

Counting table row counts in PostgreSQL

An easy way to count the number of rows in a PostgreSQL table and sort by totals allowing you to find what's taking up space in your database.

```

schemaname |          relname          | reltuples
-----+-----+-----
public     | wagtailsearch_querydailyhits | 412213
public     | wagtailimages_rendition     | 87247
public     | wagtailsearch_query         | 56813
public     | wagtailcore_pagelogentry    | 54442
public     | accounts_opent               | 12862
public     | postgres_search_indexentry   | 11822
public     | accounts_ackt                | 11338
public     | wagtailcore_pagerevision     | 10957
public     | wagtailcore_page            | 6189
public     | accounts_openm               | 5978
public     | accounts_ackm                | 5084
public     | wagtailimages_image         | 4885

```

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I sometimes find myself running into the problem of hunting down what is taking up a lot of rows in PostgreSQL due to service row restrictions. There is a choice of increasing my service plan but I sometimes find it unnecessary if I have a rogue app just adding a lot of data that can be purged. This happens a lot of logs and security apps tracking login attempts. To find the number of

rows used in a PostgreSQL database and order it by count you can run this in `psql`.

```
1 SELECT nspname AS schemaname,relname,reltuples
2 FROM pg_class C
3 LEFT JOIN pg_namespace N ON (N.oid = C.relnamespace)
4 WHERE nspname NOT IN ('pg_catalog', 'information_schema')
5 AND relkind='r'
6 ORDER BY reltuples DESC;
```

If this runs correctly you should see a sorted list of tables with their row counts. From there you can create a script to purge the offending apps on a schedule if you don't need older data.
