PostgreSQL Replication Solutions

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Replication is a complex feature. PostgreSQL supports a variety of replication options.

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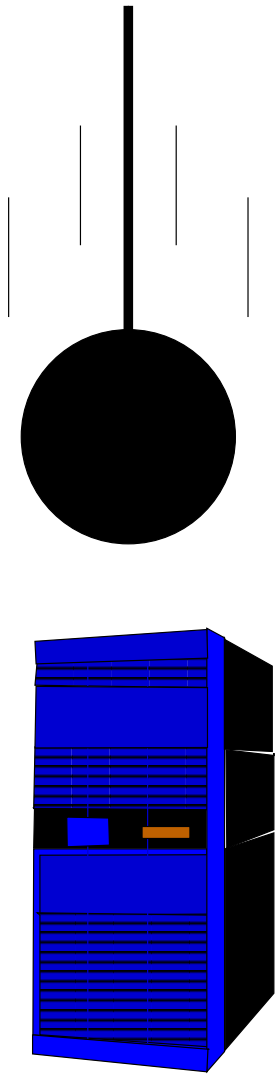
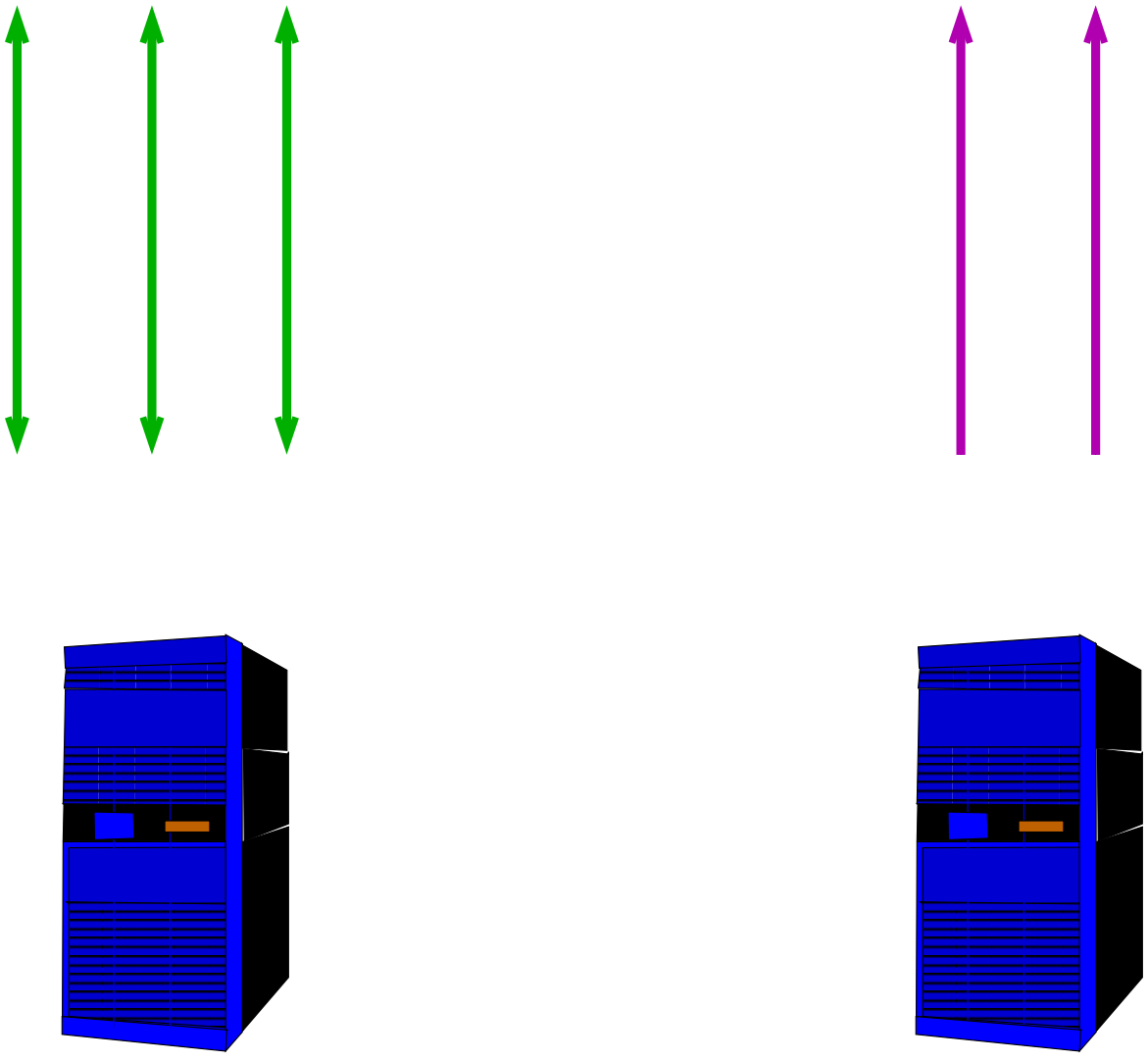
Uses for Replication

