

How to reason about Indexing your Postgres database

What We'll Talk About Today

- 1.** The Good (and Bad) of Indexes
- 2.** How Postgres Chooses Which Index To Use
- 3.** Four Ingredients for Making A Good Index
- 4.** A methodology for finding "Good Enough" indexes
- 5.** Automation with the new pganalyze Index Advisor
- 6.** Q&A





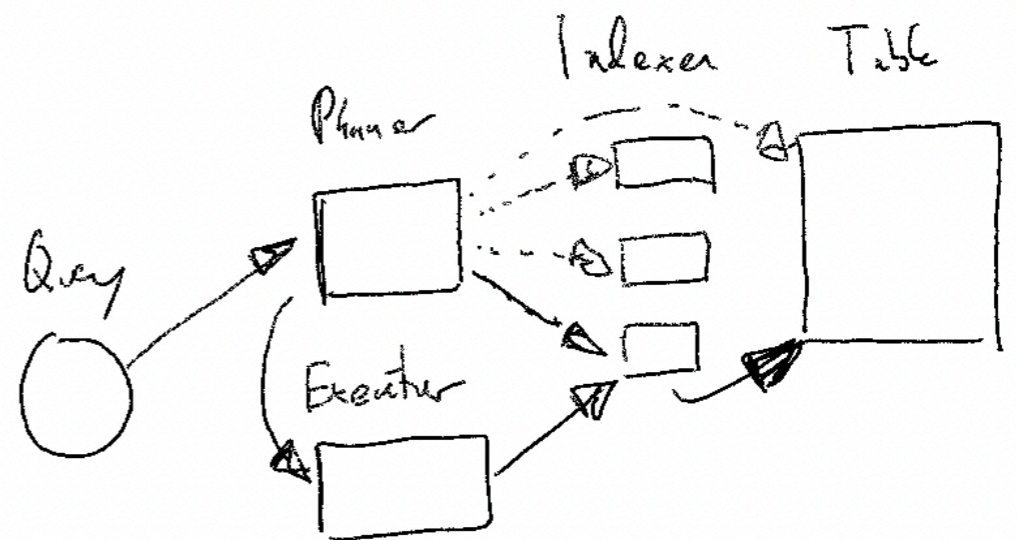
The Good (and Bad) of Indexes

Basic Facts

Indexes are a per-table caching data structure

Different index types have different structures and search algorithms

The Postgres planner decides which index to use based on its cost model



The Good

Postgres automatically updates Indexes for us

Indexes can make it faster to find relevant rows of a table

Sometimes indexes can return the data directly from the index (Index Only Scan)

The Bad

Indexes need to be updated as the data in the table is updated

Too many indexes, or overly complex indexes, will slow down your writes (and use disk space)

Adding indexes can prevent HOT (Heap-Only Tuple) updates, making writes even more expensive



How Postgres Chooses Which Index To Use

Which Query Can Use Which Existing Index?

	Query #1	Query #2	Query #3	Query #4
Existing Index A	XXX	(X)		
Existing Index B		XXX		
Existing Index C			XXX	

Legend: XXX = best index, (X) usable but not the best

Which Query Can Use Which Existing Index?

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11
IDX 1	XXX	(X)									
IDX 2						XXX					
IDX 3					XXX			XXX	XXX		XXX
IDX 4		XXX							(X)	(X)	
IDX 5			XXX								

Legend: XXX = best index, (X) usable but not the best

Four Ways To Scan A Table (and/or an Index)

Sequential Scan: Read table sequentially, until all requested results are found (no index being used).

Bitmap Index/Heap Scan: Produce a bitmap of all matching table entries (using one or more indexes), and then read the table via the bitmap.

Index Scan: Find the matching data directly in one index, and go to the table to find extra columns being requested, and check MVCC visibility.

Index Only Scan: Get all data directly from the index (no data lookups from the table). In some cases use table to check MVCC visibility.



Bitmap Heap Scan on public.tbl (cost=2691.86 .. **441387.45** rows=227539 width=738) (actual ...)

Recheck Cond: ((tbl.col1 = '123'::bigint) AND (...))

Heap Blocks: exact=414

Buffers: shared hit=1743 read=12796 dirtied=223

I/O Timings: read=1991.582

→ **Bitmap Index Scan on table_idx** (cost=0.00 .. **2634.97** rows=227539 width=0) (...)

Index Cond: (tbl.col1 = '123'::bigint)

