

# Сдвигаем тестирование БД влево



Николай Самохвалов

[nik@postgres.ai](mailto:nik@postgres.ai)



Postgres.ai

# Свежая версия данных слайдов

<https://bit.ly/pgday2021>

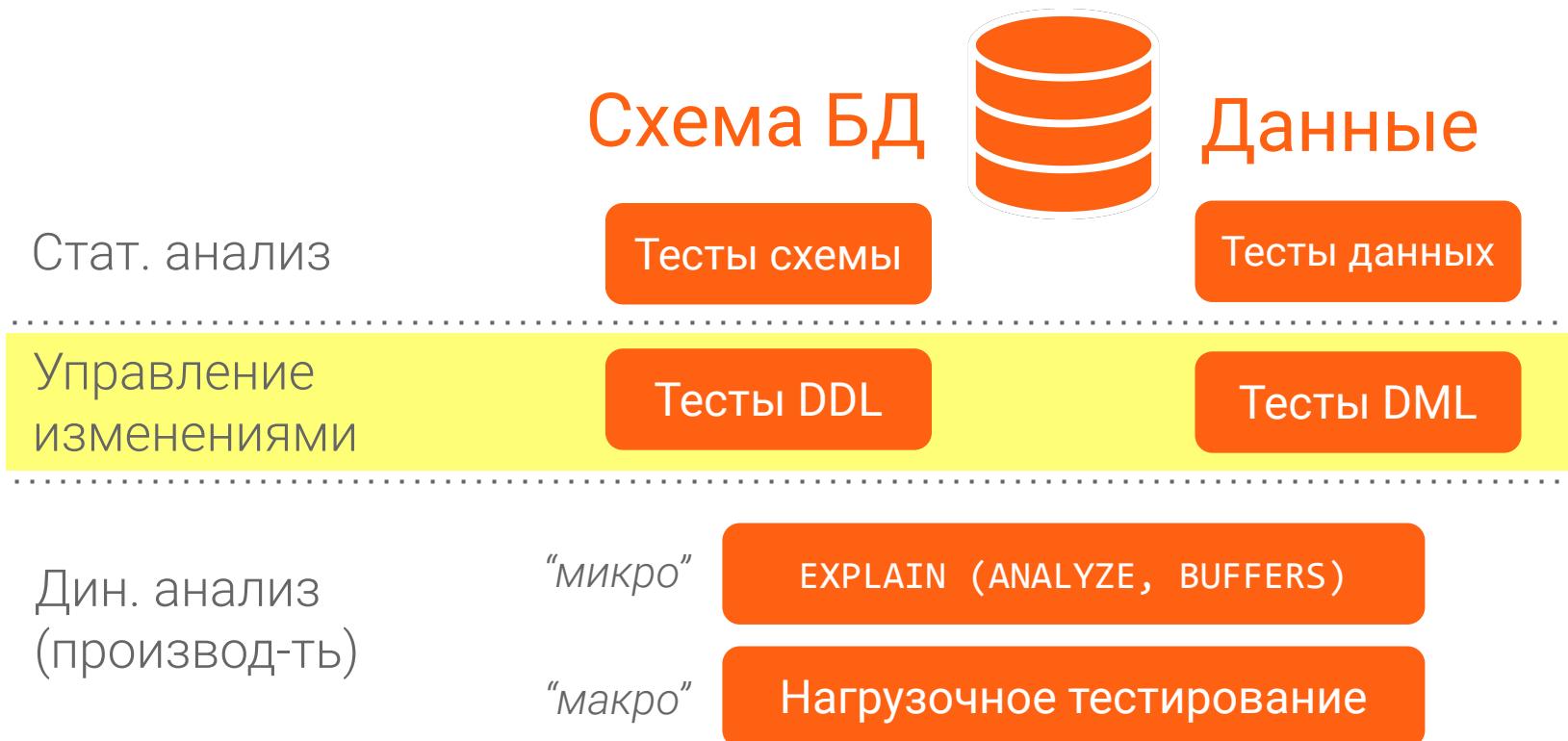
(комментирование открыто!)



# Some examples of failures due to lack of testing

- Incompatible changes – production has different DB schema than dev & test
- Cannot deploy – hitting **statement\_timeout** – too heavy operations
- During deployment, we've got a failover
- Deployment lasted 10 minutes, the app was very slow (or even down)
- Two weeks after deployment, we realize that the high bloat growth we have now has been introduced by that deployment
- Deployment succeeded, but then we have started to see errors

# Ландшафт тестирования БД (только dev-часть)



# “Меняйся или умри”

НО: Изменения → больше рисков получить сбой

Миграции БД (DDL, DML) – риски:

- Ухудшение поведения систем (locking issues, resource saturation)
- Ошибки и/или деградация производительности после изменения
- Сбой выкатки (некорректное изменение, упираемся в квоты и т.д.)

# Reliable database changes – the hierarchy of needs

Actual, realistic testing

Extremely few

Review and approval process (manual)

