

Installing and Configuring PostgreSQL 8 on WinXP

Before you begin, having a firewall up and running, such as Zone Alarm, can cause problems with Apache installations. I recommend that you turn off Zone Alarm before beginning. You do not need to turn off Microsoft's built in firewall. We will focus on configuring Zone Alarm after we get Apache 2 up and running.

I'm using AVG free edition anti-virus and this installation works fine next to AVG.

The first step in this process is to visit the Apache 2, PHP 5 and PostgreSQL 8 download pages.

PostgreSQL Download Page:

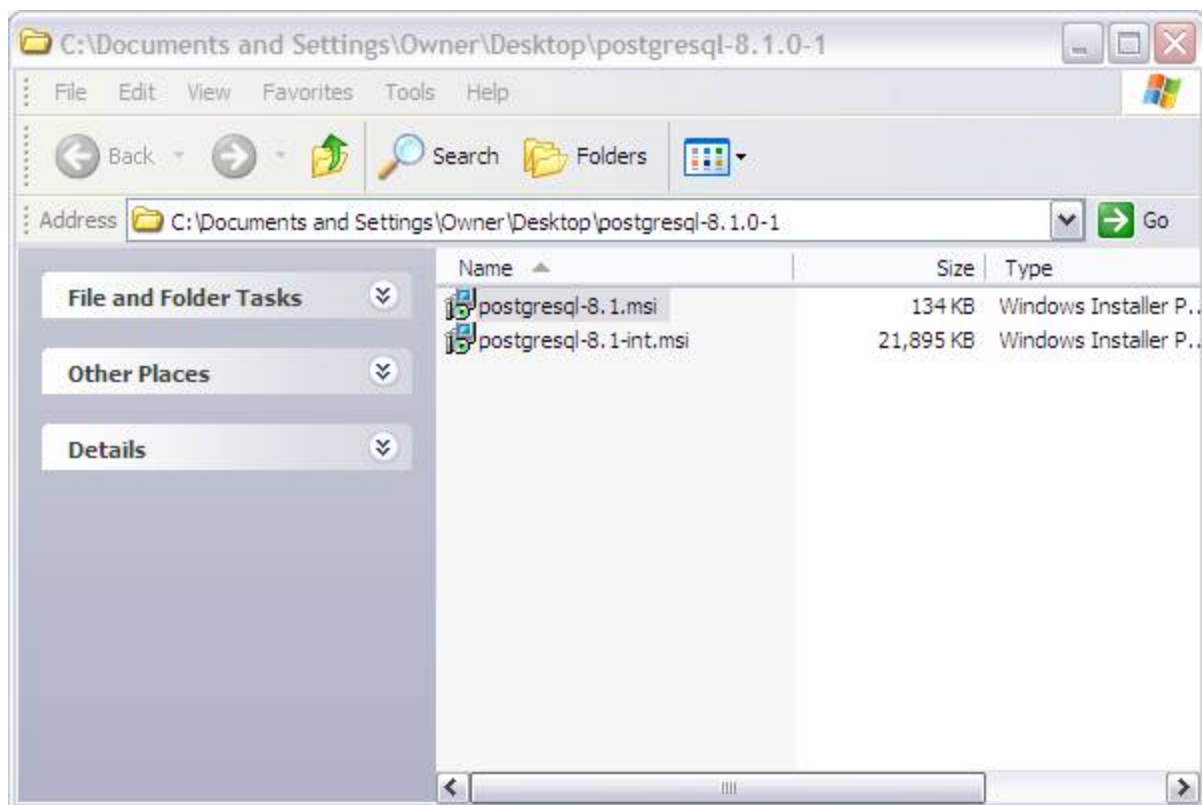
<http://www.postgresql.org/download/>

Find your version: I chose to use bittorrent and my file name was

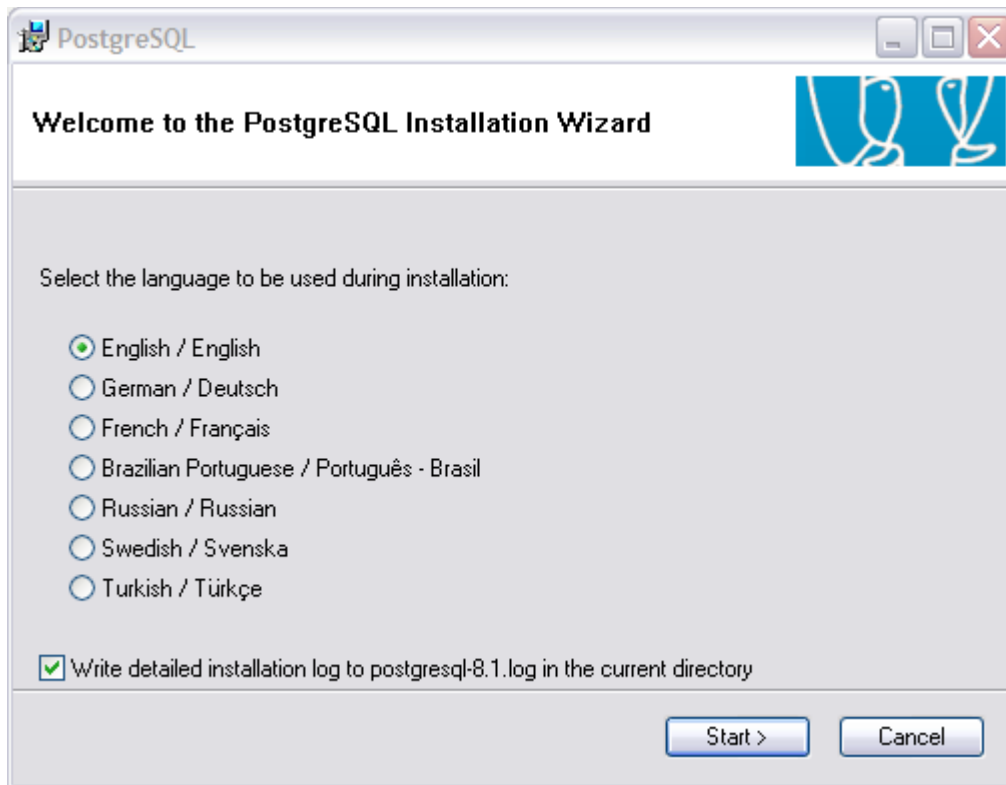
