



# Have you listened to Talking Postgres?

TalkingPostgres.com



## Transcript of the podcast trailer



**Hi. I'm Claire Giordano, and welcome to Talking Postgres**

"The biggest thing for me is that I never want to have to solve the same problem twice, ever."  
—Simon Willison, Ep 01

**It's a podcast about the people who work with the Postgres database—and why they do what they do.**

"I think I get a similar little buzz out of speeding something up in Postgres, as I did maybe like tuning my motorbike or something when I was in my twenties."  
—David Rowley, Ep 18

**You'll hear from Postgres people around the world: Engineers, contributors, and curious users. And since I'm a bit obsessed with origin stories, we often dig into how people got their start.**

"I still love pinball, pool, bowling, anything involving aiming at a target. I'm not any good at those things, mind you, but I love it. And I just thought that the coolest job there could possibly be would be to design and build pinball machines for a living."  
—Tom Lane, Ep 20

**What you'll love about the long-form conversations is the backstage glimpse into the experiences of those who make Postgres happen—both in the core database, and across the broader ecosystem.**

By a long shot, by a long shot. And it's an object lesson that everyone starts out writing a simple tool and then ends up writing a GIS. You just can't help it, you just keep adding and adding and adding, and before you know it, "oh, I accidentally wrote a GIS."  
—Paul Ramsey, Ep 07

It is open source at its best. I joke with everyone that it's the Linux of databases, and it's amazing to have such a community who's very principled and forward-looking."  
—Shireesh Thota, Ep 29

I think it's really easy to pick up Postgres because there's so many friends around who also use it."  
—Dawn Wages, Ep 25

**Nothing here is scripted. It's not about speeds & feeds.**

"Over and over, I chose Postgres, because I felt the values of the community in terms of quality and what they're trying to do, were really consistent with my personal values."  
—Melanie Plageman, Ep 19

**It's about learning from the stories & experiences of others.**

"I just love that. I love the intellectual engagement of being able to discuss ideas about an interesting topic with a bunch of other people who were really interested in that topic and had really clever things to say about it."  
—Robert Haas, Ep 24

**A big part of the culture in open source is sharing what you know. So in each episode, guests talk candidly about what they've learned—failures, wins, obstacles, and all the messy parts in between.**

And there was a particular moment where we got some coverage [...] We got a lot of hits and our system completely melted down. And we spent a couple of days figuring out, what do we need to do to fix this? How can we handle more load? That was kind of the beginning of a study of locking that led me to Postgres.  
—Thomas Munro, Ep 04

**If that sounds like your kind of podcast, check out Talking Postgres dot com.**



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## Overheard on the podcast

### PARTICULARLY FOR LONG PROJECTS

"I found that development progress was associated with how well I was doing in my personal life, and exercise, and all that kind of stuff. Particularly for long projects: it's important to take care of yourself and not just invest into the project and do more and more hacking."  
—Andres Freund, Ep 31

### ZERO COST THING TO DO

So if your motivation is to help people feel valued and show them what they've done has made a difference—that's a zero cost thing to do. It can be humbling to do it because you're highlighting someone else. And I think some people chafe at that, or they feel they're demeaning themselves by highlighting other people, but it is an incredibly good motivator.  
—Bruce Momjian, Ep 26

### FAILURES ARE INHERENTLY PUBLIC

"One of the interesting things about working in open source is that your failures are inherently extremely public. You can't look the other way and pretend it didn't happen because there it is in the commit log. Anybody can see it—and you just have to own up to it and deal with it."  
—Tom Lane, Ep 20

### NICE SURPRISES IN OPEN SOURCE

"The same thing happens where you suddenly realize there's an enormous user doing very interesting things with the things you built. The funniest anecdote is on pg\_cron. Supposedly the Turkish government uses pg\_cron to schedule the streetlights for turning on and off. I don't know the exact mechanics, but it seemed brilliant."  
—Marco Slot, Ep 01

### ONLY WAY TO GET CREATIVE IS...

"You need to accept that people make mistakes and fail. If you don't accept that, you're never going to do something different and never going to be able to create something new and original. So I tell myself: Accept failure not as something to be penalized, but as something that is open for creativity."  
—Boriss Mejías, Ep 32

### RULE OF BENCHMARKS

"This is the rule of benchmarks. If you do a benchmark and you get the results you expect, you're doing marketing. If you get something unexpected, you learn something. This is the key. You have to figure out something. You're doing tests to understand your system better."  
—Gwen Shapira, Ep 38

### DEAD ENDS ARE PART OF THE GAME

"I would say dead ends are part of the game. So you just need to, once in a while, explore something that is not the proper solution, to figure out what is the right trade-off."  
—Tomas Vondra, Ep 36

### IT'S DEFINITELY INTIMIDATING

"So it's definitely intimidating [to submit a conference talk] as an introvert. I can say it is worth overcoming the fear and doing it. It is a challenge, and it is difficult, but the benefit is enormous."  
—Álvaro Herrera, Ep 03

### BEING A RESPONSIBLE PARTICIPANT

"I think that if you're going to leverage open source code and build on it, you need to be a responsible participant in that community. The Postgres project is phenomenal."  
—Charles Feddersen, Ep 37

## Origin stories

### COMPLETELY BLOWN AWAY

"I was attending a conference in Copenhagen. I was there to listen to Robert Watson from FreeBSD. And Bruce Momjian had a session. I don't know why I went to that session, I can't explain it. But I'm glad I did. Because I sat down & Bruce Momjian was going over all the capabilities of Postgres. And I was completely blown away."  
—Daniel Gustafsson, Ep 23

### FELL IN LOVE WITH INTERNET

"I also come from a non-traditional background because I studied art. And then sort of fell in love with the internet and wanted to figure out how the internet works. And that put me on this trajectory of learning—learning to program and learning about all the underlying structures."  
—Floor Drees, Ep 06

### ON PATERNITY LEAVE

"I was on paternity leave with my second child & she was a good sleeper. That was a very easy time, but I had a couple of months of feeding the baby & then watching her sleep. And I had a lot of spare time on my hands, so I started to look around for open-source projects to work on."  
—Heikki Linnakangas, Ep 08

### FAILED THE INTERVIEW

"I find it very ironic that the reason I failed the interview is I didn't know SQL. Which I definitely know now."  
—Chelsea Dole, Ep 06