BACKUP AND RESTORE

Backup and recovery are essential tasks of every DBA. To make sure that you can get started in 5 minutes, we have compiled a mini tutorial.

The scenario:

We have a running database instance containing a database called *test*. We are logged in as the user owning the instance (usually the postgres user).

Dumping a single database:

To dump a single database we can run:

> *pg_dump test –Fc > /backup_dir/backup_file.fc*

In this example we have used the so called "custom format". The advantage of a custom format dump is that it contains a table of contents, which allows us to partially replay the dump.

Checking a dump:

How can we check the content of a custom format dump?

> *pg_restore --list /backup_dir/backup_file.fc*

PostgreSQL will return a list of objects available in this specific dump.

Replaying the dump:

To replay the dump we create a database first:

> *createdb some_name*

Then we can replay the dump using simple command:

> *pg_restore / backup_dir /backup_file.fc | psql some_name*

In the case you don't want to restore the complete database, we invite you to take a look at *pg_restore --help*. It will provide you with a handful of flags allowing you to replay parts of the dump.