postgresql-8.1.0-1.zip

Once downloaded, unzip postgresql-8.1.0-1.zip on your desktop (your filename may differ if you download a different version or revision).

Double click postgresql-8.1.msi (do not double click postgresql-8.1-int.msi – the main installer will use this file to install PostgreSQL).



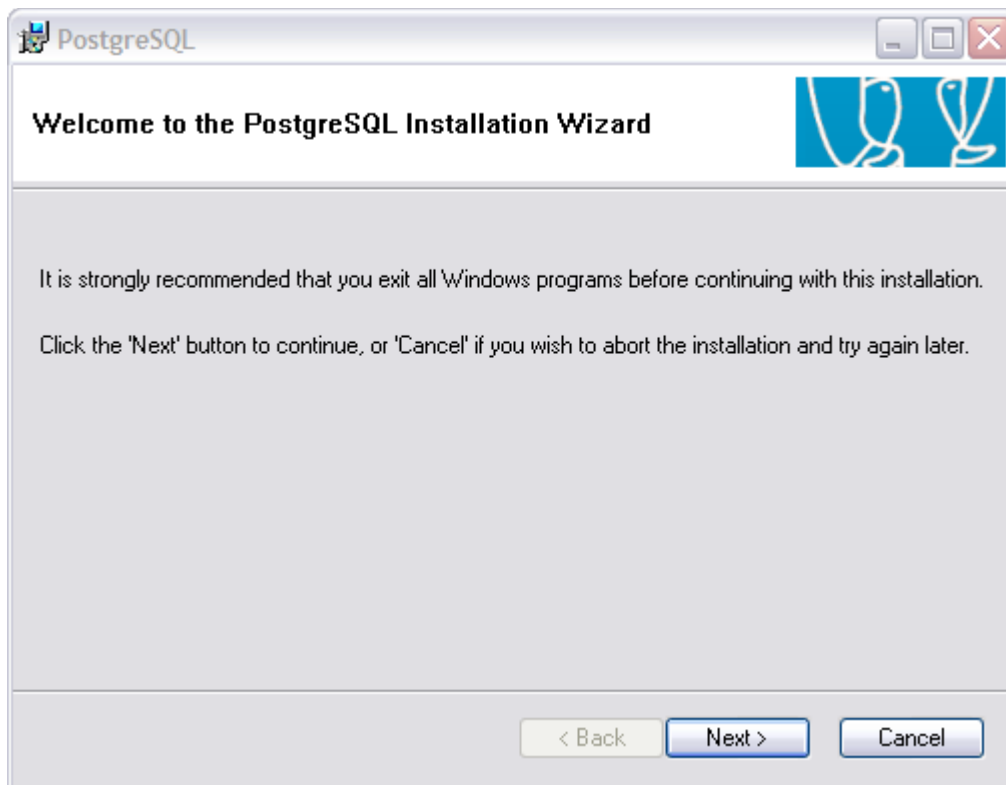
Enter the language of the installer (not the language of PostgreSQL). Check the detailed log option – this file will contain both the service user and the database user password. It will act as a reference until you get comfortable with you login information – at this point you can delete the file.



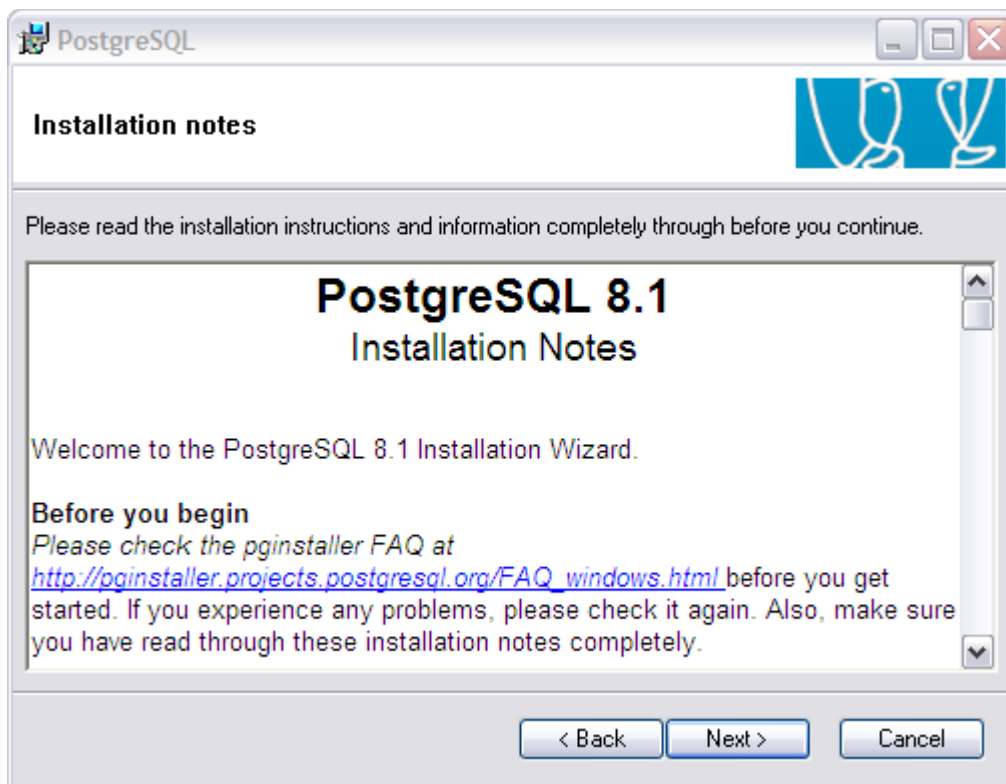
Remember, the log is named postgresql-8.1.log and is located in the current directory.

