

# **Bug hunting in Postgres**

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# My postgres involvement

- pgAdmin minor features
- psql autocomplete support
- Minor Engine core changes
- Recently, aggressively fuzzing Postgres
  - and extensions



## Agenda

Postgres Community – Interacting with & Reporting bugs

What is Fuzz-Testing?

Results overview OR Why should you be interested?

What is SQLSmith?

What is SQLReduce?

Demo

Basics of the components of a simple bug-report?

# Postgres Community: Open-Source development



## Interacting with the Postgres developer community

- Learn about Contributing to Postgres
  - Fantastic Talk by Claire Giordiano
    - How to Contribute to an Open Source Project like Postgres
    - PgConf New York (NYC 2022)
  - https://youtu.be/Q8ST09rlFhs
- Bug Reporting Guidelines
  - https://www.postgresql.org/docs/devel/bug-reporting.html
- Bug Reporting Wiki
  - https://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/Guide\_to\_reporting\_problems

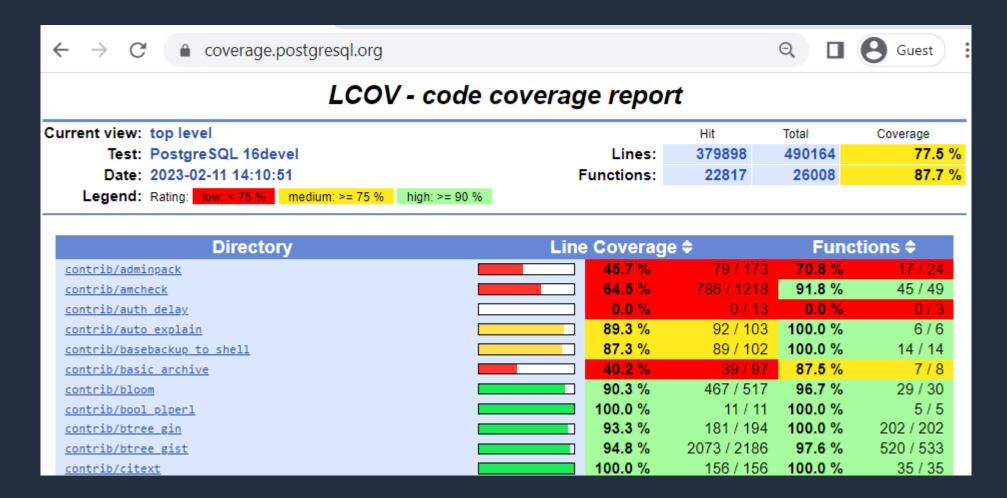


## **Postgres Buildfarm**





## Postgres code coverage





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## **Bugs mailing list**

#### pgsql-bugs ☑

If you find a bug, please use the bug reporting form.

#### Search the Archives

Search the archives for ...

(enter a message-id to go directly to that message)

**Advanced Search** 

#### **View Archives**

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August 2022	View Archives	Download mbox



## Postgres Community – Contributions

- Community has been very receptive
- But most open-source interactions demand quality
- Contributions
  - Document improvements
  - Ideas / Improvements
  - Bug-Reports
  - SQL Repros
  - Patches etc..



## **Postgres Community**

#### **Bug Report**

#### BUG #17788: Incorrect memory access when parsing interval

From: PG Bug reporting form <noreply(at)postgresql(dot)org>

To: pgsql-bugs(at)lists(dot)postgresql(dot)org

Cc: exclusion(at)gmail(dot)com

Subject: BUG #17788: Incorrect memory access when parsing empty string as sql\_standa

Date: 2023-02-12 10:00:01

Message-ID:17788-dabac9f98f7eafd5@postgresql.org

Views: Raw Message | Whole Thread | Download mbox | Resend email

Thread: 2023-02-12 10:00:01 from PG Bug reporting form <noreply(at)postgresql(dot) dg>

Lists: pgsql-bugs

The following bug has been logged on the website:

Bug reference: 17788

Logged by: Alexander Lakhin

Email address: exclusion(at)gmail(dot)com

PostgreSQL version: 15.2

Operating system: Ubuntu 22.04

Description:

When executing under valgrind: SET IntervalStyle TO sql\_standard;

SELECT ''::interval;

The following error is detected:

==99.99.99.93 574 1155861== Use of uninitialised value of size 8

#### pgsql: Avoid dereferencing an undefined pointer in De

From: Tom Lane <tgl(at)sss(dot)pgh(dot)pa(dot)us>
To: pgsql-committers(at)lists(dot)postgresql(dot)org

Subject: pgsql: Avoid dereferencing an undefined pointer in DecodeInterval().

Date: 2023-02-12 17:51:02

Message-ID:E1pRGVC-000mYP-7e@gemulon.postgresql.org

Views: Raw Message | Whole Thread | Download mbox | Resend email

Thread: 2023-02-12 17:51:02 from Tom Lane <tgl(at)sss(dot)pqh(dot)pa(dot)ps>

Lists: pgsql-committers

Avoid dereferencing an undefined pointer in DecodeInterval().

Commit e39f99046 moved some code up closer to the start of DecodeInterval(), without noticing that it had been implicitly relying on previous checks to reject the case of empty input. Given empty input, we'd now dereference a pointer that hadn't been set, possibly leading to a core dump. (But if we fail to provoke a SIGSEGV, nothing bad happens, and the expected syntax error is thrown a bit later.)

Per bug #17788 from Alexander Lakhin. Back-patch to v15 where the fault was introduced.

Discussion: https://postgr.es/m/17788-dabac9f98f7eafd5@postgresql.org

```
Branch
```

REL\_15\_STABLE

#### Details

-----

https://git.postgresql.org/pg/commitdiff/0ef65d0f55e5cec81fe98aba7c907dfc1b93923f

#### Modified Files

3 files changed, 9 insertions(+), 1 deletion(-)



# **Fuzz Testing**

... is an automated software testing technique that involves providing invalid, unexpected, or random data as inputs...

...(and then wish for some fun @!)



## What is SQLSmith?

# "I love the smell of coredumps in the morning"

(... from SQLSmith README)



## What is SQLSmith?

- Open source fuzz-testing tool
  - Written by Andreas Seltenreich (and others)
- Random SQL query generator
- Works with multiple databases Postgres / MonetDB etc.
  - For e.g. It was a quick effort to add basic Redshift support
- Allows query / error logging to a database (very helpful!)
- Efficient / allows concurrent runs



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# Why should I be interested @?



## **SQLSmith Scorecard**

#### **SQLSmith**

- 100+ bugs found
- Projects
  - Postgres
  - Sqlite3
  - MonetDB
  - YugaByte
  - TimescaleDB
  - Extensions
    - Orafce etc.

#### **This Project**

- 15+ bugs found
- Projects
  - Postgres
  - Redshift
  - Extensions
    - postgis\*
    - Orafce
    - Mysql\_fdw
    - Rdkit
    - pg\_repack
    - etc.

#### **Community Feedback**

"I'd hoped that some of these failures shared a root cause, but nope they were really four different bugs :-(. I've now pushed fixes for all four, and I hope you'll turn your fuzzer back on.

This is very valuable testing."

regards, tom lane



## Single random SQL

1 UPDATE SQL2900 lines120,000 characters





# Demo Time!



#### **SQLSmith intro**

Lets trigger SQLSmith, where we:

- Point to the target DB
- Generate 1 query
  - But don't print that SQL
- Do NOT run the SQL

```
BugHunt@PgConfIndia> sqlsmith --version
SQLsmith v1.4-97-gbldb8ac

BugHunt@PgConfIndia> sqlsmith --max-queries=1 --target="$TCONNSTR" --dry-run >/dev/null
SQLsmith v1.4-97-gbldb8ac
Loading types...done.
Loading tables...done.
Loading columns and constraints...100...200...300...400...500...600...700...800...900...1000...1100...done.
Loading operators...done.
Loading routines...done.
Loading routine parameters...1000...2000...3000...done.
Loading aggregates...done.
Loading aggregate parameters...done.
Generating indexes...done.
```



