



**Working effectively with
(-support-)
the community**



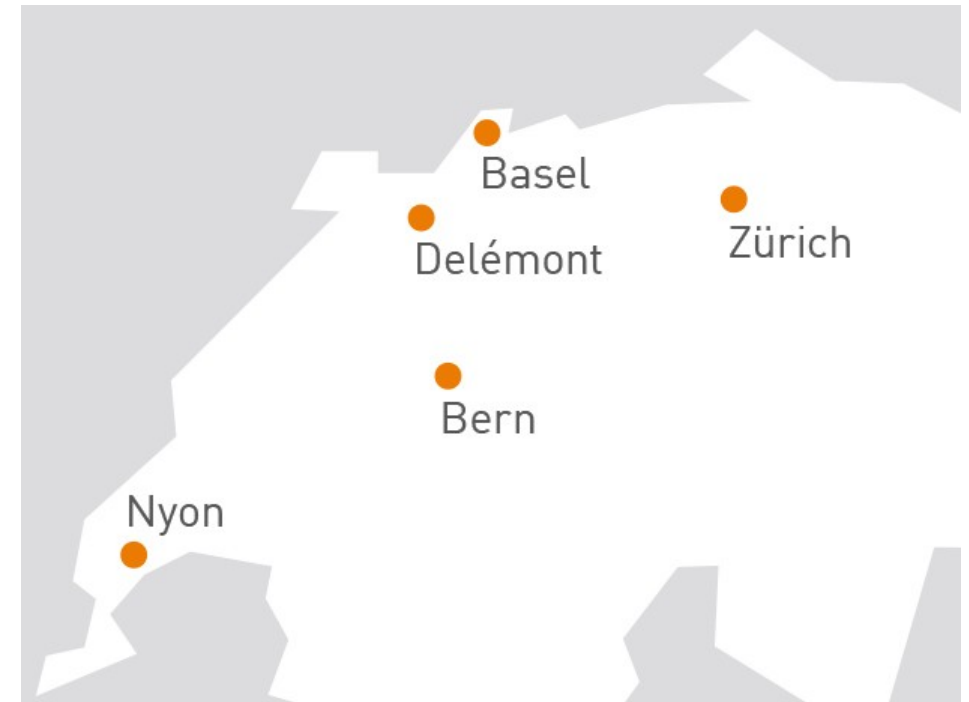
Who we are

The Company

- > Founded in 2010
- > More than 80 specialists
- > Specialized in the **Middleware Infrastructure**
 - > The invisible part of IT
- > Customers in Switzerland and all over Europe

Our Offer

- > Consulting
- > Service Level Agreements (SLA)
- > Trainings
- > License Management



Daniel Westermann

Technology Leader

Principal Consultant

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🐦 [@westermannanie](https://twitter.com/westermannanie)

🌐 [Daniel Westermann](#)



How it started
way back in 2013

<https://tinyurl.com/yuaj4zpe>

Hi Listers,

we migrated an oracle datawarehouse to postgresql 9.1 (ppas 9.1.7.12) and are facing massive issues with response times in Postgres when compared to the oracle system. Both databases run on the same hardware and storage (rhel5.8 64bit).

...

I had an issue with performance
Oracle DWH to PostgreSQL
It was too slow!

This was my first real contact with the
PostgreSQL community

... and I really did something right!
Guess what?

From: Daniel Westermann
<Daniel(dot)Westermann(at)lcsystems(dot)ch>
To: "pgsql-performance(at)postgresql(dot)org"
<pgsql-performance(at)postgresql(dot)org>

PostgreSQL Mailing Lists!?

There are many, e.g.:

- general
- performance
- hackers
- announce

...

<https://www.postgresql.org/list/>

But what about

- GitHub

- GitLab

- ...

<https://github.com/postgres/postgres>

No!
You really need to read/write emails!
Preferrable in plain text!

Why?

It just works!

You can browse the archives back to the beginning!

Everything is public, you only need

A) Email

B) Browser

The community is maintaining its own infrastructure!