Click Start >

Wait a few moments and you see the following:

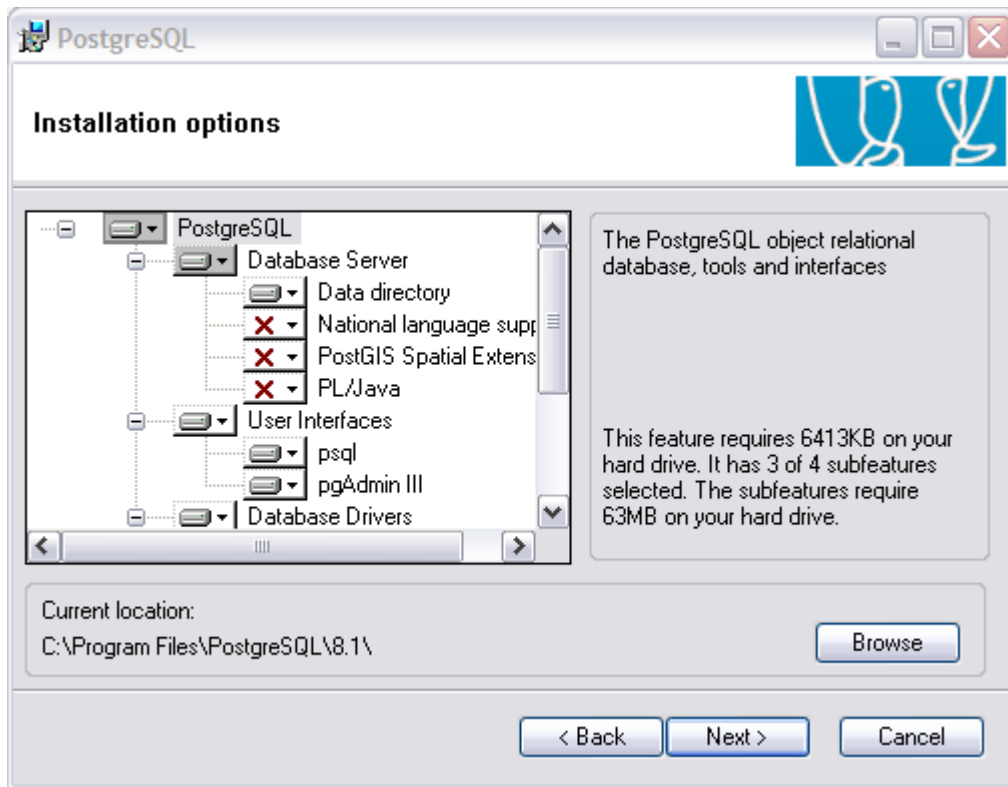


Click Next >



Be sure to read the installation notes before continuing.

