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# PostgreSQL PHP: Transaction

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**Summary:** in this tutorial, you will learn how to perform transactions in the PostgreSQL using PHP PDO.

A transaction is a series of operations performed as a single logical unit of work. A transaction has four characteristics: atomicity, consistency, isolation, and durability ([ACID](#)).

By default, PostgreSQL uses the auto-commit mode. It means that every statement that the application issues, PostgreSQL commits it automatically.

To turn off the auto-commit mode in PHP, you call the `beginTransaction()` method of the PDO object.

All the changes that you have made are committed only when you call the `commit()` method of the PDO object.

If there is any exception or error happens, you can cancel the changes using the `rollback()` method of the PDO object.

The typical usage of the transaction in PHP PDO is as follows:

```
1
2
3 <?php
4 try {
5     $pdo->beginTransaction();
6
7     $pdo->query("SELECT * FROM table");
8
9     $stmt = $pdo->prepare("UPDATE QUERY");
10    $stmt->execute();
11
12    $stmt = $pdo->prepare("ANOTHER UPADTE QUERY");
13    $stmt->execute();
14
15    $db->commit();
16 } catch (\PDOException $e) {
17     $db->rollBack();
18     throw $e;
19 }
```

## PostgreSQL PHP transaction example

We will create three tables for the demonstration:

1. `accounts`: stores the account information such as first name, last name
2. `plans`: stores the plan information for the account such as silver, gold, and platinum.
3. `account_plans` : stores the plan for each account with the effective date.

The following [CREATE TABLE](#) statements create the three tables:

```
1
2
3 CREATE TABLE accounts(
4     id SERIAL PRIMARY KEY,
5     first_name CHARACTER VARYING(100),
6     last_name CHARACTER VARYING(100)
7 );
8
9 CREATE TABLE plans(
10     id SERIAL PRIMARY KEY,
11     plan CHARACTER VARYING(10) NOT NULL
12 );
13
14 CREATE TABLE account_plans(
15     account_id INTEGER NOT NULL,
16     plan_id INTEGER NOT NULL,
17     effective_date DATE NOT NULL,
18     PRIMARY KEY (account_id,plan_id),
19     FOREIGN KEY(account_id) REFERENCES accounts(id),
20     FOREIGN KEY(plan_id) REFERENCES plans(id)
21 );
```

The following [INSERT](#) statement inserts some sample data into the `plans` table.

Whenever we create an account, we need to assign it a plan that may be silver, gold, or platinum. To make sure that an account always has at least one plan at a time, we use the transaction API in PDO.

The following `addAccount()` method performs two main steps:

1. First, insert an account into the `accounts` table and returns the account id.
2. Then, assign the account a specific plan by inserting a new row into the `account_plans` table.

At the beginning of the method, we call the `beginTransaction()` method of the PDO object to start the transaction.

If all the steps succeed, we call the `commit()` method to save the changes. In case an exception occurs in any step, we roll back the changes by calling the `rollback()` method in the `catch` block.

1  
2  
3 /\*\*

4 \* Add a new account

5 \* @param string \$firstName

6 \* @param string \$lastName

7 \* @param int \$planId

8 \* @param date \$effectiveDate

9 \*/

public function addAccount(\$firstName, \$lastName, \$planId, \$effectiveDate) {

10 try {

11 // start the transaction

12 \$this->pdo->beginTransaction();

13 // insert an account and get the ID back

14 \$accountId = \$this->insertAccount(\$firstName, \$lastName);

15 // add plan for the account

16 \$this->insertPlan(\$accountId, \$planId, \$effectiveDate);

17 // commit the changes

18 \$this->pdo->commit();

19 } catch (\PDOException \$e) {

20 // rollback the changes

21 \$this->pdo->rollBack();

22 throw \$e;

23 }

24 }

25  
26

The `addAccount()` method uses two other private methods: `insertAccount()` and `insertPlan()` as the following:

```
1
2
3  /**
4   *
5   * @param string $firstName
6   * @param string $lastName
7   * @return int
8   */
9  private function insertAccount($firstName, $lastName) {
10     $stmt = $this->pdo->prepare(
11         'INSERT INTO accounts(first_name,last_name) '
12         . 'VALUES(:first_name,:last_name)');
13
14     $stmt->execute([
15         ':first_name' => $firstName,
16         ':last_name' => $lastName
17     ]);
18
19     return $this->pdo->lastInsertId('accounts_id_seq');
20 }
```

```

1
2
3  /**
4   * insert a new plan for an account
5   * @param int $accountId
6   * @param int $planId
7   * @param int $effectiveDate
8   * @return bool
9   */
10 private function insertPlan($accountId, $planId, $effectiveDate) {
11     $stmt = $this->pdo->prepare(
12         'INSERT INTO account_plans(account_id,plan_id,effective_date) '
13         . 'VALUES(:account_id,:plan_id,:effective_date)');
14
15     return $stmt->execute([
16         ':account_id' => $accountId,
17         ':plan_id' => $planId,
18         ':effective_date' => $effectiveDate,
19     ]);
20 }

```

To test the AccountDB class, you use the following code in the index.php file.

```

1
2
3 <?php
4
5 require 'vendor/autoload.php';
6
7 use PostgreSQLTutorial\Connection as Connection;
8 use PostgreSQLTutorial\AccountDB as AccountDB;
9
10 try {
11     // connect to the PostgreSQL database
12     $pdo = Connection::get()->connect();
13
14     $accountDB = new AccountDB($pdo);
15
16     // add accounts
17     $accountDB->addAccount('John', 'Doe', 1, date('Y-m-d'));
18     $accountDB->addAccount('Linda', 'Williams', 2, date('Y-m-d'));
19     $accountDB->addAccount('Maria', 'Miller', 3, date('Y-m-d'));
20
21     echo 'The new accounts have been added.' . '<br>';
22     //
23     $accountDB->addAccount('Susan', 'Wilson', 99, date('Y-m-d'));
24 } catch (\PDOException $e) {
25     echo $e->getMessage();
26 }

```

How it works.

1. First, connect to the PostgreSQL database.
2. Second, insert three accounts with silver, gold, and platinum levels.
3. Third, try to insert one more account but with a plan id that does not exist in the plans table. Based on the input, the step of assigning the plan to the account fails that cause the whole transaction to be rolled back.

The following shows the output of the index.php file:

The new accounts have been added.

```
1
2 SQLSTATE[23503]: Foreign key violation: 7 ERROR: insert or update on table "account_plans"
3 violates foreign key constraint "account_plans_plan_id_fkey" DETAIL: Key (plan_id)=(99) is not
   present in table "plans".
```

If you query the data in the `accounts` and `account_plans` tables, you will see only three rows inserted in each table.

```
1
2 stocks=# SELECT * FROM accounts;
3 id | first_name | last_name
4 ----+-----+-----
5  1 | John      | Doe
6  2 | Linda     | Williams
7  3 | Maria     | Miller
8 (3 rows)
9
10 stocks=# SELECT * FROM account_plans;
11 account_id | plan_id | effective_date
12 ----+-----+-----
13      1 |      1 | 2016-06-13
14      2 |      2 | 2016-06-13
15      3 |      3 | 2016-06-13
16 (3 rows)
```

In this tutorial, we have shown you how to perform transactions in the PostgreSQL in the PHP application using PDO transaction API.

[?](#)

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