



Multi-Active with Spock
April 2023



Jan Wieck

- Contributor since 1996 (fixing the rewrite rule system)
- Guilty of implementing TOAST
- Guilty of creating loadable, procedural languages
- Guilty of PL/Tcl and PL/pgSQL
- Guilty of PG's implementation of foreign keys
- Guilty of the NUMERIC data type
- Guilty of Slony-I
- Guilty of the background writer, the statistics collector, lazy vacuum
- Core team member from 2000 to 2010



Why pgEdge

- Distributed systems need distributed databases
 - Latency between distributed client and central application
or
 - Latency between distributed application and central database



Why Logical Replication

- Cross PG Version
- Table by Table
- Row Level Filtering
- More flexible standby with read/write tables
- Uses logical decoding
- Just row values, no vacuum, indexes, etc
- Allows for near zero time upgrades between major versions

pgLogical / BDR

- Does not support multi-active, but has some of the plumbing
- Has been in maintenance mode for the last 4+ years, no major new features
- 2ndQuadrant and now EnterpriseDB have a proprietary multi-active solution
- pgLogical will not compete with their proprietary solution
- Features introduced in pgLogical have been incrementally added to core postgres
- pg9.6 took a stab at bidirectional replication, BDR1 never maintained



Spock

Spock introduces multi-active replication with conflict resolution and avoidance

- Support for Asynchronous Multi-Active Replication
- Conflict-free Delta-Apply Columns
- Conflict Resolution with better error handling
- Better management & monitoring stats and integration
- Performance, stability and networking stress testing
- Replication of Partitioned Tables (to help robustly support Geo-Sharding)
- Link database to a country of residence, configurable rules for keeping PII in country

Conflict Resolution

In case the node is subscribed to multiple providers, or when local writes happen on a subscriber, conflicts can arise for the incoming changes. These are automatically detected and can be acted on depending on the configuration.

- `last_update_wins` - always keep the changes with the newest commit timestamp
- `first_update_wins` - always keep the changes with the oldest commit timestamp
- `apply_remote` - ignore local and always keep remote
- `keep_local` - ignore remote and always keep local

Spock is optimized for a mostly non conflicting workload, if a conflict does arise monitoring and diagnostic are provided in a resolutions table



Conflict Avoidance

Conflict-Free Delta-Apply

- Logical Multi-Active replication can get itself into trouble on running sums
- Unlike other solutions, we do NOT have special data types for this
- Any numeric data type can be used (including numeric, float, double precision, int4, int8, etc).



Conflict Avoidance

Conflict-Free Delta-Apply

- Small diff patch to postgresSQL Core
- Adds functionality to `ALTER TABLE t COLUMN c SET (log_old_value = True)`
- Patch will be submitted to Community and discussed at Ottawa Conference

Conflict Avoidance

Conflict-Free Delta-Apply

- The old and new values for that column is captured to the WAL
- During apply the new value for the column is calculated as

`new-local = old-local + (new-remote - old-remote)`

Conflict Avoidance - Example

Initially, bal is equal to 300 for id = 1

Node 1	Node 2
<pre>BEGIN; UPDATE t1 SET bal=310 WHERE id=1;</pre>	
	<pre>BEGIN; UPDATE t1 SET bal=305 WHERE id=1; COMMIT;</pre>
<pre>COMMIT;</pre>	

At this point, bal is equal to 315 for id = 1

Even if the application does the math, Conflict-Free Delta-Apply still will produce the correct results



Spock - What's Critical

- Better node failure resilience without down time (3+ node clusters)
 - Currently intermittent outages are handled nicely
 - Recovering from catastrophic node loss without missing or duplicate transactions
 - Spinning up full replacement nodes

pgEdge Platform

- All features of pgEdge Distributed PostgreSQL
- Self-host on-premises or in cloud accounts
- For developer evaluations or production usage
- Enterprise support available

pgEdge nodectl spock

Logical and Multi-Active PostgreSQL node configuration

Synopsis

```
./nodectl spock <command> [parameters] [options]
```

install - Install PG and configure with SPOCK extension

validate - Check pre-req's for advanced commands

tune - Tune for this configuration

node-create - Name this spock node

repset-create - Define a replication set

sub-create - Create a subscription

repset-add-table - Add table to replication set

sub-add-respset - Add replication set to subscription

sub-show-status - Display status of subscription

sub-show-table - Display subscription table(s)

sub-wait-for-sync - Pause until subscription synched

health-check - Check if PG is accepting connections

metrics-check - Retrieve advanced DB & OS metrics



PGEDGE NODECTL CLUSTER CONTROLLER

Installation and configuration of a pgEdge SPOCK cluster

Synopsis

```
./nodectl spock <command> [parameters] [options]
```

create-local - Create local cluster of N pgEdge nodes on different ports

destroy - Stop and then nuke a cluster

validate - Validate a remote cluster configuration

init - Initialize a remote cluster for SPOCK

command - Run `nodectl` command on one or all nodes of a cluster

diff-tables - Compare table on different cluster nodes

Key Value Propositions



Low Latency



Ultra-high Availability



Data Residency



pgEdge Community License

- Spock is open and pgEdge Community Licensed
- Our license allows unlimited end user usage (including in production)
- Essentially the same as Confluent Community License
- Prohibits packaging and selling a competitive product

pgEdge Cloud

- Fully managed Database-as-a-Service (DBaaS)
- Handles provisioning, security and monitoring
- Access via web dashboard, CLI and API
- AWS and Azure (GCP coming soon)

pgEdge Create Cluster

👋 Let's create your first cluster!

You are minutes away from having a multi-active, multi-region Postgres cluster. Pick a couple regions on the map and see how easy it is to go global with your data. 🌐

Not ready for world domination?

[Read our docs.](#) →



Create a new cluster



pgEdge List Clusters



Home

Clusters

Demo

Users

Help Center

Add a Cluster

Clusters

CLUSTER	STATUS	REGIONS	DATE CREATED	
Demo	Available	EU-WEST-1 US-EAST-1 US-WEST-2	3.5.2023 1:08 PM	↗

pgEdge Monitor Cluster

Demo

OVERVIEW

MAP

INSIGHTS

Node Status



Live



Issue

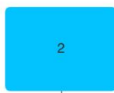


Dead

Resolution Count



n1



n2



n3

Replication



NAME	AVAILABILITY ZONE	IP ADDRESS	STATUS	INSTANCE TYPE	INSTANCE ID
n1	eu-west-1a	10.1.1.4	Live	r6g.medium	i-0a8b93e2b1378da92
n2	us-east-1a	10.2.1.5	Live	r6g.medium	i-036d612dcc04a4f1e
n3	us-west-2a	10.3.1.6	Live	r6g.medium	i-0731b61beddfdf963

[Back to cluster list](#)

[Delete](#)



pgEdge Security

- Bring your own account
- VPC Peering- Automatically creating global network private to your account
- Built with Infrastructure as Code following cloud provider best practices
- Secure and auditable



pgEdge in Summary

- Low Latency
- Ultra-high Availability
- Data Residency
- Optimized for the network edge
- Fully Managed Database-as-a-service
- Access via Web Dashboard, API, and CLI



Thank You!