Some

Test DO and UNDO in CI, on an empty or small synthetic DB

Many

Version control for DB changes: Git & Flyway / Sqitch / Liquibase / smth else

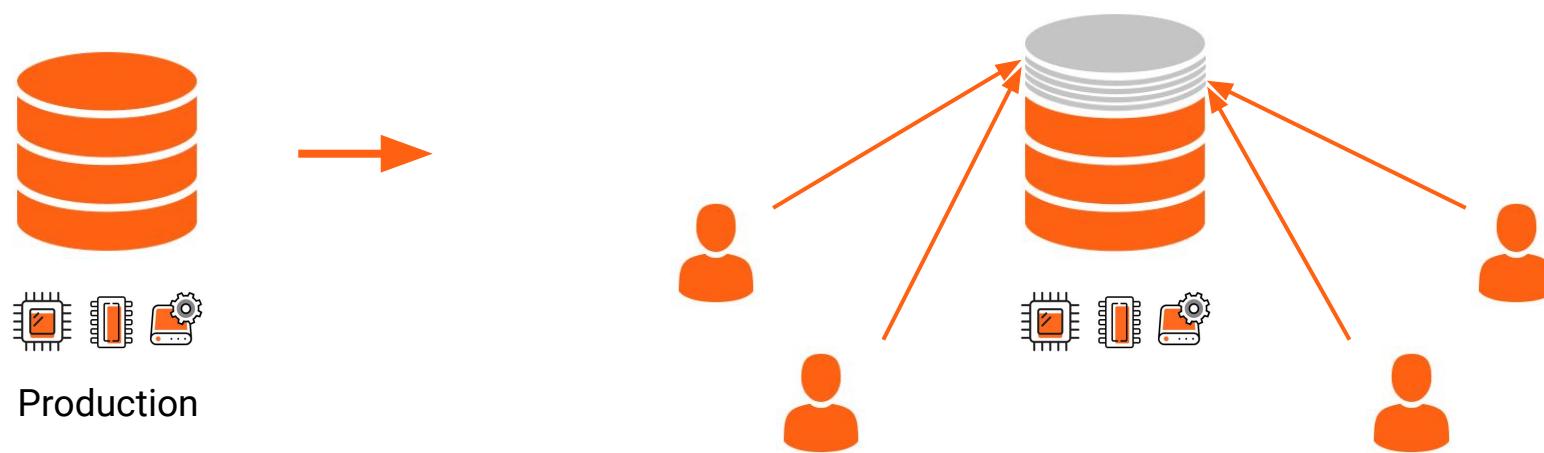
All

# Traditional DB experiments – thick clones



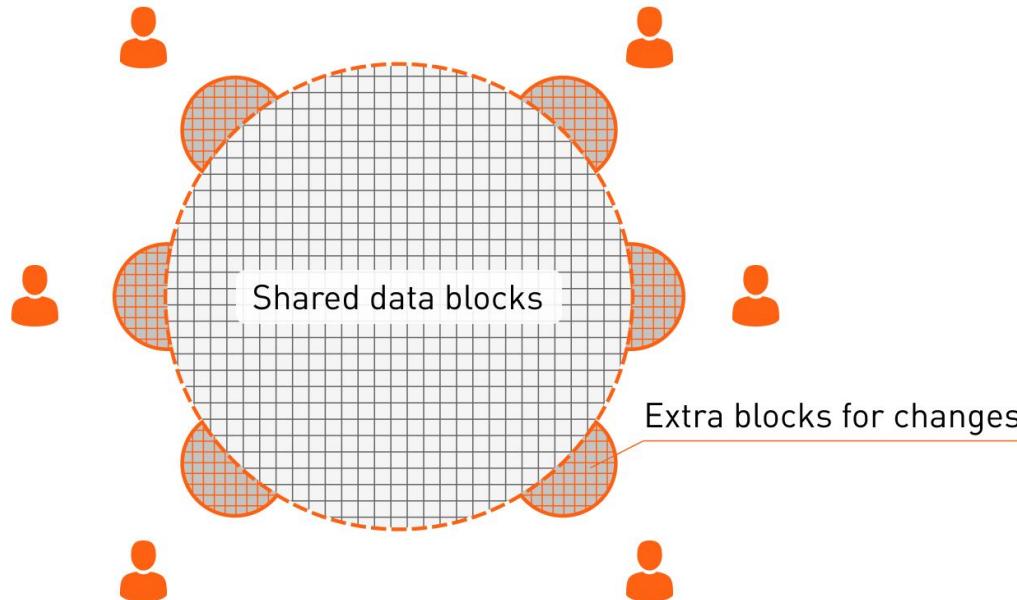
"1 database copy – 10 persons"

# Database Lab: use *thin* clones



"1 database copy – 1 person"

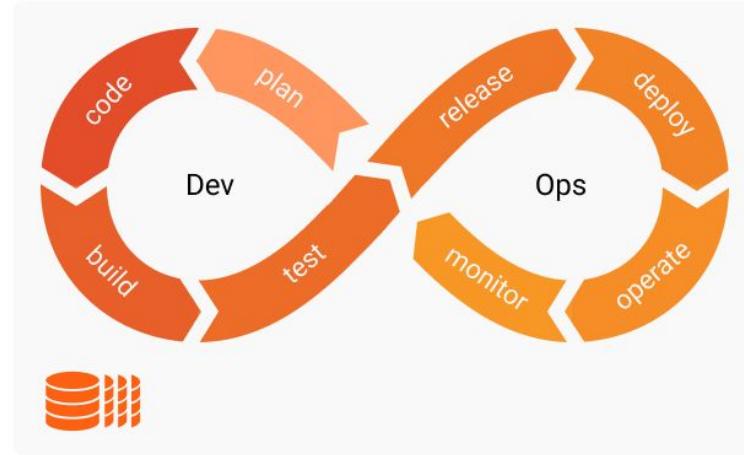
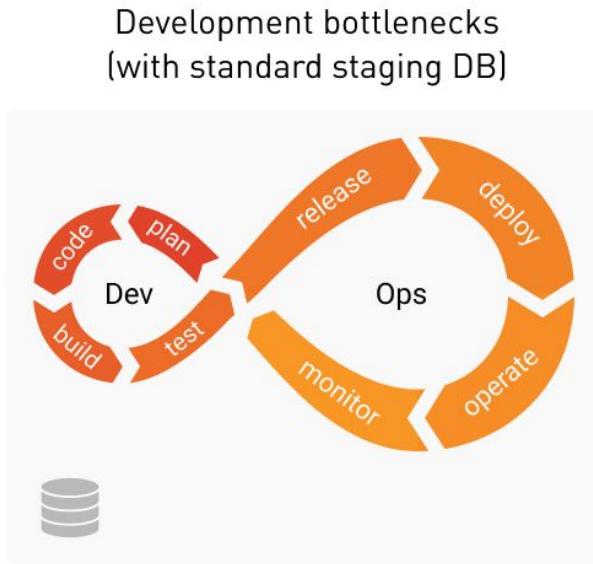
# “Thin clones” – Copy-on-Write (CoW)



● Thick copy of production (any size)

