

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Understand the concept and purpose of triggers in PostgreSQL
- Create databases and tables for practical use
- Write trigger functions using PL/pgSQL
- Use NEW and OLD values effectively
- Differentiate between FOR EACH ROW and FOR EACH STATEMENT
- Implement real-world business rules using triggers
- Apply best practices for designing maintainable trigger systems

Step 1: Create and Connect Database

```
CREATE DATABASE company_db;
```

```
\c company_db;
```

Step 2: Create Tables

1. Employees Table

```
CREATE TABLE employees (  
    emp_id SERIAL PRIMARY KEY,  
    name VARCHAR(100),  
    salary NUMERIC,  
    department VARCHAR(50)  
);
```

2. Audit Log Table

```
CREATE TABLE emp_audit (  
    audit_id SERIAL PRIMARY KEY,  
    action_type VARCHAR(20),  
    emp_id INT,  
    old_salary NUMERIC,  
    new_salary NUMERIC,  
    changed_on TIMESTAMP DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP  
);
```

3. Statement Log Table

```
CREATE TABLE statement_log (  
  log_id SERIAL PRIMARY KEY,  
  message TEXT,  
  created_at TIMESTAMP DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP  
);
```



Step 3: Insert Sample Data

```
INSERT INTO employees (name, salary, department)  
VALUES  
( 'Ali', 50000, 'IT'),  
( 'Sara', 60000, 'HR'),  
( 'Ahmed', 55000, 'Finance');
```



Step 4: Trigger Examples (Real-World)

◆ Example 1: BEFORE INSERT (Validation)

Scenario:

Prevent inserting employees with **negative salary**

Function:

```
CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION validate_salary()  
RETURNS TRIGGER AS $$  
BEGIN  
  IF NEW.salary < 0 THEN  
    RAISE EXCEPTION 'Salary cannot be negative';  
  END IF;  
  RETURN NEW;  
END;  
$$ LANGUAGE plpgsql;
```

Trigger:

```
CREATE TRIGGER before_insert_salary  
BEFORE INSERT ON employees
```

```
FOR EACH ROW
EXECUTE FUNCTION validate_salary();
```

◆ Example 2: AFTER UPDATE (Using OLD and NEW)

Scenario:

Track salary changes (audit system)

Function:

```
CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION log_salary_update()
RETURNS TRIGGER AS $$
BEGIN
    INSERT INTO emp_audit(action_type, emp_id, old_salary, new_salary)
    VALUES ('UPDATE', OLD.emp_id, OLD.salary, NEW.salary);

    RETURN NEW;
END;
$$ LANGUAGE plpgsql;
```

Trigger:

```
CREATE TRIGGER after_salary_update
AFTER UPDATE ON employees
FOR EACH ROW
EXECUTE FUNCTION log_salary_update();
```

Test:

```
UPDATE employees
SET salary = 70000
WHERE emp_id = 1;
```

◆ Example 3: AFTER DELETE (Using OLD)

Scenario:

Keep record of deleted employees

Function:

```
CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION log_employee_delete()
RETURNS TRIGGER AS $$
BEGIN
```

```
INSERT INTO emp_audit(action_type, emp_id, old_salary)
VALUES ('DELETE', OLD.emp_id, OLD.salary);

RETURN OLD;
END;
$$ LANGUAGE plpgsql;
```

Trigger:

```
CREATE TRIGGER after_employee_delete
AFTER DELETE ON employees
FOR EACH ROW
EXECUTE FUNCTION log_employee_delete();
```

◆ Example 4: BEFORE UPDATE (Using NEW)

 Scenario:

Prevent salary from being reduced below 30000

```
CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION prevent_low_salary()
RETURNS TRIGGER AS $$
BEGIN
    IF NEW.salary < 30000 THEN
        RAISE EXCEPTION 'Salary cannot be less than 30000';
    END IF;
    RETURN NEW;
END;
$$ LANGUAGE plpgsql;
```

```
CREATE TRIGGER before_salary_update
BEFORE UPDATE ON employees
FOR EACH ROW
EXECUTE FUNCTION prevent_low_salary();
```

◆ Example 5: FOR EACH STATEMENT Trigger

 Scenario:

Log bulk updates (runs once per query)

Function:

```
CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION log_bulk_operation()
RETURNS TRIGGER AS $$
```

```
BEGIN
  INSERT INTO statement_log(message)
  VALUES ('Bulk update executed on employees table');

  RETURN NULL;
END;
$$ LANGUAGE plpgsql;
```

Trigger:

```
CREATE TRIGGER after_bulk_update
AFTER UPDATE ON employees
FOR EACH STATEMENT
EXECUTE FUNCTION log_bulk_operation();
```

Test:

```
UPDATE employees
SET salary = salary + 1000;
```

👉 This will:

- Update all rows
- Trigger audit (row-level) multiple times
- Trigger statement log only once

Key Concepts

Concept	Meaning
NEW	New values after INSERT/UPDATE
OLD	Previous values before UPDATE/DELETE
FOR EACH ROW	Runs for every affected row
FOR EACH STATEMENT	Runs once per SQL statement

Practice Tasks

1. Create a trigger:
 - Automatically assign department = 'General' if NULL
2. Create a trigger:

- Log employee name changes

3. Create a trigger:

- Prevent deletion of employees from "HR" department

4. Modify audit table:

- Add column for user (`CURRENT_USER`)
-

Mini Project (Real-World)

Bank System

Table:

```
CREATE TABLE accounts (  
  acc_id SERIAL PRIMARY KEY,  
  name VARCHAR(100),  
  balance NUMERIC  
);
```

Task:

- Create trigger to:
 - Prevent withdrawal if balance < 0
 - Log every transaction
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