Buffers: shared hit=4 read=33

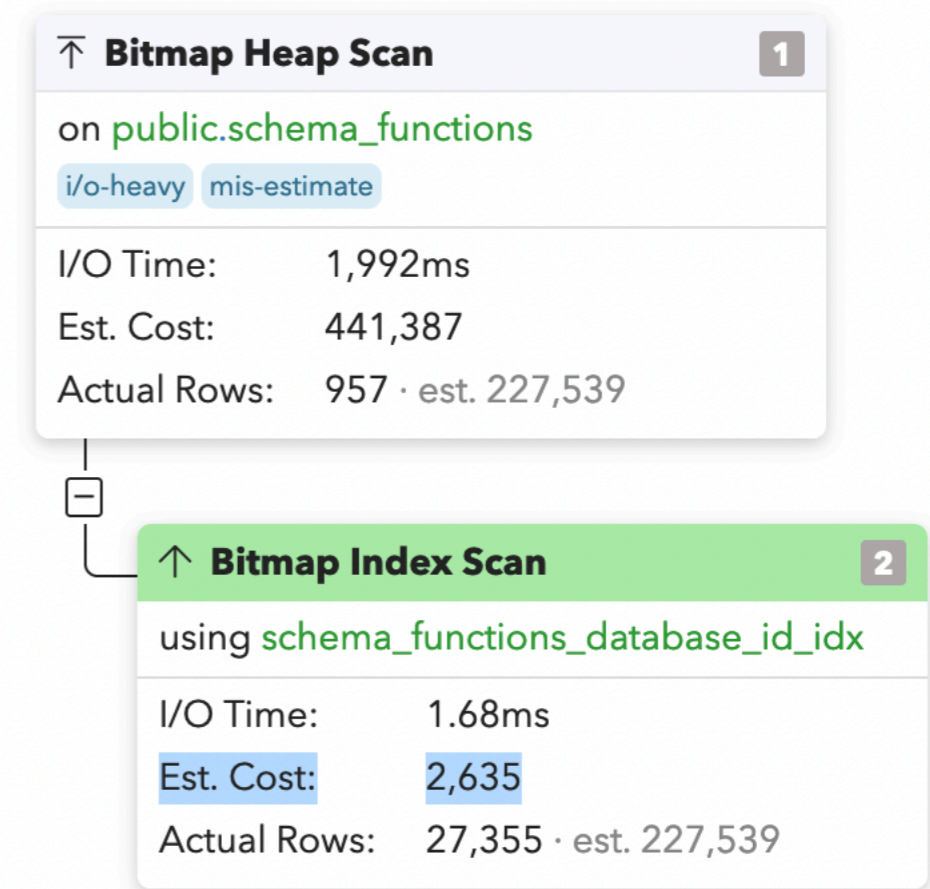
I/O Timings: read=1.680

Cost

EXPLAIN plans show the cost of each plan node

Costs are a heuristic calculated by the planner

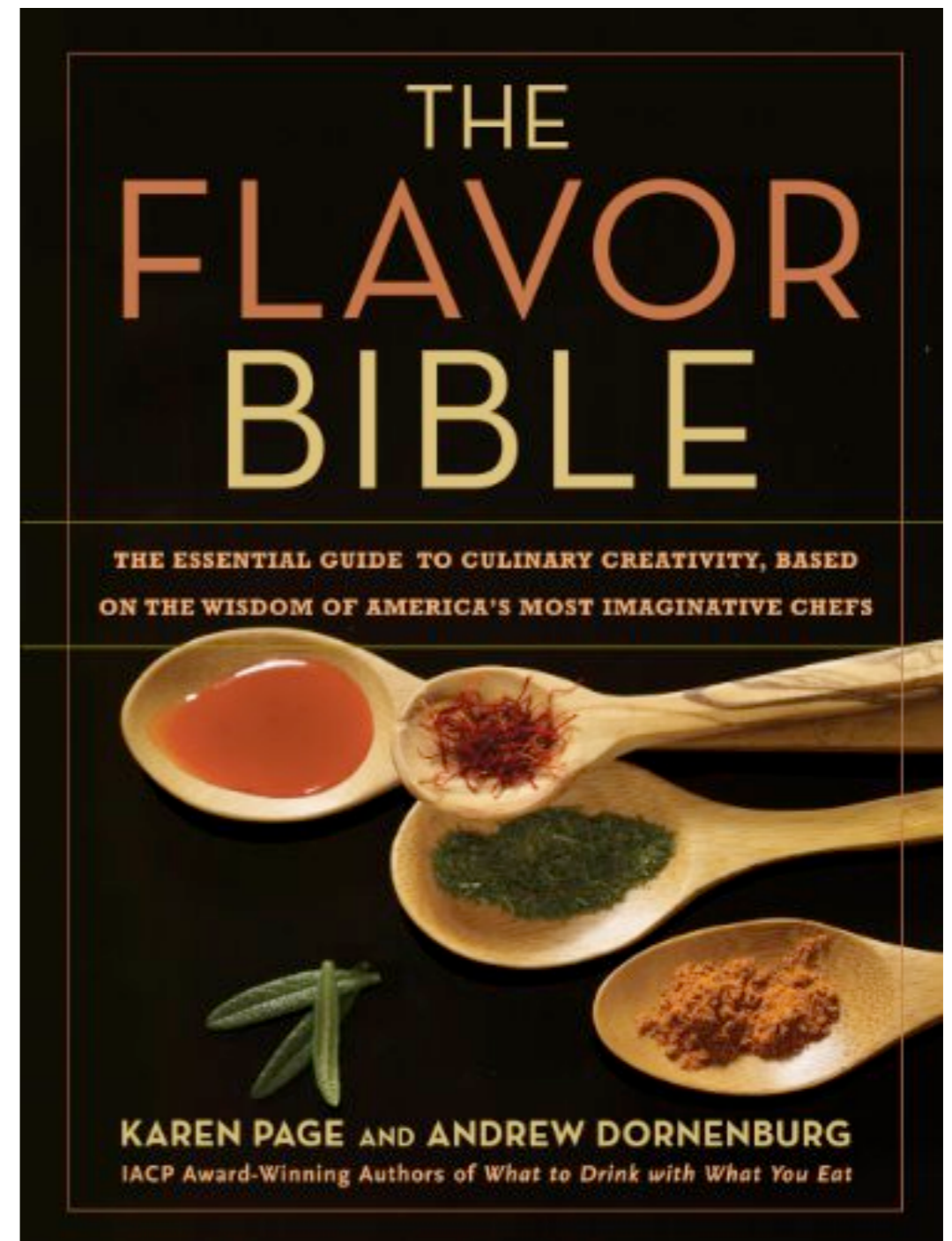
Costs decide which index gets used (if any)





Four Ingredients for Making A Good Index

The Essential Guide
To **Indexing** Creativity



1. Breaking Down Queries Into Scans



```
SELECT inventory_items.id
  FROM warehouses
  JOIN inventory_items USING (warehouse_id)
 WHERE warehouse.location_state = 'CA'
        AND inventory_items.tags @> ARRAY['milk']
 ORDER BY inventory_items.expires_at ASC
 LIMIT 10
```



```
--- inventory_items scan
SELECT id
  FROM inventory_items
 WHERE warehouse_id = $n
        AND inventory_items.tags @> ARRAY['milk']
 ORDER BY inventory_items.expires_at ASC
 LIMIT 10;

--- warehouses scan
SELECT warehouse_id
  FROM warehouses
 WHERE warehouse_id = $n
        AND location_state = 'CA'
```

Are JOIN clauses indexable?

```
FROM warehouses  
JOIN inventory_items USING (warehouse_id)
```

```
FROM warehouses  
WHERE warehouse_id = $n
```

```
FROM inventory_items  
WHERE warehouse_id = $n
```

It depends! (On the JOIN type)

Hash Join: Doesn't need sorted output, and doesn't use the JOIN clause to restrict the data when scanning the table

Merge Join: Needs sorted output from the scan node (thus can benefit from a sorted index like B-tree), but doesn't use the JOIN clause to restrict the data when scanning the table