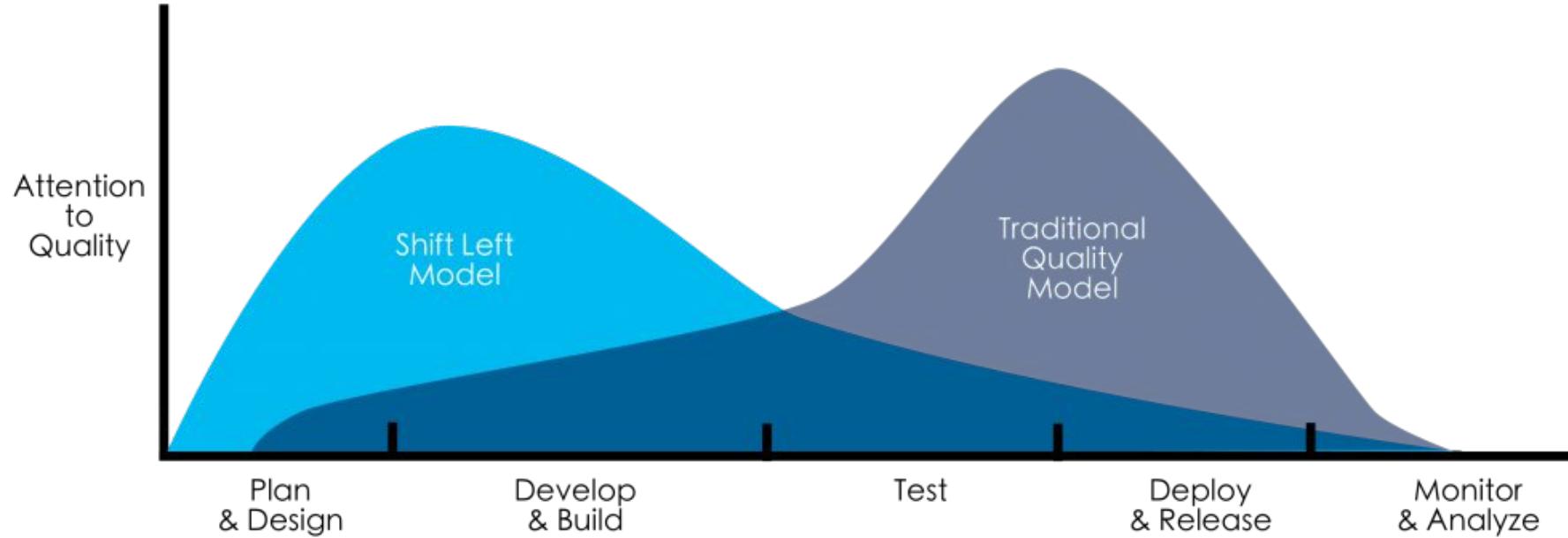
● Thin clone (size starts from 1 MB, depends on changes)

# Database Lab unlocks “Shift-left testing”



- ✗ Bugs: difficult to reproduce, easy to miss
- ✗ Not 100% of changes are well-verified
- ✗ SQL optimization is hard
- ✗ Each non-prod big DB costs a lot
- ✗ Non-prod DB refresh takes hours, days, weeks

- ✓ Bugs: easy to reproduce, and fix early
- ✓ 100% of changes are well-verified
- ✓ SQL optimization can be done by anyone
- ✓ Non-prod DB refresh takes seconds
- ✓ Extra non-prod DBs doesn't cost a penny



<https://devopedia.org/shift-left>

# Для каких тестов БД подходят тонкие клоны?

ДА

- Check execution plan – Joe bot
  - EXPLAIN w/o execution
  - EXPLAIN (ANALYZE, BUFFERS)
    - (timing is different; structure and buffer numbers – the same)
- Check DDL
  - index ideas (Joe bot)
  - auto-check DB migrations (CI Observer)
- Heavy, long queries: analytics, dump/restore
  - No penalties!  
(think hot\_standby\_feedback, locks, CPU)



НЕТ

- Load testing
- Execution time check (exact)

# Database Lab – Open-core model



## The Database Lab Engine (DLE)

Open-source (AGPLv3)

- Thin cloning – API & CLI
- Automated provisioning and data refresh
- Data transformation, anonymization
- Supports managed Postgres (AWS RDS, etc.)

<https://gitlab.com/postgres-ai/database-lab>

## The Platform (SaaS)

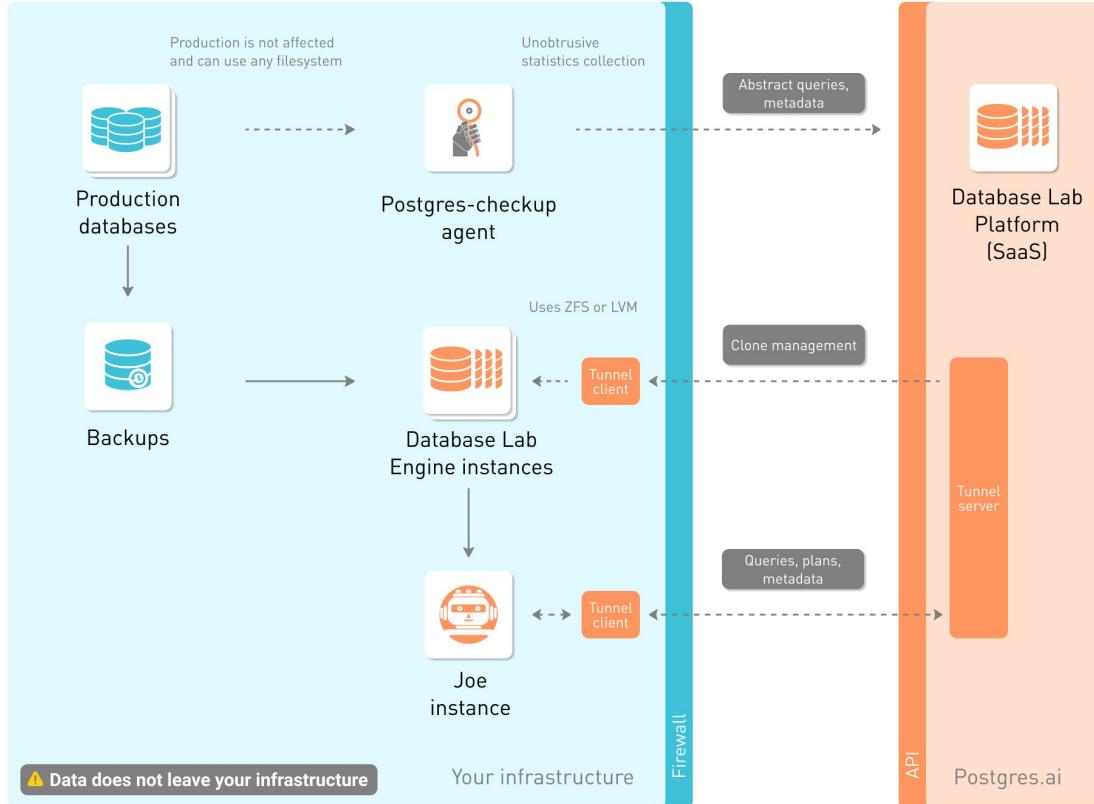
Proprietary (freemium)