Now let's see that 1 SQL it generated

- This SQL changes each time
- We aren't yet running on the database
- Can be very short or very long

```
BugHunt@PgConfIndia > sqlsmith --max-queries=1 --target="$TCON
SQLsmith v1.4-97-qb1db8ac
Loading types...done.
Loading tables...done.
Loading columns and constraints...100...200...300...400...500
Loading operators...done.
Loading routines...done.
Loading routine parameters...1000...2000...3000...done.
Loading aggregates...done.
Loading aggregate parameters...done.
Generating indexes...done.
select
 public.cashmultirange() as c0
from
  pg catalog.pg description as sample 0 tablesample system (1
      left join public.test timetz as sample 1 tablesample sy
      on (pg catalog.inet server addr() >>= cast(nullif((sele
            (select i from public.test inet limit 1 offset 1)
               as inet))
   inner join (select
          ref 0.latest end lsn as c0,
          ref 0.last msg send time as c1,
          rof O pid ac c2
```



#### Now let's see a summary report

- Again, 1 SQL only
- See the 'e' line
- See ERROR line
- Interesting to see the SQL Components
- See bad / ok per component

```
BugHunt@PgConfIndia> sglsmith --max-queries=1 --verbose --target="$TC
SQLsmith v1.4-97-gb1db8ac
Loading types...done.
Loading tables...done.
Loading columns and constraints...100...200...300...400...500...600..
Loading operators...done.
Loading routines...done.
Loading routine parameters...1000...2000...3000...done.
Loading aggregates...done.
Loading aggregate parameters...done.
Generating indexes...done.
queries: 1
AST stats (avg): height = 14 nodes = 114
        ERROR: operator does not exist: anymultirange &> int4range
error rate: 1
impedance report:
  case expr: 1/0 (bad/ok)
  funcall: 1/0 (bad/ok)
  atomic subselect: 1/0 (bad/ok)
  const expr: 1/0 (bad/ok)
  column reference: 1/0 (bad/ok)
  nullif: 1/0 (bad/ok)
  truth value: 1/0 (bad/ok)
  null predicate: 1/0 (bad/ok)
  bool term: 1/0 (bad/ok)
  comparison op: 1/0 (bad/ok)
  table or query name: 1/0 (bad/ok)
  table sample: 1/0 (bad/ok)
  table subquery: 1/0 (bad/ok)
  expr join cond: 1/0 (bad/ok)
  joined table: 1/0 (bad/ok)
  from clause: 1/0 (bad/ok)
  select list: 1/0 (bad/ok)
  query spec: 1/0 (bad/ok)
```

Now let's time query generation

- TLDR 600ms per 100 SQLs
  - Or 6ms per 1 SQL query generation

```
SQLsmith v1.4-97-qb1db8ac
Loading types...done.
Loading tables...done.
Loading columns and constraints...100...200...300...4
Loading operators...done.
Loading routines...done.
Loading routine parameters...1000...2000...3000...dor
Loading aggregates...done.
Loading aggregate parameters...done.
Generating indexes...done.
25
        0m16.473s
real
        0m0.603s
user
        0m0.104s
SVS
BugHunt@PgConfIndia> time sglsmith --max-queries=100
SOLsmith v1.4-97-gb1db8ac
Loading types...done.
Loading tables...done.
Loading columns and constraints...100...200...300...4
Loading operators...done.
Loading routines...done.
Loading routine parameters...1000...2000...3000...dor
Loading aggregates...done.
Loading aggregate parameters...done.
Generating indexes...done.
7370
        0m17.014s
real
        0m0.734s
user
        0m0.088s
```