Nested Loop Join: Doesn't need sorted output from the scan node, but **for one of the two tables** uses the JOIN clause to restrict the data when scanning the table

2. Turning Scans Into Index Elements

Index Elements

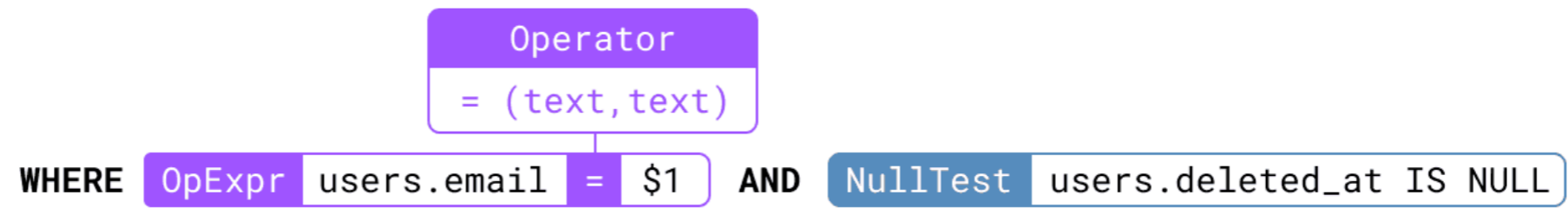
```
CREATE INDEX ON users USING btree (email) WHERE deleted_at IS NULL
```

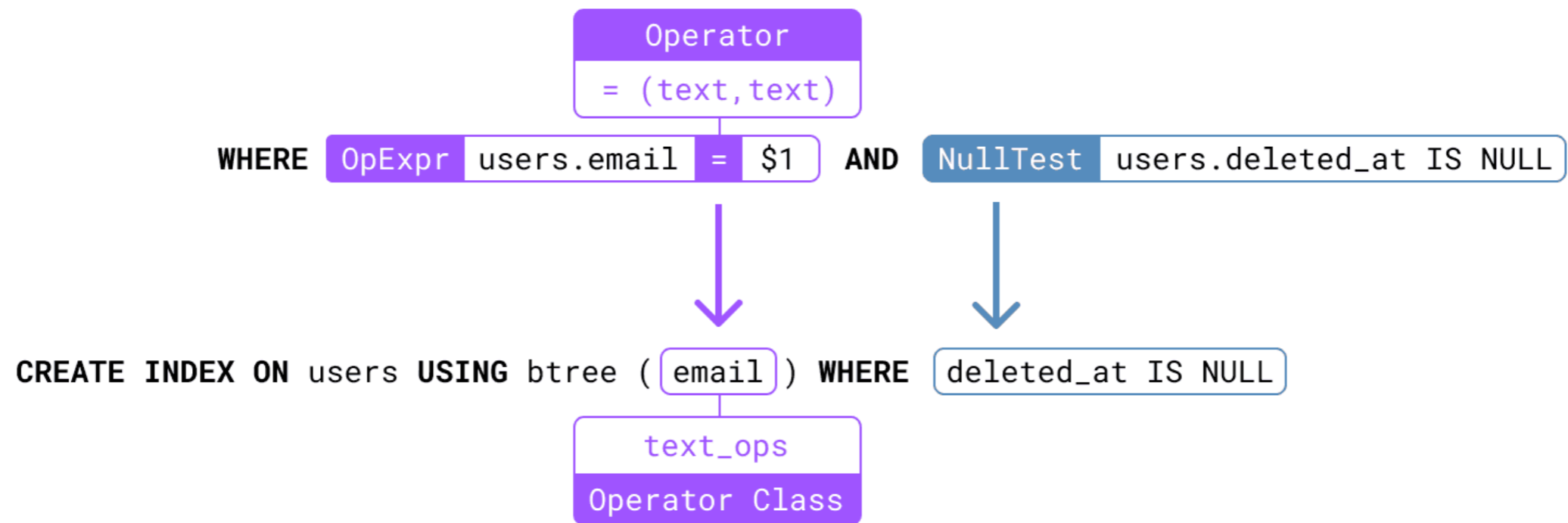
text_ops
Operator Class



```
/* Postgres source - src/include/nodes/parsenodes.h */

/*
 * IndexElem - index parameters (used in CREATE INDEX, and in ON CONFLICT)
 *
 * For a plain index attribute, 'name' is the name of the table column to
 * index, and 'expr' is NULL. For an index expression, 'name' is NULL and
 * 'expr' is the expression tree.
 */
typedef struct IndexElem
{
    NodeTag    type;
    char       *name;          /* name of attribute to index, or NULL */
    Node       *expr;         /* expression to index, or NULL */
    char       *indexcolname; /* name for index column; NULL = default */
    List       *collation;    /* name of collation; NIL = default */
    List       *opclass;      /* name of desired opclass; NIL = default */
    List       *opclassopts; /* opclass-specific options, or NIL */
    SortByDir  ordering;      /* ASC/DESC/default */
    SortByNulls nulls_ordering; /* FIRST/LAST/default */
} IndexElem;
```







```
// Equality operator
```

```
SELECT * FROM users WHERE email = $1;
```

```
// ⇒ B-Tree index element: email
```

```
//
```

```
// Single column index: CREATE INDEX ON users USING btree (email);
```

```
SELECT * FROM users WHERE email = $1 AND organization_id = $2;
```

```
// ⇒ B-Tree index element: email
```

```
// ⇒ B-Tree index element: organization_id
```

```
//
```

```
// Multi-column index: CREATE INDEX ON users USING btree (organization_id, email);
```

```
// Range overlap operator (&&)
```

```
SELECT * FROM timeranges WHERE seen_at_range && tstzrange($2, $3);
```

```
// ⇒ GIST index element: seen_at_range
```

```
//
```

```
// Single column index: CREATE INDEX ON timeranges USING gist (seen_at_range);
```

Indexing **ORDER BY + LIMIT**

B-Tree indexes are sorted

Order matters - trailing columns should match ORDER BY

Index lookup can keep the sort order

Avoids an explicit Sort step at runtime

No need to load all matching rows

When a LIMIT is present and the ORDER BY matches, it limits how much data is retrieved from the index

Additional considerations

Partial indexes

Expression indexes

INCLUDE index columns

3. Generating Multi-Column Index Combinations



*„Multicolumn indexes should be used **sparingly**. In most situations, an index on a single column is sufficient and saves space and time.“*

- POSTGRES DOCUMENTATION ON MULTICOLUMN INDEXES

Multi-Column for B-Tree

Lead with index elements referenced in a clause through an equality operator (e.g. "col = \$1"), followed by all other elements.