- Web console – GUI
- Access control, audit
- History, visualization
- Support

<https://postgres.ai/>

^^ use these links to start using it for your databases ^^

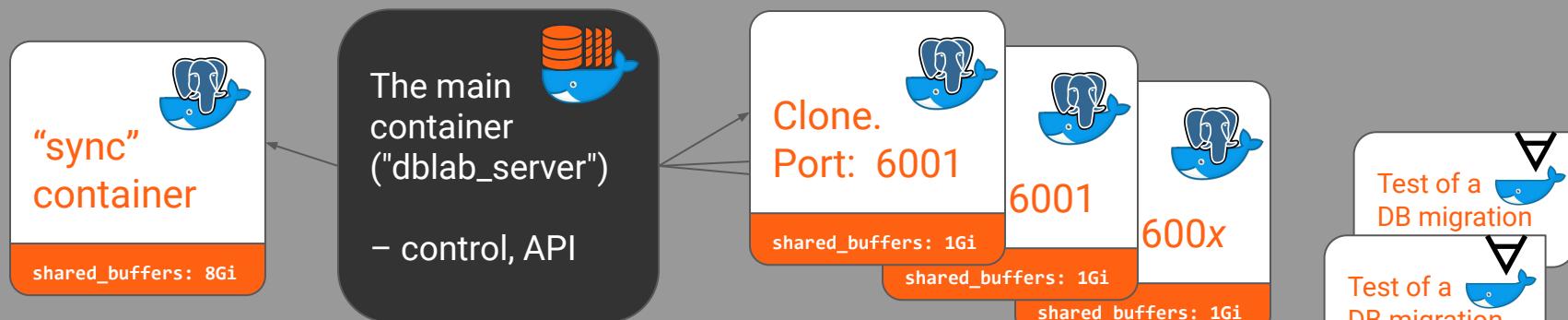
# Database Lab – a high-level overview (with SaaS)



→ Data flow

--> Metadata flow (clone management, query plans, etc.)

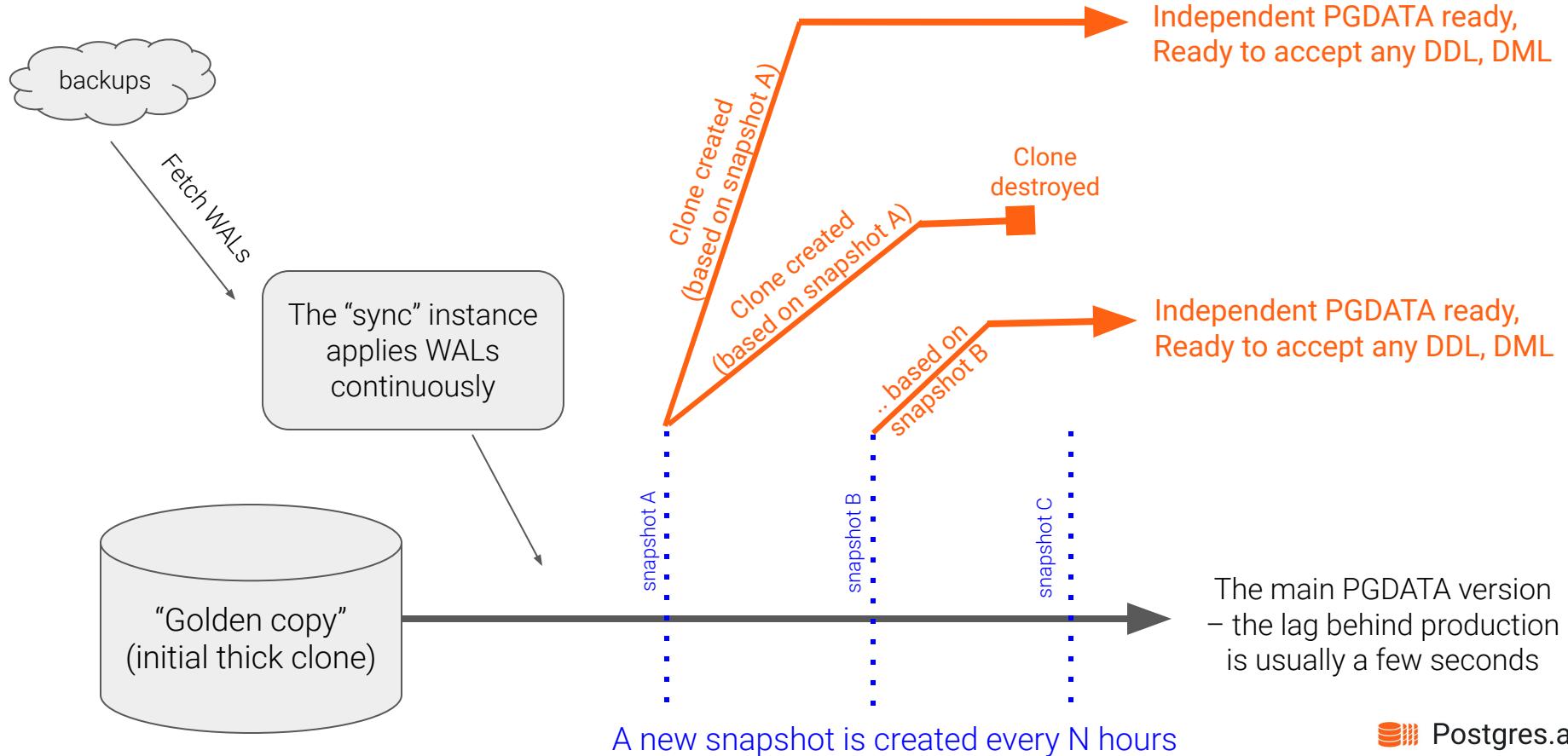
# Inside the Database Lab Engine 2.x



Shared cache (OpenZFS: ARC): 50% of RAM

1 (or N) physical disk(s) + CoW support

# DLE – the data flow (physical mode)



# How snapshots are created (ZFS version)

- Create a “pre” ZFS snapshot (R/O)
- Create a “pre” ZFS clone (R/W)
- DLE launches a temporary “promote” container
  - If needed, performs “preprocessing” shell scripts (optional)
  - Uses “pre” clone to run Postgres and promote it to primary state
  - If needed, performs “preprocessing” SQL queries (optional)
  - Performs a clean shutdown of Postgres
- Create a final ZFS snapshot that will be used for cloning

# Major topics of automated (CI) testing on thin clones

- Security

<https://postgres.ai/docs/platform/security>

- Capturing dangerous locks

CI Observer: <https://postgres.ai/docs/database-lab/cli-reference#subcommand-start-observation>

