



# pgAdmin

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# Background

- Started in 1998
- Currently on 4th generation
  - pgAdmin I & II written in Visual Basic (Windows only)
  - pgAdmin III written in C++ (Windows, Mac, Linux, Solaris...)
  - pgAdmin 4 written in Python/JS (Windows, Mac, Linux, desktop and web based)
- Community has changed over the years:
  - Countless individual community members over the years

# Features

- Manage PostgreSQL objects (databases, tables, functions, views etc)
- Execute and tune queries
- Monitor server activity
- Procedural language debugger
- Supports PostgreSQL, EDB Advanced Server & GreenPlum Database
- Can run as a desktop app or support multiple users over the web
- Designed as a framework with plugin architecture to allow easy extensibility

# Audience

- Aimed at Postgres DBAs and developers
- ~91K unique users of pgAdmin 4:
  - Between 15 - 20 October 2017
  - Based on unique IP addresses checking for upgrades
  - Does not include those with upgrade check disabled or on air-gapped networks
- 2M+ downloads per year
  - pgAdmin III and 4
  - Based on EDB PostgreSQL Installer downloads and pgAdmin downloads
  - Does not include RPMs etc

# Direction

“To provide the best possible PostgreSQL user experience for DBAs and developers”

- Continue to enhance features, functionality and performance
- Provide a platform for smaller or more specialised tools to plug into to provide a common user experience for Postgres users
- Moving towards a more agile development model
- Employing more “professional” techniques:
  - User driven development through interviews, discussion panels etc. where possible
  - Dedicated UI/UX designers

# Technical Issues

- Not enough hours in the day!
- Serious issues often arise from 3rd party software:
  - Unfixed bugs in wxWidgets were a driving factor in abandoning pgAdmin III
  - Serious performance issues and other bugs in QtWebEngine caused a big reputation problem for early versions of pgAdmin 4
- Very difficult to find people to work on packaging
- Testing can be extremely difficult:
  - We have many automated tests, but Selenium testing can be slow
  - Many browser, OS, Python and DB server combinations to test (and for bugs to lurk in)

# Community Issues

- A small but very vocal group of user prefer pgAdmin III to pgAdmin 4:
  - They are unhappy that we decided not to implement some features from pgAdmin III
  - They disagree with our technology choices (yet have never contributed)
  - They expect us to build what they want (for free) because they shout loudly
  - The atmosphere on the lists has sometimes become quite toxic, causing some of us to wonder if we should continue contributing
- But...
  - The number of emails we receive, both publicly and privately, thanking us for our work and telling us how much they like pgAdmin 4 makes it all worthwhile