Within that set of elements, sort by selectivity (more selective parameters are ordered first).

Other Index Types

GIST: Sort elements by number of distinct values in the table (more distinct elements are ordered first)

GIN: Indexed columns have equal weight (but its often too expensive to index multiple columns)

BRIN: Indexed columns have equal weight

Hash: Multi-column indexes not supported

4. Modeling I/O Overhead

Index Size

For a given index, we can estimate its hypothetical size with heuristics

Estimation based on the data types used and the number of index entries

Similar to how bloat estimation queries show you the expected size of an existing index

```
/* -----  
 * quick estimating of index size.  
 * Each B-tree index tuple contains:  
 *  
 * - sizeof(ItemIdData): 4 (after page header)  
 * - sizeof(IndexTupleData): 8 (index tuple)  
 * - actual data size based on each key's average  
 *  
 * For this estimation it is assumed all  
 * values are not NULL.  
 *  
 * Additionally, the following data is  
 * present once in each page:  
 *  
 * - sizeof(PageHeader) : 24  
 * - sizeof(BTPageOpaqueData): 16  
 *  
 * for calculating fill of index pages this uses  
 *  
 * fillfactor parameter, or default fillfactor  
 * fixed additional bloat: 20%  
 */  
line_size = ind_avg_width +  
MAXALIGN(sizeof(IndexTupleData)) +  
sizeof(ItemIdData);  
  
usable_page_size = BLCKSZ -  
SizeOfPageHeaderData -  
sizeof(BTPageOpaqueData);  
  
bloat_factor = (200.0  
 - (fillfactor == 0 ? BTREE_DEFAULT_FILLFACTOR  
 + additional_bloat) / 100);  
  
entry->pages = (BlockNumber)  
(entry->tuples * line_size *  
bloat_factor / usable_page_size);
```

Table Writes

INSERT and UPDATE statements involving the table you're indexing will be slowed down

If its a very busy, write-heavy table, add new indexes carefully

```
SELECT relname, n_tup_ins + n_tup_upd
FROM pg_stat_user_tables
ORDER BY 2 DESC;
```

relname	?column?
snapshot_benchmarks	2612081919
snapshots	2100837321
queries	575963537
schema_indices	480640469
schema_columns	470930261
query_stats_35d_20220614	445560822
query_stats_35d_20220609	443129148
query_stats_35d_20220608	441617161
query_stats_35d_20220601	441287771
query_stats_35d_20220531	440735110
query_stats_35d_20220607	440513863
query_stats_35d_20220602	438787367
query_stats_35d_20220525	436720065
query_stats_35d_20220524	435440884
query_stats_35d_20220613	435251212
query_stats_35d_20220526	434236159
query_stats_35d_20220606	434046609
query_stats_35d_20220610	432917410
query_stats_35d_20220527	431926732
query_stats_35d_20220523	430703041
query_stats_35d_20220603	430184241
query_stats_35d_20220519	423875277
query_stats_35d_20220518	421547720
query_stats_35d_20220517	420719082
query_stats_35d_20220512	419632624
query_stats_35d_20220520	418601716
query_stats_35d_20220530	418508256
query_stats_35d_20220511	418450087
query_stats_35d_20220513	413823246
query_stats_35d_20220516	413656384
query_stats_35d_20220615	410649512
query_stats_35d_20220604	389391391

Index Write Overhead

Complex multi-column indexes are more expensive

Indexing text columns is more expensive than indexing integer columns

What if we could quantify the overhead on write activity, instead of just index size?

Indexes	
Definition	Index Write Overhead
Total Index Write Overhead ⓘ 0.75	
btree (id)	0.03
btree (database_id, severity) WHERE (state <> 2)	0.00
btree (reference_type, reference_id)	0.10
btree (server_id, "check", grouping_key) WHERE (state <> 2)	0.02
btree (server_id)	0.06
btree (server_id, "check")	0.14
btree (database_id, "check")	0.12
btree (organization_id, "check")	0.14
btree (server_id, severity) WHERE (state <> 2)	0.01
btree ("check")	0.10
btree (database_id)	0.04



```
CREATE TABLE customers (  
  id bigserial PRIMARY KEY,  
  name text,  
  organization_id bigint  
);  
  
CREATE INDEX customer_organization_id_idx ON customers (organization_id);  
  
# Index write overhead = index_entry_size / table_row_size  
  
table_row_size = \  
  23 + # Heap tuple header  
  4 + # Heap item ID  
  4 + # size of bigserial  
  50 + # avg_width of text  
  4 # size of bigint  
⇒ 85 # bytes  
  
index_entry_size = \  
  8 + # Index entry header  
  4 # size of bigint  
⇒ 12 # bytes  
  
# Index write overhead = 0.14 (12.0 / 85.0)  
#  
# “for 1 byte of table data, we will write 0.14 bytes to the index”
```



A methodology for finding “Good Enough” indexes

What **New Index** Could Improve Our Query Performance?

	Scan #1	Scan #2	Scan #3	Scan #4
Existing Index A	XXX	(X)		
Existing Index B		XXX		
Existing Index C			XXX	
New Index	10x faster			50x faster

Legend: XXX = best index, (X) usable but not the best

“What If?” Analysis

We could actually create the index.
But that's expensive for many index ideas.

Are there any alternatives?