BugHunt@PgConfIndia> time sqlsmith --max-queries=1 -



#### Now let's see a summary report of 100 SQLs

```
Loading aggregates...done.
Loading aggregate parameters...done.
Generating indexes...done.
.e..eS.eee.e.eSe.eee..
queries: 100
AST stats (avg): height = 8.49 nodes = 80.42
       ERROR:
              argument declared anymultirange is not a multirange type but ty
       ERROR:
              operator does not exist: point = point
       ERROR:
              syntax error at or near "4"
       ERROR:
              syntax error at or near "6"
       ERROR:
              argument declared anyrange is not a range type but type anyrang
       ERROR:
              cannot accept a value of type table am handler
       ERROR:
              cannot cast type unknown to anyenum
       ERROR:
              column "col" does not exist
              function pg catalog.tsmultirange(tsrange[]) does not exist
       ERROR:
2
       ERROR:
              function pg catalog.tstzmultirange(tstzrange[]) does not exist
       ERROR:
              operator does not exist: cstring = cstring
       ERROR:
              cannot accept a value of type event trigger
              cannot accept a value of type trigger
       ERROR:
```



#### Lets log that to a database!

```
BugHunt@PgConfIndia> sqlsmith --max-queries=1 --target="$TCONNSTR" --log-to="$LCONNSTR" SQLsmith v1.4-97-gbldb8ac
Loading types...done.
Loading tables...done.
Loading columns and constraints...100...200...300...400...500...600...700...800...900..
Loading operators...done.
Loading routines...done.
Loading routine parameters...1000...2000...3000...done.
```



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Let's look inside the Logging Database

```
BugHunt@PgConfIndia> psql "$LCONNSTR"
psql (16devel, server 13.8)
Type "help" for help.
sqlsmithlatest=> \x
Expanded display is on.
sqlsmithlatest=> select * from error where length(query) <200 and query not ilike '%ALTER%' order by t desc limit 1;
-[ RECORD 1 ]-----
        | 612748
id
        | ERROR: PL/Tcl functions cannot return type language handler+
msq
         select
query
           public.float8multirange() as c0
         from
           public.prem1 as ref 0
         where pg catalog.pltcl call handler() is not NULL
         limit 90
target
sqlstate | 0A000
        1 2023-02-23 22:44:17.176887+00
errid
        | 2491769780
```



Lets assume that **ErrID = 2354535915** is super interesting

```
sqlsmithlatest=> select msg, sqlstate, t, errid, left(query,200) from erro
re errid= 2354535915;
-[ RECORD 1 ]------
msg | server closed the connection unexpectedly
                  This probably means the server terminated abnormally+
                  before or while processing the request.
sqlstate |
          08000
          2023-02-10 09:19:32.321505+00
errid
         2354535915
left
          WITH
          jennifer 0 AS (select
              public.textmultirange() as c0,
              pg catalog.jsonb build object() as cl
            from
              (select
                      29 \text{ as } c0,
                      sample 0.customer id as c1,
```



Fetch the full SQL from SQLSmith database

```
BugHunt@PgConfIndia> psql -Atq "$LCONNSTR" -c "select query from error archive
where errid= 2354535915;" > reduce.sql
BugHunt@PgConfIndia> wc -l reduce.sql
66 reduce.sql
BugHunt@PgConfIndia> head reduce.sql
WITH
jennifer 0 AS (select
    public.textmultirange() as c0,
    pg catalog.jsonb build object() as cl
  from
    (select
            29 \text{ as } c0,
            sample 0.customer id as c1,
            54 \text{ as } c2,
             (select seqno from public.bt i4 heap limit 1 offset 37)
```



