

Advances in High Availability for PostgreSQL in the Enterprise

John Dalton
Senior Director, Product Management

August 25, 2021



What you will learn today

1. Top-tier enterprise applications can run with confidence using Always On Postgres clusters
2. The latest Postgres-BDR™ release delivers faster throughput, larger clusters, and better observability
3. Applications requiring Oracle SQL compatibility and 99.999% availability can run on Postgres



Agenda

- Enterprise needs for HA Postgres
- Faster throughput
- Larger clusters for data distribution
- Better observability
- HA for Oracle SQL compatible applications
- A look ahead



What is “Always On?”

Delivering mission-critical applications/services 24x7



Finance

Payments
Bank account access



Telecom

Video conferencing
Texting/alerting



Transportation

Travel
Rideshare
GPS



Do you need to be “Always On”?

Things to consider



What’s the reputation cost of downtime to your business?



Are there times when it’s okay for an application to be inaccessible?



Is access to data tied directly to revenue?

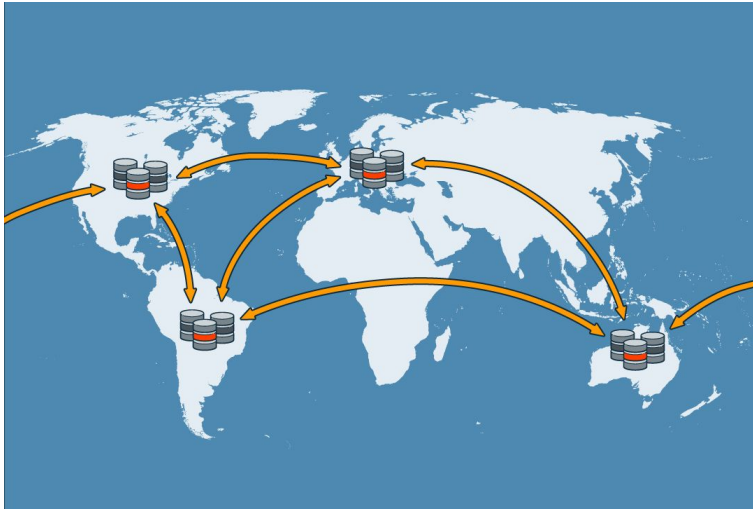


Are your customers globally distributed?