Using HypoPG for Hypothetical Indexes

Postgres extension that's supported on most cloud platforms

HypoPG doesn't actually create the index

Estimates its theoretical size and tricks the planner into providing an EXPLAIN



```
CREATE EXTENSION hypopg;
```

```
SELECT * FROM hypopg_create_index('CREATE INDEX ON hypo (id)');
```

indexrelid	indexname
18284	<18284>btree_hypo_id

(1 row)

```
EXPLAIN SELECT val FROM hypo WHERE id = 1;
```

QUERY PLAN

Index Scan using <18284>btree_hypo_id on hypo (cost=0.04..8.06 rows=1 width=10)
Index Cond: (id = 1)

(2 rows)

```
SELECT indexname, pg_size_pretty(hypopg_relation_size(indexrelid))
```

```
FROM hypopg_list_indexes ;
```

indexname	pg_size_pretty
<18284>btree_hypo_id	2544 kB

(1 row)

Indexing as a Set Covering Problem

Which Index Should We Choose?

	Scan #1 (col1=\$1)	Scan #2 (col1=\$1 AND col2=\$2)	Scan #3 (col2=\$1)	Scan #4 (col3=\$1)
IDX1 (col1) IWO=0.1	15x faster	2x faster		
IDX2 (col1, col2) IWO=0.2	3x faster	10x faster	3x faster	
IDX3 (col2) IWO=0.1		9x faster	3x faster	
IDX4 (col3) IWO=0.1				50x faster

Greedy Set Covering Algorithm

First, take the set that covers the most elements

Then, take the set that covers the most remaining elements

Keep going until all elements are covered

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
10x 1	X	X		
10x 2		X		
10x 3			X	
NEW 10x faster				50x faster

Hypothetical Index + Greedy SCP = problem solved?

	Scan #1 (col1=\$1)	Scan #2 (col1=\$1 AND col2=\$2)	Scan #3 (col2=\$1)	Scan #4 (col3=\$1)
IDX1 (col1) IWO=0.1	15x faster	2x faster		
IDX2 (col1, col2) IWO=0.2	3x faster	10x faster	3x faster	
IDX3 (col2) IWO=0.1		9x faster	3x faster	
IDX4 (col3) IWO=0.1				50x faster

Hypothetical Index + Greedy SCP = problem solved?

	Scan #1 (col1=\$1)	Scan #2 (col1=\$1 AND col2=\$2)	Scan #3 (col2=\$1)	Scan #4 (col3=\$1)
IDX1 (col1) IWO=0.1	15x faster	2x faster		
IDX2 (col1, col2) IWO=0.2	3x faster	10x faster	3x faster	
IDX3 (col2) IWO=0.1		9x faster	3x faster	
IDX4 (col3) IWO=0.1				50x faster

Did we miss out on a **faster** index? Yes, we did.

	Scan #1 (col1=\$1)	Scan #2 (col1=\$1 AND col2=\$2)	Scan #3 (col2=\$1)	Scan #4 (col3=\$1)
IDX1 (col1) IWO=0.1	15x faster	2x faster		
IDX2 (col1, col2) IWO=0.2	3x faster	10x faster	3x faster	
IDX3 (col2) IWO=0.1		9x faster	3x faster	
IDX4 (col3) IWO=0.1				50x faster

Eliminate Bad Index Options First

If a potential index is **50%** worse (or more), eliminate that scan/index combination from consideration **before** running the Greedy SCP algorithm.

Avoids overly broad multi-column indexes.

The Refined Solution

	Scan #1 (col1=\$1)	Scan #2 (col1=\$1 AND col2=\$2)	Scan #3 (col2=\$1)	Scan #4 (col3=\$1)
IDX1 (col1) IWO=0.1	15x faster	2x faster		
IDX2 (col1, col2) IWO=0.2	3x faster	10x faster	3x faster	
IDX3 (col2) IWO=0.1		9x faster	3x faster	
IDX4 (col3) IWO=0.1				50x faster

The Refined Solution

	Scan #1 (col1=\$1)	Scan #2 (col1=\$1 AND col2=\$2)	Scan #3 (col2=\$1)	Scan #4 (col3=\$1)
IDX1 (col1) IWO=0.1	15x faster	2x faster		
IDX2 (col1, col2) IWO=0.2	3x faster	10x faster	3x faster	Both Indexes Cover 2 Scans - Which To Pick?
IDX3 (col2) IWO=0.1		9x faster	3x faster	
IDX4 (col3) IWO=0.1				50x faster

Index Write Overhead as a Tie Breaker

If two index options cover the same number of queries, optimize for **lowest total Index Write Overhead.**

The Refined Solution

	Scan #1 (col1=\$1)	Scan #2 (col1=\$1 AND col2=\$2)	Scan #3 (col2=\$1)	Scan #4 (col3=\$1)
IDX1 (col1) IWO=0.1	15x faster	2x faster		
IDX2 (col1, col2) IWO=0.2	3x faster	10x faster	3x faster	
IDX3 (col2) IWO=0.1		9x faster	3x faster	
IDX4 (col3) IWO=0.1				50x faster

The Refined Solution

	Scan #1 (col1=\$1)	Scan #2 (col1=\$1 AND col2=\$2)	Scan #3 (col2=\$1)	Scan #4 (col3=\$1)
IDX1 (col1) IWO=0.1	15x faster	2x faster		
IDX2 (col1, col2) IWO=0.2	3x faster	10x faster	3x faster	
IDX3 (col2) IWO=0.1		9x faster	3x faster	
IDX4 (col3) IWO=0.1				50x faster