- Forecast production timing

Timing estimator: <https://postgres.ai/docs/database-lab/timing-estimator>

# Making the process secure: where to place the DLE?

*PII here*

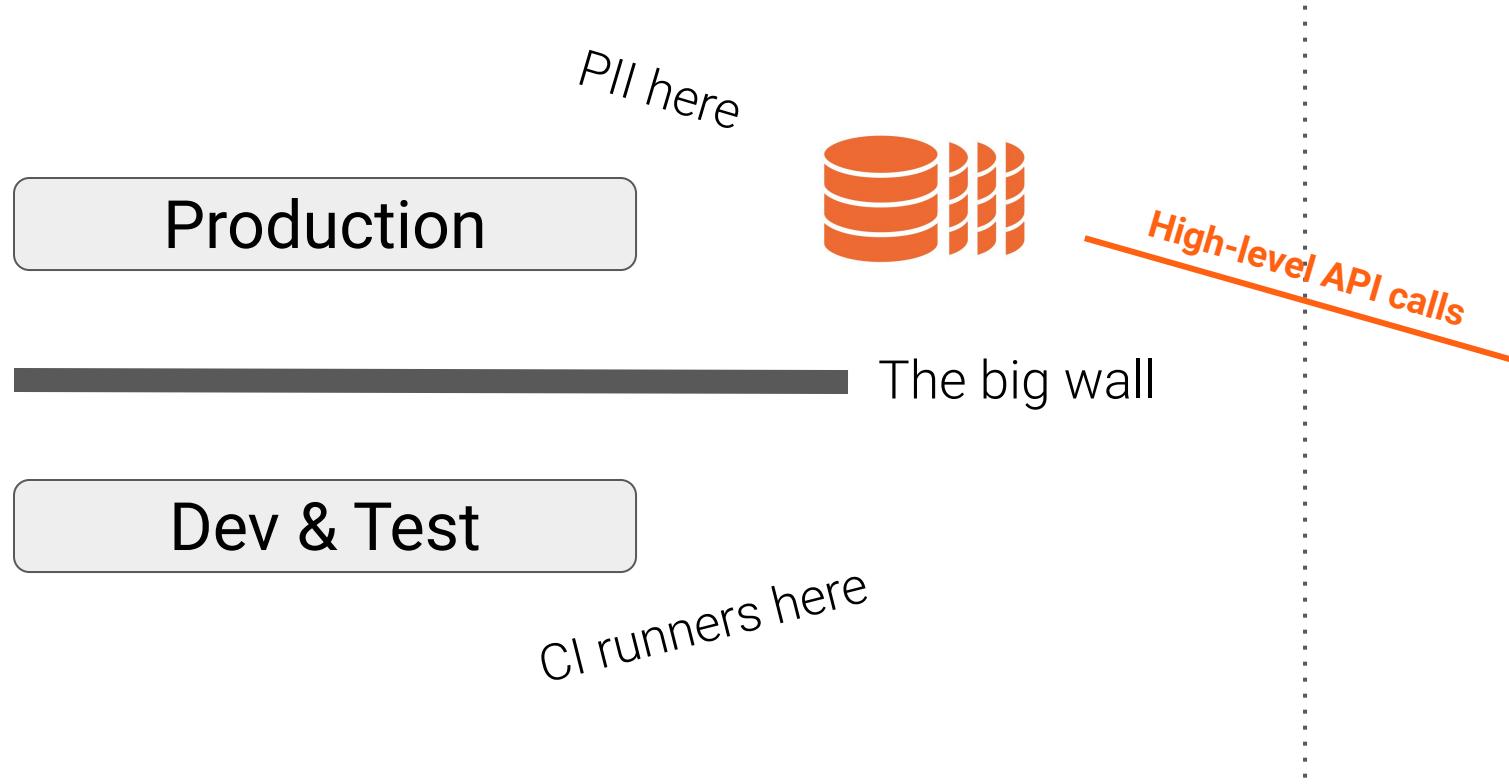
Production

The big wall

Dev & Test

*CI runners here*

# DLE as part of production



GitHub

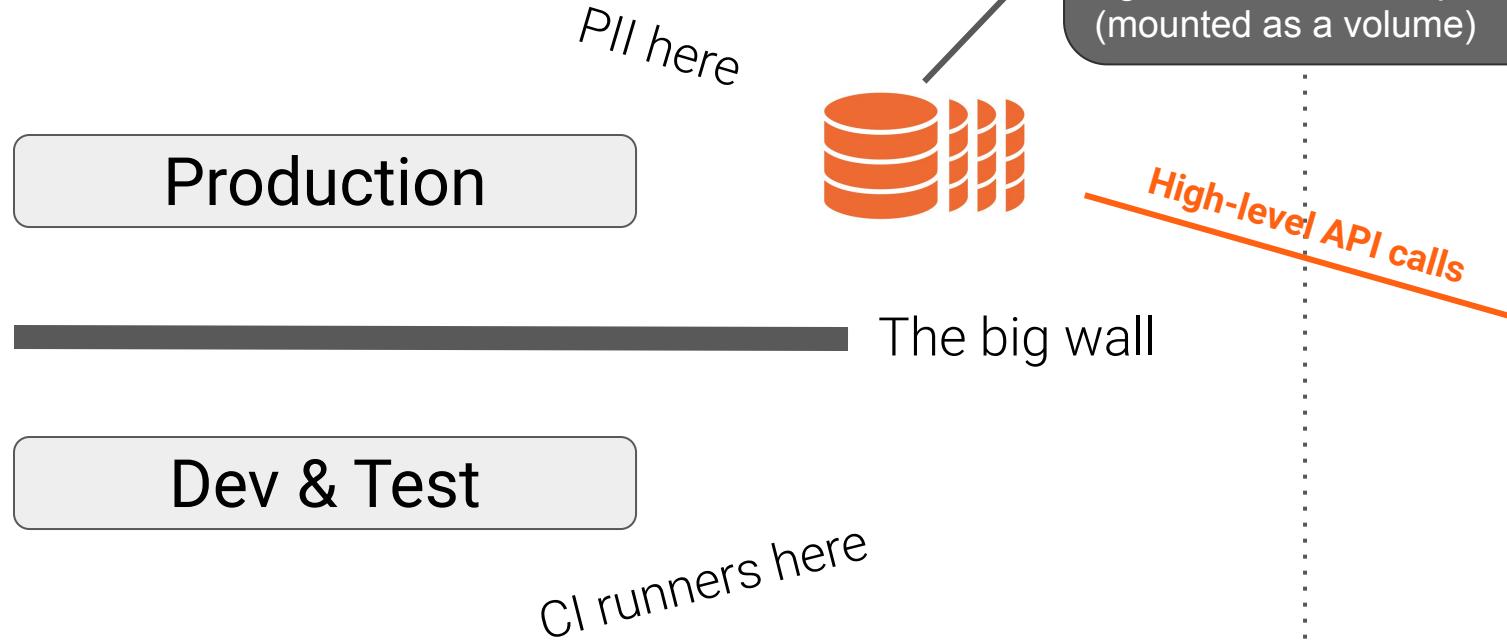


GitLab



Jenkins

# DLE as part of production



GitHub



GitLab



Jenkins

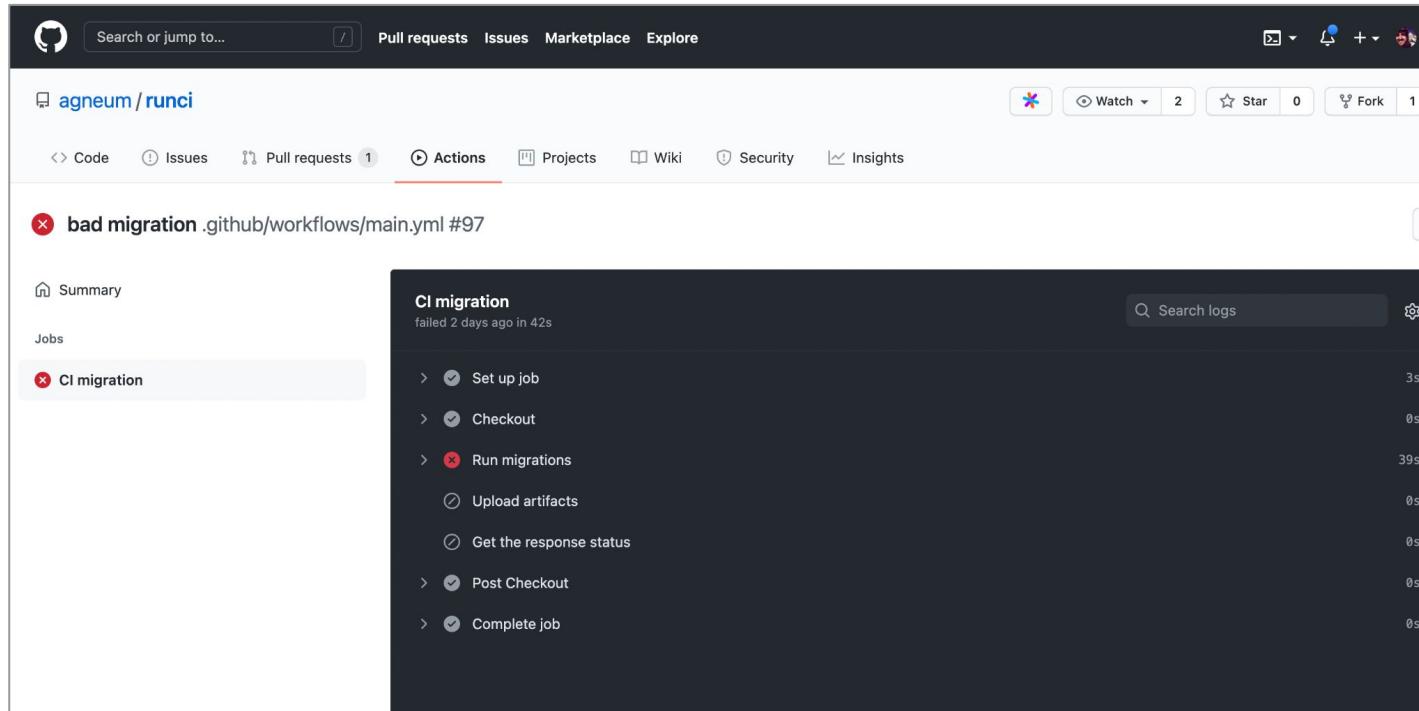
# DB testing: Engineering vs. Legal

1. EXPLAIN (ANALYZE, BUFFERS)
  2. DB migration check
    - a. manual
    - b. in CI
  3. Product testing
  4. DBA's benchmarks
- 
- what can (has to) be done with raw production data, containing PII?

# How it looks like: CI part

Example: GitHub Actions:

[https://github.com/agneum/runci/runs/2519607920?check\\_suite\\_focus=true](https://github.com/agneum/runci/runs/2519607920?check_suite_focus=true)



The screenshot shows a GitHub Actions run page for the repository `agnenum/runci`. The run is identified by the ID `2519607920` and has the URL `https://github.com/agnenum/runci/runs/2519607920?check_suite_focus=true`. The run status is **bad migration**, and it failed 2 days ago in 42s. The workflow file is `.github/workflows/main.yml`, specifically the `#97` job.

The left sidebar shows the `Summary` and `Jobs` sections. The `Jobs` section is expanded, showing the `CI migration` job. This job has a status of **bad migration**.

