

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

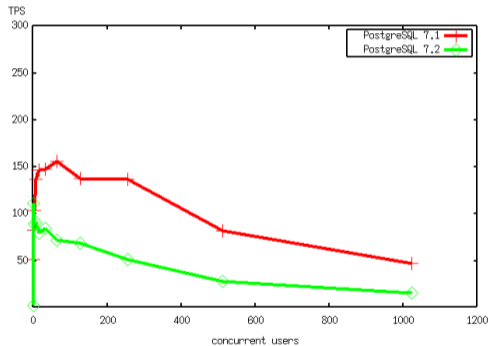


https://postgresql.life/post/tatsuo_ishii/

<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/oss-c-db>

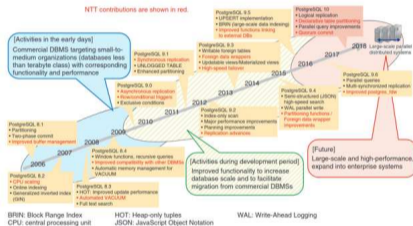


Fig. 1. Contributions to PostgreSQL development.

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



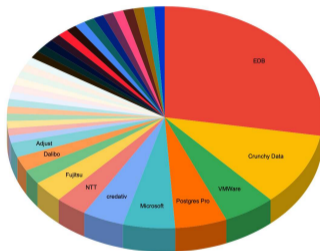
15% from Japan; Toronto, July 2006

Global Engagement Challenges

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

Postgres 13 Success

Postgres contributors (PostgreSQL.org + PG 13 Release Notes) w.o. personal or freelancers



- EDB
- Crunchy Data
- VMware
- Postgres Pro
- Microsoft
- credativ
- NTT
- Fujitsu
- PeopleDoc
- Dalibo
- Adjust
- Yandex
- University of Cambridge
- True Software
- Swarm64
- SRA OSS
- Rakuten
- Postgres Experts
- Playtech
- Paragon
- Open Standards Promotion Center, Japan
- Ongres
- MongoDB
- Minsait
- Iovation
- ILande
- Huawei
- HeteroDB
- Google
- Facebook
- Deriv.com
- Cybertec
- conova communications GmbH
- Brandwatch
- Basefarm AS
- Appen
- Amazon
- Afilias

Marc Linster, EDB

Postgres 14 Success

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

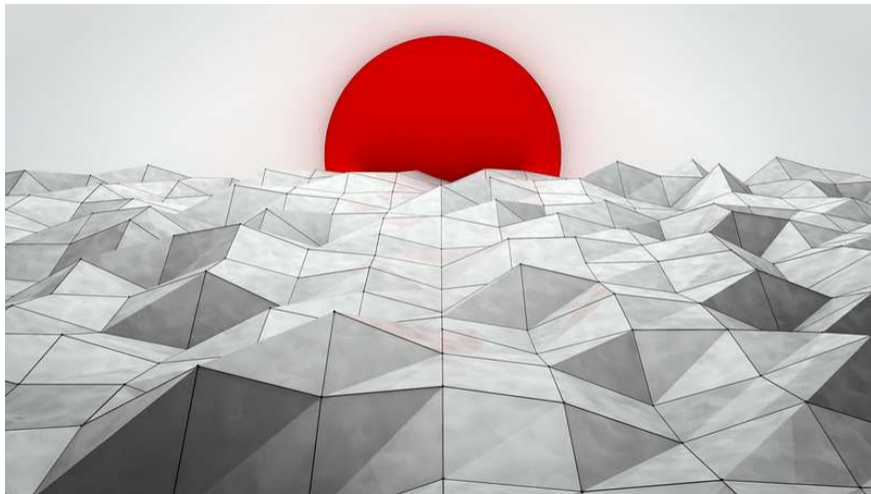
<https://www.postgresql.org/docs/14/release-14.html>

<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/>