No dependencies on third parties!

Please have a look at this

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyenmLqJQjs>

"Linux Kernel Development, Greg Kroah-Hartman - Git Merge 2016"

It is all plain text.

You can run it through Google translate, or whatever.

You can take a day, a week to respond.

We want people who have not English as their first language.

Email is just what you are writing.

... and

Don't top-post!
Why?

It is all about context!

On 03.01.2013 15:30, Daniel Westermann wrote:

> What additionally makes me wonder is, that the same table in oracle is taking much less space than in postgresql

One difference is that numerics are stored more tightly packed on Oracle. Which is particularly good for Oracle as they don't have other numeric data types than number. On PostgreSQL, you'll want to use int4 for ID-fields, where possible. An int4 always takes up 4 bytes, while a numeric holding an integer value in the same range is typically 5-9 bytes.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Posting_style

But I've also done something wrong!
Guess what?

Heikki Linnakangas <hlinnakangas(at)vmware(dot)com> writes:
> One difference is that numerics are stored more tightly packed on
> Oracle. Which is particularly good for Oracle as they don't have other
> numeric data types than number. On PostgreSQL, you'll want to use int4
> for ID-fields, where possible. An int4 always takes up 4 bytes, while a
> numeric holding an integer value in the same range is typically 5-9
bytes.

Replacing those **numeric(8)** and **numeric(16)** fields with **int4** and **int8** would be greatly beneficial to comparison and hashing performance, not just table size.

<https://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/datatype.html>

regards, tom lane

Remember: It is about context, don't top post!

Getting to know PostgreSQL - how does it work?

Don't
do
this!

https://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/Don%27t_Do_This

There is the PostgreSQL Wiki!

Before posting SQL performance related questions

[https://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/](https://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/Slow_Query_Questions)

[Slow_Query_Questions](https://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/Slow_Query_Questions)

Before starting a discussion about hints

<https://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/>

[OptimizerHintsDiscussion](https://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/)

(please, don't)

Before asking about autonomous transactions

https://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/Autonomous_subtransactions

(please, don't)

In general:
A lot of discussions already took place,
search the archives before posting

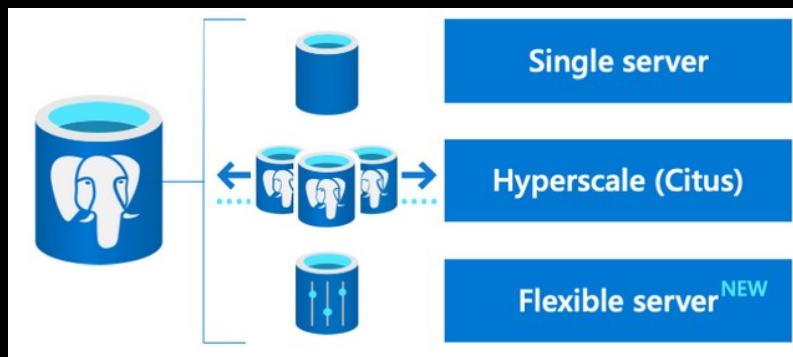
Always remember:
Answers/help on the mailing lists are for free.
People are doing that in their spare time.
There are humans on the other side, **like you.**

Of course, most of those people get paid.
But they are not paid to support you for free!



Btw.

This is not PostgreSQL!



If you need professional services

[https://www.postgresql.org/
support/professional_support/](https://www.postgresql.org/support/professional_support/)

This does not mean that things can be improved!
But please make yourself familiar with the history!

There are reasons for the current

- implementation
- limitations

Expectations

"Why does this feature not exist in PostgreSQL?
Other databases can do that since ages.
I absolutely need this, and if I don't
have it, I cannot use PostgreSQL!"

What's wrong with this?

"Why does this feature not exist in PostgreSQL?
Other databases can do that since ages.
I absolutely need this, and if I don't
have it I can not use PostgreSQL!"

PostgreSQL is not

- MySQL/MariaDB
- MSSQL
- Oracle
- DB2

...

