

Connecting with psql

This guide explains how to connect to a **PostgreSQL** 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 PostgreSQL database, you only need one environment variable — the **connection URI**. This URI contains all the necessary information like username, password, host, port, and database name.

Variable	Description	Purpose
POSTGRESQL_URI	Full PostgreSQL connection string (from the Elestio service overview page)	Provides all necessary credentials and endpoint details in a single URI format.

The URI will look 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.



postgresql-2p7j1

PostgreSQL

Running

Open terminal

Delete service

Clone this service

Overview

Tools

Backups

Metrics

Monitoring

Logs

Audit

Security

Alerts

Termination protection

Disabled. VM can be powered off and terminated.

Protection deactivated



Database Admin

Display your database credentials

Hide DB Credentials

Host postgresql-2p7j1-u7774.vm.elestio.app

Port 25432

User postgres

Password *****

Show password

CLI

PGPASSWORD=***** psql --host=postgresql-2p7j1-u7774.vm.elestio.app --port=25432 --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 PostgreSQL

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

```
psql POSTGRES_URL
```

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 16.8 (Debian 16.8-1.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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