



# MERGE() - A Quick Introduction

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# Talk Proposal

MERGE() is a powerful function for processing data like transaction logs.

It is powerful as it allows you to insert, update, or delete data in one statement instead of using an application that requires numerous round trips between the server and the application to do the same tasks (which is much more resource and time intensive).

However, this is *not* an easy function to learn from reading the manual.

This sessions starts with the basics and builds so that you learn how to use the power of MERGE().

20 Minutes!



# Merge

Conditionally insert, update, or delete rows of a table

# <https://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/sql-merge.html>

```
[ WITH with_query [, ...] ]  
MERGE INTO [ ONLY ] target_table_name [ * ] [ [ AS ] target_alias ]  
USING data_source ON join_condition  
when_clause [...]
```

where *data\_source* is:

```
{ [ ONLY ] source_table_name [ * ] | ( source_query ) } [ [ AS ] source_alias ]
```

and *when\_clause* is:

```
{ WHEN MATCHED [ AND condition ] THEN { merge_update | merge_delete | DO NOTHING } |  
  WHEN NOT MATCHED [ AND condition ] THEN { merge_insert | DO NOTHING } }
```

and *merge\_insert* is:

```
INSERT [( column_name [, ...] )]  
[ OVERRIDING { SYSTEM | USER } VALUE ]  
{ VALUES ( { expression | DEFAULT } [, ...] ) | DEFAULT VALUES }
```

and *merge\_update* is:

```
UPDATE SET { column_name = { expression | DEFAULT } |  
            ( column_name [, ...] ) = ( { expression | DEFAULT } [, ...] ) } [, ...]
```

and *merge\_delete* is:

```
DELETE
```

# Not an UPSERT – <https://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/sql-insert.html>

```
-- Don't update existing distributors based in a certain ZIP code
INSERT INTO distributors AS d (did, dname) VALUES (8, 'Anvil
Distribution')
```

```
    ON CONFLICT (did) DO UPDATE
    SET dname = EXCLUDED.dname || ' (formerly ' || d.dname || ')'
    WHERE d.zipcode <> '21201';
```

```
-- Name a constraint directly in the statement (uses associated
-- index to arbitrate taking the DO NOTHING action)
INSERT INTO distributors (did, dname) VALUES (9, 'Antwerp Design')
    ON CONFLICT ON CONSTRAINT distributors_pkey DO NOTHING;
```

Poppins is much more flexible and powerful, as you will see...

# Think Shovel Versus Spoon!

One big trip over lots of little trips!



Iterating numerous times from application to server and back is not performant.

# Transaction Log

For the rest of this presentation please think of 'transaction log' as data from a point of sale (POS) system not a databases transaction log.





**Now that you know all!**

Let us look at the big picture.



# Example 1

## Transaction Log

```
CREATE TABLE t (  
  Id int  
  x int,  
  status CHAR(10)  
);  
  
Insert into t (id,x,status)  
Values (1, 1, 'From log');
```

## Data

```
CREATE TABLE d (  
  Id int,  
  x int,  
  status CHAR(10),  
  nbr int  
);
```

**In this example the tables are the same but in real-life they will not be.**

# Table *t* has data, table *d* does not!

## Table *t*

```
test=# select * from t;
 id | x |   status
----+----+-----
  1 | 1 | From log
(1 row)
```

```
test=#
```

## Table *d*

```
test=# select * from d;
 id | x |   status | nbr
----+----+-----+----
(0 rows)
```

```
test=#
```

MERGE into d using t on d.id = t.id  
when matched then  
update set x = d.x + 1

**when not matched then  
insert (id,x,status) values (t.id,t.x,t.status);**

```
test=# MERGE into d using t on d.id = t.id
test=# when matched then
test=# update set x = d.x + 1
test=# when not matched then
test=# insert (id,x,status) values
(t.id,t.x,t.status);
MERGE 1
test=#
```

```
test=# select * from t;
 id | x | status
----+---+-----
  1 | 1 | From log
(1 row)
```

```
test=# select * from d;
 id | x | status | nbr
----+---+-----+----
  1 | 1 | From log | 1
(1 row)
```



# Merge() again!

Let's run the same thing again

MERGE into d using t on d.id = t.id

**when matched then**

**update set x = d.x + 1**

when not matched then

insert (id,x,status) values (t.id,t.x,t.status);

```
test=# select * from t;
 id | x | status
----+---+-----
  1 | 1 | From log
(1 row)
```

```
test=# select * from d;
 id | x | status | nbr
----+---+-----+----
  1 | 1 | From log |
(1 row)
```

```
test=# MERGE into d using t on
d.id = t.id
```

```
test=# when matched then
```

```
test=#   update set x = d.x + 1
```

```
test=# when not matched then
```

```
test=#   insert (id,x,status)
```

```
values (t.id,t.x,t.status);
```

```
MERGE 1
```

```
test=# select * from d;
```

```
 id | x | status | nbr
```

```
----+---+-----+----
```

```
  1 | 2 | From log |
```

```
(1 row)
```



