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Each topic is presented with some context so you understand where to use it and what it offers. We assume you have prior experience with some other database so that we can jump right to the key points of PostgreSQL. We generously litter the pages of this book with links to references so you can dig deeper into topics of interest. Those links lead to sections in the manual, to helpful articles, to blog posts of PostgreSQL vanguard. We also link to our own site at PostgreSQL Online Journal (<http://www.postgresqlonline.com>), where we have collected many pieces that we have written on PostgreSQL and its interoperability with other applications.

This book focuses on PostgreSQL versions 9.5, 9.6, and 10, but we will cover some unique and advanced features that are also present in prior versions.

Audience

For migrants from other database engines, we'll point out parallels that PostgreSQL shares with other leading products. Perhaps more importantly, we highlight tests you can achieve with PostgreSQL that are difficult or impossible to do in other databases.

We're not short of teaching you SQL, as you'll find many excellent sources for that. SQL is much like chess—a few hours to learn, a lifetime to master. You have wisely chosen PostgreSQL. You'll be greatly rewarded.