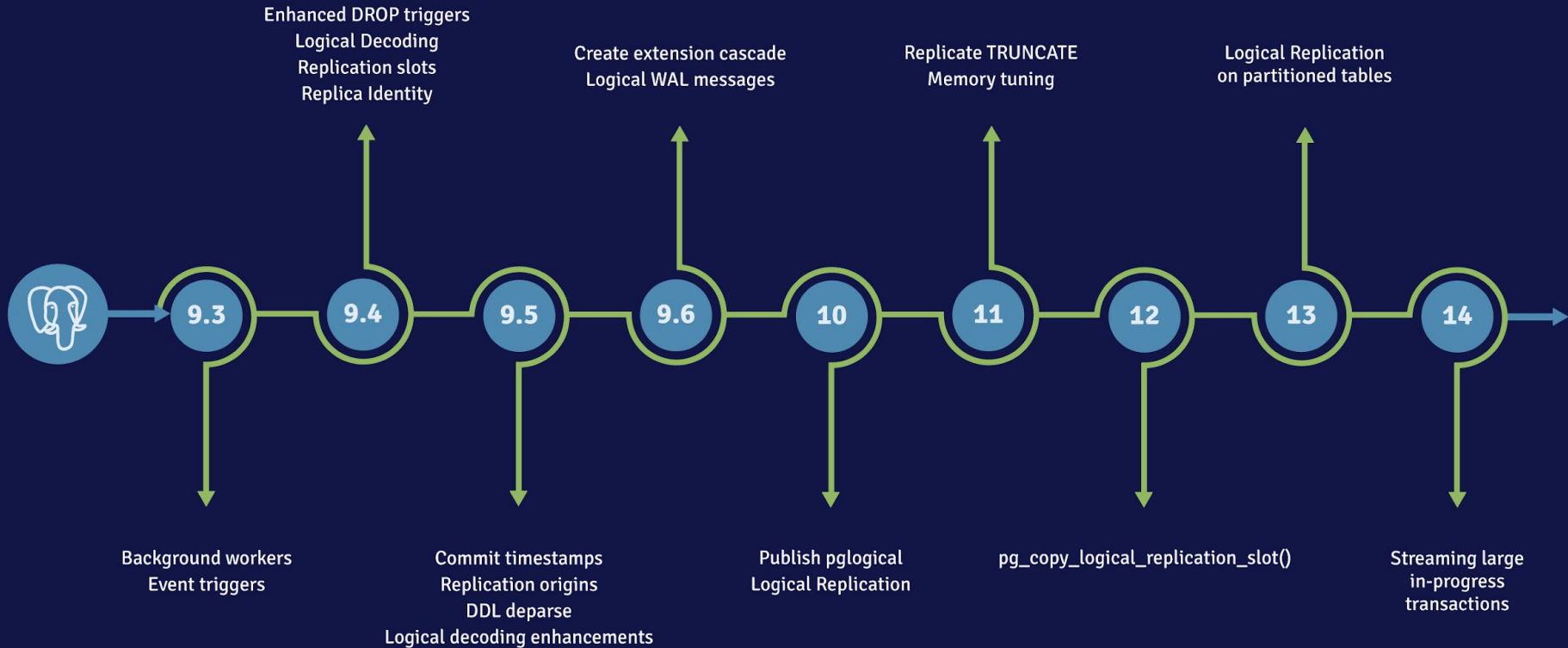
Postgres-BDR is more than bi-directional replication

Multi-master replication enabling highly available and geographically distributed Postgres clusters



- Logical replication of data and schema enabled via standard PostgreSQL extension
- Data consistency options that span from immediate to eventual consistency
- Robust tooling to manage conflicts, monitor performance, and validate consistency
- Deploy natively to cloud, virtual, or bare metal environments





That's great, but enterprises are asking for more

And maintaining data consistency is paramount



Faster Throughput

I need to push more transactions (TPS) through the cluster, as fast as Postgres can run



Larger Clusters

My geographically distributed application needs a read scalable cluster without increased overhead



Better Observability

How do I ensure the right data is exposed to quickly triage issues and facilitate recovery actions



More Migrations

I want to move my applications that need 99.999% availability from Oracle to Postgres

Faster Throughput

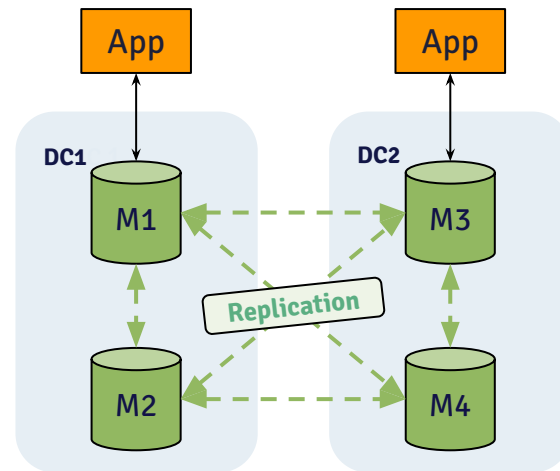


Overview

Introducing parallel data flow architecture to BDR

Goals of pipeline parallelism

- Smoother latency
- Less CPU overhead on BDR upstream nodes
- Better overall throughput for parallelizable workloads



Single decoding worker [upstream]

Single decoding worker improves performance on upstream node by doing logical decoding of WAL once instead of for each downstream node

