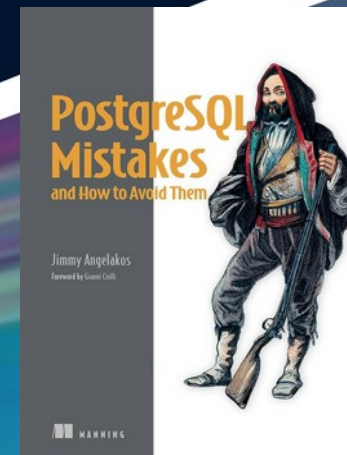


Live: All right, so you inherited a bad database...

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About Jimmy Angelakos

- Staff Software Engineer, pgEdge. Based in Edinburgh, Scotland
- Involved in the Open Source Community for 25+ years
- PostgreSQL Significant Contributor
- Author, [PostgreSQL Mistakes and How to Avoid Them](#)
- Co-author, [PostgreSQL 16 Administration Cookbook](#)
- Creator of [pgEdge ColdFront](#) (Postgres tiering to Iceberg)
- Creator of [pg_statviz](#) (Postgres stats visualization)



"Hysterical raisins"

- "Historical reasons"
 - No DBA
 - Rushed deadlines
 - Organic growth
- Symptoms
 - SQL_ASCII encoding
 - 100-column tables
 - Missing indexes & constraints
- Assigning blame is not a strategy

Putting out fires

- Don't panic 
 - These are solvable problems
 - "Never let a good crisis go to waste"
- Ask the humans: what hurts?
- The big three
 - Slowness
 - Disk full
 - Out of memory reboots
- Beware the XY problem

Examine everything

- Schema structure → pg_dump, pgAdmin, DBeaver
- Data inspection → exploratory queries
- Configuration → alignment with what you found
- Behavior monitoring → logs, pg_stat_activity, pg_stat_statements

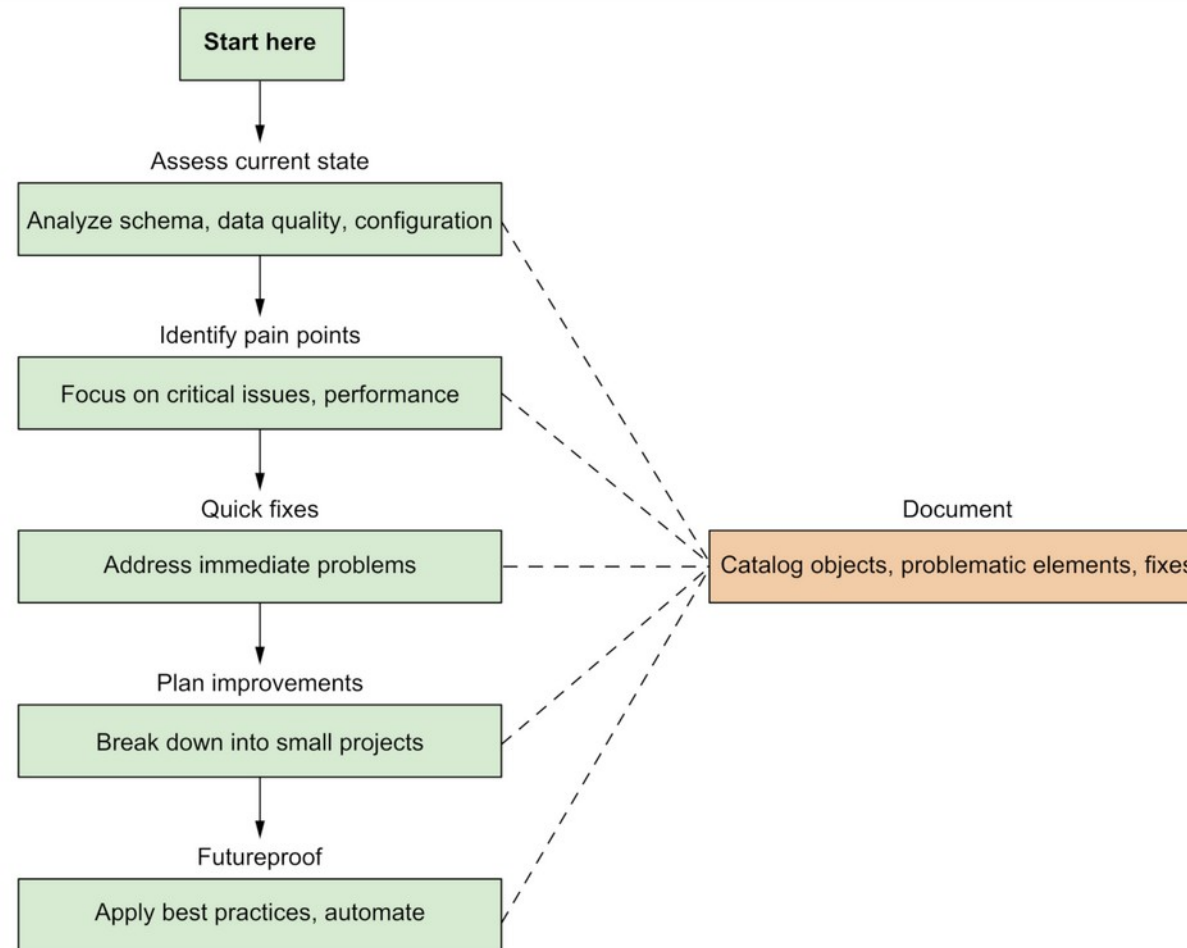
Fix smart and futureproof

- Small projects, measurable goals
 - Never everything at once
- Document as much as you can
 - And keep it current
- Automate HA, DR, maintenance
- Share guidelines/best practices with the whole team

Shift to proactive management

- Well-run databases → planning, not firefighting
- A slightly slow query means something
- Don't wait for:
 - Data loss → backups
 - Outage → HA
 - Bloat → autovacuum
 - A billion rows → partitioning
 - A scary bill → optimization
- Test in staging, roll out with time to spare

Do you like diagrams?



A quick recap

- First things first
 - Assess!
- Identify pain points
 - Sometimes by asking the right people
- Put out fires
 - This buys you time
- Do it incrementally
- Plan ahead & futureproof

Thank you!

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