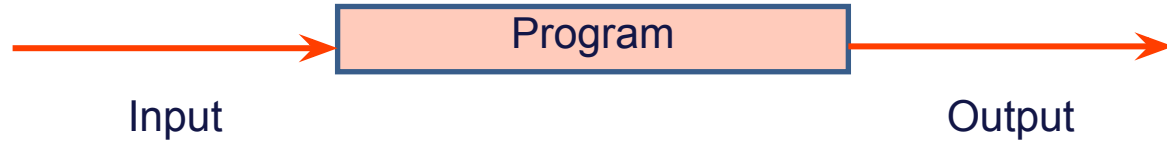
# History

IT is a craft

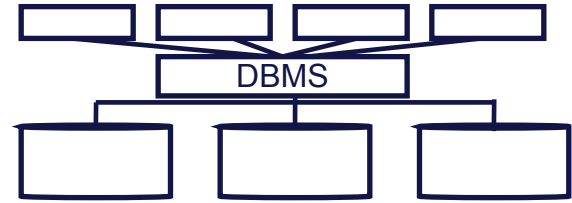
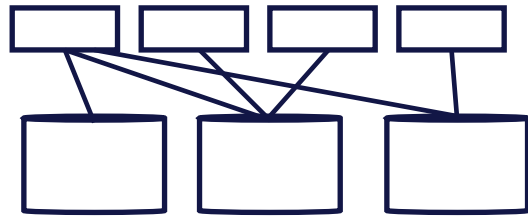




Once upon a time there was a program

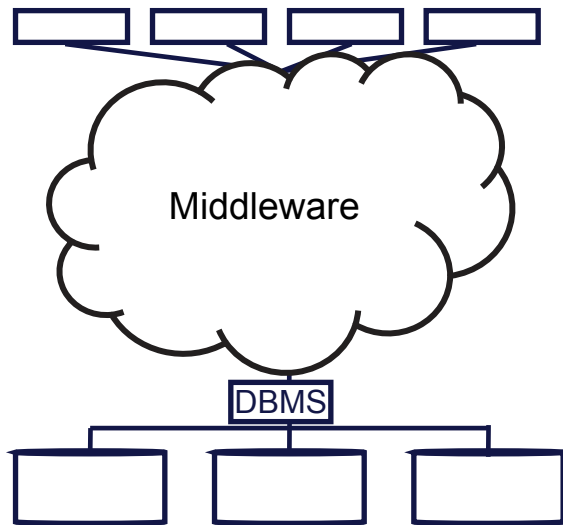


Direct access storage: 70s



DBMS emerged as specialized programs for centralized data management

Then the nineties happened





# Business logic - what is it

## Wikipedia:

In computer software, business logic is the part of the program that encodes the real-world business rules that determine how data can be created, stored, and changed.

*"You end up using more database resources and fewer application server resources in order to achieve the data retrieval results you are looking for."*

# Database agnostic

Have your application be independent of the database

Possible bias...

- Hoax
- No one switches databases
- You'd be burning money
- Forfeit access to the three P's

"Modern application development"

ORM

Low code

No code

Serverless (okay, that doesn't fit in this list)

**You cannot simply put  
business logic in the  
middle tier...**

**...and hope to succeed  
in scaling your application**





# Problem

SLOW  
Non-idempotent



# Database application performance

Everybody wants their application to function efficiently, right?

After all – why choose to use databases in the first place?

Because

*The DBMS is specialized software designed to manage data in the most efficient way.*

Nevertheless, the most common complaint of application developers is ....

**SLOW**

# Why Nobody is Happy?

Both  
imperative programming languages  
and declarative query languages  
work perfectly  
to accomplish the tasks they were designed to accomplish.

The problems start,  
when we try to make them  
*to work together.*



# Is a database actually really slow?

```
SELECT * FROM loans WHERE id=?
```

The query is executed **8,500,000** times during the day, each time taking a few **milliseconds**, with total execution time about **2.5 hours**



# Why??

What is object-relational impedance mismatch and why it is bad?

Why should we care?

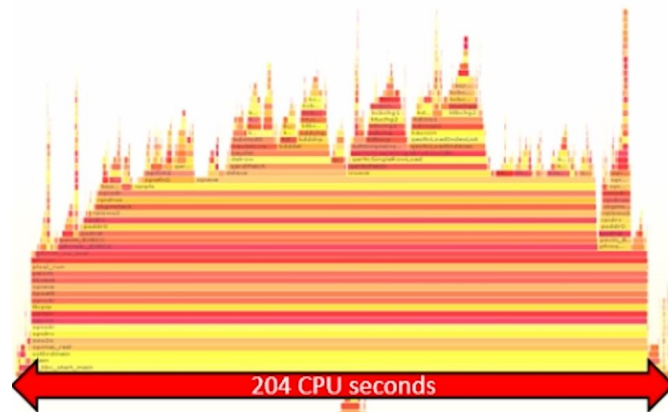
# What is ORIM?