The main content area displays the `CI migration` job log. The steps are listed as follows:

- >  Set up job 3s
- >  Checkout 0s
- >  Run migrations 39s
  - Upload artifacts 0s
  - Get the response status 0s
- >  Post Checkout 0s
- >  Complete job 0s

A search bar labeled `Search logs` is located at the top right of the log area.

# Postgres.ai SaaS

Postgres.ai Console β

Nikolay

This is a Demo organization, once you've explored Database Lab features: [Create new organization](#)

Organization [Switch](#)

Demo

Dashboard

Database Lab

Instances

Observed sessions

SQL Optimization

Ask Joe BOT

History

Checkup

Reports

Settings

General

Members

Access tokens

Billing

Audit

Documentation

Ask support

Organizations / Demo / Database Lab observed sessions

Database Lab observed sessions Experimental

Status	Session	Project/Instance	Commit	Checklist	Created
Passed	#352	-/-	pgbench-account-index/b98e2978e93ca6ef9527aec762d275bc9f52c9a5	✓✓✓	45s ago by NikolayS
Passed	#351	-/-	pgbench-account-index/b696bf5cd75188eb0f9c21bd3f2297a424547d7e	✓✓✓	43s ago by agneum
Failed	#350	-/-	pgbench-account-index/18c91f6a50cb5b8c6df7466b5a0fb0c0779b880d8	✗✓✓	2s ago by agneum
Failed	#349	-/-	pgbench-account-index/bea1571746ce48552eebb3e3b33fb9d346971bb9	✓✗✓	27s ago by agneum
Passed	#348	-/-	master/ee898e6ae8b0fdbb3351d1ea79a3698015a861a3	✓✓✓	3s ago by agneum
Passed	#347	-/-	set-up-workflow/c4d2432aa6f39a7aeb02e5ae7729b1ee68ea4c85	✓✓✓	3s ago by agneum