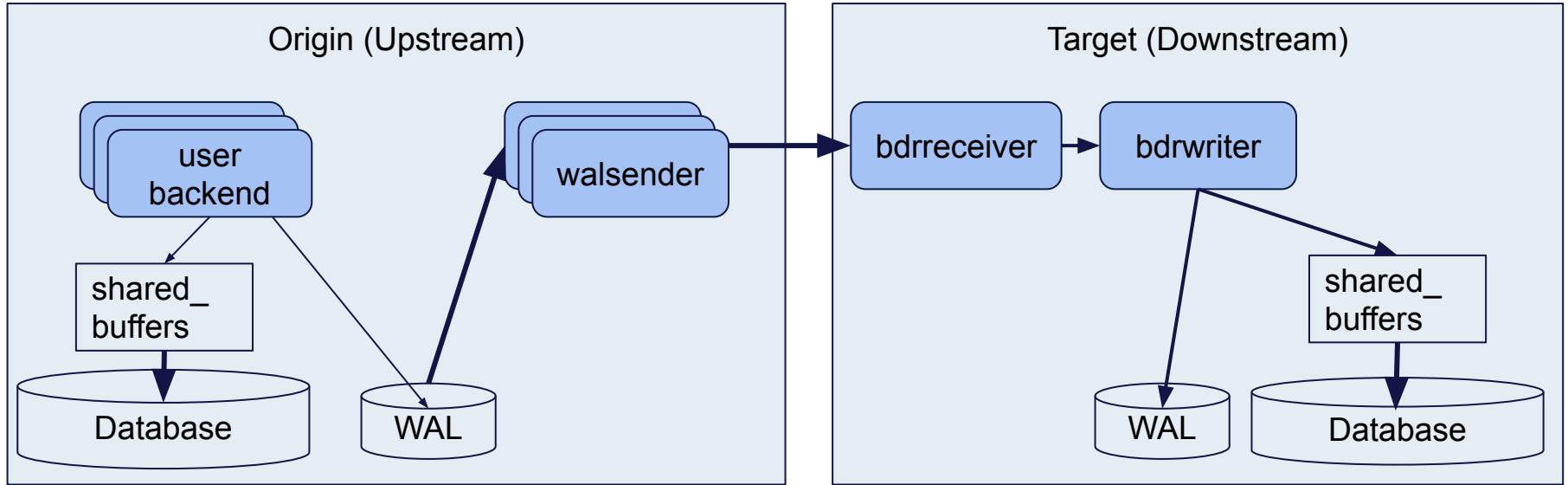
Currently not enabled by default, expected to quickly mature

Parallel apply [downstream]

Parallel apply allows multiple writer processes to apply transactions on downstream node with throughput up to 5X faster

