

Enterprise Postgres Growth in Japan

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This talk explores why Japan was such an early adopter of Postgres, and how Japanese developers move Postgres forward.

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Outline

1. Outsider
2. Early years
3. Domestic use
4. Global engagement

1. Outsider



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/giuseppemilo/>

Alexis de Tocqueville

- French political philosopher
- Visited the United States for nine months in 1831-1832
- Wrote *Democracy in America*
- “Tocqueville saw democracy as an equation that balanced liberty and equality, concern for the individual as well as for the community.”
- Saw the USA clearer than native citizens, still quoted today



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexis_de_Tocqueville

2. Early Years



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/dharma-bum/>

Tatsuo Ishii

- Started with Postgres in 1991 (five years before me)
- Wrote first Postgres book in 1998
- Helped create the first Postgres user group

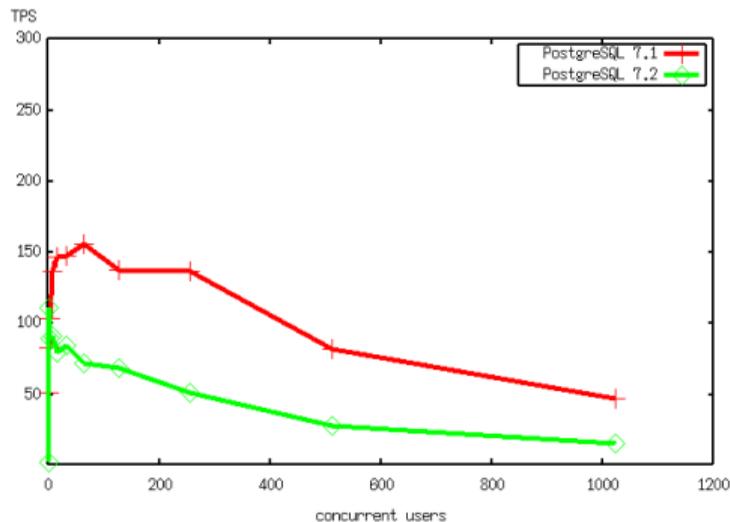


https://postgresql.life/post/tatsuo_ishii/

<https://pgsqlpgpool.blogspot.com>

Re: 7.2 is slow?

- December 2001 report from Ishii-san
- 2x slower than Postgres 7.1
- Quad-CPU-socket server
- What are the Japanese doing with Postgres?



<https://www.postgresql.org/message-id/flat/20011217133001.A90515%40i1se.nl#f4435b953e2572301fda525cb5a33da4>

My First Visit to Asia

My first:

- Visit to Asia, December 2000
- Postgres conference
- Postgres interview, “Would you say that PostgreSQL is now ready for e-business?”
- Met Ruby author Yukihiro Matsumoto



(left to right) Hiroshi Inoue, me, Tatsuo Ishii

<https://lwn.net/2001/features/Momjian/>

The Jerry Lewis Period

- USA entertainer who became more popular outside his country
- Will I ever know why Postgres is popular in Japan?
- Does Japan represent the future of other countries?



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerry_Lewis

<https://www.straightdope.com/21342501/do-the-french-really-love-jerry-lewis>

3. Domestic Use



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/meenaghd/>

Japan PostgreSQL User Group (JPUG)

- Mailing list started in 1996 by Ishii-san
- Organization formed in 1999
- Non-profit formed in 2006
- Manage mailing list and hold regular events in Japan



Ship-board event in October 2006

- Employed me from 2001 to 2006
- Created Pgpool in 2003
- Developed a commercial version of Postgres for Windows
 - contributed that code to help with the community port in 2003
- Created SRA OSS in 2005



Fujitsu

- March 2003 meeting at Fujitsu to discuss adding tablespace control to Postgres
- Finally added in 2005
- Fujitsu used Postgres source code in its Syfoware product
- Fujitsu Australia Software Technology (FAST)
- Eventually developed their own version of Postgres



- Ranked 43rd in Forbes Global 2000 for 2021
- Created the NTT OSS Center for Postgres in 2003
- Developed many tools for Postgres
 - <https://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/NTT>
 - <https://github.com/ossc-db>

