



How to Enable Audit Logging with EDB Postgres™ Advanced Server

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How to Enable Audit Logging with EDB Postgres Advanced Server
by EnterpriseDB® Corporation
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1 Introduction

Notice: The names for EDB's products have changed.

The product formerly referred to as Postgres Plus Advanced Server is now referred to as EDB Postgres Advanced Server (Advanced Server).

The product formerly referred to as Postgres Enterprise Manager (PEM) is now referred to as EDB Postgres Enterprise Manager (EDB Enterprise Manager).

Until a new version of this documentation is published, wherever you see an earlier version of a product name, you may substitute it with the current name. Name changes in software and software outputs will be phased in over time.

EDB Postgres Advanced Server adds extended functionality to the open-source PostgreSQL database. The extended functionality supports database administration, enhanced SQL capabilities, database and application security, performance monitoring and analysis, and application development utilities.

Advanced Server allows database and security administrators, auditors, and operators to track and analyze database activities using audit logs. Audit logs can be configured to include:

- When a role establishes a connection to an Advanced Server database.
- When a role disconnects from an Advanced Server database.
- When database objects are created, modified or deleted from a database.
- When queries are performed against the database.
- When failed authentication attempts occur.
- When failed attempts to perform unauthorized activities occur.

This tutorial documents how to create and review an audit log. The path names and commands referenced in the examples are for Advanced Server hosts that reside on a CentOS 6.5 host – you may have to modify paths and commands for your configuration.

1.1 *Typographical Conventions Used in this Guide*

Certain typographical conventions are used in this manual to clarify the meaning and usage of various commands, statements, programs, examples, etc. This section provides a summary of these conventions.

In the following descriptions a *term* refers to any word or group of words that are language keywords, user-supplied values, literals, etc. A term's exact meaning depends upon the context in which it is used.

- *Italic font* introduces a new term, typically, in the sentence that defines it for the first time.
- Fixed-width (mono-spaced) font is used for terms that must be given literally such as SQL commands, specific table and column names used in the examples, programming language keywords, etc. For example, `SELECT * FROM emp;`
- *Italic fixed-width font* is used for terms for which the user must substitute values in actual usage. For example, `DELETE FROM table_name;`
- A vertical pipe | denotes a choice between the terms on either side of the pipe. A vertical pipe is used to separate two or more alternative terms within square brackets (optional choices) or braces (one mandatory choice).
- Square brackets [] denote that one or none of the enclosed terms may be substituted. For example, [a | b] means choose one of “a” or “b” or neither of the two.
- Braces { } denote that exactly one of the enclosed alternatives must be specified. For example, { a | b } means exactly one of “a” or “b” must be specified.
- Ellipses ... denote that the preceding term may be repeated. For example, [a | b] ... means that you may have the sequence, “b a a b a”.

2 Modifying the postgresql.conf File

If the server is configured to save audit logs, auditing will start each time the server starts. Configuration parameters that reside in the `postgresql.conf` file specify the auditing behavior of the server. The `postgresql.conf` file is located in the data directory under your PostgreSQL installation (see Figure 2.1).

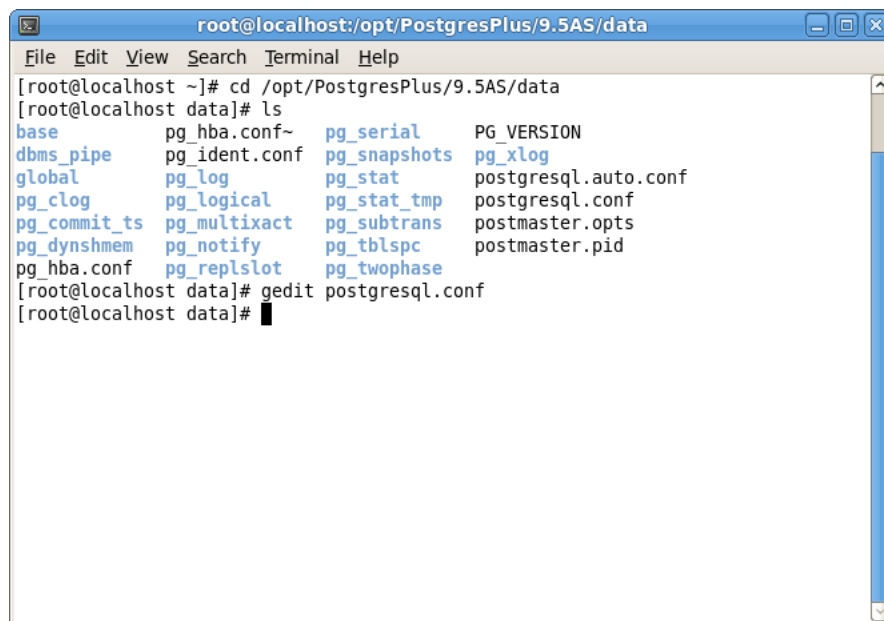


Figure 2.1 – Opening the postgresql.conf file.

If you've performed your installation with the graphical installer on Linux, the `postgresql.conf` file is located in:

```
/opt/PostgresPlus/9.5AS/data
```

If you've performed your installation with the graphical installer on Windows, the `postgresql.conf` file is located in:

```
C:\ProgramFiles\PostgresPlus\9.5AS\data
```

If you've used an RPM installer to install Advanced Server, the `postgresql.conf` file is located in:

```
/var/lib/ppas/9.5/data
```

2.1 Enabling Auditing

To enable auditing, open the `postgresql.conf` file with an editor of your choice. To enable a parameter, remove the pound sign (#) from in front of the parameter, and specify a parameter setting to the right of the equal sign (=).