https://www.flickr.com/photos/eugenius/

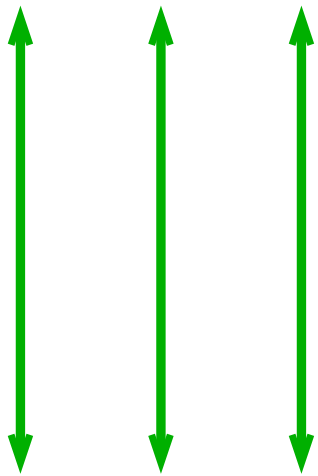
Fail Over

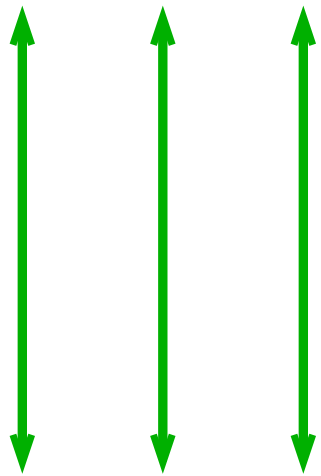


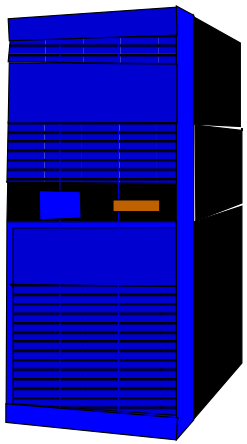
Data Warehousing

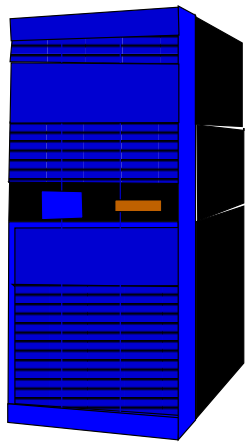