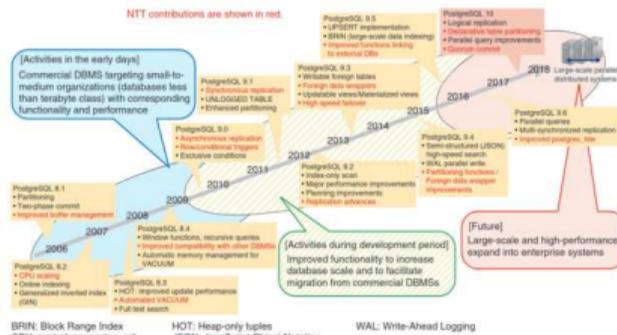


Fig. 1. Contributions to PostgreSQL development.

https://www.rd.ntt/e/sic/team_researchers/team/251.html

<https://www.ntt-review.jp/archive/ntttechnical.php?contents=ntr201802fa5.html>

Domestic Use Trends

- Software is global, not controlled by a single country or company
- Effective multi-character set support
- Focus on Japan domestic usage
- Easy for companies to create closed-source products for the Japanese market (e.g., SRA, Fujitsu) or customize for internal use (e.g., NTT)
- Tooling for Postgres developed by mostly Japanese teams (e.g., Pgpool)

4. Global Engagement



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mujitra/>

First Postgres Conference Outside of Japan



https://www.postgresql.org/files/community/conference06/conference_group.html

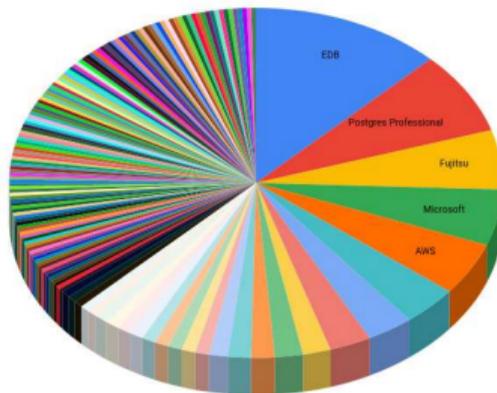
15% from Japan; Toronto, July 2006

Global Engagement Challenges

- Flat organizational structure
- English language communication
- Distance
- Time zone differences

Postgres 13 Success

Code contributors to Postgres by company (PostgreSQL.org + PG 15 Release Notes) without personal or freelancers



- EDB
- Postgres Professional
- Fujitsu
- Microsoft
- AWS
- Crunchy Data
- VMWare
- NTT DATA
- Dalibo
- Timescale
- HighGo
- Neon
- Cybertec
- Adjust
- Credativ
- Google
- Kontur
- Materialize
- NTT
- Red Hat
- SRA OSS
- Yugabyte
- Aiven
- Instaclustr
- Loxodata
- pganalyze
- PostgreSQL Experts
- AD Parts
- Analytics Engines
- Anastigmatix
- Apple
- Arcion Labs
- Arenadata
- Atos
- Avaya
- Axians NL
- Bank of China
- BCL
- Betsys
- Betterment
- Bigbank
- Blacksmith Applications
- Braintree
- Caesars Digital
- Capital Rx
- Capsico Health
- CdC
- Citus Data
- Clearco
- Cockroach Labs
- Code Synthesis Tools
- Codice Lieve
- Cofano Software Solutions
- Coinbase
- Conova Communications GmbH
- CrateDB
- CRSCube
- Data Egret
- dbi services
- Deutsche Telecom
- Dext
- DockYard
- Doctolib
- DuckDB Labs
- EdgeDB
- End Point Corp
- Entelect
- EPAM Systems
- Fivetran
- Forest Management Institute
- Garner
- Gentoo
- GLS Bank
- GTT
- HeteroDB
- HP
- IBM
- ILande
- Illuminated Computing
- Index
- Instructure
- Intel
- 62 more

Sarah Conway, EDB

Postgres 14 Success

- 18% of Postgres features were developed by people from Japan
- 17% of current Postgres committers are from Japan

<https://www.postgresql.org/docs/14/release-14.html>

<https://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/Committers>

Global Engagement Trends

- Japanese developers operating on the global stage
 - receiving training
- Japanese companies influencing database server development, e.g., high availability

Conclusion



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<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ineedair/>