To enable auditing, modify the `postgresql.conf` file, changing the following parameters in the EDB Audit section (see Figure 2.2):

- To enable database auditing, remove the # sign in front of `edb_audit` and change the 'none' value to 'csv'. This specifies that the log will be written to a .csv file format.
- Remove the # sign in front of `edb_audit_directory`. Accept the default directory, or you can change where the `edb_audit_directory` locates files by changing 'edb_audit' to a file name of your choice ('path').
- Remove the # sign in front of `edb_audit_filename` to accept the default filename which includes a timestamp. The escape sequences (%Y, %m, etc.) will be replaced by the appropriate current values according to the system date and time.
- Remove the # sign in front of `edb_audit_rotation_day`, `edb_audit_rotation_size`, and `edb_audit_rotation_seconds` to control audit log file rotation.

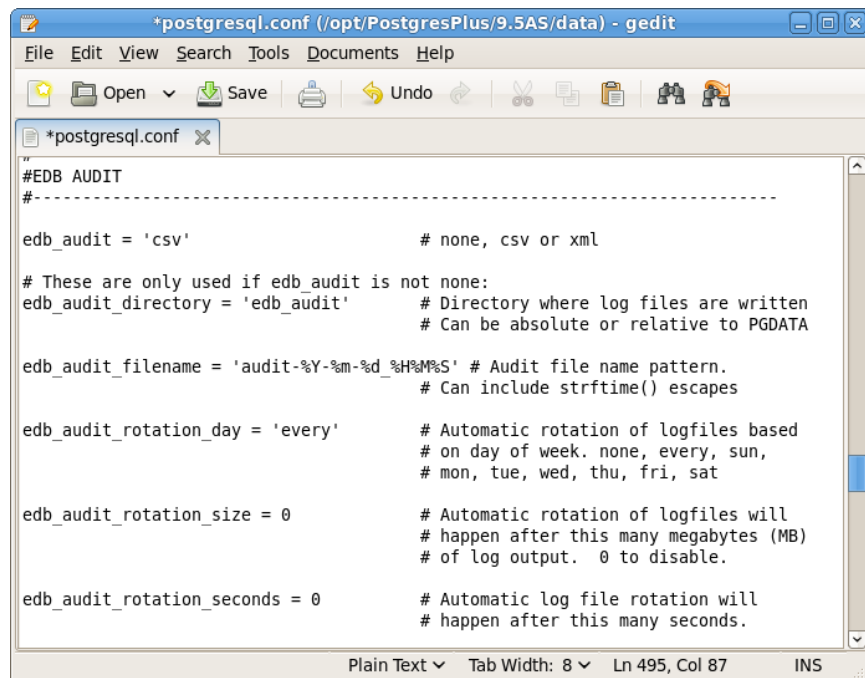


Figure 2.2 – Modifying the `postgresql.conf` file.

2.2 Specifying What to Log

Use parameters within the `EDB AUDIT` section of the `postgresql.conf` file to specify the type of information included in the audit logs. The following example logs all attempts at connecting and disconnecting, and all statements performed against the database. (see Figure 2.3):

- Remove the pound sign in front of `edb_audit_connect` and change the value to `'all'` to specify that all connection attempts will be logged.
- Remove the pound sign in front of `edb_audit_disconnect` and change the value to `'all'` to specify that all disconnection attempts will be logged.
- Remove the pound sign in front of `edb_audit_statement` and change the value to `'all'` to specify that all queries (`SELECT` statements), all DML statements (`INSERT`, `UPDATE`, `DELETE`), and all DDL statements (`CREATE`, `DROP`, `ALTER`) will be logged.

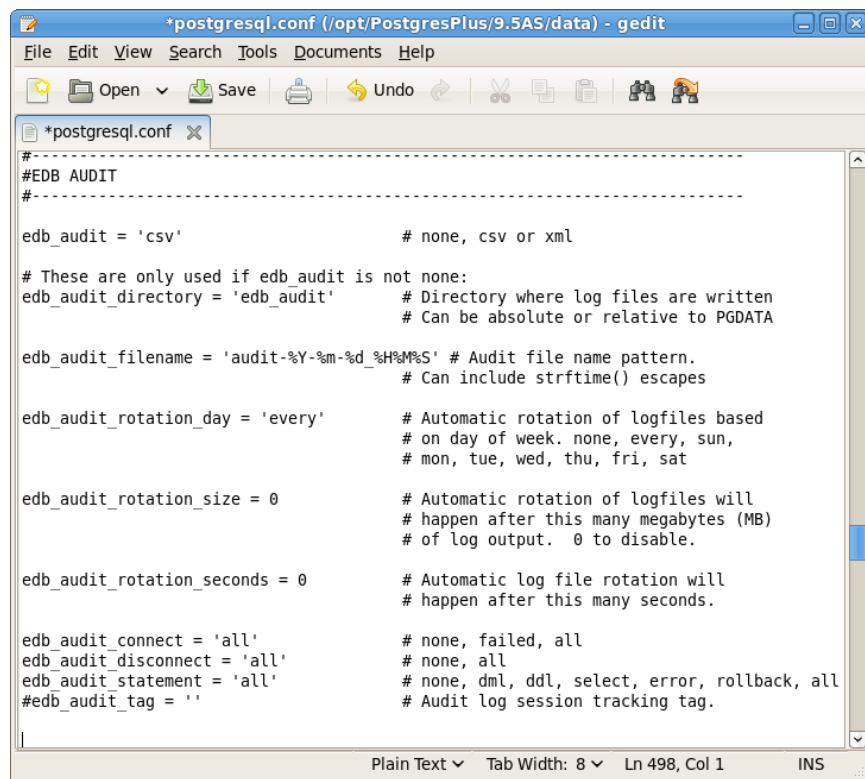


Figure 2.3 – Logging parameters.