Load Balancing

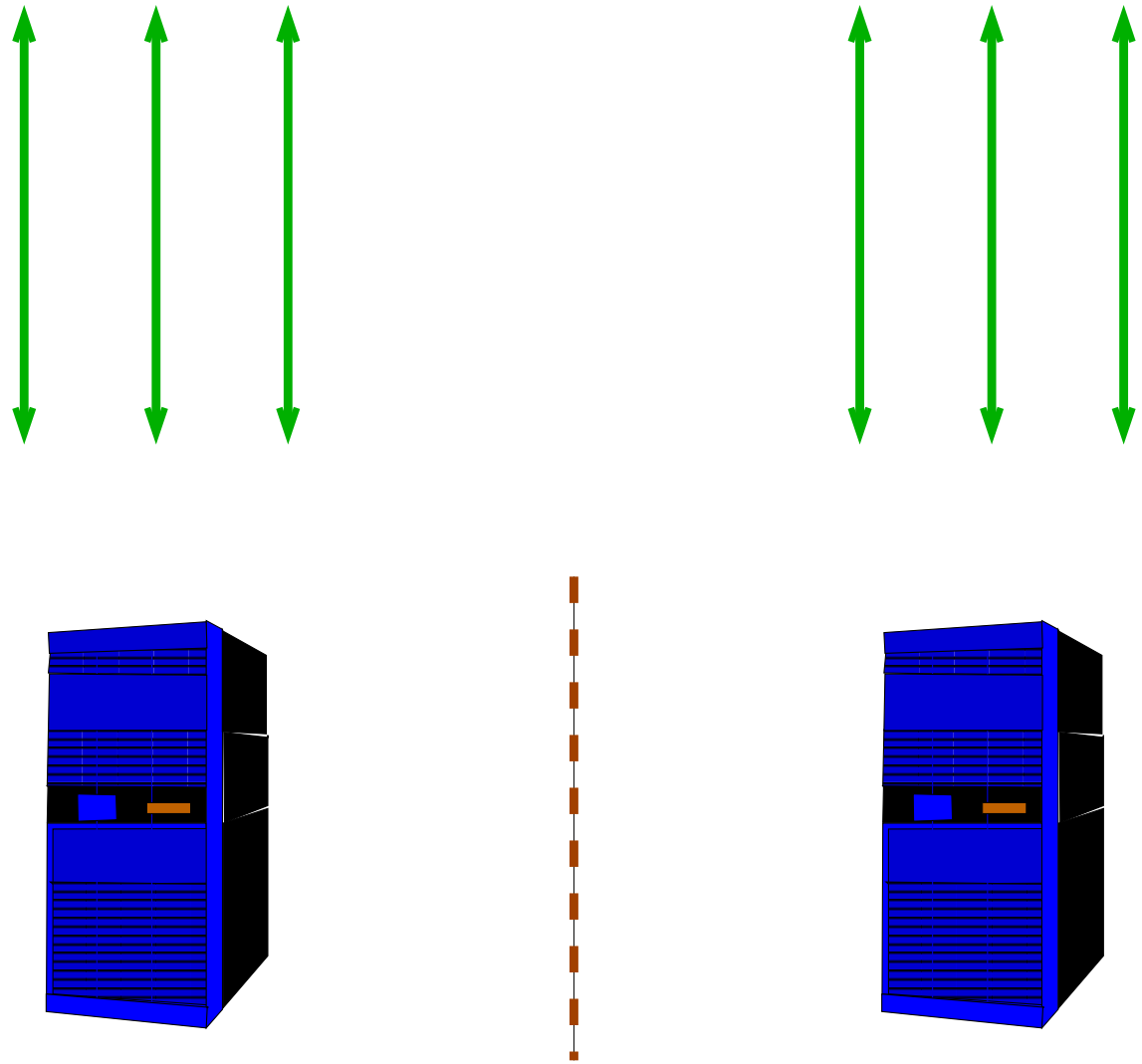




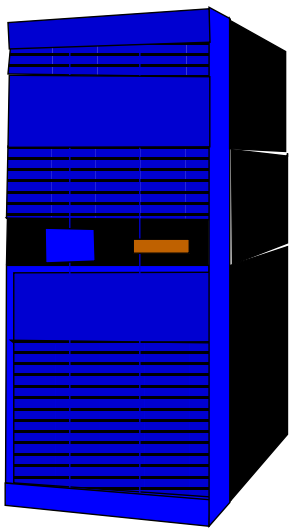




Remote Servers



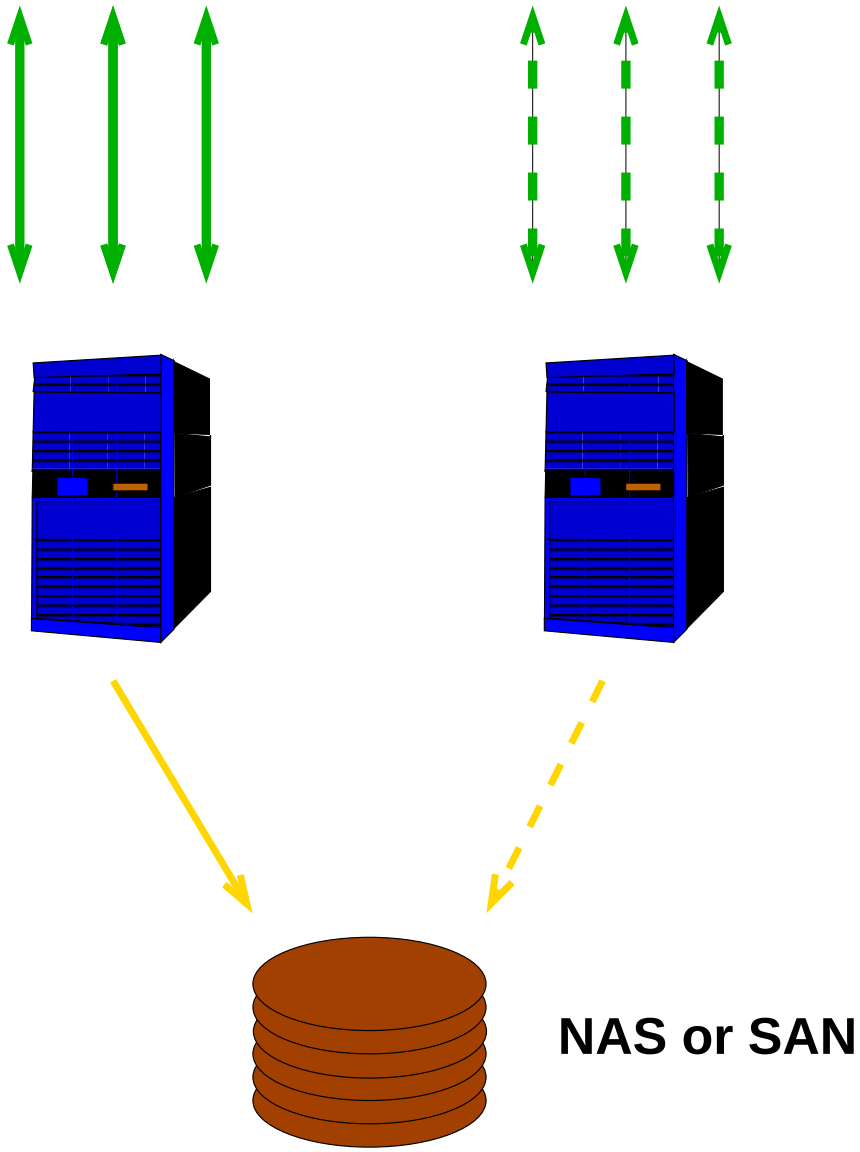
Mobile Servers



Replication Solutions