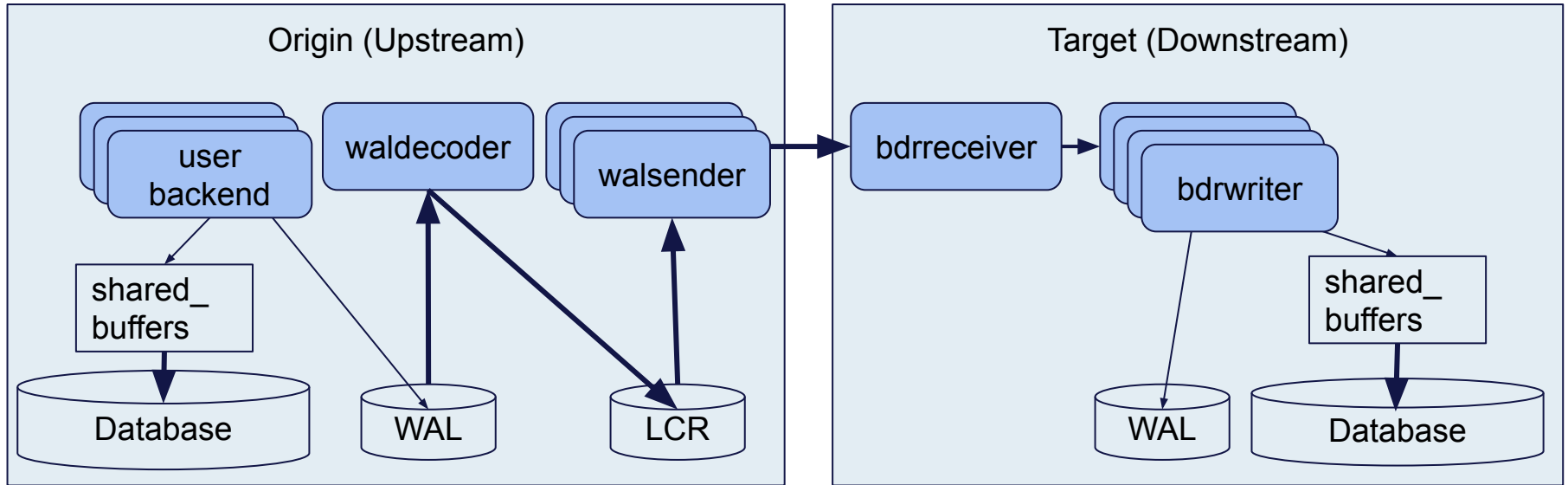
Benefits mixed write workloads, especially for larger DBs and/or i/o heavy write workloads

Logical streaming replication in 3.6



Parallel logical streaming replication in 3.7

Only available with BDR

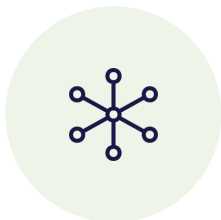


Larger Clusters



Introducing data distribution

Support for a new use case enabling larger clusters



High read scalability is required

For geographically distributed applications requiring consistent, shared reference data

For example Telecom call routing, this can mean **hundreds of nodes** in a cluster across different regions



Built on new enabling capabilities

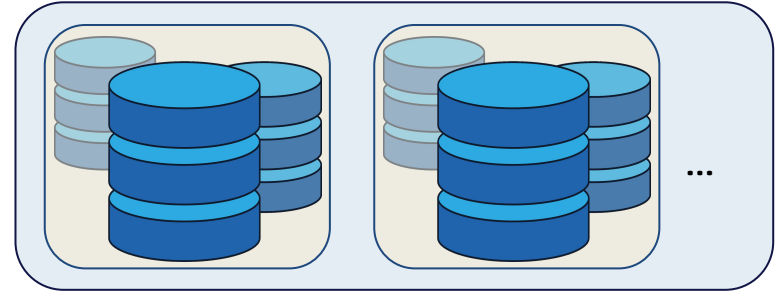
New features supporting this use case are sub-groups and subscribe-only nodes

Also leveraged is single decoding worker to minimize overhead on origin node

Sub-groups

Foundational feature for many planned enhancements

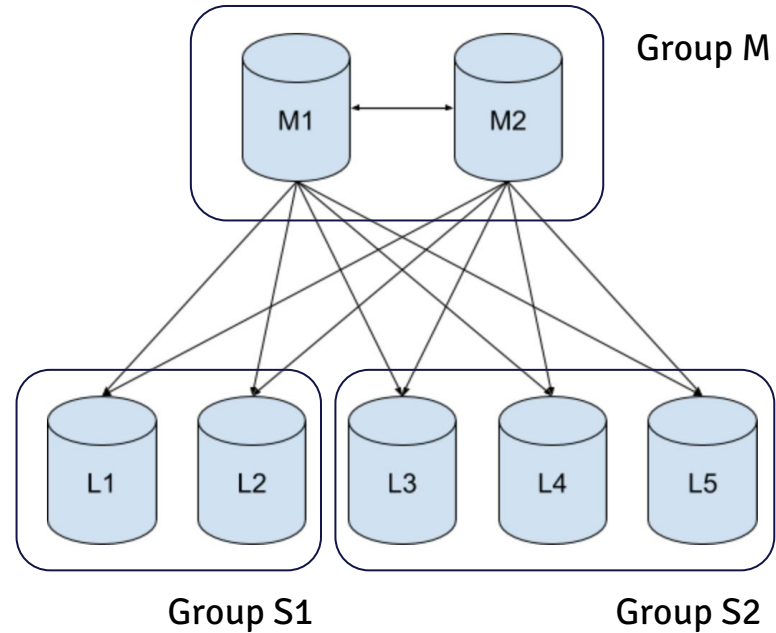
- In BDR3.6, all nodes were part of one Group
 - Mesh architecture minimizes latency between nodes
- In BDR3.7, a cluster can have nested SubGroups, with each node as part of one Group
 - AlwaysOn becomes 2 Group cluster (2x2)
 - Each Group can have ≥ 2 Nodes
 - No limit on number of Groups
 - Each Group comes with own default repset to simplify management of filtering
- **This is a building block for more complex architectures**