Please note that the above parameters settings serve as a convenient example, but may store more information than required. You should evaluate your own auditing needs, and adjust the parameter settings accordingly to avoid storing excessively large audit files. To keep audit logs manageable, consistent log file maintenance and rotation is essential.

For more information about EDB audit logging parameters, see the Appendix.

2.3 Saving and Applying Modifications

To instruct the server to apply the changes that you've made to the auditing parameters, you must reload the server parameters. Reloading configuration parameters does not require Advanced Server users to log out of their current Advanced Server sessions. Save the `postgresql.conf` file, and reload the configuration parameters at the command line (see Figure 2.4), or use the **Reload Configuration** option on the menu bar (see Figure 2.5).

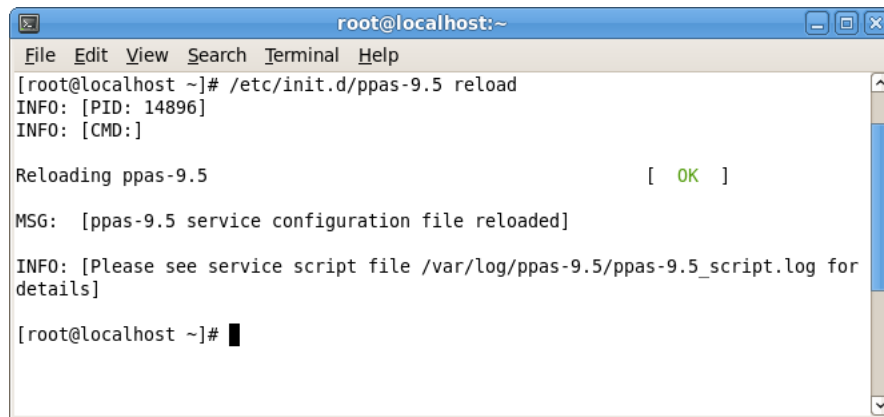


Figure 2.4 – Reloading Advanced Server with the service command.

To reload the system configuration parameter values through the Applications (or Windows Start) menu, navigate through **Postgres Plus Advanced Server menu** to the **Expert Configuration** menu, and select **Reload Configuration**.

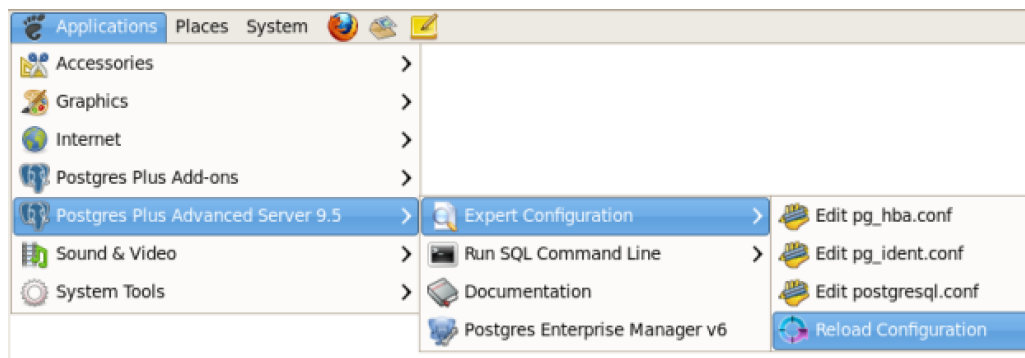


Figure 2.5 – Reloading configuration parameter values through the Applications menu.

If prompted, provide a password to reload the parameters.

3 Viewing Audit Logs

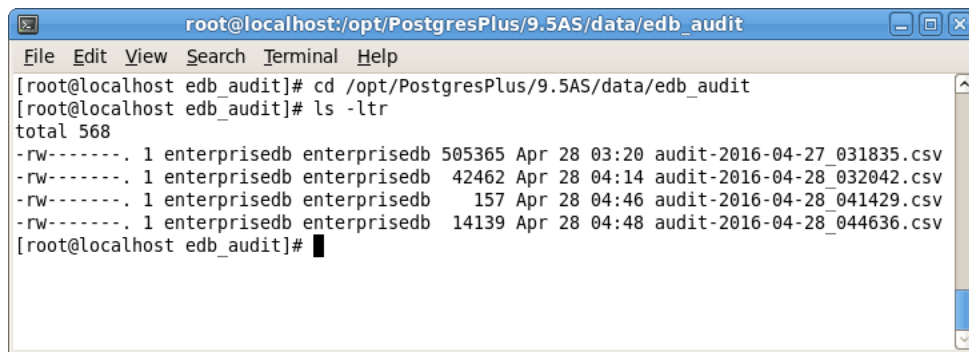
You can view the audit logs with your choice of the text editor. By default, on a Linux system (installed with the graphical installer) the log files are written to:

```
/opt/PostgresPlus/9.5AS/data/edb_audit
```

On a Windows system, the audit logs are stored in:

```
C:\ProgramFiles\PostgresPlus\9.5AS\data\edb_audit
```

The time and date that the log file was created is part of the log file name; the most recent entries will be located in the file with the most recent date/time in their file name (see Figure 3.1).