"Why does this feature not exist in PostgreSQL?
Other databases can do that since ages.
I absolutely need this, and if I don't
have it I cannot use PostgreSQL!"

The common answer to this:
"Patches welcome"

What?

PostgreSQL is a real community project
This comes with consequences

PostgreSQL depends on **contributions!**

There is no roadmap!

PostgreSQL is a noncommercial, all volunteer, free software project, and as such there is no formal list of feature requirements required for development. We enjoy allowing developers to explore the topics of their choosing, though we also ensure that all new features committed to PostgreSQL are thoroughly vetted by our community of contributors and committers.

<https://www.postgresql.org/developer/roadmap/>

If something is missing,
you need to start a discussion
(preferrable before coding anything)

e.g.

Declarative partitioning

<https://www.postgresql.org/message-id/flat/55D3093C.5010800%40lab.ntt.co.jp>

From: Amit Langote <Langote_Amit_f8(at)lab(dot)ntt(dot)co(dot)jp>

To: Pg Hackers <pgsql-hackers(at)postgresql(dot)org>

Hi,

I would like propose \$SUBJECT for this development cycle. Attached is a WIP patch that implements most if not all of what's described below. Some yet unaddressed parts are mentioned below, too. I'll add this to the **CF-SEP**.

Even if there is no roadmap,
you can follow what is currently going on

Either by subscribing to:

<https://www.postgresql.org/list/pgsql-hackers/>

(This will blow your inbox)

Or by checking the Commitfests:
<https://commitfest.postgresql.org/>

Contribute by testing/reviewing

Target version	15
Authors	Pavel Stehule (okbobcz)
Reviewers	Daniel Gustafsson (d_gustafsson), Justin Pryzby (justinpryzby) Become reviewer
Committer	
Links	
Emails	proposal: possibility to read dumped table's name from file ✕ First at 2020-05-29 14:21:00 by Pavel Stehule <pavel.stehule at gmail.com> Latest at 2021-10-27 09:15:31 by Pavel Stehule <pavel.stehule at gmail.com> Latest attachment (pg_dump-filteropt-20211027.patch) at 2021-10-27 09:15:31 from Pavel Stehule <pavel.stehule at gmail.com> + Attach thread

You don't have to be a C-programmer to contribute

Contribute by improving the documentation
[https://www.postgresql.org/**list/pgsql-docs/**](https://www.postgresql.org/list/pgsql-docs/)

From: Tom Lane <tgl(at)sss(dot)pgh(dot)pa(dot)us>
To: "Daniel Westermann (DWE)" <daniel(dot)westermann(at)dbi-services(dot)com>
Cc: Laurenz Albe <laurenz(dot)albe(at)cybertec(dot)at>, "pgsql-docs(at)lists(dot)postgresql(dot)org" <pgsql-docs(at)lists(dot)postgresql(dot)org>
"Daniel Westermann (DWE)" <daniel(dot)westermann(at)dbi-services(dot)com>

writes:
Subject: Re: Be more clear what names can be used for tables with "CREATE TABLE"?

>> "The name of the table must be distinct from the name of any other
>> relation (table, sequence, index, view, materialized view, or foreign
>> table) in the same schema."

> Works for me, +1

Done that way, then.

regards, tom lane

This is what I can contribute - documentation
Documentation is important

Other ways to contribute

Conferences / Events

[https://www.postgresql.org/**about/events/**](https://www.postgresql.org/about/events/)

Find your local user group, in my case it is
<https://www.swisspug.org/>



Submit talks (this was 2016)



