

Connecting with psql

This guide explains how to connect to a **TimescaleDB** 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 TimescaleDB database, you only need **one environment variable** — the connection URI.

Variable	Description	Purpose
<code>TIMESCALE_URI</code>	Full TimescaleDB 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.

The screenshot shows the TimescaleDB cluster management interface for a cluster named 'timescaledb-gi7jy'. At the top, there are buttons for 'Open terminal', 'Delete cluster', and 'Add node'. Below this, there are tabs for 'Overview', 'Nodes', 'Backups', and 'Audit'. The 'Overview' tab is selected, showing the cluster's status as 'Running'. There are two main sections: 'Termination protection' (Disabled) and 'Auto-Failover' (Enabled). Below these, it shows '1 Primary Node'. A 'Database Admin' section is highlighted with a red border, displaying database credentials: Host (timescaledb-gi7jy-u7774.vm.elestialio.app), Port (25432), User (postgres), Password (*****), and CLI command (PGPASSWORD=***** psql --host=timescaledb-gi7jy-u7774.vm.elestialio.app --port=25432 --username=postgres). There are 'Show password' and 'Hide DB Credentials' buttons.

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 TimescaleDB

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

```
psql TIMESCALE_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)
```

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