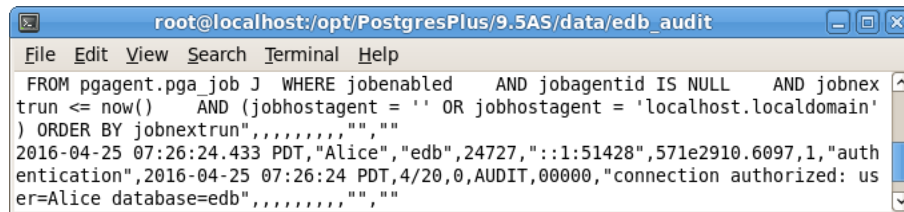
```

root@localhost:/opt/PostgresPlus/9.5AS/data/edb_audit
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[root@localhost edb_audit]# cd /opt/PostgresPlus/9.5AS/data/edb_audit
[root@localhost edb_audit]# ls -ltr
total 568
-rw-----. 1 enterprisedb enterprisedb 505365 Apr 28 03:20 audit-2016-04-27_031835.csv
-rw-----. 1 enterprisedb enterprisedb 42462 Apr 28 04:14 audit-2016-04-28_032042.csv
-rw-----. 1 enterprisedb enterprisedb 157 Apr 28 04:46 audit-2016-04-28_041429.csv
-rw-----. 1 enterprisedb enterprisedb 14139 Apr 28 04:48 audit-2016-04-28_044636.csv
[root@localhost edb_audit]#

```

Figure 3.1 – Viewing a list of audit files ordered by date and time.

Entries in the audit logs provide an overview of the activity on the database server. If, for example, a Login Role named Alice logs in and provides the correct password, the connection information is added to the audit log (see Figure 3.2) because all connection attempts are logged as specified in the `postgresql.conf` file.



```

root@localhost:/opt/PostgresPlus/9.5AS/data/edb_audit
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
FROM pgagent.pga_job J WHERE jobenabled AND jobagentid IS NULL AND jobnex
trun <= now() AND (jobhostagent = '' OR jobhostagent = 'localhost.localdomain'
) ORDER BY jobnexttrun",,,,,,,,,,,,,,""
2016-04-25 07:26:24.433 PDT,"Alice","edb",24727,"::1:51428",571e2910.6097,1,"auth
entication",2016-04-25 07:26:24 PDT,4/20,0,AUDIT,00000,"connection authorized: us
er=Alice database=edb",,,,,,,,,,,,,,""

```

Figure 3.2 – Viewing connection information for a Login Role.

If Alice provides the wrong password, authentication fails and the failed connection attempt is recorded in the audit log (see Figure 3.3).

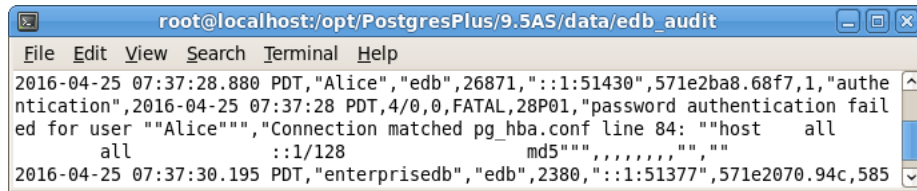


Figure 3.3 – Audit log records unauthorized connection information.

If a Login Role named Bob (who has CREATE DATABASE privileges but does not have CREATE ROLE privileges) attempts to create a new Login Role named Ted (see Figure 3.4):

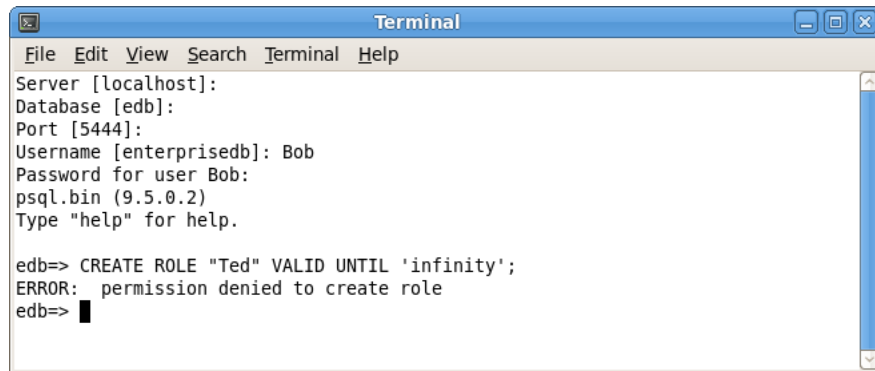


Figure 3.4 – Example of an unauthorized command.