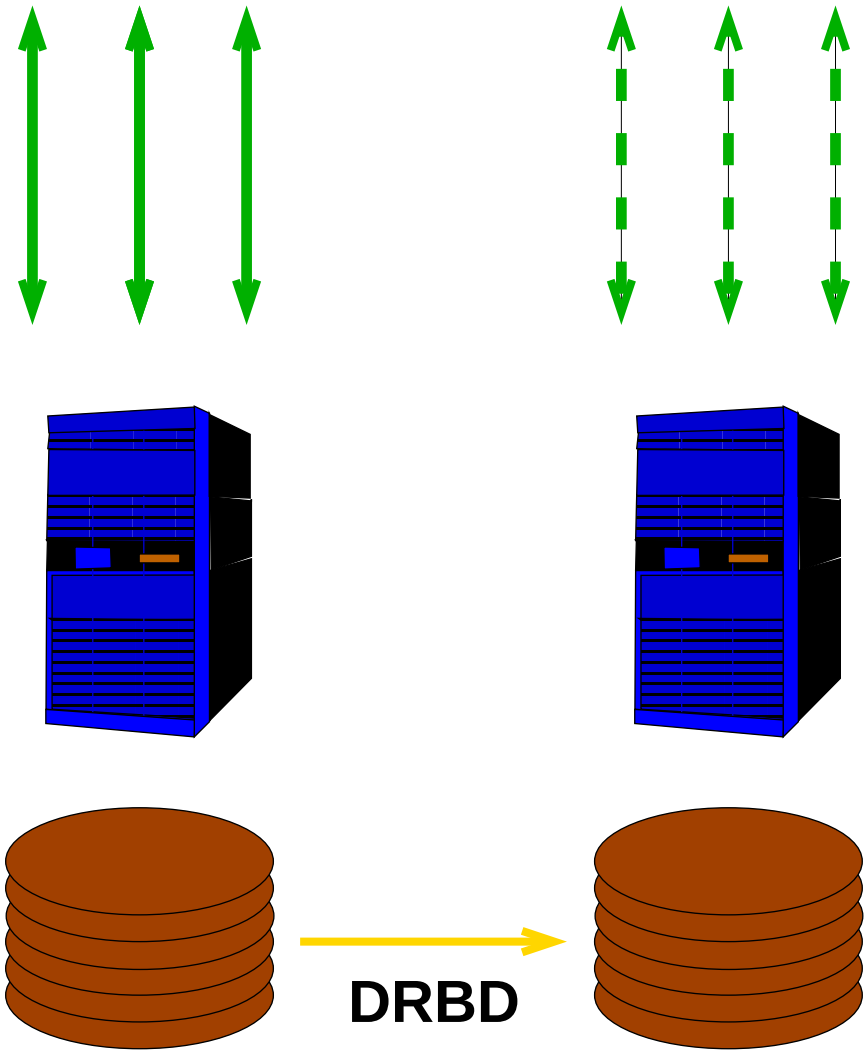
https://www.flickr.com/photos/paulbence/

Shared Storage



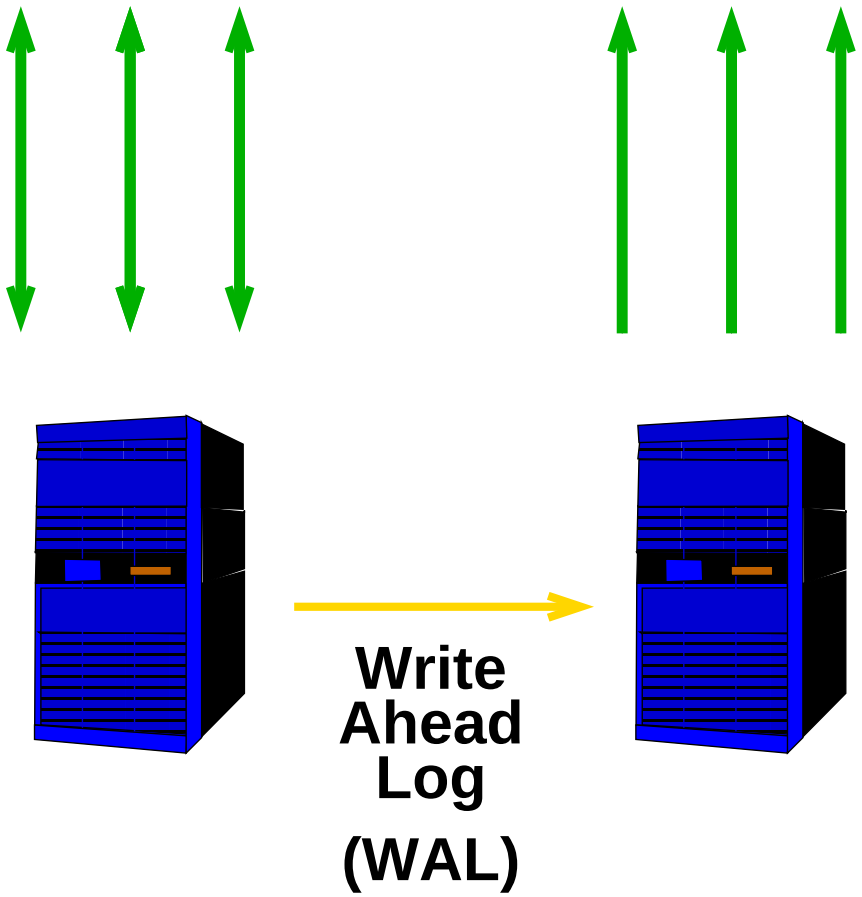
- No overhead
- No data loss on fail-over
- Slave cannot execute queries