Click Next >

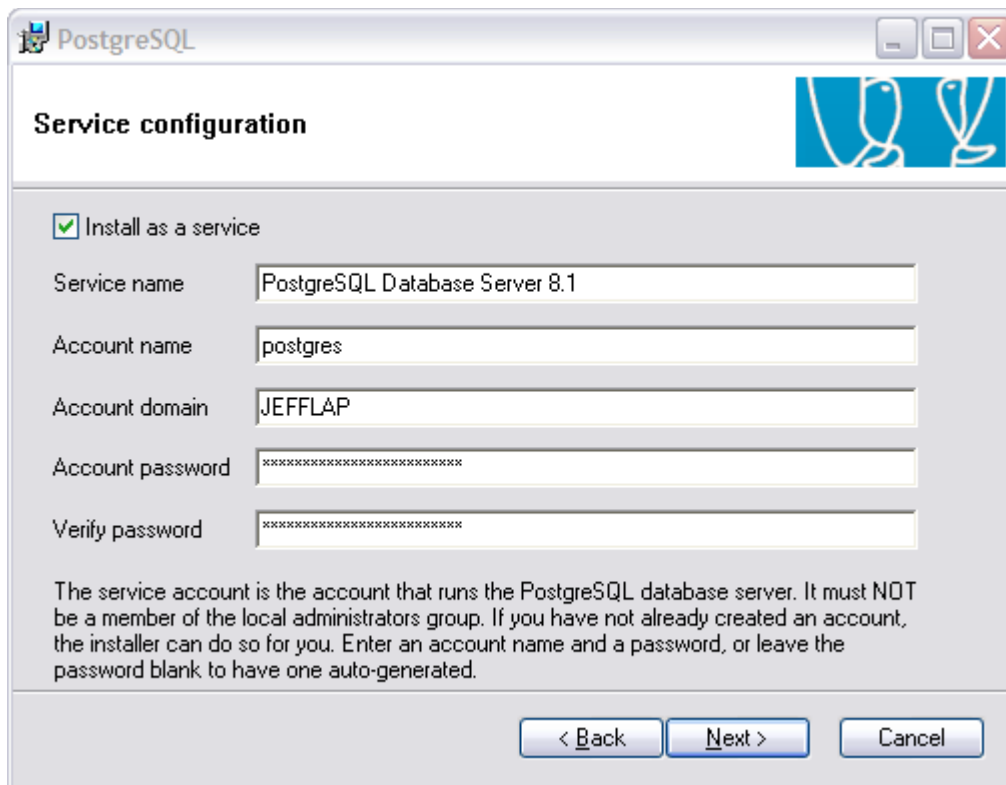


I accepted the defaults. If you know you need some of the non-default features, be sure to include them in your set up.

Note: 'Data Directory' can only be installed on a NTFS partition (typically WinXP). You will need to run initdb.exe after installation in order to set it up on a FAT32 partition (typically Win98 or WinXP upgraded from Win98).

I installed to the default directory. Highlight PostgreSQL in the window and click Browse if you want to install to a different directory. You can also change the Data, psql, pgAdmin II, ODBC and Documentation directories if it suites you (I wouldn't recommend it unless you know *exactly* what you are doing. I'm going to install to the default directories.

Click Next >



Leave Install as a service checked. If you uncheck this then you set yourself up for a difficult installation that is poorly documented, if it is documented at all.

Accept the default values for Service name, Account name and Account domain (should be computer name). For security reasons, the Account name CAN NOT be a member of the local administrator's group.

Choose a password, type it in Account password and the type it in Verify password.

I found a nifty free password manager named PINS and used it to generate my password. You can find it here:

<http://www.mirekw.com/winfreeware/pins.html>

I made my password 20+/- characters long. You want to make sure you have a strong password. If you have a weak password, the installer will ask if you want it to choose a better password. This is fine – but make sure you document it in PINS or in some other secure location.

NOTE: If get into a situation where you do a partial install and the installer requires a password, as opposed to providing a password, don't despair. You need to delete the Account name (in this case, postgres). I'm not sure about WinXP Pro, but in WinXP Home, this apparently can't be done via the GUI interface. You have to use the command line as follows:

Delete the Service:

1. Find the Service name: Start -> Control Panel -> Administrative Tools -> Services -> scroll to find

the PostgreSQL service name (may or may not be the display name).

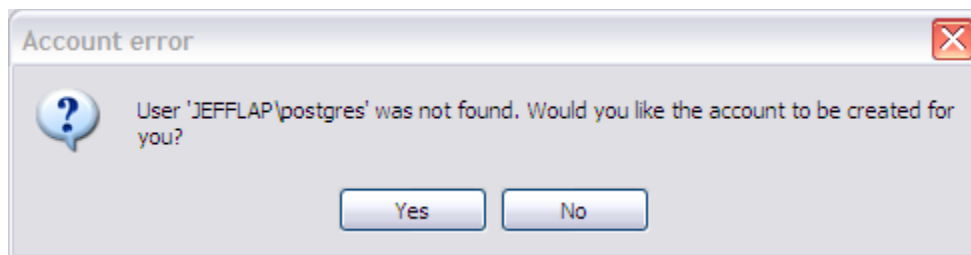
2. Delete the Service: start -> Run... -> cmd -> type in "sc delete <service name>", where "<service name>" is the name of your service you want deleted -> restart.

Delete the User ("postgres" is the assumed user name, change as required):

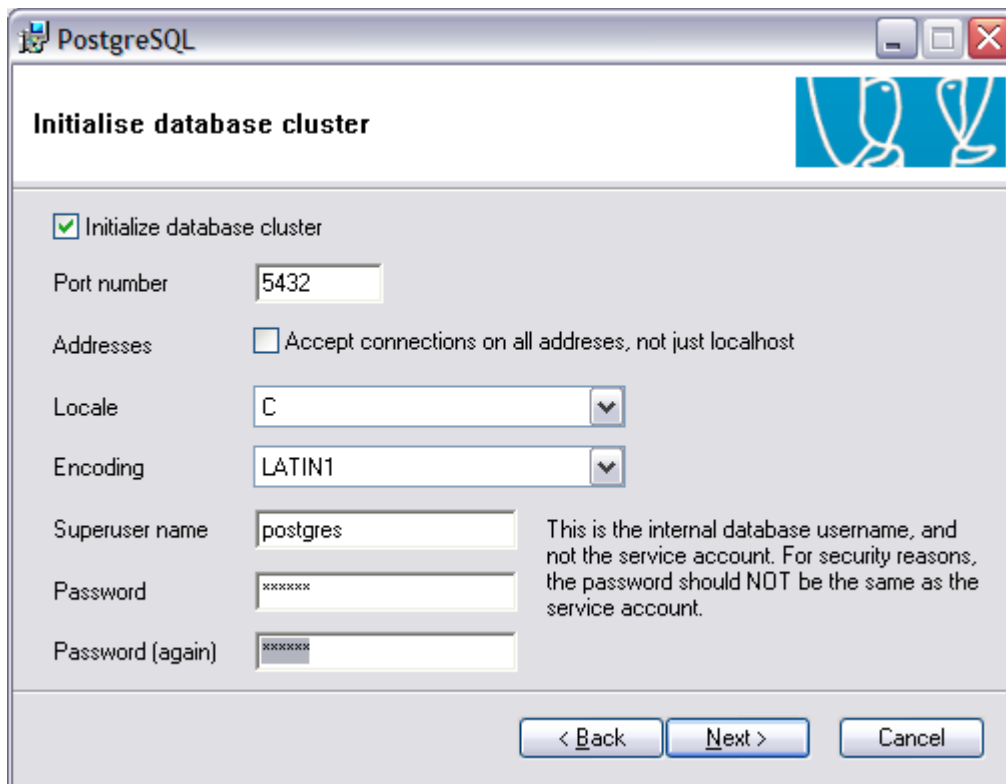
Start -> Run... -> type "cmd" (without the quotes) -> type in the following "net user postgres /delete" (without the quotes).