The attempt to create the new role fails because Bob did not have sufficient privileges. The audit log records the failed attempt (see Figure 3.5):

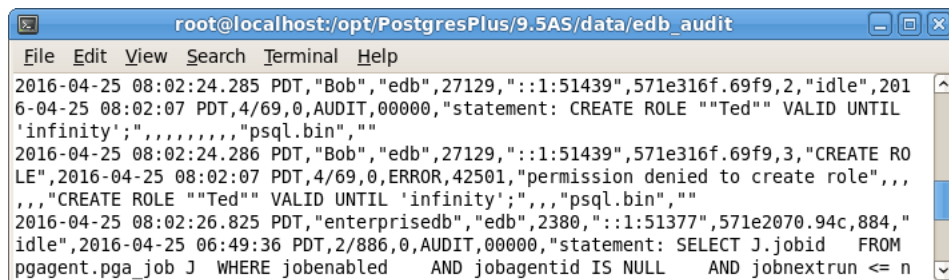
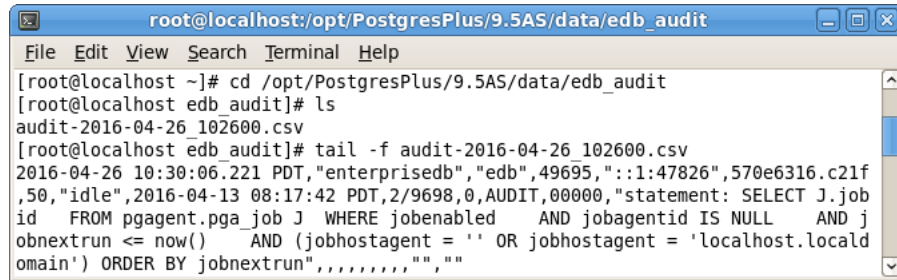


Figure 3.5 – Audit log records for the example above.

For debugging or monitoring purposes, the `tail -f` command can be useful; invoke the command on the most recent audit log to see current activity performed against the server (see Figure 3.6).

A terminal window titled 'root@localhost:/opt/PostgresPlus/9.5AS/data/edb_audit'. The window shows the following commands and output:

```
[root@localhost ~]# cd /opt/PostgresPlus/9.5AS/data/edb_audit
[root@localhost edb_audit]# ls
audit-2016-04-26_102600.csv
[root@localhost edb_audit]# tail -f audit-2016-04-26_102600.csv
2016-04-26 10:30:06.221 PDT,"enterprisedb","edb",49695,"::1:47826",570e6316.c21f
,50,"idle",2016-04-13 08:17:42 PDT,2/9698,0,AUDIT,00000,"statement: SELECT J.job
id FROM pgagent.pga_job J WHERE jobenabled AND jobagentid IS NULL AND j
obnextrun <= now() AND (jobhostagent = '' OR jobhostagent = 'localhost.locald
omain') ORDER BY jobnextrun",,,,,,,,,,"",,""
```

Figure 3.6 – Viewing an audit log.

4 Audit Tagging

Audit tagging allows an application developer to associate an arbitrary string (for example an application user name or a task identifier meaningful to the application developer) with activities in the audit log. This provides additional detailed information about database activity and richer auditing capabilities.

The `edb_audit_tag` parameter provides the mechanism to store this additional information in the audit log. You can modify the audit tag:

- with a `SET` statement in an application. Typically an application may change an audit tag as it moves from task to task.
- in the `postgresql.conf` file. The tag specified in the `postgresql.conf` file will act as a default value, applied to the entire cluster.
- with the PEM or psql client. You can associate an audit tag with a function, procedure, or role with the `SET` clause of an `ALTER` or `CREATE` statement.

To add an audit tag in the server configuration file, open the `postgresql.conf` file with an editor of your choice. If prompted, provide your password.

To enable audit tagging, remove the `#` sign in front of `edb_audit_tag` in the EDB Audit section of the `postgresql.conf` file. Enter a string value to the right of the `=` sign and inside the straight quotes (see Figure 4.1). In the example below, the data tag Publishing Department is added.

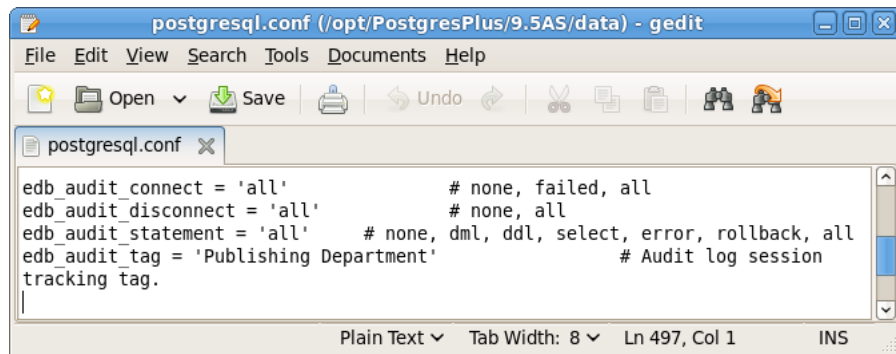


Figure 4.1 – Modifying the `edb_audit_tag` parameter.

When configuration parameters are reloaded, the specified audit tag will be added to audit log entries (see Figure 4.2).