— Die Schweizer Tagung zur freien DB PostgreSQL

Startseite

Programm

Organisation

Poster

Zeit	Technical Track - Raum 5.002	Business Track - Raum 5.001
08:15 - 08:50	Registration - bei der Cafeteria im Gebäude 1	
08:50 - 09:00	Stefan Keller (HSR) - Begrüssung - Raum 5.002	
09:00 - 09:50	Charles Clavadetscher, Fuzzy Suche in PostgreSQL Slides Picture	Andreas Kretschmer, Erfahrungen aus 15 Jahren Community-Support in Mailinglisten, Foren und Facebook Slides Picture
10:00 - 10:50	Daniel Westermann, Positioning a real open source database in your enterprise, PostgreSQL as a central reporting hub Slides Picture	Thomas Koch, Moderne Datenbankentwicklung mit PostgreSQL – Tools & Konzepte Slides Picture
11:00 - 11:50	Hans-Jürgen Schönig, PostgreSQL auf viele CPUs skalieren Slides Picture	Daniel Pocock, Postbooks: free and open source accounting/ERP with PostgreSQL Slides Picture
12:00 - 12:50	Johannes Graen, Korpuslinguistik mit PostgreSQL Slides Picture	Harald Armin Massa, Daten auf mehreren Systemen Slides Picture
12:50 - 14:00	Mittagessen - Location Mensa Gebäude 4	
14:00 - 14:50	Stefan Keller, PostGIS – Ein Überblick mit Tipps und Tricks Slides Picture	Stephan Wagner, Postgres-Clients Slides Picture
15:00 - 15:50	Philippe Marschall, Java 8 Date Time API mit PostgreSQL Slides Picture	Daniel Westermann, Von Oracle nach PostgreSQL migrieren Slides Picture
15:50 - 16:00	Stefan Keller (HSR) - Abschluss	
16:00 -	Apéro - Cafeteria im Gebäude 1	

Go larger - <https://2022.pgconf.de/>



The 6th Annual
PostgreSQL Conference Germany
Leipzig, Germany
May 13, 2022

[PostgreSQL Europe](#) is proud to announce the 6th Annual PostgreSQL Conference Germany which will be held at the [Marriott Hotel, Leipzig](#) in Leipzig, Germany, on May 13, 2022.

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Go very large - <https://www.postgresql.eu/>

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The 12th Annual PostgreSQL Conference Europe

Berlin, Germany

October 25-28, 2022

[PostgreSQL Europe](#) is proud to announce the 12th Annual PostgreSQL Conference Europe which will be held at the [Berlin Marriott Hotel](#) in Berlin, Germany, on October 26-28, 2022 with an additional day of world-class PostgreSQL [training](#) offered on October 25.

 October 25-28, 2022
 Berlin, Germany
 [COVID-19](#)

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- Volunteer for
- Organizational help
 - Room hosts
 - Sponsoring

...

You will meet the community there!

Talk about what you do.
Not to promote yourself.
But to promote the project.

Yes, this requires to spend some spare time

Other ways to contribute

Provide test machines

<https://tinyurl.com/mrrv33wj>

Final (personal) tipps

Subscribe to announce

<https://www.postgresql.org/list/pgsql-announce/>

Subscribe to committers

<https://www.postgresql.org/list/pgsql-committers/>

Subscribe to bugs

<https://www.postgresql.org/list/pgsql-bugs/>

Make yourself familiar with Git

https://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/Working_with_Git

Don't be shy
The PostgreSQL community is very welcoming

regards, tom lane

**Convince your company,
that open source is the right way
(this will come with costs, but much greater
benefits)**

I've tried, and it worked!