The Refined Solution

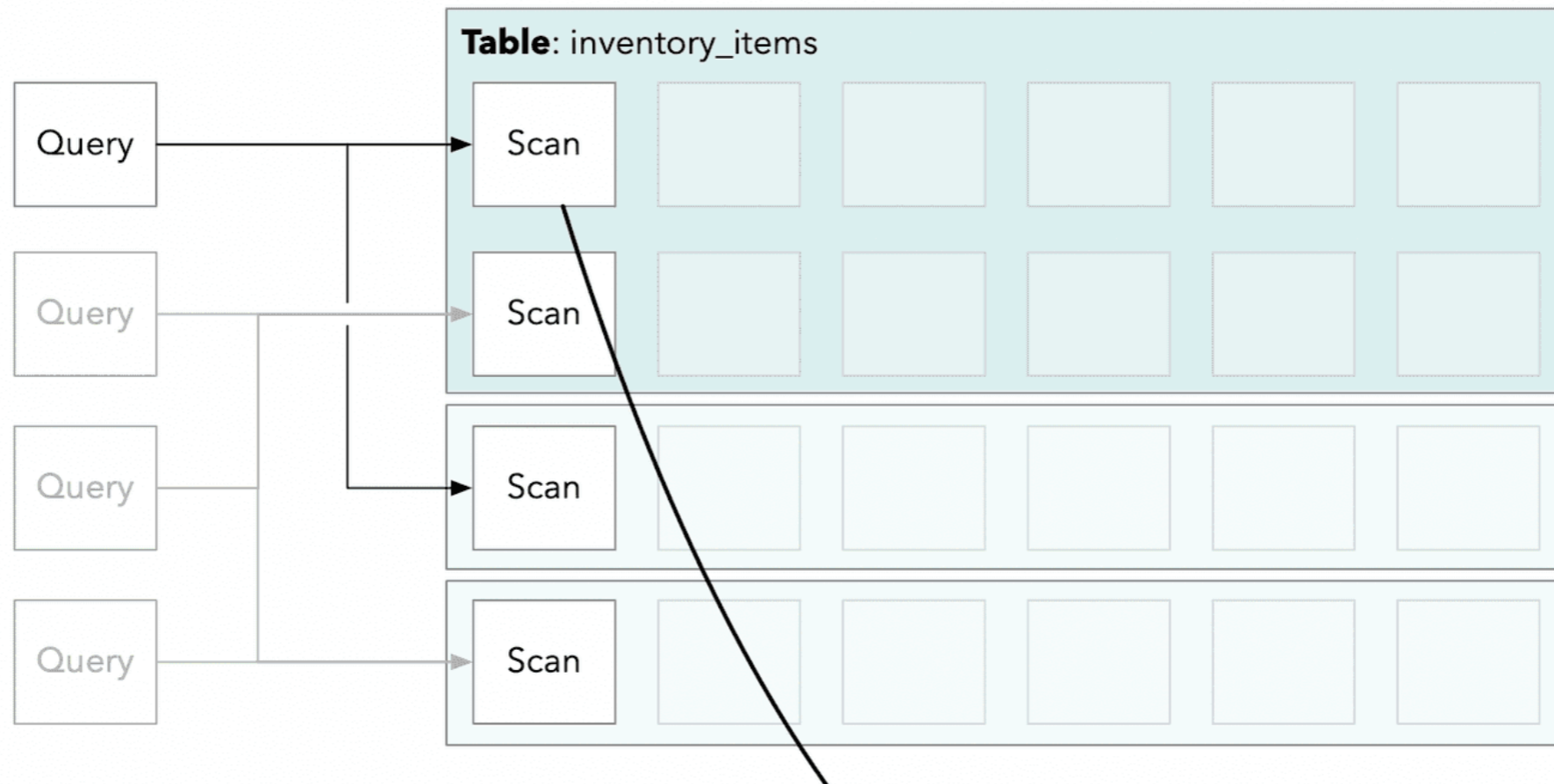
	Scan #1 (col1=\$1)	Scan #2 (col1=\$1 AND col2=\$2)	Scan #3 (col2=\$1)	Scan #4 (col3=\$1)
IDX1 (col1) IWO=0.1	15x faster	2x faster		
IDX2 (col1, col2) IWO=0.2	3x faster	10x faster	3x faster	
IDX3 (col2) IWO=0.1		9x faster	3x faster	
IDX4 (col3) IWO=0.1				50x faster



Automation with the new pganalyze Index Advisor

Phase 1: Query Analysis

Phase 1: Query Analysis





```
SELECT query, calls, mean_exec_time FROM pg_stat_statements LIMIT 1;
```

```
-[ RECORD 1 ]--
```

```
+
```

```
query          | SELECT "replication_stats".* FROM "replication_stats" WHERE "replication_stats"."server_id" = $1  
AND "replication_stats"."collected_at" BETWEEN $2 AND $3  
calls          | 11  
mean_exec_time | 493.72526418181815
```



```
{  
  "Relation Name": "replication_stats",  
  "Namespace Name": "public",  
  "Scans": [  
    {  
      "Scan ID": "00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000001",  
      "Restriction Clauses": [  
        "(collected_at \u003e= $2)",  
        "(collected_at \u003c= $3)",  
        "(server_id = $1)"  
      ],  
      "Join Clauses": [],  
      "Estimated Scans Per Minute": 0.0031746031742514906  
    }  
  ]  
}
```

SCREENSHOT

The screenshot displays the pganalyze web interface. At the top, the server is identified as 'prod-db-main' and the database as 'pgaweb'. The query is executed within the last 24 hours. The query itself is a SELECT statement joining 'servers' and 'organizations' tables. Performance metrics show an average time of 0.02ms and 10,928.46 calls per minute. The interface includes a sidebar with navigation options like Dashboard, Query Performance, Index Advisor, and EXPLAIN Plans. The main content area shows the SQL statement and a 'Scans' table detailing the execution plan for the query.

Server: prod-db-main Database: pgaweb Last 24 hours

SELECT ... FROM servers s JOIN organizations o USING (organization_id) WHERE s.id = \$1
Query #43844977 · Fingerprint: 0a3dd78dc59bae3a · Role: pgaweb_workers

Avg Time: 0.02ms Calls Per Minute: 10,928.46 / min
 Compare to 7 days ago

Overview **NEW** Index Advisor Query Samples 0 EXPLAIN Plans 0 Query Tags 0 Log Entries 0

SQL Statement

```
SELECT s.deleted_at AT TIME ZONE $2, s.disabled_at AT TIME ZONE $3, s.integrated_log_insights, s.integrated_explain, o.organization_id, o.slug, o.name, o.subscription_plan_id, o.subscription_status, o.billing_addons
FROM servers s JOIN organizations o USING (organization_id)
WHERE s.id = $1
```