# Postgres.ai SaaS

## Database Lab observed sessions Experimental

Status	Session	Project/Instance	Commit	Checklist	
<span>Passed</span>	#352	-/-	pgbench-account-index/b98e2978e93ca6ef9527aec762d275bc9f52c9a5	✓ ✓ ✓	⌚ 45s 🕒 created 21 minutes ago by NikolayS
<span>Passed</span>	#351	-/-	pgbench-account-index/b696bf5cd75188eb0f9c21bd3f2297a424547d7e	✓ ✓ ✓	⌚ 43s 🕒 created 5 hours ago by agneum
<span>Failed</span>	#350	-/-	pgbench-account-	✗ ✓ ✓	⌚ 2s 🕒 created 5 hours ago by



## Summary

Status: ✖ Failed

Session: #349

Project: -

DLE instance: -

DLE version: 2.4.0-beta.3-3-g8b57d6d-20210707-0301

Data state at: 2021-07-07 11:39:05 UTC

Duration: 27s

Created: 6 hours ago

Branch: pgbench-account-index

Commit: [bea1571746ce48552eebbee3b33fb9d346971bb9](#)

Triggered by: agneum (akartasov)

PR/MR: -

Changes: -

## Checklist

✓ Passed overall\_success

✖ Failed Dangerous locks are not observed during the session  
(3 intervals with locks of 10 allowed)

✓ Passed Session duration is within allowed interval  
(spent 27s of the allowed 10m)

## Observed intervals and details

Show intervals ▾



## test -- this should fail

pgbench-account-in...



62554c7

Re-run jobs

## .github/workflows/main.yml

on: push

## CI migration

## CI migration

failed 24 minutes ago in 58s

Search logs

...

## DB migrations checker with DLE

50s

```
73     "warning": "  
74         {"datname": "test_small", "relation": "16780", "transactionid": null, "mode": "AccessExclusiveLock", "locktype": "relation", "granted": true,  
75             "username": "ci_NikolayS", "query": "create index ***concurrently*** bid_idx on pgbench_accounts(bid);", "query_start": "2021-07-  
08T14:08:50.276435+00:00", "state": "active", "wait_event_type": "LWLock", "wait_event": "WALWriteLock", "xact_start": "2021-07-  
08T14:08:50.276435+00:00", "xact_duration": "00:00:18.398015", "query_start": "2021-07-  
08T14:08:50.276435+00:00", "query_duration": "00:00:18.398017", "state_change": "2021-07-  
08T14:08:50.276438+00:00", "state_changed_ago": "00:00:18.398015", "pid": 44}\n",  
76     },  
77     {  
78         "started_at": "2021-07-08T14:09:08.675785043Z",  
79         "duration": 8.688464841,  
80         "warning": ""  
81     },  
82     ],  
83     "summary": {  
84         "total_duration": 29.056247725,  
85         "total_intervals": 3,  
86         "warning_intervals": 2,  
87         "checklist": {  
88             "overall_success": true,  
89             "session_duration_acceptable": true,  
90             "no_long_dangerous_locks": false  
91         }  
92     }  
93 }
```



Postgres.ai

# Case study: GitLab.com, testing database changes using Database Lab

- Full automation
- GitLab CI/CD pipelines securely work with Database Lab
- Database Lab clones ~14 TiB database in ~15 seconds

More:

- [https://docs.gitlab.com/ee/architecture/blueprints/database\\_testing/](https://docs.gitlab.com/ee/architecture/blueprints/database_testing/)
- <https://postgres.ai/resources/case-studies/gitlab>



Dmytro Zaporozhets (DZ) @dzaporozhets · 1 week ago

@abrandl as per !54466 (comment 511910471) can you please review this merge request?

Owner



gitlab-org/database-team/gitlab-com-database-testing @project\_278964\_bot2 · 1 week ago

Maintainer

## Database migrations

Migrations included in this change have been executed on gitlab.com data for testing purposes. For details, please see the [migration testing pipeline](#) (limited access). Note that this includes pending migrations from master .

Migration	Total runtime	Result	DB size change
20210215144909	1.2 s		+0.00 B
20210218105431	0.6 s		+0.00 B

### Migration: 20210215144909

- Duration: 1.2 s
- Database size change: +0.00 B

### Migration: 20210218105431

- Duration: 0.6 s
- Database size change: +0.00 B

Query	Calls	Total Time	Max Time	Mean Time	Rows
ALTER TABLE "ci_builds" DROP COLUMN "artifacts_file" /*application:test*/	1	12.9 ms	12.9 ms	12.9 ms	0
***					

## Artifacts

- Database testing statistics
- Database Lab Instance



# More about production timing estimation

Experimental, WIP: <https://postgres.ai/docs/database-lab/timing-estimator>

```
estimator:  
  readRatio: 1  
  writeRatio: 1  
  profilingInterval: 20ms  
  sampleThreshold: 100
```

% time	seconds	wait_event
57.30	17.715111	IO.DataFileRead
25.53	7.893916	Running
3.55	1.097738	IO.DataFileExtend
2.55	0.787341	LWLock.WALWriteLock
2.25	0.696663	IO.BufFileRead
2.14	0.662457	IO.BufFileWrite
2.12	0.654081	IO.WALInitWrite
1.62	0.499461	IO.WALInitSync
1.09	0.335660	IO.WALWrite
0.98	0.301637	IO.DataFileImmediateSync
0.81	0.250249	IO.WALSync
0.07	0.020805	LWLock.WALBufMappingLock
100.00	30.915119	



## Summary:

Time: 3.148 s

- planning: 0.168 ms
- execution: 3.147 s (estimated\* for prod: 2.465...2.693 s)
  - I/O read: 627.267 ms
  - I/O write: 3.644 ms



## Shared buffers:

- hits: 1016393 (~7.80 GiB) from the buffer pool
- reads: 16395 (~128.10 MiB) from the OS file cache, including disk I/O
- dirtied: 16395 (~128.10 MiB)
- writes: 280 (~2.20 MiB)

# Summary – available in PR/MR and visible to whole team

- When, who, status
- Duration (in the Lab + estimated for production)
- Size changes, new objects
- Dangerous locks
- Error stats
- Transaction stats
- Query analysis summary
- Tuple stats
- WAL generated, checkpointer/bgwriter stats
- Temp files stats