Data distribution tree

Enables sharing reference data for applications requiring high read scalability

- Tree architecture minimizes **overheads in large networks**
- Data Distribution Networks
- Subscriber-Only Nodes only **receive** data from Main Group(s)
- Subscriber-Only Nodes in separate groups (sub-groups)
- Allows up to **1000** node clusters



Better Observability



Monitoring BDR

Postgres Enterprise Manager (PEM) now includes visualizations for BDR

PEM dashboards

The latest release of Postgres Enterprise Manager introduces 3 BDR monitoring dashboards for displaying information about replication activity for a BDR cluster. These are:

- Admin
- Group Monitoring
- Node Monitoring

BDR enhancements

Ongoing work to improve operational insights of deployed BDR clusters. With latest BDR release a number of new views are introduced with focus on:

- Group level monitoring
- In-progress monitoring on the downstream apply side



BDR admin dashboard

This view provides cluster (or group) level information on:

- Node status across the cluster
- Status on global locks (DDL)
- Software version details by node
- Apply side worker thread status
- Worker thread errors
- CAMO status for cluster
- Raft consensus status for cluster

The screenshot displays the BDR Admin dashboard for a cluster named 'Nodes1'. The dashboard is organized into several sections:

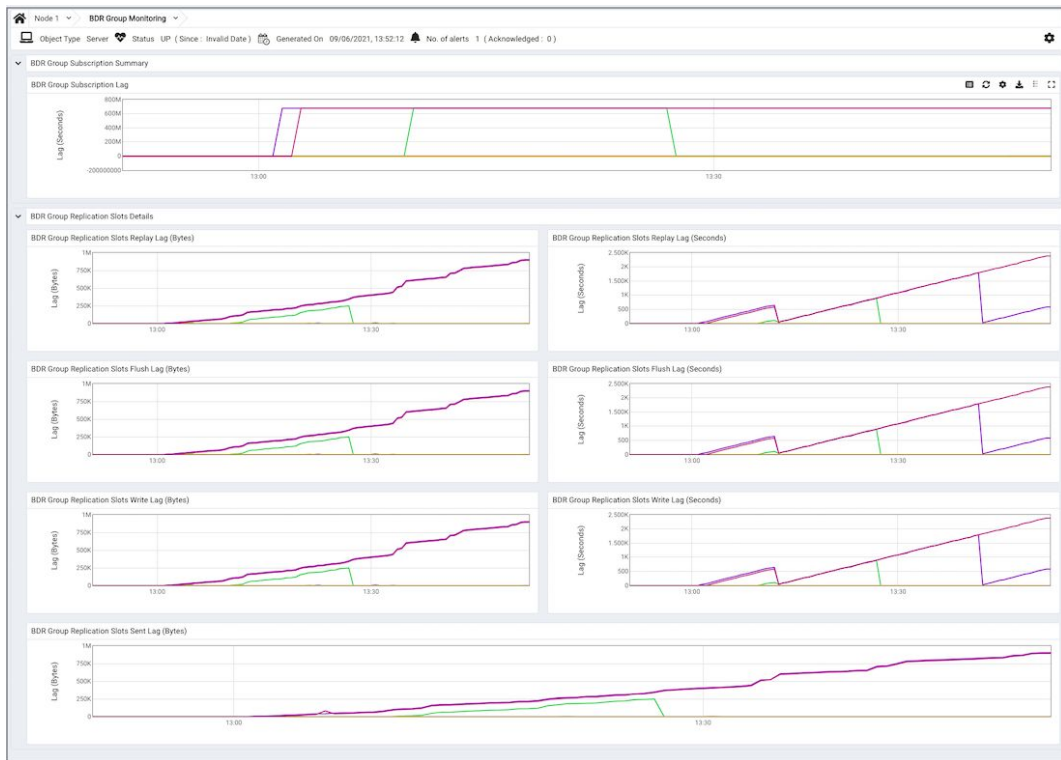
