

Connecting with psql

This guide explains how to connect to a **Hydra** database using the `psql` command-line tool. It walks through the necessary setup, connection process, and execution of a simple SQL query.

Variables


To connect to a Hydra database, you only need **one environment variable** — the connection URI.

| Variable | Description | Purpose |
|------------------------|---|--|
| <code>HYDRA_URI</code> | Full Hydra connection string from Elestio | Encodes all connection info in one URI |

A typical URI looks like this:

```
postgresql://<USER>:<PASSWORD>@<HOST>:<PORT>/<DATABASE>
```

You can find the details needed in the URI from the **Elestio service overview** details. Copy and replace the variables carefully in the URI example provided above.

 **hydra-y2e0a**

Hydra

Cluster

Running

>_ Open terminal

🗑 Delete cluster

Add node

Overview

Nodes

Backups

Audit

Termination protection

Disabled. VM can be powered off and terminated.

Protection deactivated ☐

Auto-Failover

Enabled. In case of failure, the cluster will automatically attempt to recover

Auto-Failover activated ☒

Node

1 Primary Node

Database Admin

Display your database credentials

Hide DB Credentials

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------------|
| Host | hydra-y2e0a-u7774.vm.elestialo.app | 📄 |
| Port | 15432 | 📄 |
| User | postgres | 📄 |
| Password | ***** | Show password 📄 |
| CLI | PGPASSWORD=***** psql --host=hydra-y2e0a-u7774.vm.elestialo.app --port=15432 --username=postgres | Show password 📄 |

Prerequisites

While following this tutorial, you will need to have `psql` already installed; if not head over to <https://www.postgresql.org/download/> and download it first.

Connecting to Hydra

Open your terminal and run the following command to connect to your Hydra database using the full connection URI:

```
psql HYDRA_URI
```

If the connection is successful, you'll see output similar to this. Here it will show you the database you tried to connect to, which in this case is Elestio:

```
psql (17.4, server 14.13 (Debian 14.13-1.pgdg120+1))
SSL connection (protocol: TLSv1.3, cipher: TLS_AES_256_GCM_SHA384, compression: off, ALPN:
none)
Type "help" for help.
```

```
elestio=#
```



To ensure you're connected correctly, run this command inside the `psql` prompt:

```
SELECT version();
```

You should receive output like the following:

```
version
```

```
-----  
-----
```

```
PostgreSQL 16.8 (Debian 16.8-1.pgdg120+1) on x86_64-pc-linux-gnu, compiled by gcc (Debian  
12.2.0-14) 12.2.0, 64-bit  
(1 row)
```

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