## When we have Object-Oriented application

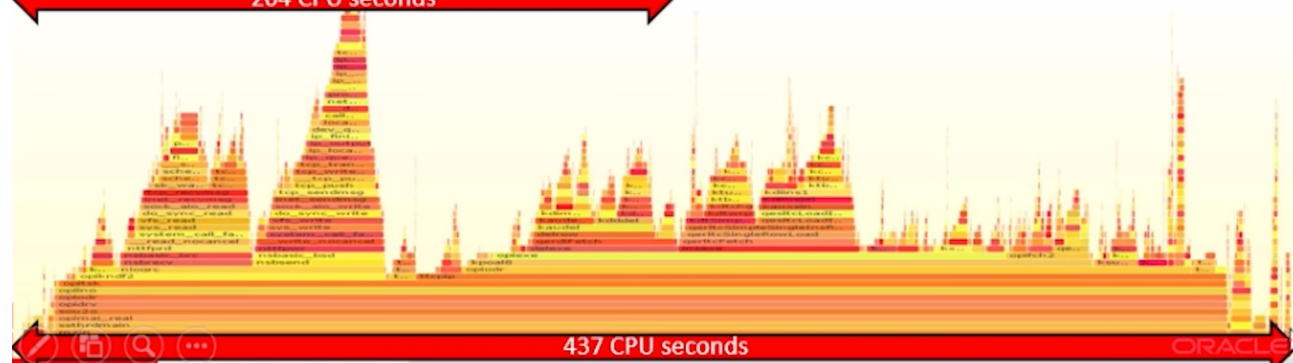
- During one screen rendering: objects may belong to different classes with different access methods
- Object-Relational Mapping (ORM): maps a database object to the in-memory application object:
  - solves a problem of abstraction from details of data storing
  - does not provide effective means of manipulation with data sets

This particular case of impedance mismatch is called *ORIM – object-relational impedance mismatch*

Slow  
by  
Slow



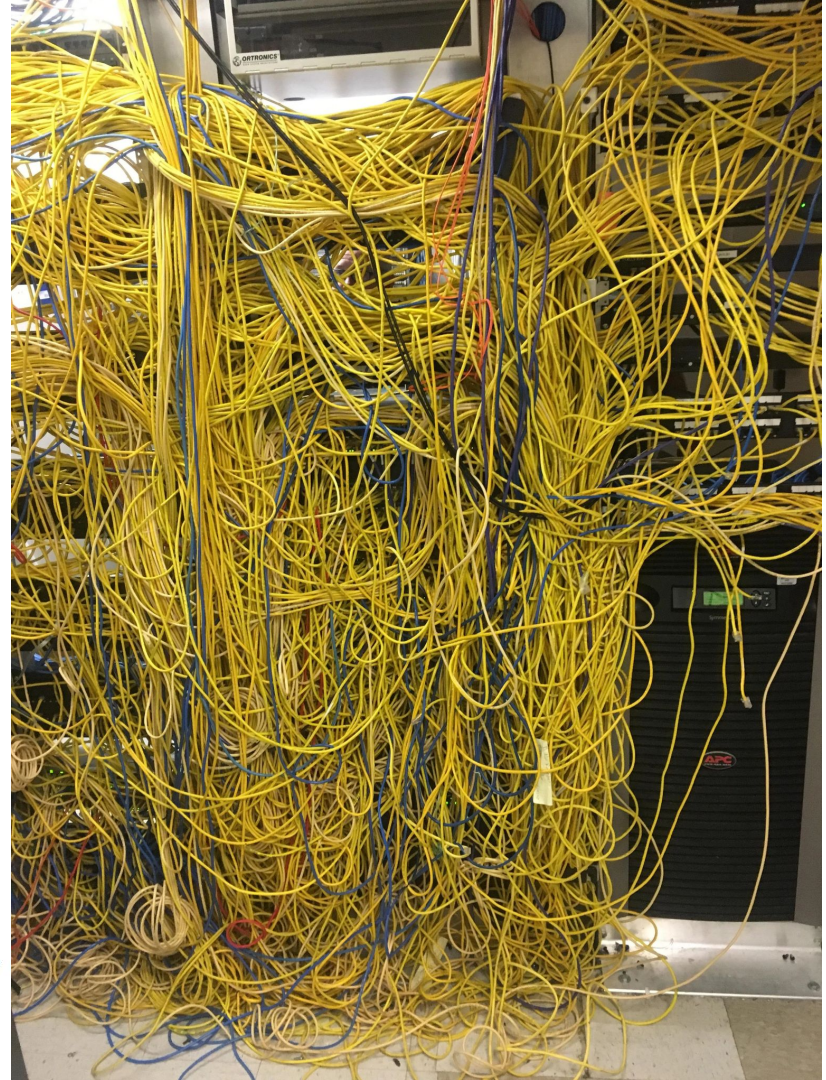
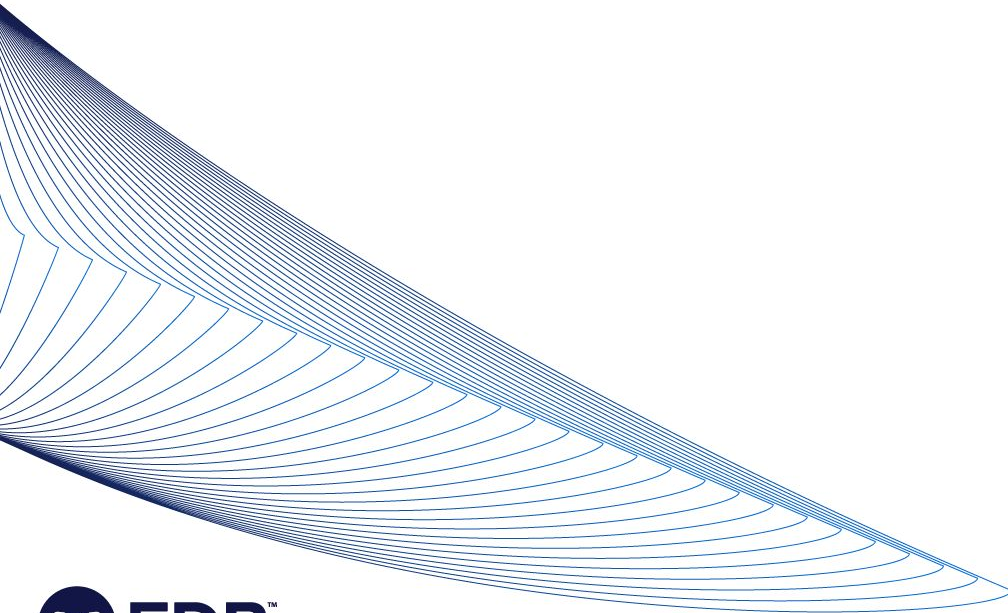
Stretched Java/JDBC  
FlameGraph to show  
it takes 2x CPU