Have prepped the database for a given state

- Note that the Postgres cluster name is the git commit (easier to track)
- The git commit is specifically chosen (you'll soon see why)

```
BugHunt@PgConfIndia > ps xf | grep postgres
                         0:00 /home/ubuntu/proj/sqlsmithdata/temp/bin/postgres -D /home/ubuntu/pro
2141013 ?
                  SNs
                                   postgres: f8balbf4e4@master@sgith: checkpointer
2141019 ?
                  SNs
                                   postgres: f8balbf4e4@master@sgith: background writer
2141020 ?
                 SNs
                         0:02
2141027 ?
                 {\tt SNs}
                         0:05
                                   postgres: f8balbf4e4@master@sgith: walwriter
                                   postgres: f8ba1bf4e4@master@sgith: autovacuum launcher
2141028 ?
                 {\tt SNs}
                         0:00
                                   postgres: f8ba1bf4e4@master@sgith: autoprewarm leader
2141029 ?
                 {\tt SNs}
                         0:00
2141030 ?
                  SNs
                         0:00
                                   postgres: f8balbf4e4@master@sgith: logical replication launcher
```



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#### Let's crash postgres!

#### Postgres Error Logs details it well

```
2023-02-23 22:59:52.731 UTC [2141019] LOG: checkpoint starting: time
2023-02-23 23:02:24.777 UTC [2141019] LOG: checkpoint complete: wrote 1515 buffers (
write=152.031 s, sync=0.001 s, total=152.046 s; sync files=239, longest=0.001 s, ave
kB; lsn=6/AE7A63C8, redo lsn=6/AE4234D8
TRAP: failed Assert ("outer_rel->rows > 0"), File: "indxpath.c", Line: 1909, PID: 2184
postgres: f8balbf4e4@master@sqith: ubuntu postgres 127.0.0.1(44834) SELECT(Exceptiona
postgres: f8balbf4e4@master@sqith: ubuntu postgres 127.0.0.1(44834) SELECT(+0x4ef67a)
postgres: f8balbf4e4@master@sqith: ubuntu postgres 127.0.0.1(44834) SELECT(+0x4edb5e)
postgres: f8balbf4e4@master@sqith: ubuntu postgres 127.0.0.1(44834) SELECT(+0x4ee261)
postgres: f8balbf4e4@master@sqith: ubuntu postgres 127.0.0.1(44834) SELECT(+0x4ee4cb)
postgres: f8balbf4e4@master@sqith: ubuntu postgres 127.0.0.1(44834) SELECT(create_ind
postgres: f8balbf4e4@master@sqith: ubuntu postgres 127.0.0.1(44834) SELECT(+0x4d3f89)
postgres: f8balbf4e4@master@sqith: ubuntu postgres 127.0.0.1(44834) SELECT(+0x4d3f89)
postgres: f8balbf4e4@master@sqith: ubuntu postgres 127.0.0.1(44834) SELECT(+0x4d3af6)
postgres: f8balbf4e4@master@sqith: ubuntu postgres 127.0.0.1(44834) SELECT(+0x4d373c)
postgres: f8balbf4e4@master@sqith: ubuntu postgres 127.0.0.1(44834) SELECT(+0x4d373c)
postgres: f8balbf4e4@master@sqith: ubuntu postgres 127.0.0.1(44834) SELECT(make one r
```



## **SQLReduce**

#### **Christoph Berg**

- https://github.com/credativ/sqlreduce
- Input
  - Accepts an SQL
- Output
  - Optionally accepts a desired output (or by default await an engine crash)
- Action
  - Iteratively shorten SQL while achieving desired output
- Result



SQLReduce basic working

```
Input query: select '1'::date from pg class where 1=1;
Regenerated: SELECT CAST('1' AS date) FROM pg class WHERE 1 = 1
Query returns: 		 22007
SELECT FROM pg class WHERE 1 = 1 \times 10^{\circ} no error
SELECT CAST('1' AS date) WHERE 1 = 1
SELECT WHERE 1 = 1 \times 1 no error
SELECT CAST('1' AS date) 🔻
SELECT X no error
SELECT NULL X no error
SELECT '1' X no error
SELECT CAST(NULL AS date) x no error
Minimal query yielding the same error:
SELECT CAST('1' AS date)
Pretty-printed minimal query:
SELECT CAST('1' AS date)
Seen: 9 items, 212 Bytes
Iterations: 8
Runtime: 0.040 s, 223.2 q/s
```