The next time you run the installer, it should create an account instead of require you to log into an already existing account.

Click Next >



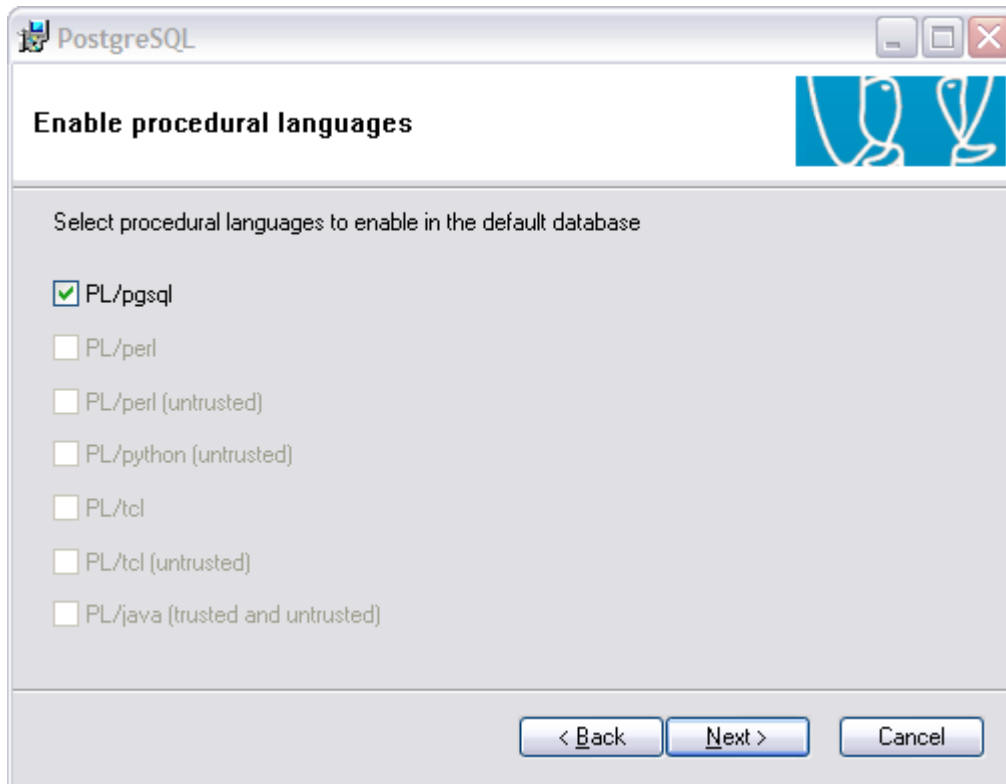
Click Yes >



Leave everything at its default value except change Encoding to Latin1 (Western European character set). This is my development box so I don't want other computers connecting to PostgreSQL on this computer. If I did, I would put a check by Addresses and then set pg_hba.conf based upon my needs.

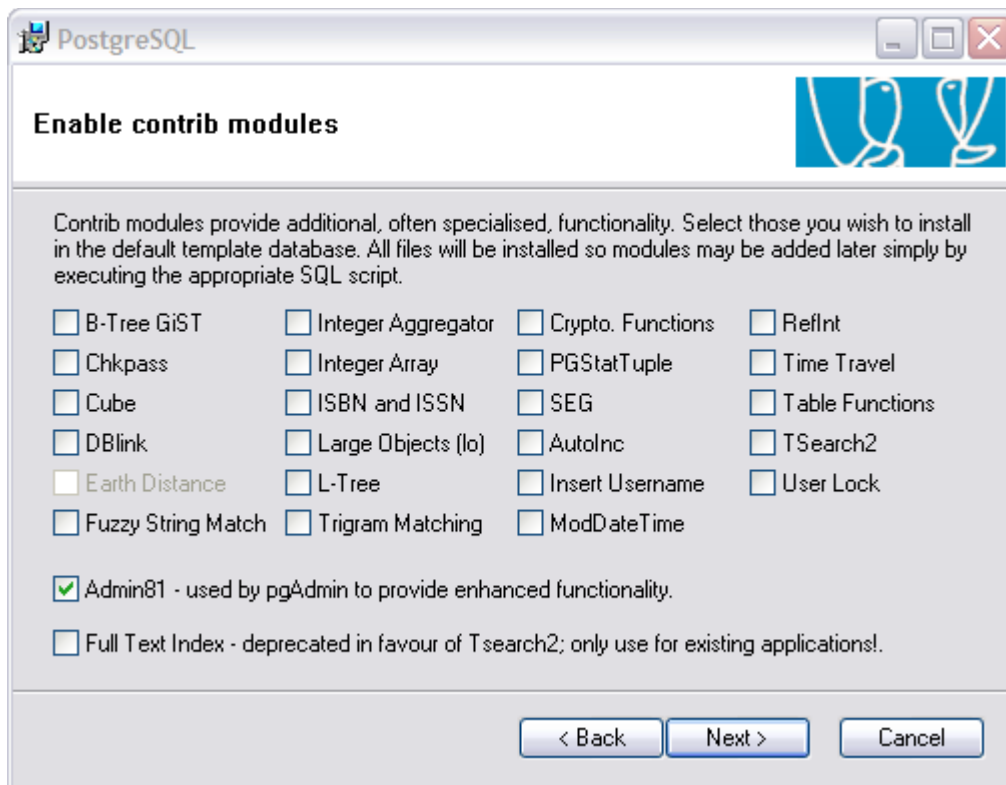
You will probably be alright with SQL_ASCII encoding if you want to leave it at the default value.