Courtesy of **Toon Koppelaars - RuleGen**  
Author of "Applied mathematics for database professionals"



# En garde!





# Solution

# Splitting business logic

Application business logic

Data business logic

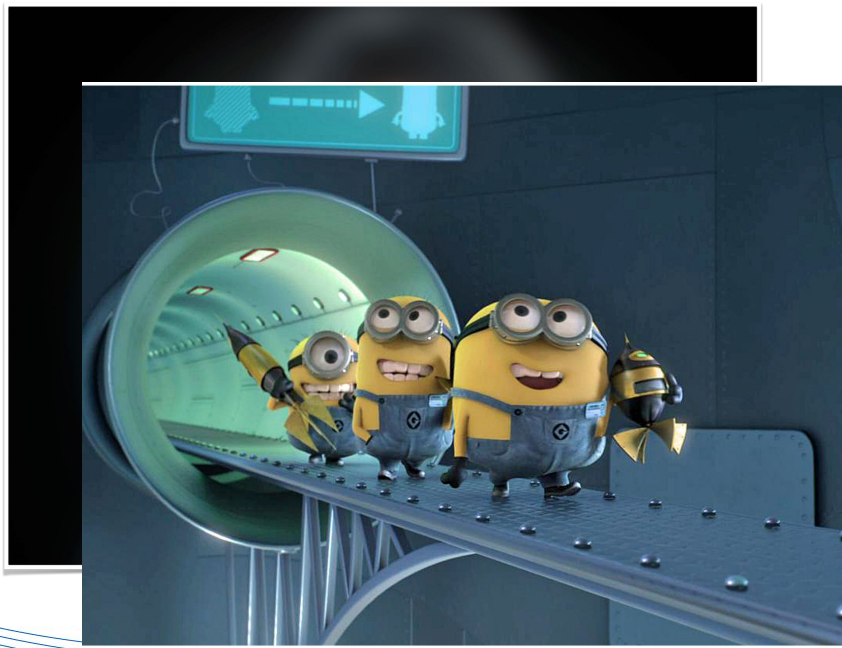
A paradigm shift is pending:

- Switching from focus on applications ('90/'00) to
- Focus on data (now!)





