Backup strategy for PostgreSQL

SnapCenter software

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Define a backup strategy for PostgreSQL

Defining a backup strategy before you create your backup jobs helps you to have the backups that you require to successfully restore or clone your resources. Your service-level agreement (SLA), recovery time objective (RTO), and recovery point objective (RPO) largely determine your backup strategy.

About this task

An SLA defines the level of service that is expected and addresses many service-related issues, including the availability and performance of the service. RTO is the time by which a business process must be restored after a disruption in service. RPO defines the strategy for the age of the files that must be recovered from backup storage for regular operations to resume after a failure. SLA, RTO, and RPO contribute to the data protection strategy.

Steps

1. Determine when you should back up your resources.
2. Decide how many backup jobs you require.
3. Decide how to name your backups.
4. Decide whether you want to create a Snapshot copy-based policy to back up application-consistent snapshots of the cluster.
5. Decide whether you want to use NetApp SnapMirror technology for replication or NetApp SnapVault technology for long-term retention.
6. Determine the retention period for the snapshots on the source storage system and the SnapMirror destination.
7. Determine whether you want to run any commands before or after the backup operation and provide a prescript or postscript.

Automatic discovery of resources on Linux host

Resources are PostgreSQL clusters and instances on the Linux host that are managed by SnapCenter. After installing the SnapCenter Plug-in for PostgreSQL plug-in, the PostgreSQL clusters from all the instances on that Linux host are automatically discovered and displayed in the Resources page.

Type of backups supported

Backup type specifies the type of backup that you want to create. SnapCenter supports snapshot copy-based backup type for PostgreSQL clusters.

Snapshot copy based backup

Snapshot copy-based backups leverage NetApp snapshot technology to create online, read-only copies of the volumes on which the PostgreSQL clusters reside.

How SnapCenter Plug-in for PostgreSQL uses consistency group snapshots

You can use the plug-in to create consistency group snapshots for resource groups. A consistency group is a container that can house multiple volumes so that you can manage them as one entity. A consistency group is simultaneous snapshots of multiple volumes, providing consistent copies of a group of volumes.

You can also specify the wait time for the storage controller to consistently group snapshots. The available wait time options are **Urgent**, **Medium**, and **Relaxed**. You can also enable or disable Write Anywhere File Layout (WAFL) sync during consistent group snapshot operation. WAFL sync improves the performance of a consistency group snapshot.

How SnapCenter manages housekeeping of data backups

SnapCenter manages the housekeeping of data backups on the storage system and file system levels.

The snapshots on the primary or secondary storage and their corresponding entries in the PostgreSQL catalog are deleted based on the retention settings.

Considerations for determining backup schedules for PostgreSQL

The most critical factor in determining a backup schedule is the rate of change for the resource. You might back up a heavily used resource every hour, while you might back up a rarely used resource once a day. Other factors include the importance of the resource to your organization, your service-level agreement (SLA) and your recovery point objective (RPO).

Backup schedules have two parts, as follows:

- Backup frequency (how often backups are to be performed)

  Backup frequency, also called schedule type for some plug-ins, is part of a policy configuration. For example, you might configure the backup frequency as hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly.

- Backup schedules (exactly when backups are to be performed)

  Backup schedules are part of a resource or resource group configuration. For example, if you have a resource group that has a policy configured for weekly backups, you might configure the schedule to back up every Thursday at 10:00 p.m.

Number of backup jobs needed for PostgreSQL

Factors that determine the number of backup jobs that you need include the size of the resource, the number of volumes used, the rate of change of the resource, and your Service Level Agreement (SLA).

Backup naming conventions for Plug-in for PostgreSQL clusters

You can either use the default Snapshot naming convention or use a customized naming convention. The default backup naming convention adds a timestamp to Snapshot names that helps you identify when the copies were created.

The Snapshot uses the following default naming convention:

`resourcegroupname_hostname_timestamp`

You should name your backup resource groups logically, as in the following example:

```
dts1_mach1x88_03-12-2015_23.17.26
```

In this example, the syntax elements have the following meanings:

- *dts1* is the resource group name.
- *mach1x88* is the host name.
- *03-12-2015_23.17.26* is the date and timestamp.

Alternatively, you can specify the Snapshot name format while protecting resources or resource groups by selecting **Use custom name format for Snapshot copy**. For example, customtext_resourcegroup_policy_hostname or resourcegroup_hostname. By default, the time stamp suffix is added to the Snapshot name.

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