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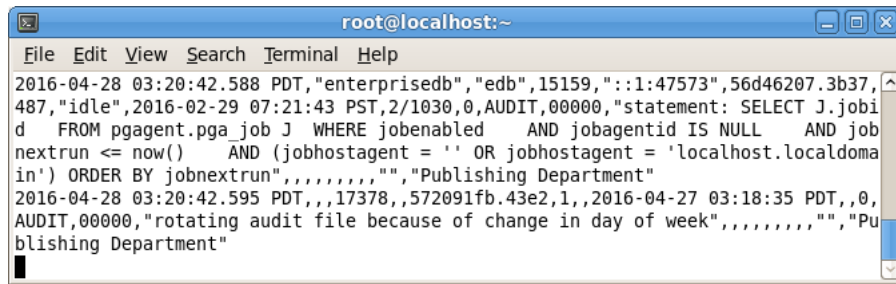


Figure 4.2 – Audit log entries with audit tags.

You can also use the PEM client to associate an audit tag value with a role or database object. To start the PEM client, click Postgres Enterprise Manager from the Postgres Plus Advanced Server selection in the Applications menu (see Figure 4.3).

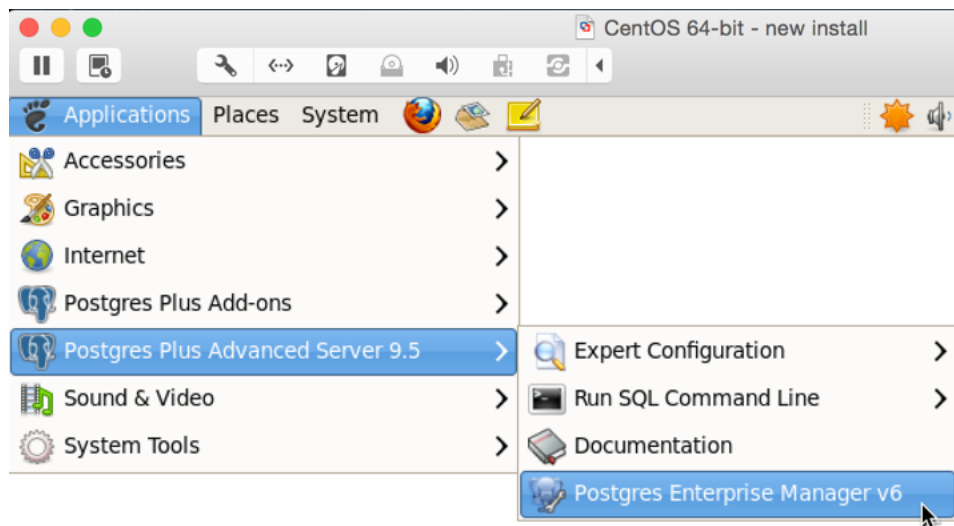


Figure 4.3 – Opening the PEM client.

When the PEM client opens, right-click Postgres Plus Advanced Server in the Object browser tree control and select Connect from the context menu to connect to the server. If prompted, provide your password for authentication.

After authenticating with the server, the server's node of the tree control will be populated with the objects that reside on that server.

To create a new role with an associated audit tag, right click the `Login Role` node of the PEM client's tree control, and select `New Login Role...` to launch the `New Login Role` dialog (see Figure 4.4).

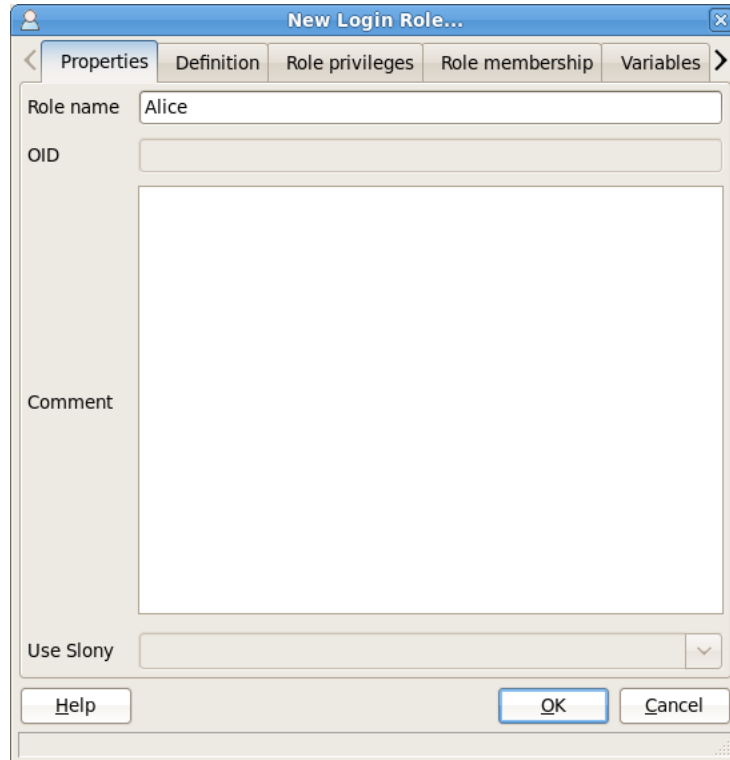


Figure 4.4 – The New Login Role... dialog.

For example, you can use the following selections to create a role named `Alice` with an associated audit tag that displays `Clerk, Human Resources`:

On the `Properties` tab, use the `Role name` field to add the name `Alice`.

On the `Definition` tab:

- Provide a password in the `Password` field.
- Reenter the password in the `Password (again)` field.

On the `Variables` tab,

- Use the drop-down listbox next to `Variable Name` to select `edb_audit_tag`.
- Use the `Variable Value` field to add `Clerk, Human Resources`.
- Use the drop-down listbox next to the `Database` field to select `edb`.
- Click `Add` to enable audit tagging for `Alice` (see Figure 4.5).