Example (WIP): <https://gitlab.com/postgres-ai/database-lab/-/snippets/2083427>

# More artifacts, details – restricted access

- System monitoring (resources utilization)
- pg\_stat\_\*
- pg\_stat\_statements, pg\_stat\_kcache
- logerrors
- Postgres log
- pgBadger (html, json)
- wait event sampling
- perf tracing, flamegraphs; or eBPF
- Estimated production timing

<https://gitlab.com/postgres-ai/database-lab/-/issues/226>

# Database Lab Roadmap

<https://postgres.ai/docs/roadmap>

- Lower the entry bar
  - Simplify installation // Terraform: <https://gitlab.com/postgres-ai/database-lab-infrastructure/>
  - Simplify the use
  - Easy to integrate
  - \*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\*

# С чего начать

[Postgres.ai/docs/](https://Postgres.ai/docs/)

Вопросы – телеграм: [t.me/databaselabru](https://t.me/databaselabru)

# Спасибо!

Телеграм (RU): [t.me/databaselabru](https://t.me/databaselabru)

Twitter: [@samokhvalov](https://twitter.com/@samokhvalov) & [@Database\\_Lab](https://twitter.com/@Database_Lab)

Email: [nik@postgres.ai](mailto:nik@postgres.ai)

# Extra slides

# О докладчике: Николай Самохвалов

- СУБД
  - 2002-2005:



- since 2005:



- Типа данных и функции XML в Постгресе (2005-2007)
- «Общественная» деятельность – [#RuPostgres](#), [Postgres.tv](#)



- ПК конференций [highload++](#) [Backend Conf 2019](#) [PGIBZ](#) и т.д.
- Главное:  [Postgres.ai](#)



- amplify the database engineering power using new tools for database development, testing, and management



GitLab

CHEWY.COM

miro

NUTANIX

QIWI

CDEK

=B

UNGRES



Postgres.ai

# We need better tools

---

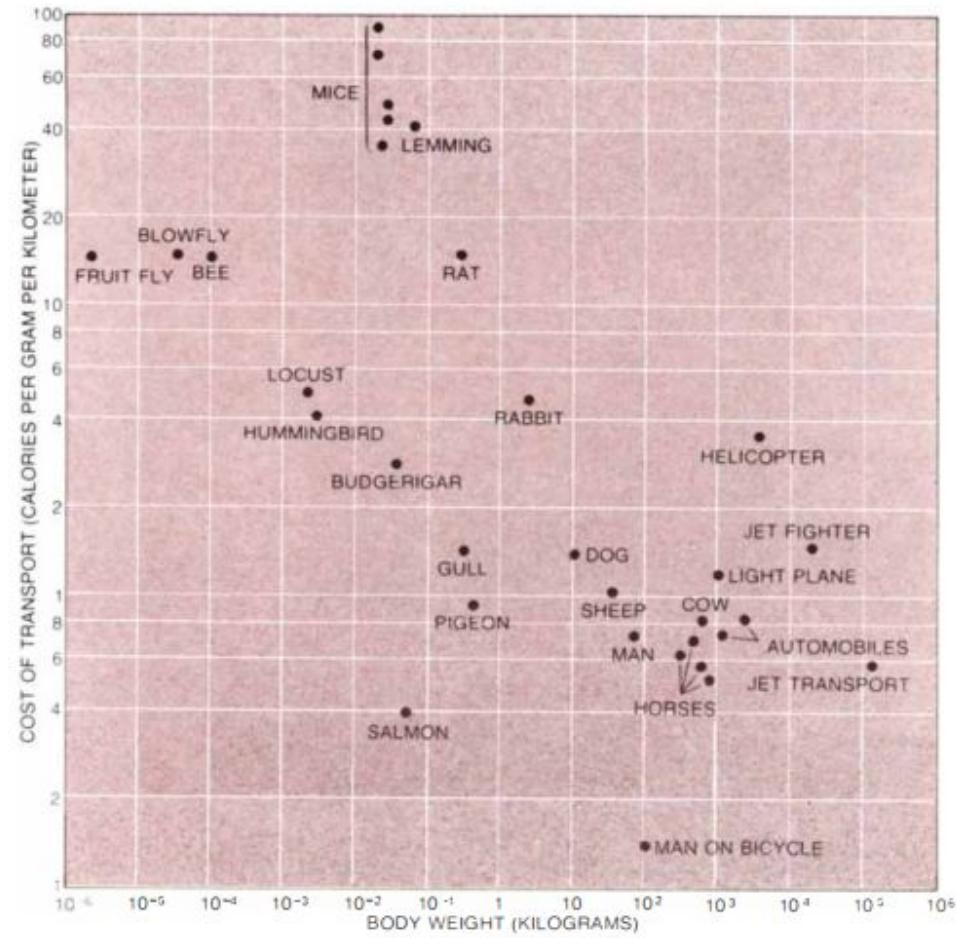
# SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN



BICYCLE TECHNOLOGY

ONE DOLLAR

March 1973



# Steve Jobs (1980)

- 1) We, humans, are great tool-makers.  
We amplify human abilities.



- 2) Something special happens  
when you have 1 computer and 1 person.

It's very different than having 1 computer and 10 persons.

# DB migration testing – “stateful tests in CI”

What we want from testing of DB changes:

- Ensure the change is valid
- It will be executed in appropriate time
- It won't put the system down

...and:

- What to expect? (New objects, size change, duration, etc.)

# Perfect Lab for database experiments

- Realistic conditions – as similar to production as possible
  - The same schema, data, environment as on production
  - Very similar background workload
- Full automation
- “Memory” (store, share details)
- Low iteration overhead (time & money)
- Everyone can test independently
  - allowed to fail → allowed to learn*



# Database experiments with Database Lab today (2021)

- Realistic conditions – as similar to production as possible
  - The same schema, data, environment as on production
  - ~~- Very similar background workload~~
- Fine automation
- “Memory” (store, share details)
- Low iteration overhead (time & money)
- Everyone can test independently
  - able to fail → able to learn



# Why Database Lab was created

- Containers, OverlayFS (file-level CoW)
  - Cl: `docker pull ... && docker run ...`
    - OK only for tiny (< a few GiB) databases
- Existing solutions: Oracle Snap Clones, Delphix, Actifio, etc.  
\$\$\$\$, not open
  - OK only for very large enterprises

# Companies that do need it today

- 10+ engineers
- Multiple backend teams (or plans to split soon)
- Microservices (or plans to move to them)
- 100+ GiB databases
- Frequent releases