- Node Summary:** A table showing the status of nodes in the cluster. All nodes (kickoff, quart, quitter) are in an 'ACTIVE' state.
- Global Locks:** A table showing the status of global locks. One lock is present: GLOBAL_LOCK_DDL, held by PID 18465.
- BDR Group Version Details:** A table showing the software versions for each node. All nodes are running PostgreSQL 11.12(2) and BDR 3.7.9.
- BDR Workers:** A table showing the status of BDR workers. Three workers are active, with roles receiver, writer, and receiver.
- BDR Worker Errors:** A table showing errors for BDR workers. Two errors are listed, both related to a 'public.test?' relation that does not exist.
- BDR Group Camo Details:** A table showing the status of the Camo (Change Agent Migration) process. The Camo process is not connected or ready.
- BDR Group Raft Details:** A table showing the status of the Raft consensus process. The cluster is in a state where all nodes are followers, and the leader is 'quitter'.



BDR group monitoring dashboard

Insight to overall cluster (or group) operational health of replication is available in this view. Regular advancement of group level metrics means all nodes are actively consuming changes. Information available includes:

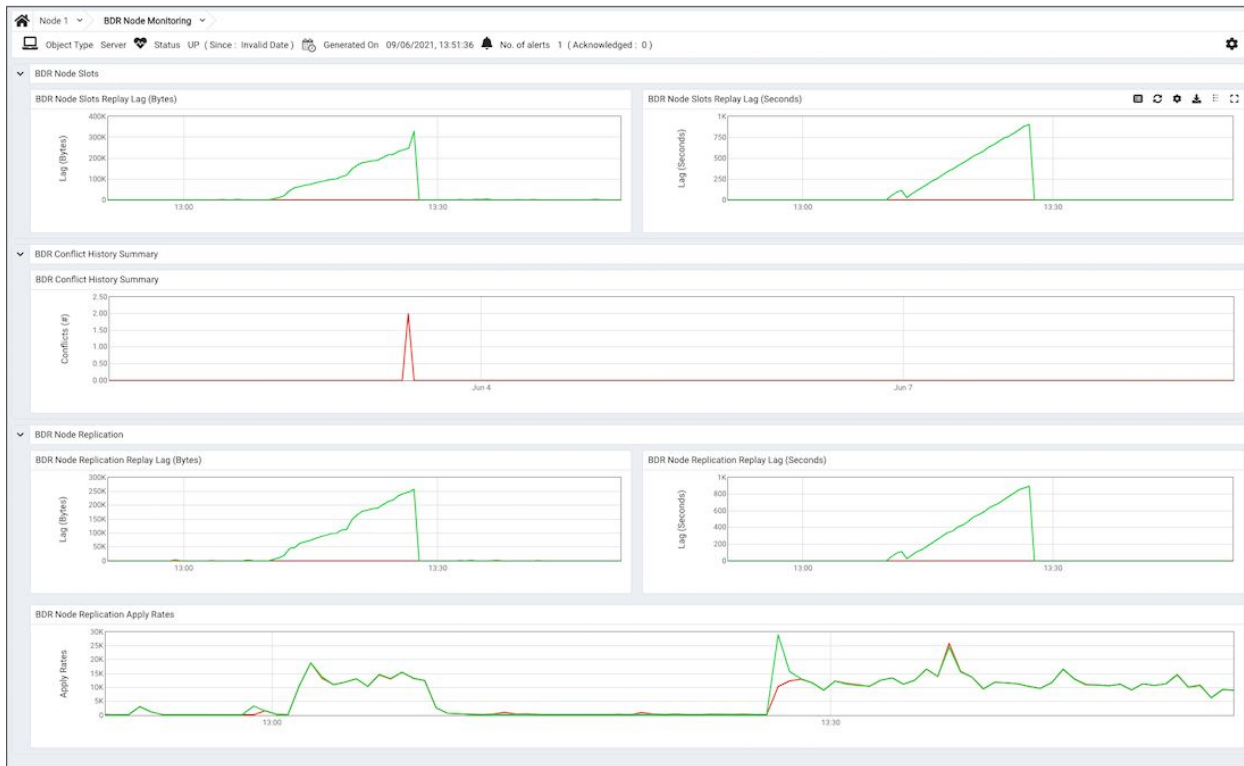
- Subscription lag
- Replication slots replay, flush, and write lag in bytes and seconds
- Replication slots sent lag in bytes