Storage Mirroring



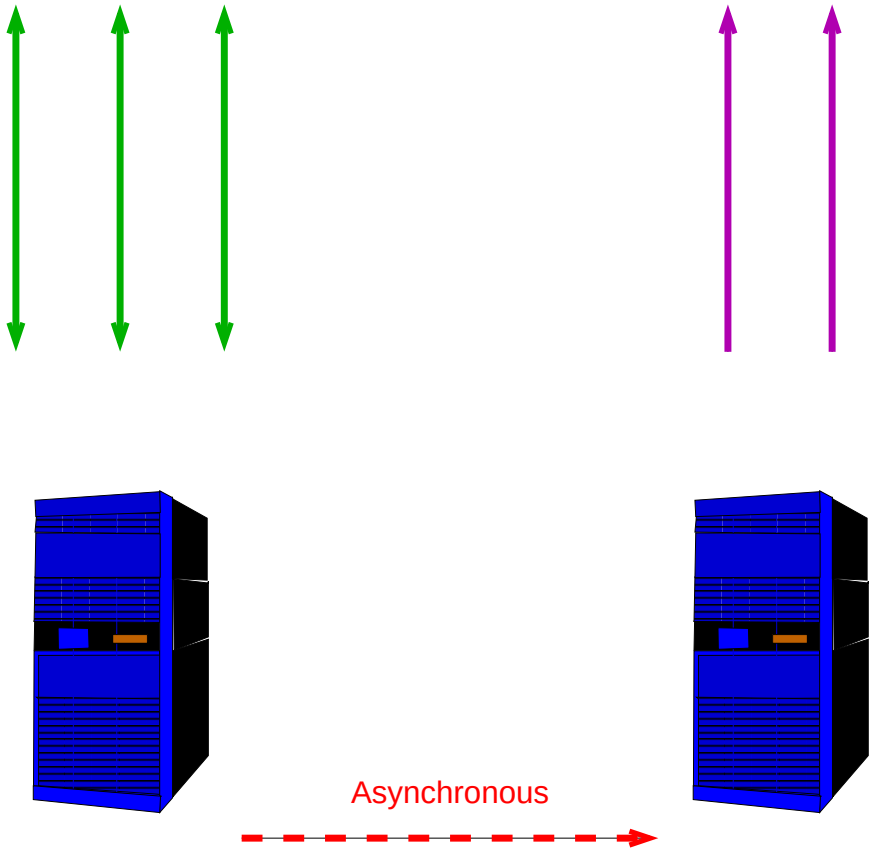
- No overhead on master
- Synchronous or asynchronous
- Possible data loss on fail-over when using asynchronous
- Slave cannot execute queries