Click Next >



I only have one choice and I'm going to choose it.

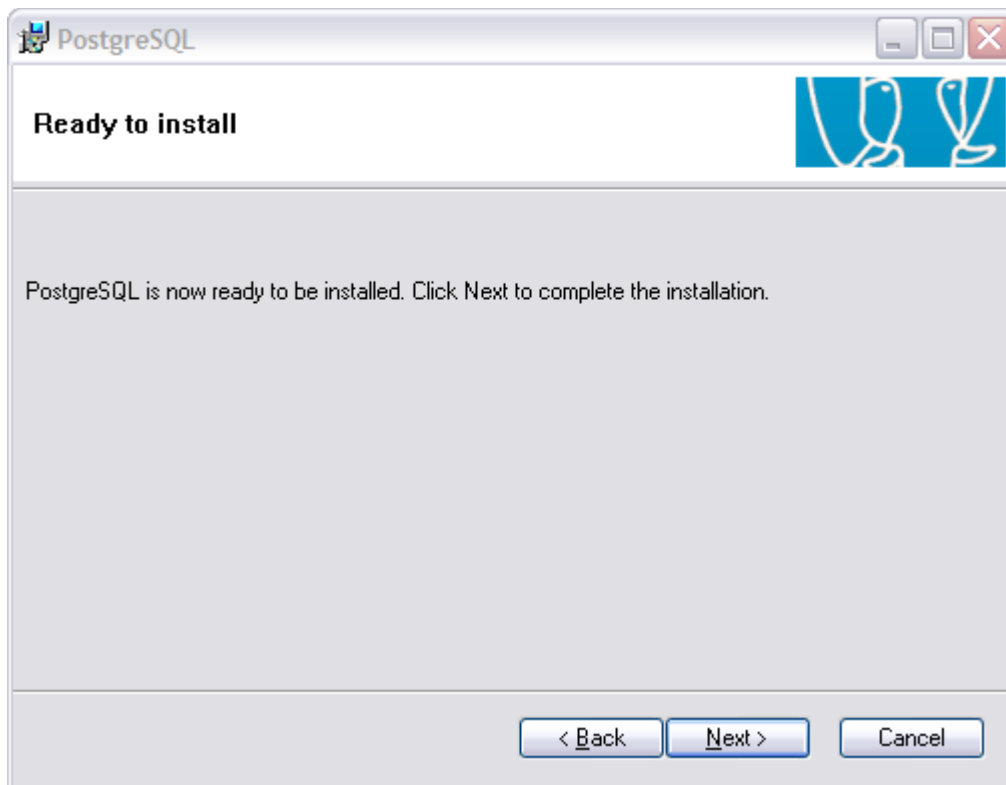
Click Next >



I chose to accept the defaults values.

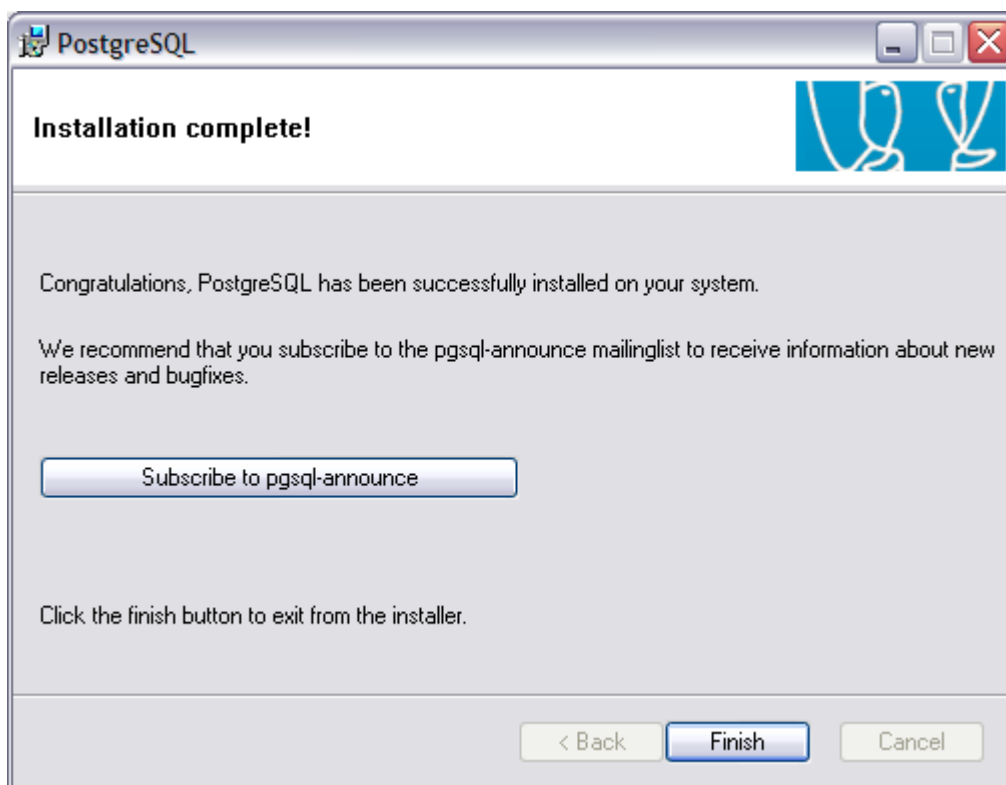
Note: All the modules are installed and available to use. However, you need to choose what should be loaded by default in all databases, as opposed to specifically requested via a SQL command. I'm going to accept the defaults, although "Time Travel" looks intriguing...