BDR node monitoring dashboard

Node level visibility:

- For slots used by BDR in a database the outgoing replication replay lag in bytes and seconds (difference between applied LSN and current WAL write position)
- A summary of conflicts encountered
- Outgoing replication rates for a node including replay lag in bytes and seconds
- Rate in LSNs applied per second for a BDR node



HA for Oracle SQL Compatible Applications

EDB Postgres Advanced with BDR

Benefits of Oracle SQL compatibility and 5 nines availability



Your tier 1 apps

Leverage existing infrastructure with native PL/SQL support and Oracle Call Interface (OCI) interoperability



Your people

Leverage the existing skills of your Oracle DBAs and developers



Your business

Lower costs, reduce risks, and move faster



BDR Feature Overview

A full-featured multi-master replication solution for PostgreSQL clusters

Essentials

Provides the essential multi-master capabilities for PostgreSQL clusters.

- Enables application and database upgrades without requiring downtime
- Provides clusters row level eventual consistency by default
- Tools to monitor operation and verify data consistency
- Extends PostgreSQL logical replication beyond unidirectional, standby use cases

Advanced

Includes advanced conflict management, data-loss protection, and up to 5X faster.

- Guards applications from committing transactions more than once
- Conflict-free synchronous replication with two phase commit
- Concurrent updates using conflict-free replicated data types (CRDTs)
- Configurable column level conflict resolution with customizable conflict handling and transformation



A Look Ahead



Roadmap

A vision for advancing very highly available Postgres clusters

Q2: BDR 3.7 GA

Support for v11-13

Up to 5X throughput with parallel apply

Single decoding worker streamlines upstream replication

High read scalability through data distribution tree architecture with subscribe-only nodes

Oracle SQL compatibility support with Postgres Advanced

PEM support for monitoring BDR

Q4: BDR 4.0 GA

Support for v12-14

Oracle SQL compatibility support is complete with Postgres Advanced v14

Features enabled are:

- Eager replication
- CAMO
- Single decoding worker
- Application assessment

Improved cluster management provides zero transaction lag switchover

2022 and beyond

Support for v13-15

Expand pipeline parallelism and enhance large transaction support for faster throughput

Enhance autopartition to support bigger tables in clusters

Evolve data distribution capabilities in support of bigger clusters

Develop autoscale capabilities to enable bigger databases



Thank you!

john.dalton@enterprisedb.com