# #DBADev



# A lesson from my (Jan) past



# SmartDB

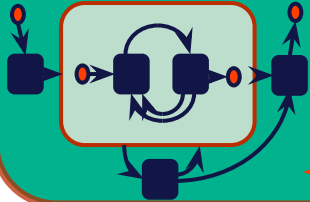
"Slow by slow" vs. set based  
Inter-application traffic



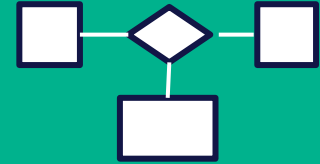
But it is (too) hard to organise

**So Hetty came up with something more smooth**

Application Model  
(Object-Oriented)



Database Model  
(Object-Relational)



# The Result – World-Wide Wait

Connecting, please wait.....



Please wait



Loading. Please wait.

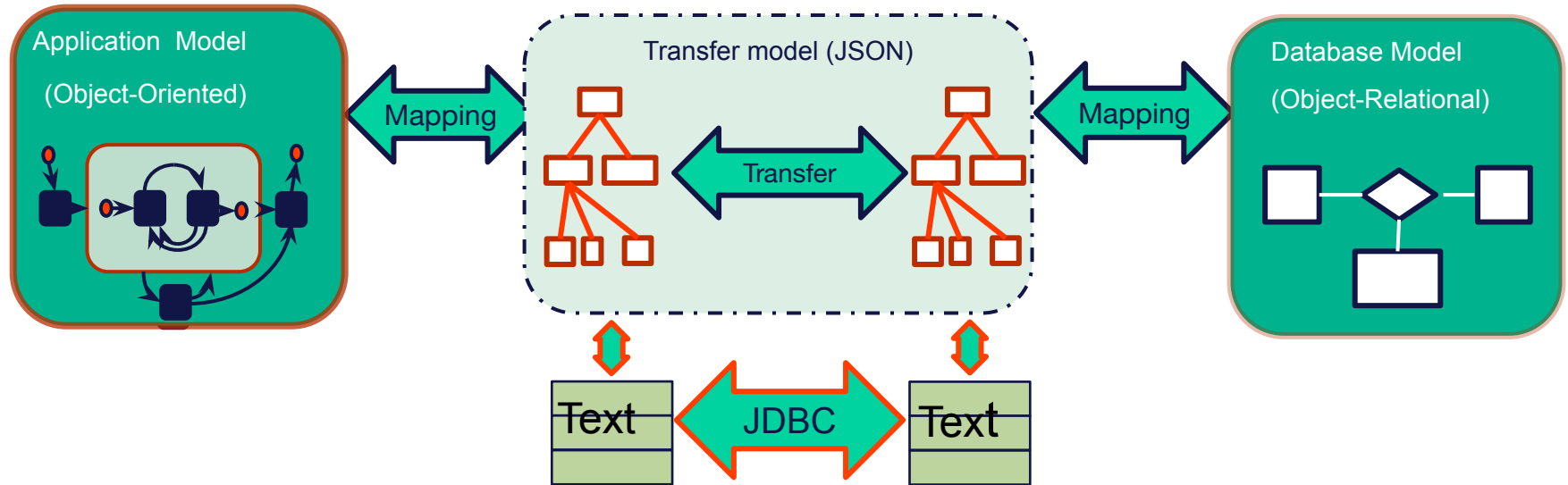


Loading ...



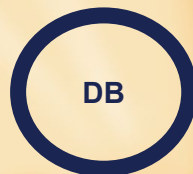


# NORM – No ORM



# CONTRACT

- *Both sides (an application and a database) convert internal representations into complex hierarchical object*
- *Contract establishes object structure implemented on both sides*
- *Now, for any application endpoint it takes one database call to transfer data to and from database*



It's still hard!

You need a database developer on each project!

Well, now we have some automation!

[https://github.com/  
hettie-d/NORM/NORM\\_GEN](https://github.com/hettie-d/NORM/NORM_GEN)





hettie-d Merge branch 'master' into build\_cond

Latest commit b3ac971 on Aug 15 [History](#)

1 contributor

137 lines (137 sloc) 4.69 KB

Raw

Blame



```
1 {
2   "title": "User account",
3   "description": "all account details with DB mappings",
4   "type": "array",
5   "comment": "Title - the name of the hierarchy, should be unique within the database.
6             Description - Description of the hierarchy,
7             type - always array",
8   "items": {
9     "$ref": "#/definitions/account",
10    "comment": "Reference to the node with definition"
11  },
12  "db_mapping": {
13    "db_schema": "norm",
14    "comment": "Default database schema for all objects in the hierarchy, can be modified on the lower levels"
15  },
16  "definitions": {
17    "account": {
18      "type": "object",
19      "db_mapping": {
20        "db_table": "account",
21        "pk_col": "account_id",
22        "record_type": "account_record",
23        "comment": "db mapping on the object level, can be modified on the field level"
24      },
25      "properties": {
```



# Automation steps

- Parsing JSON schend
- Constructing definitions and applying DB mapping
- Generating UDT
- Generating functions

All without any database developers!



# Questions