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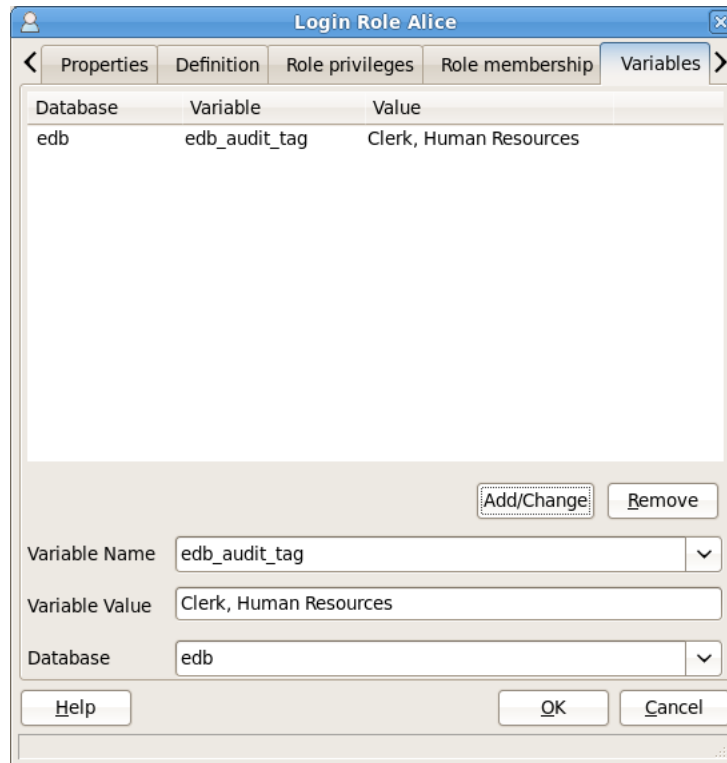


Figure 4.5 – Adding an audit tag.

After making your selections on the New Login Role... dialog, click the OK button to create Alice.

If Alice logs in and makes a statement, the audit log will record the activity and include the audit tag Clerk, Human Resources (see Figure 4.6). Notice the very next entry in the audit log includes the audit tag Publishing Department, which was added to the postgresql.conf file.

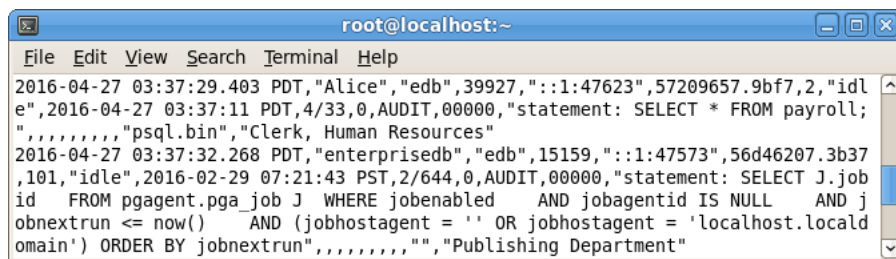


Figure 4.6 – The audit log entry.

You can attach a different audit tag to a role named Bob (see Figure 4.7)

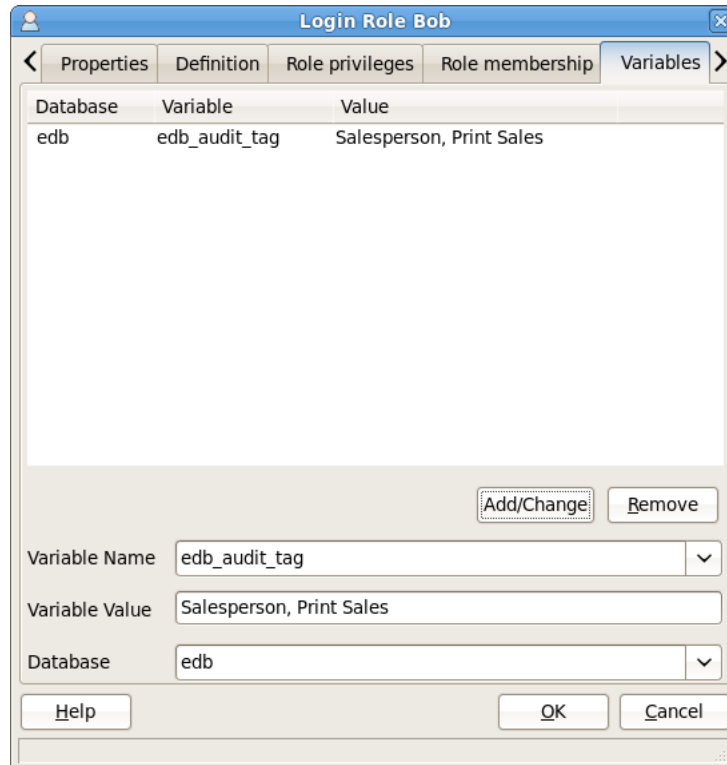


Figure 4.7 – Adding a different audit tag.

This time, when Bob logs in and attempts to create a new role, the audit log will record the unauthorized activity and it will also include the audit tag Salesperson, Print Sales (see Figure 4.8).