Streaming Replication



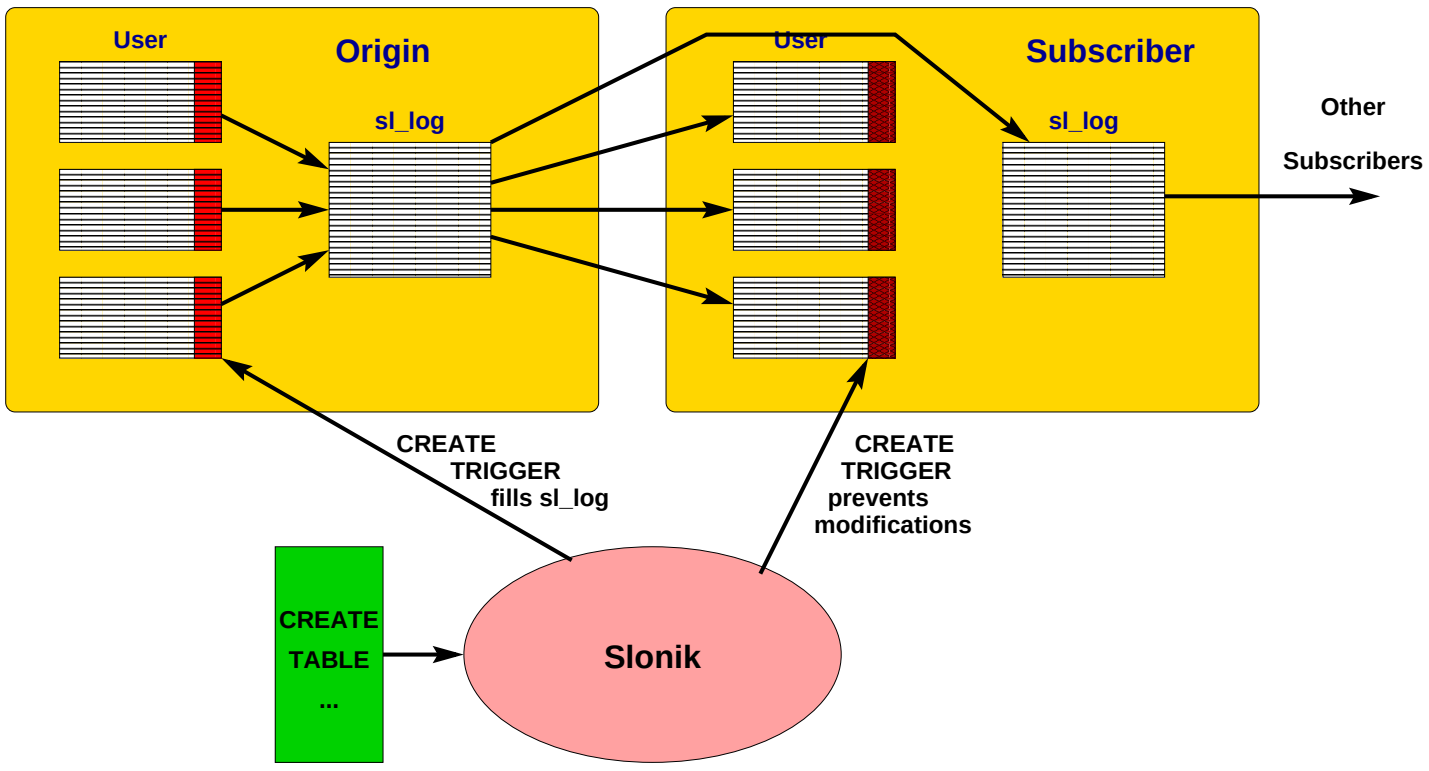
- No overhead on master
- Slaves can execute queries
- Possible data loss on fail-over when using asynchronous mode
- Synchronous option available (Postgres 9.1)

