

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.

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.pgdgl20+1) on x86_64-pc-linux-gnu, compiled by gcc (Debian
12.2.0-14) 12.2.0, 64-bit
(1 row)
```

Revision #1

Created 2025-05-07 16:27:42 UTC

Updated 2025-05-07 16:35:15 UTC