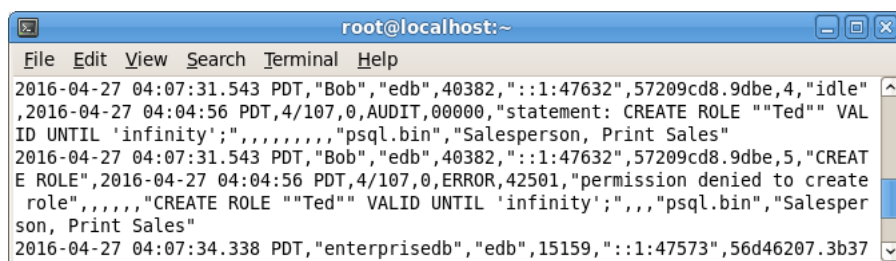


Figure 4.8 – The audit log entry.

5 Appendix

5.1 Auditing Settings

This section describes configuration parameters used by the Advanced Server database auditing feature.

5.1.1 edb_audit

Parameter Type: Enum

Default Value: none

Range: {none | csv | xml}

Minimum Scope of Effect: Cluster

When Value Changes Take Effect: Reload

Required Authorization to Activate: PPAS service account

Enables or disables database auditing. The values `xml` or `csv` will enable database auditing. These values represent the file format in which auditing information will be captured. `none` will disable database auditing and is also the default.

5.1.2 edb_audit_directory

Parameter Type: String

Default Value: edb_audit

Range: n/a

Minimum Scope of Effect: Cluster

When Value Changes Take Effect: Reload

Required Authorization to Activate: PPAS service account

Specifies the directory where the audit log files will be created. The path of the directory can be absolute or relative to the `POSTGRES_PLUS_HOME/data` directory.

5.1.3 edb_audit_filename

Parameter Type: String

Default Value: `audit-%Y%m%d_%H%M%S`

Range: n/a

Minimum Scope of Effect: Cluster

When Value Changes Take Effect: Reload

Required Authorization to Activate: PPAS service account

Specifies the file name of the audit file where the auditing information will be stored. The default file name will be `audit-%Y%m%d_%H%M%S`. The escape sequences, `%Y`, `%m` etc., will be replaced by the appropriate current values according to the system date and time.

5.1.4 edb_audit_rotation_day

Parameter Type: String

Default Value: `every`

Range: `{none | every | sun | mon | tue | wed | thu | fri | sat} ...`

Minimum Scope of Effect: Cluster

When Value Changes Take Effect: Reload

Required Authorization to Activate: PPAS service account

Specifies the day of the week on which to rotate the audit files. Valid values are `sun`, `mon`, `tue`, `wed`, `thu`, `fri`, `sat`, `every`, and `none`. To disable rotation, set the value to `none`. To rotate the file every day, set the `edb_audit_rotation_day` value to `every`. To rotate the file on a specific day of the week, set the value to the desired day of the week.

5.1.5 edb_audit_rotation_size

Parameter Type: Integer

Default Value: 0MB

Range: 0MB to 5000MB

Minimum Scope of Effect: Cluster

When Value Changes Take Effect: Reload

Required Authorization to Activate: PPAS service account

Specifies a file size threshold in megabytes when file rotation will be forced to occur. The default value is 0MB. If the parameter is commented out or set to 0, rotation of the file on a size basis will not occur.

5.1.6 `edb_audit_rotation_seconds`

Parameter Type: Integer

Default Value: 0s

Range: 0s to 2147483647s

Minimum Scope of Effect: Cluster

When Value Changes Take Effect: Reload

Required Authorization to Activate: PPAS service account

Specifies the rotation time in seconds when a new log file should be created. To disable this feature, set this parameter to 0.

5.1.7 `edb_audit_connect`

Parameter Type: Enum

Default Value: `failed`

Range: {`none` | `failed` | `all`}

Minimum Scope of Effect: Cluster

When Value Changes Take Effect: Reload

Required Authorization to Activate: PPAS service account

Enables auditing of database connection attempts by users. To disable auditing of all connection attempts, set `edb_audit_connect` to `none`. To audit all failed connection attempts, set the value to `failed`. To audit all connection attempts, set the value to `all`.

5.1.8 edb_audit_disconnect

Parameter Type: Enum

Default Value: none

Range: {none | all}

Minimum Scope of Effect: Cluster

When Value Changes Take Effect: Reload

Required Authorization to Activate: PPAS service account

Enables auditing of database disconnections by connected users. To enable auditing of disconnections, set the value to `all`. To disable, set the value to `none`.

5.1.9 edb_audit_statement

Parameter Type: String

Default Value: ddl, error

Range: {none | ddl | dml | select | error | rollback | all}

Minimum Scope of Effect: Cluster

When Value Changes Take Effect: Reload

Required Authorization to Activate: PPAS service account

This configuration parameter is used to specify auditing of different categories of SQL statements. To audit statements resulting in error, set the parameter value to `error`. To audit DDL statements such as `CREATE TABLE`, `ALTER TABLE`, etc., set the parameter value to `ddl`. Modification statements such as `INSERT`, `UPDATE`, `DELETE` or `TRUNCATE` can be audited by setting `edb_audit_statement` to `dml`. Setting the value to `all` will audit every statement while `none` disables this feature.

5.1.10 edb_audit_tag

Parameter Type: String

Default Value: none

Minimum Scope of Effect: Session

When Value Changes Take Effect: Immediate

Required Authorization to Activate: User

Use `edb_audit_tag` to specify a string value that will be included in the audit log when the `edb_audit` parameter is set to `csv` or `xml`.