Slony

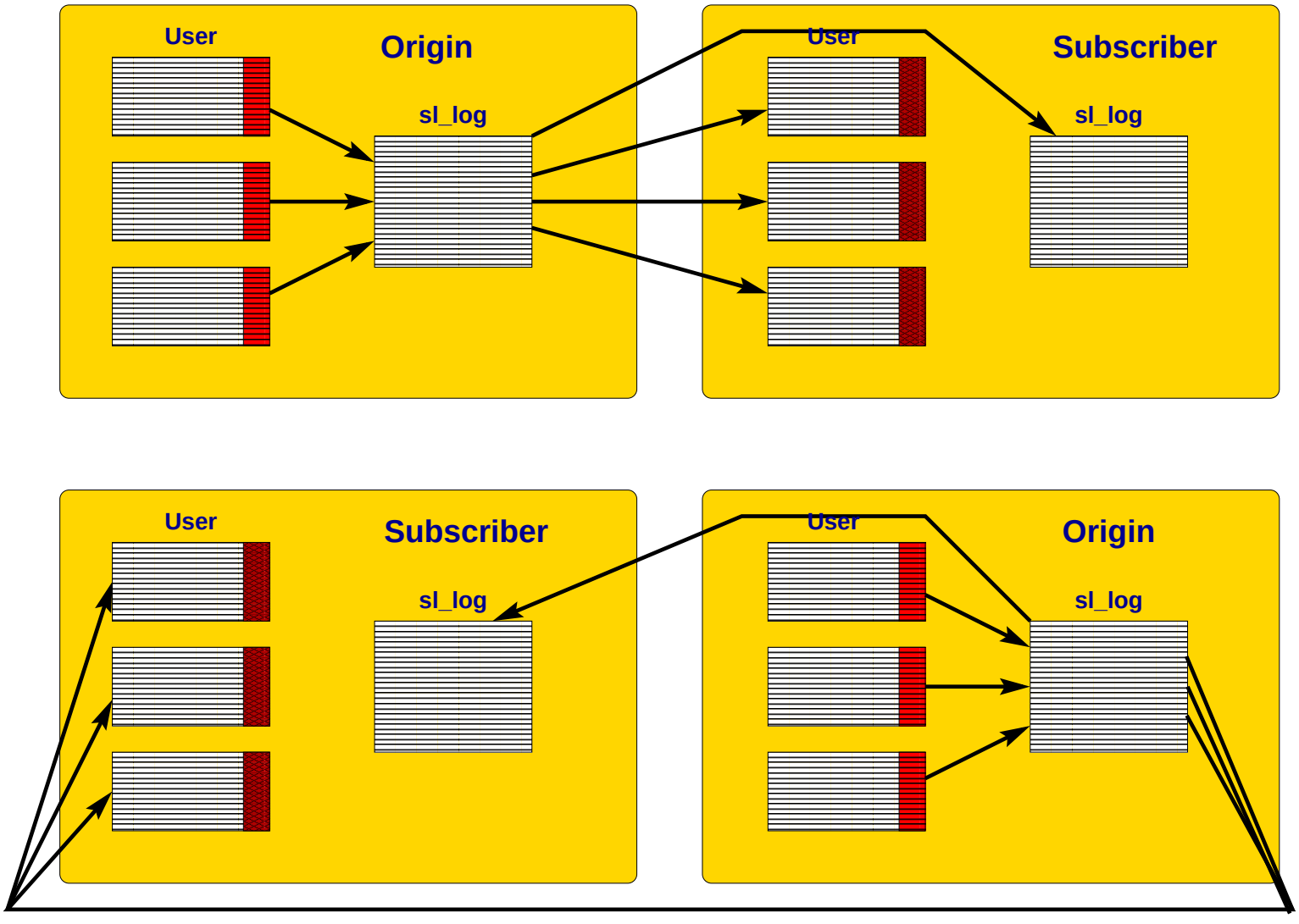


- Triggers add overhead to the master
- Possible data loss on fail-over
- Replication possible even over slow links
- Slave can execute read-only queries
- Table-level granularity allows complex data partitioning configurations

