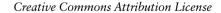
Enterprise Postgres Growth in Japan

BRUCE MOMJIAN



This talk explores why Japan was such an early adopter of Postgres, and how Japanese developers move Postgres forward.

https://momjian.us/presentations





Last updated: November 2021

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

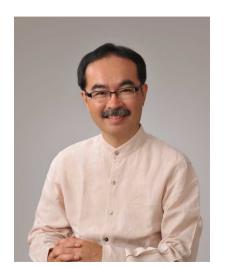
2. Early Years



hhttps://www.flickr.com/photos/dharma-bum/

Tatsuo Ishii

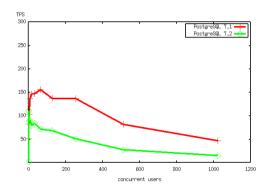
- Started with Postgres in 1991 (five years before me)
- Wrote first Postgres book in 1998
- Helped create the first Postgres user group



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?



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

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

SRA

- 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



NTT

- 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/ossc-db



Fig. 1. Contributions to PostgreSQL development.

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



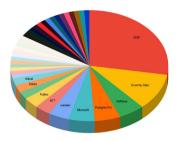
15% from Japan; Toronto, July 2006

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



Postgres 14 Success

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

 $\verb|https://www.postgresql.org/docs/14/release-14.htm||$

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