# Deletes!

Let's run the same thing again

# Instead of updating, delete match

```
merge into d using t on d.id = t.id
when matched then delete
when not matched then insert (id,x,status) values (t.id,t.x,t.status);
```

```
test=# merge into d using t on d.id = t.id
test=# when matched then delete
test=# when not matched then insert (id,x,status) values (t.id,t.x,t.status);
MERGE 1
```

```
test=# select * from d;
 id | x | status | nbr
-----+-----+-----+-----
(0 rows)
```

```
test=#
```



# Nothing!

Yes, nothing is an option!



```
test=# select * from t;
```

```
id | x  | status
```

```
-----+-----+-----
```

```
1  | 1  | From log
```

```
2  | 20 | From log
```

```
3  | 30 | Also log
```

```
(3 rows)
```

```
test=# insert into d values (1,1,'in data');
```

```
INSERT 0 1
```

```
test=# select * from t;
 id | x  | status
----+----+-----
  1 |  1 | From log
  2 | 20 | From log
  3 | 30 | Also log
(3 rows)
```

```
test=# insert into d values (1,1,'in data');
INSERT 0 1
test=#
```

```
test=# MERGE into d using t on t.id = d.id
test-#      when matched then
test-#      DO NOTHING
test-# when not matched then
test-# insert (id,x,status) values (t.id,t.x,t.status);
MERGE 3
```

```
test=# select * from d;
 id | x  | status  | nbr
----+----+-----+----
  1 |  1 | in data | 
  2 | 20 | From log | 
  3 | 30 | Also log | 
(3 rows)
```

We already had a d.id = 1 -> do nothing!



# Complicated

As complicated as you want!

# New data

## Clear out data

```
test=# truncate d;  
TRUNCATE TABLE  
test=# select * from d;  
id | x | status | nbr  
----+---+-----+-----  
(0 rows)
```

## New transaction

```
test=# truncate t;  
TRUNCATE TABLE  
test=# insert into t values (1,1,'original');  
INSERT 0 1  
test=#
```

# New merge

```
merge into d      #Did not change  
using t  
on t.id = d.id
```

```
when matched AND d.x > 2 THEN  
UPDATE SET x = d.x + t.x, status='updated+'
```

```
when matched and d.x = 1 THEN  
UPDATE SET status = 'updated', x = 3
```

```
when not matched then  
insert (id,x,status) values (t.id,t.x,t.status);
```

# Frist use

## Merge

```
merge into d
using t
on t.id = d.id
when matched AND d.x > 2 THEN
UPDATE SET x = d.x + t.x, status='updated+'
when matched and d.x = 1 THEN
UPDATE SET status = 'updated', x = 3
when not matched then
insert (id,x,status) values (t.id,t.x,t.status);
```

## Data

```
test=# select * from d;
 id | x | status | nbr
----+---+-----+-----
  1 | 1 | original |
(1 row)
```

# Second use

## Merge

```
merge into d
using t
on t.id = d.id
when matched AND d.x > 2 THEN
UPDATE SET x = d.x + t.x, status='updated+'
when matched and d.x = 1 THEN
UPDATE SET status = 'updated', x = 3
when not matched then
insert (id,x,status) values (t.id,t.x,t.status);
```

## Data

```
test=# select * from d;
id | x | status | nbr
----+---+-----+-----
 1 | 3 | updated |
(1 row)
```

# Third use

## Merge

```
merge into d
using t
on t.id = d.id
when matched AND d.x > 2 THEN
UPDATE SET x = d.x + t.x,
status='updated+'
when matched and d.x = 1 THEN
UPDATE SET status = 'updated', x = 3
when not matched then
insert (id,x,status) values (t.id,t.x,t.status);
```

## Data

```
test=# select * from d;
 id | x | status | nbr
-----+-----+-----+-----
  1 | 4 | updated+ |
(1 row)
```



```
merge into d
using t
on t.id = d.id
when matched AND d.x > 2 THEN
UPDATE SET x = d.x + t.x, status='updated+'
when matched and d.x = 1 THEN
UPDATE SET status = 'updated', x = 3
when not matched then
insert (id,x,status) values (t.id,t.x,t.status);
```

```
test=# truncate b;
TRUNCATE TABLE
test=# select * from b;
id | x | status
```

-----+-----+-----

(0 rows)

```
merge into d
using t
on t.id = d.id
when matched AND d.x > 2 THEN
UPDATE SET x = d.x + t.x, status='updated+'
when matched and d.x = 1 THEN
UPDATE SET status = 'updated', x = 3
when not matched then
insert (id,x,status) values (t.id,t.x,t.status);
```

```
test=# delete from d where id > 1;
DELETE 2
test=#
```



# Those are the basics

Well, at least the basic basics, at basic level

# Triggers

If you love to have your 'business logic' in the database then please read carefully the manual page on when/how triggers are fired.

Yup, this is like juggling while bouncing up and down on a unicycle while crossing a tightrope.

# Some reading

<https://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/sql-merge.html>

<https://www.percona.com/blog/using-merge-to-make-your-postgresql-more-powerful/>

<https://www.postgresql.fastware.com/blog/the-postgresql-merge-command-a-useful-tool-to-make-your-code-more-efficient>

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# Thank You!

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