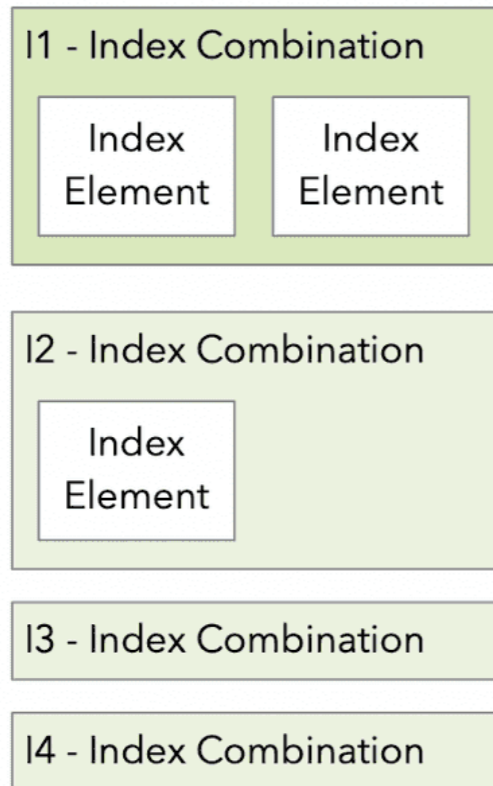
[Hide full query text](#)

Scans

TABLE	SCAN EXPRESSION	SCAN METHOD	COST	TABLE SIZE
public.servers	<p>▼ (id = \$n) AND (organization_id = \$n)</p> <p>WHERE clause ⓘ (id = \$n)</p> <p>JOIN clause ⓘ (organization_id = \$n)</p>	✓ Index Scan using serve...	8.00	115.4 MB
public.organizations	<p>▼ (organization_id = \$n)</p> <p>WHERE clause ⓘ -</p> <p>JOIN clause ⓘ (organization_id = \$n)</p>	✓ Bitmap Heap Scan usin...	4.00	3.5 MB

Phase 2: Index Selection

Phase 2: Index Selection



"What If?"
Analysis

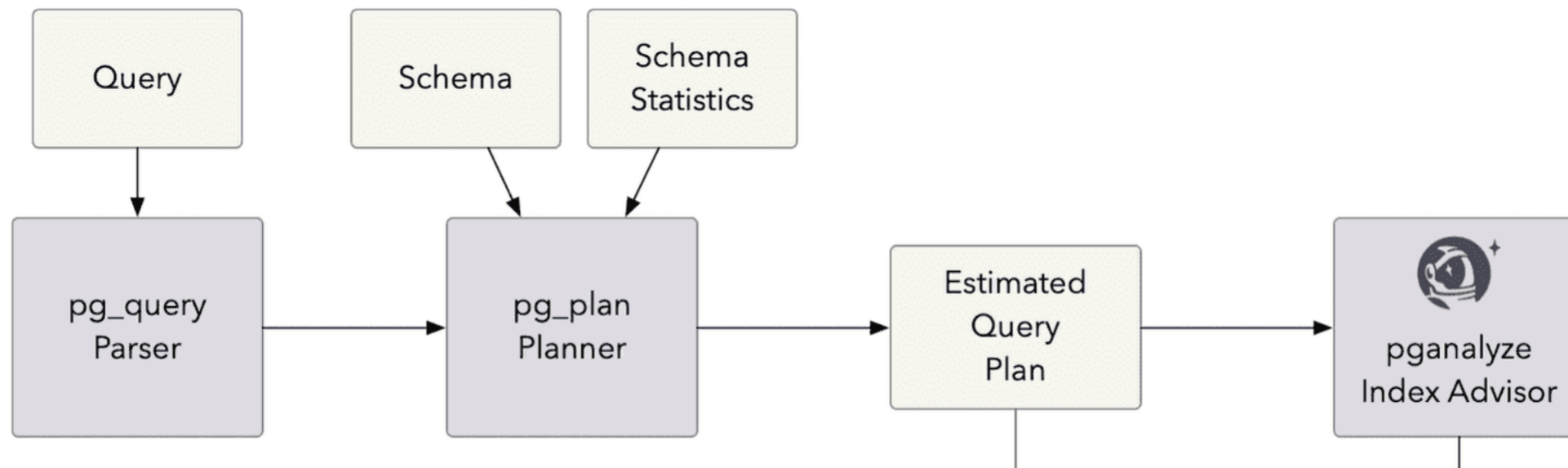
"Good Enough" Index Selection

	S1	S2	S3	S4
I1	42.0			
I2	30.0	5.0		
I3		2.5		
I4			3.0	8.2

Missing Index **I2** covers **S1** and **S2**

```
CREATE INDEX ON inventory_items(warehouse_id);
```

Out-of-band “What If?” analysis



“How we deconstructed the Postgres planner to find indexing opportunities”

<https://pganalyze.com/blog/deconstructing-the-postgres-planner>



```
{
  "Relation Name": "replication_stats",
  "Namespace Name": "public",
  "Scans": [
    {
      "Scan ID": "000000000-0000-0000-0000-0000000000001",
      "Restriction Clauses": [
        "(collected_at \u003e= $2)",
        "(collected_at \u003c= $3)",
        "(server_id = $1)"
      ],
      "Join Clauses": [],
      "Estimated Scans Per Minute": 0.0031746031742514906
    }
  ]
}
↓
{
  "Missing Indexes": [
    {
      "Index": {
        "Type": "btree",
        "Hypothetical": true,
        "Size Bytes": 1602707456,
        "Definition": "CREATE INDEX CONCURRENTLY ON public.replication_stats USING btree (server_id, collected_at)"
      },
      "Index Write Overhead": 0.18,
      "Scans": [
        {
          "Scan ID": "000000000-0000-0000-0000-0000000000001",
          "Old Cost": 2205286.4000,
          "New Cost": 5051.2556
        }
      ]
    }
  ]
},
  "Failed Scans": []
}
```



Scans

```
```sql
S1 = SELECT * FROM public.replication_stats WHERE (collected_at ≥ $2) AND (collected_at ≤ $3) AND (server_id = $1)
```
```

Existing indexes

```
```sql
X1 = CREATE UNIQUE INDEX replication_stats_pkey ON public.replication_stats USING btree (id)
```
```

Possible new index options

```
```sql
I1 = CREATE INDEX ideal_index_1 ON public.replication_stats USING btree (collected_at)
I2 = CREATE INDEX ideal_index_2 ON public.replication_stats USING btree (server_id)
I3 = CREATE INDEX ideal_index_3 ON public.replication_stats USING btree (server_id, collected_at)
```
```

Scan coverage for possible new indexes

```
```
I1 skipped because it is never considered a "good enough" index (within 50% of best index)
I2 skipped because it is never considered a "good enough" index (within 50% of best index)
I3 covers 1 scans (S1,) with IWO 0.18
```
```