Click Next >



Do you feel lucky? If so...

Click Next >



Click Finish >

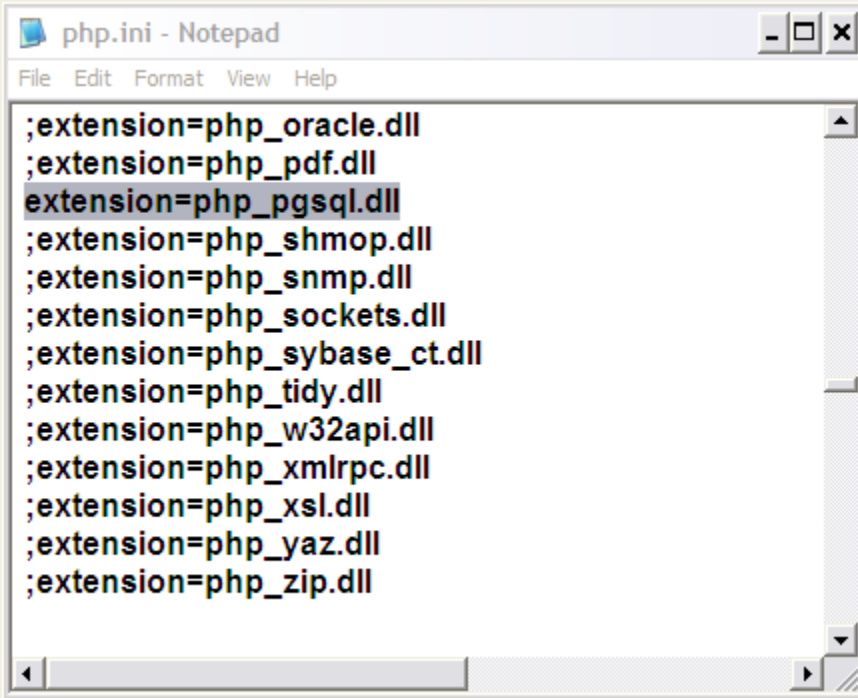
Congratulations!

You can subscribe to pgsql-announce if you'd like. I didn't, but I visit postgresql.org fairly frequently.

Be sure to verify “extension=php_pgsql.dll” is enabled in php.ini. It should read

```
extension=php_pgsql.dll
```

Notice - the “;” is removed from the beginning of the line.



```
php.ini - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
;extension=php_oracle.dll
;extension=php_pdf.dll
extension=php_pgsql.dll
;extension=php_shmop.dll
;extension=php_snmp.dll
;extension=php_sockets.dll
;extension=php_sybase_ct.dll
;extension=php_tidy.dll
;extension=php_w32api.dll
;extension=php_xmlrpc.dll
;extension=php_xsl.dll
;extension=php_yaz.dll
;extension=php_zip.dll
```

Be sure to save php.ini before closing it.

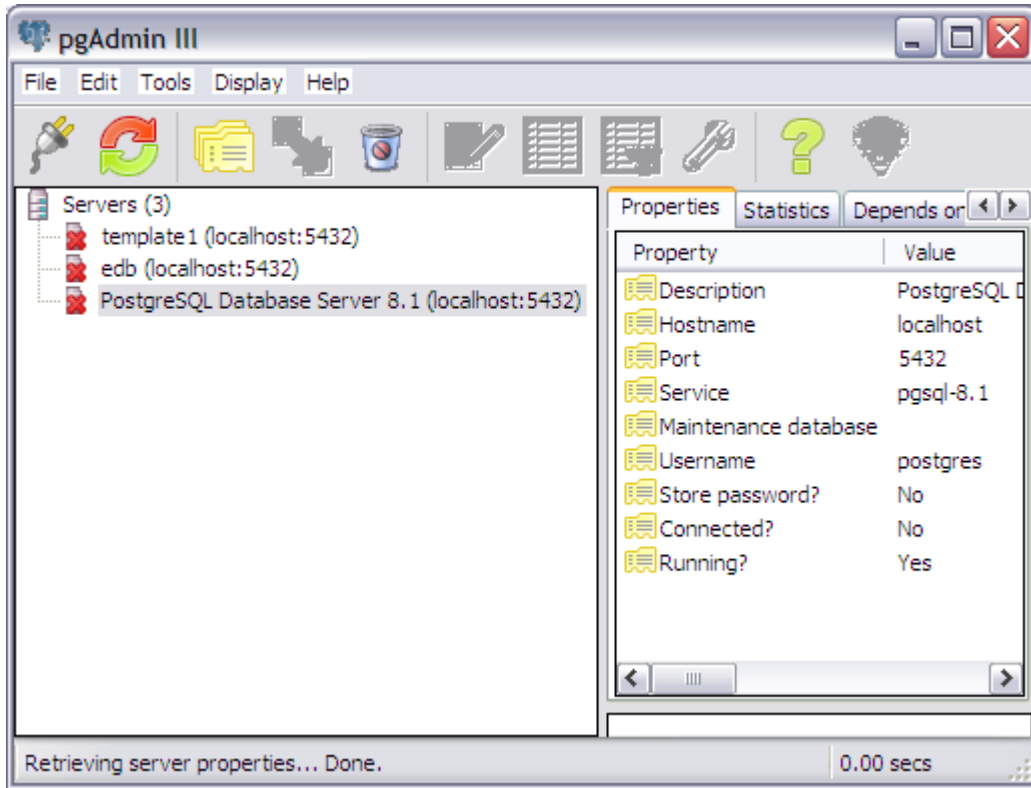
If you are a newbie, I definitely recommend subscribing to... <http://archives.postgresql.org/pgsql-novice>