#SteakDevrim

Open source software

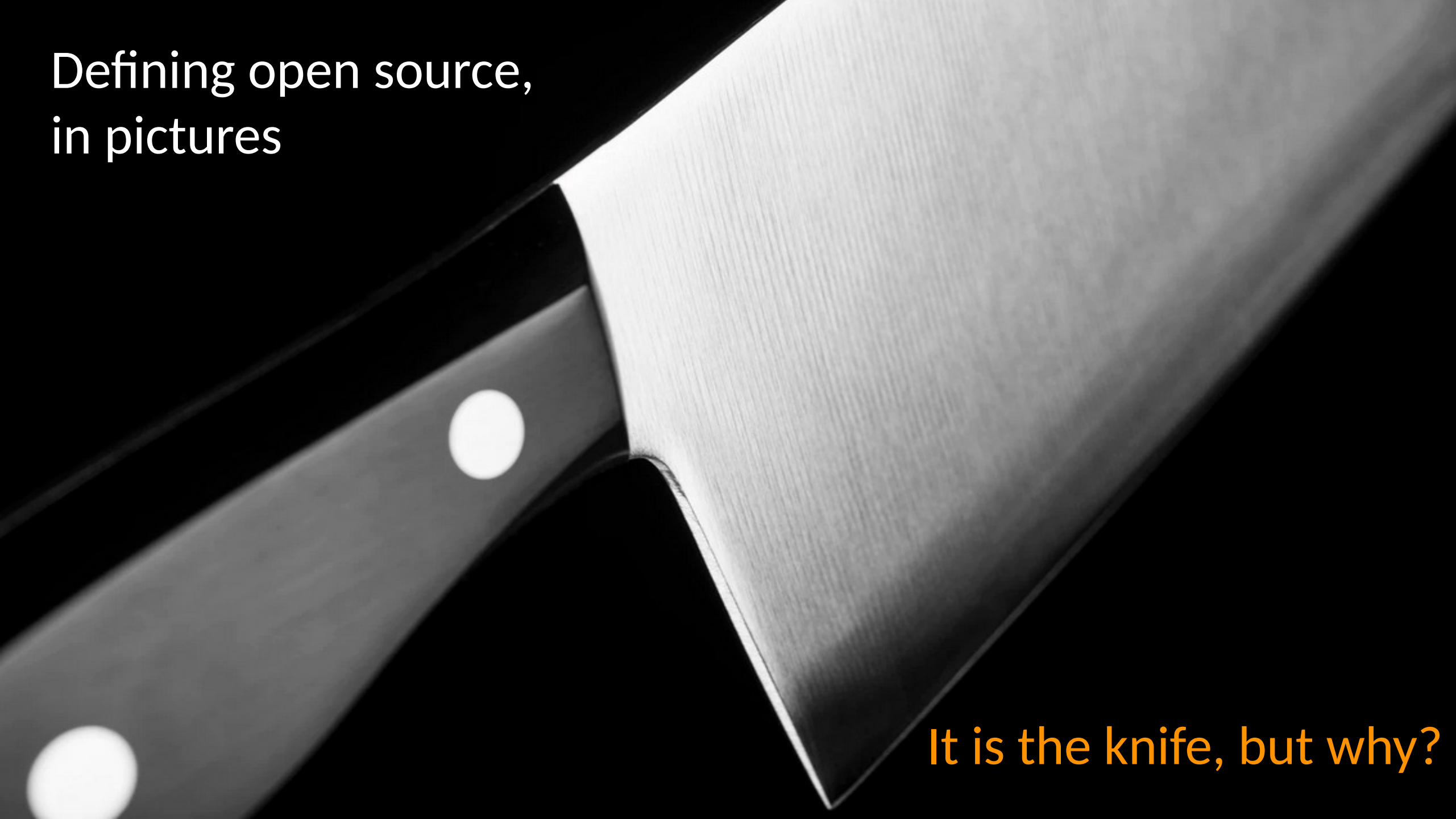


Defining open source, in pictures

What is most important
for the final result?



Defining open source,
in pictures



It is the knife, but why?

Defining open source, in pictures



Using a knife requires ...

Defining open source, in pictures



Focus!

Defining open source, in pictures

Loosing focus ...



... might hurt you

Defining open source, in pictures



Focus is on the technology!

Defining open source, in pictures



... not on marketing!

A photograph showing the silhouettes of a large group of people standing on a beach or pier at sunset. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, and the water in the foreground is calm, reflecting the silhouettes of the people. The overall mood is serene and communal.

Defining open source, in pictures

Focus is on the community!

Defining open source, in pictures



NATIONAL TRUST
COMPANY LIMITED

... not on a company!

It all depends on **YOU!**

Last famous words:
If you really want to blame someone
#blamemagnus





Any questions?

Please do ask!



We would love to
boost your IT-
Infrastructure
How about you?