## **SQLReduce Demo – 12a**



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Remove local table / data dependency, if possible

```
t=# BEGIN;
BEGIN
t=*# CREATE TABLE t();
CREATE TABLE
t=*# SELECT
t-*\# FROM t AS sample 1
t.-*#
          INNER JOIN (pg catalog.pg user AS ref 1
                      RIGHT JOIN pg catalog.pg conversion AS ref 2 ON NULL)
t(*#
t-*#
             ON ref 2.conname = ref 1.passwd
t-*#
             OR (SELECT calls
t(*#
                 FROM pg catalog.pg stat xact user functions) <= 52;
server closed the connection unexpectedly
        This probably means the server terminated abnormally
        before or while processing the request.
The connection to the server was lost. Attempting reset: Succeeded.
t=#
```



Capture Backtrace, if possible

```
BugHunt@PgConfIndia > less /home/ubuntu/proj/sqlsmithdata/review coredump/review
=== Coredump filestamp ====
-rw----- 1 ubuntu ubuntu 1.1G Feb 10 09:19 /home/ubuntu/proj/sqlsmithdata/ol
=== Coredump MD5 ===
95c0f9e537f86611f09fb95f9b7d2df6 /home/ubuntu/proj/sqlsmithdata/oldcores/core
=== Coredump Epoch Timestamp ===
1676020770 => Fri Feb 10 09:19:30 UTC 2023
=== Coredump stat ===
 File: /home/ubuntu/proj/sqlsmithdata/oldcores/core-postgres-1676020770-sig6-
 Size: 1074868224
                       Blocks: 1915128
                                           IO Block: 4096
                                                            regular file
Device: 10302h/66306d Inode: 137
                                           Links: 1
Access: (0600/-rw-----) Uid: (1000/ ubuntu)
                                                   Gid: (1000/ ubuntu)
Access: 2023-02-10 11:49:15.756629573 +0000
Modify: 2023-02-10 09:19:32.179308158 +0000
Change: 2023-02-10 11:49:05.464737872 +0000
Birth: -
=== Backtrace - PID 2918599 - 9e8b694d81@master ===
Reading symbols from /home/ubuntu/proj/sqlsmithdata/temp/bin/postgres...
[New LWP 2918599]
[Thread debugging using libthread db enabled]
Using host libthread db library "/lib/x86 64-linux-gnu/libthread db.so.1".
Core was generated by `postgres: 9e8b694d81@master@sgith: u28 postgres 127.0.0
Program terminated with signal SIGABRT, Aborted.
     GI raise (sig=sig@entry=6) at ../sysdeps/unix/sysv/linux/raise.c:50
#0 GI raise (sig=sig@entry=6) at ../sysdeps/unix/sysv/linux/raise.c:50
#1 0 \times 00007 fb4b671a859 in GI abort () at abort.c:79
#2 0x0000564136170ff3 in ExceptionalCondition (conditionName=0x564136324ff0
#3 0x0000564135e2767a in get loop count (root=0x564138eb8520, cur relid=3, ou
\#4 = 0 \times 00000564135e25b5e in build index paths (root=0x564138eb8520, rel=0x564142
```



So going back, how did I get to f8ba1bf4e4?

```
BugHunt@PgConfIndia> ./blamever2.sh 36 39
SQL
rollback;
begin;
create table t();
SELECT
FROM t AS sample 1
     INNER JOIN (pg catalog.pg user AS ref 1
                 RIGHT JOIN pg catalog.pg conversion AS ref 2 ON NULL)
        ON ref 2.conname = ref_{1.passwd}
        OR (SELECT calls
            FROM pg catalog.pg stat xact user functions) <= 52
Checking (f8balbf4e4~36) - 8538519db1 - Crash
Checking (f8ba1bf4e4~37) - 5840c20272 - Success
Checking (f8balbf4e4~38) - faff8f8e47 - Success
Checking (f8balbf4e4~39) - 1b6f632a35 - Success
```



## What else?

- SQLancer
- SQL-Reduce etc....





# Thank you!

Robins Tharakan https://www.thatguyfromdelhi.com/