Very knowledgeable people, who are very willing to help, hang out there and you can learn a lot by just following the topics. Of course, when you have questions, you are free to start your own topic.

Way back when (mid 2004 -lol-), when I first tried to install PostgreSQL 8.0 on Windows, I got stuck right here. What should I do next? I had no clue. I couldn't find any documentation. I ended up using PostgreSQL 7.4.x on top of Cygwin. What a pain (though I did learn a few things in the month it took me to get it configured). My suffering is to your benefit, though. I *finally* found instructions detailing how to test our new PostgreSQL server installation.

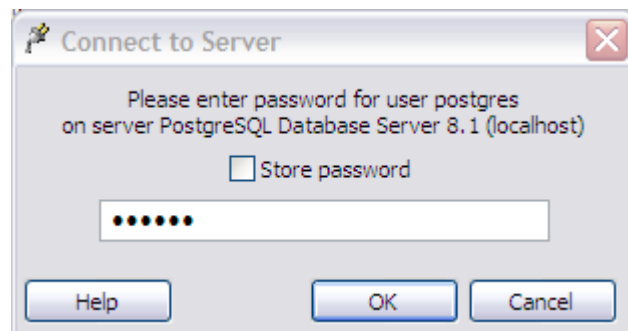
Click Start -> all Programs -> PostgreSQL 8.1 -> pgAdmin III

You should see a window like this:



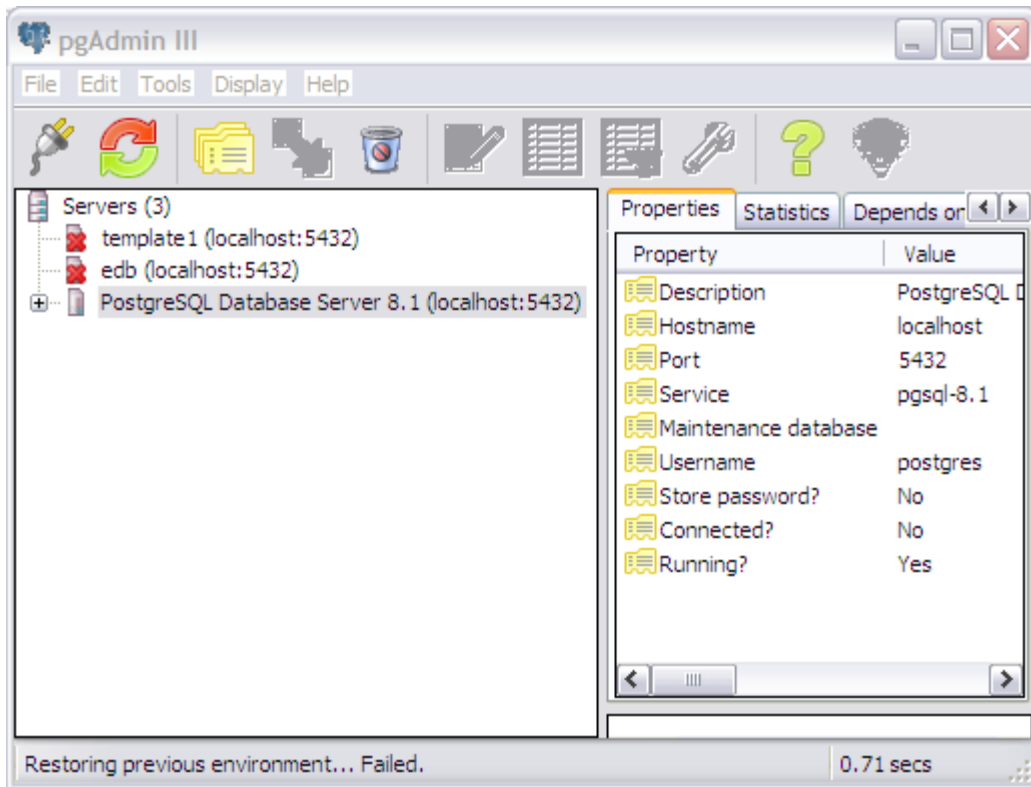
Did you notice that it displays our PostgreSQL service name under Servers?

Right click on the server name - PostgreSQL Database Server 8.1 (localhost:5432) -> Connect.



Enter your postgres user password (not your service password). I didn't check "Store password" since I might have some proprietary information stored in the database.

Click OK



Click on the + sign next to the PostgreSQL Database Server 8.1 (localhost:5432) server. Click on the + sign for Databases (1), click on the + sign for postgres, click on the + sign for Schemas.

This tutorial is not yet complete. Out how to use the command line on Windows, be sure to visit

http://viu.eng.rpi.edu/lab/1/s1_1.html