Running greedy set cover algorithm to choose best indexes

1. I3 (best choice for 1 remaining scans to be covered)

Summary

| | S1 |
|----------------------------|-------|
| X1 | |
| I1 (IWO = 0.10) | 2.3 |
| I2 (IWO = 0.14) | 2.3 |
| **I3 (IWO = 0.18)** | 436.6 |

SCREENSHOT

The screenshot displays the pganalyze Index Advisor interface. At the top, the server is identified as 'prod-db-main' and the database as 'pgaweb'. The main section is titled 'Index Advisor' and includes tabs for 'Overview', 'Missing Indexes', and 'Unused Indexes'. Four summary cards provide key metrics: Total Data Size (5.8 TB, with a 1 TB decrease), Total Index Size (3.7 TB), Table Writes (814,306 per minute), and Avg. Index Write Overhead (0.55 index bytes per table byte). Below these is a table titled 'Opportunities for Database (34)' with a search bar. The table lists various database tables and their potential index improvements, including columns for Impact, Table Name, Index Name, Queries, Table Size, Table Writes per Minute, and Index Write Overhead.

| IMPACT | TABLE | INDEX | QUERIES | TABLE SIZE | TABLE WRITES / MIN | INDEX WRITE OVERHEAD |
|--------|------------------------------|---|---------|------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | public.alert_policy_settings | btree (alert_policy_id, check_name) | 2 | 824 kB | 0.011 | +0.59 |
| | public.databases | btree (datname) | 1 | 39.6 MB | 0.578 | +0.18 |
| | public.integration_configs | btree (server_id) | 5 | 208 kB | 0.000 | +0.07 |
| | public.integration_configs | btree (organization_integration_id, or... | 5 | 208 kB | 0.000 | +0.11 |
| | public.issues | btree (database_id, created_at) | 1 | 4.1 GB | 22.667 | +0.07 |
| | public.issues | btree (organization_id, "check", updat... | 1 | 4.1 GB | 22.667 | +0.17 |
| | public.issues | btree (database_id, server_id, organiz... | 8 | 4.1 GB | 22.667 | +0.13 |
| | public.issues | btree (organization_id, server_id) | 6 | 4.1 GB | 22.667 | +0.11 |
| | public.issues | btree (organization_id, "check", state) | 2 | 4.1 GB | 22.667 | +0.16 |
| | public.issues | btree ("check", server_id, updated_at) | 8 | 4.1 GB | 22.667 | +0.17 |
| | public.organization_memb... | btree (alert_policy_id) | 1 | 2.7 MB | 0.033 | +0.14 |
| | public.organization_memb... | btree (invited_by_id, accepted) | 1 | 2.7 MB | 0.033 | +0.09 |
| | public.organization_memb... | btree (organization_id) | 23 | 2.7 MB | 0.033 | +0.14 |

SCREENSHOT

The screenshot displays the pganalyze web interface. At the top, the server is identified as 'prod-db-main' and the database as 'pgaweb'. The main heading is 'Issue #11494: Missing Index'. The 'Overview' section shows the issue's severity (Info), check frequency (Daily), last updated time (2022-06-14 07:04:55pm PDT), and state (Triggered). A description states: 'Missing index on public.alert_policy_settings btree (alert_policy_id, check_name)'. A green 'Acknowledge' button is present. The 'Guidance' section provides a SQL command: 'CREATE INDEX CONCURRENTLY ON public.alert_policy_settings USING btree (alert_policy_id, check_name);' and a 'Copy CREATE INDEX command' link. It also includes a 'Cost Improvement' summary showing a 26x weighted improvement and a +0.59 index write overhead. A paragraph of text explains the recommendation to test in pre-production. Below this is a 'Scans (2)' table with columns for scan expression, cost, estimated scans per minute, and cost improvement. The table lists two scan expressions: '(check_name = \$n) AND (alert_policy_id = \$n)' with a cost of 220.44, 0.5669 scans/min, and 27x improvement; and '(alert_policy_id = \$n)' with a cost of 200.86, 0.0080 scans/min, and 11x improvement. The 'Affected Queries (2)' section shows a table with columns for query ID, query, average time, calls per minute, and percentage of all runtime. One query is listed: '#4383... SELECT alert_policy_settings.* FROM alert_policy_settings WHERE ... LIM...' with an average time of 0.59ms, 0.5669 calls/min, and 0.00% runtime.

pganalyze

ORGANIZATION
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Dashboard
Query Performance
Index Advisor
EXPLAIN Plans
Schema Statistics
Log Insights
Connections
VACUUM Activity
Config Tuning
System
Alerts & Check-Up
Settings

Server: prod-db-main
Database: pgaweb

Issue #11494: Missing Index

Overview

Severity Info **Check Frequency** Daily **Last Updated** 2022-06-14 07:04:55pm PDT **State** Triggered Acknowledge

Description
Missing index on `public.alert_policy_settings` btree (alert_policy_id, check_name)

Guidance

```
CREATE INDEX CONCURRENTLY ON public.alert_policy_settings USING btree (alert_policy_id, check_name);
```

Copy CREATE INDEX command

Cost Improvement
Weighted Improvement 26x
Index Write Overhead +0.59

We recommend testing opportunities in pre-production or staging environments first before deploying changes to production. If possible, it is advisable to use a copy of the production database for your tests, otherwise you may not see a representative performance improvement or query plan change.

> How to test the opportunity

Scans (2)

| SCAN EXPRESSION | COST | EST. SCANS / MIN | COST IMPROVEME... |
|--|--------|------------------|-------------------|
| > (check_name = \$n) AND (alert_policy_id = \$n) | 220.44 | 0.5669 | 27x |
| > (alert_policy_id = \$n) | 200.86 | 0.0080 | 11x |

Affected Queries (2)

| QUERY ID | QUERY | AVG TIME (MS) | CALLS / MIN | % ALL RUNTIME |
|----------|--|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| #4383... | SELECT alert_policy_settings.* FROM alert_policy_settings WHERE ... LIM... | 0.59ms | 0.5669 | 0.00% |

Thanks!

Learn more about the pganalyze Index Advisor

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