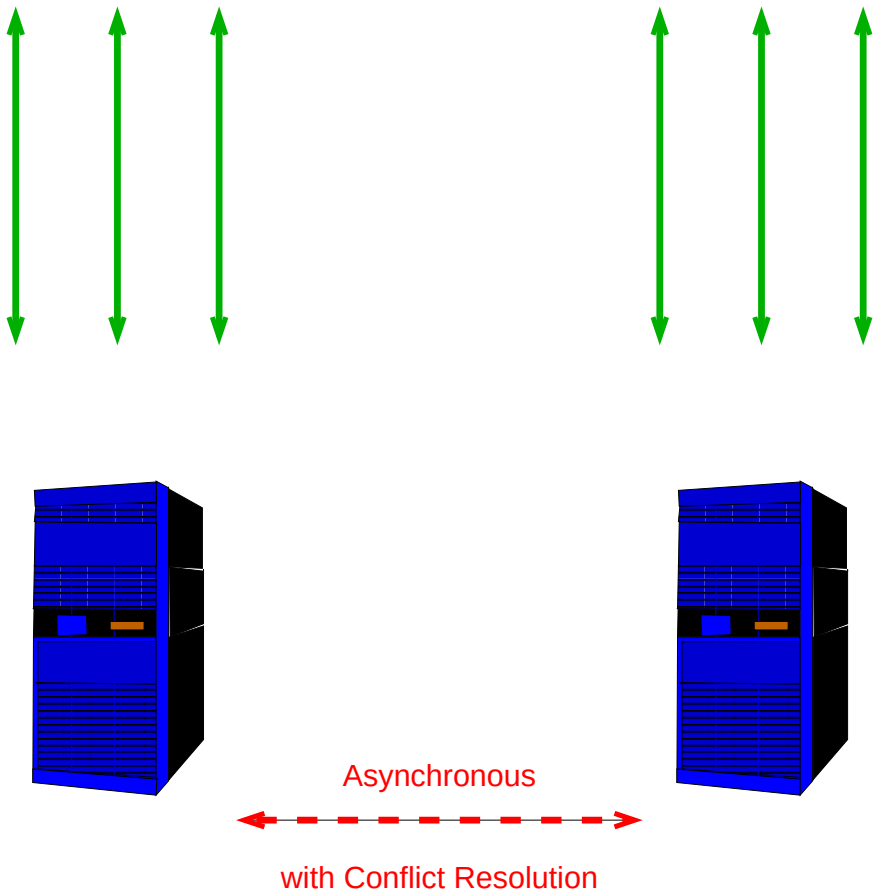
Slony Internals



Slony Master Switching

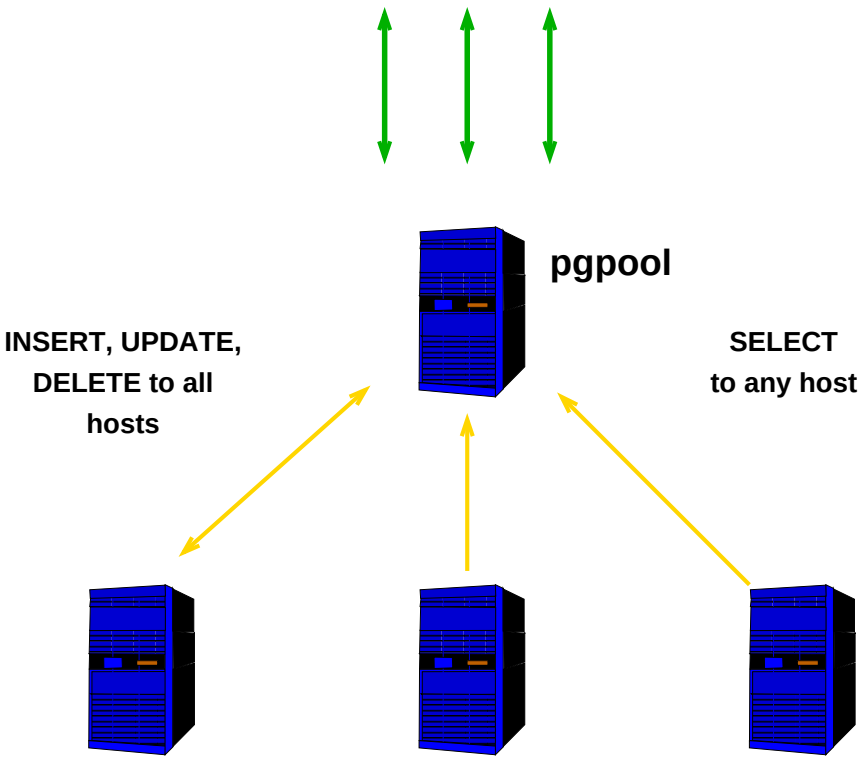


Bucardo



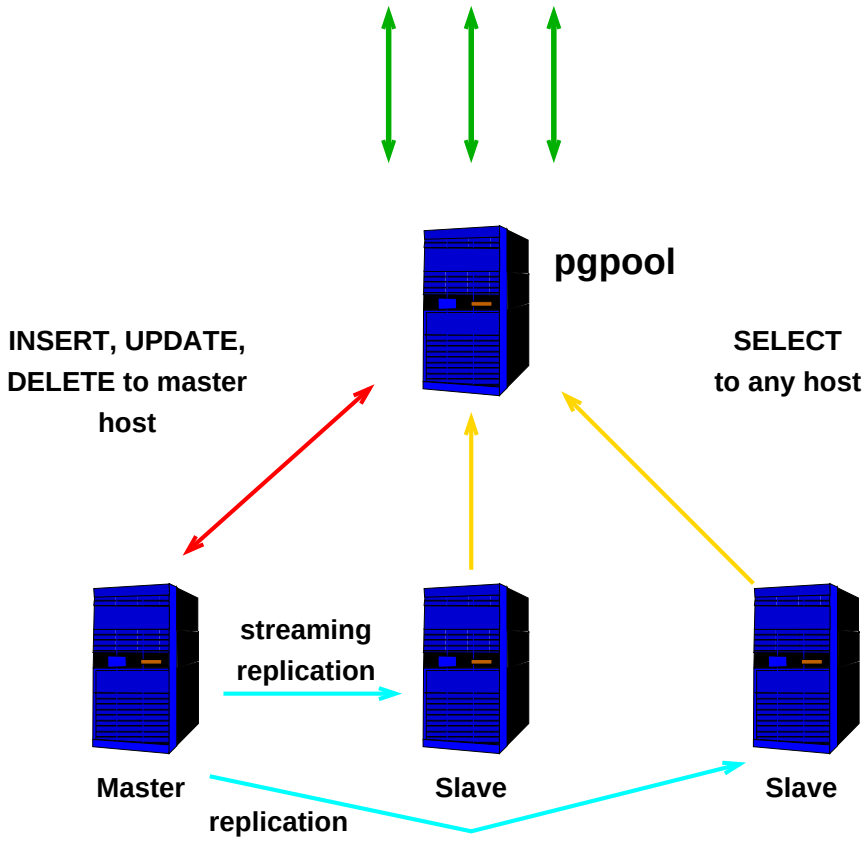
- Similar to Slony, except multi-master with conflict resolution
- Conflict resolution rules are user-configurable

Pgpool II



- Automatically load-balances read queries
- Queries with non-deterministic behavior can cause inconsistency
- Allows parallel query execution on all nodes
- Also does connection pooling and query caching

Pgpool II With Streaming Replication



Streaming replication avoids the problem of non-deterministic queries producing different results on different hosts.

Summary

Feature	Shared Disk Fail-over	File System Replic.	Transaction WAL Log Shipping	Trigger-based Replic.	Statement-Based Replication Middleware	Asynch-chronous Multi-Master Replic.	Synch-chronous Multi-Master Replic.
Most Popular Implementation	NAS	DRBD	Log shipping	Slony	pgpool-II	Bucardo	
Communication Method	shared disk	disk blocks	WAL	table rows	SQL	table rows	table rows & row locks
No Special hardware required		•	•	•	•	•	•
Allows multiple master servers					•	•	•
No master server overhead	•		•		•		
No waiting for multiple servers	•		•	•		•	
Master failure will never lose data	•	•			•		•
Slaves accept read-only queries			•	•	•	•	•
Per-table granularity				•		•	•
No conflict resolution necessary	•	•	•	•			•

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