



# Riskified's Lessons Learned Migrating to CockroachDB for Greater Scale

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# About us



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# Agenda

- 01** So, why did we leave postgres?
- 02** Choosing right
- 03** Our solution
- 04** Road to success
- 05** Lessons learned

# Riskified by the Numbers

## 750+

Global team, nearly 50%  
in **engineering & analytics**

## 185

Countries where we  
operate

## 50+

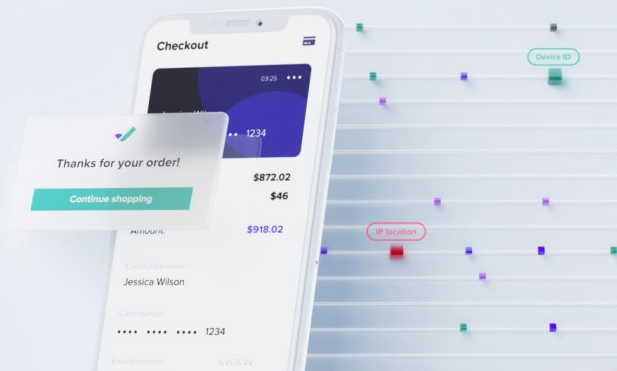
Publicly-traded companies  
among our clients

## \$105B+

Online volume (GMV)  
reviewed in 2022

## 99%+

Client retention  
for FY'2022



 wayfair

PRADA

GoPro

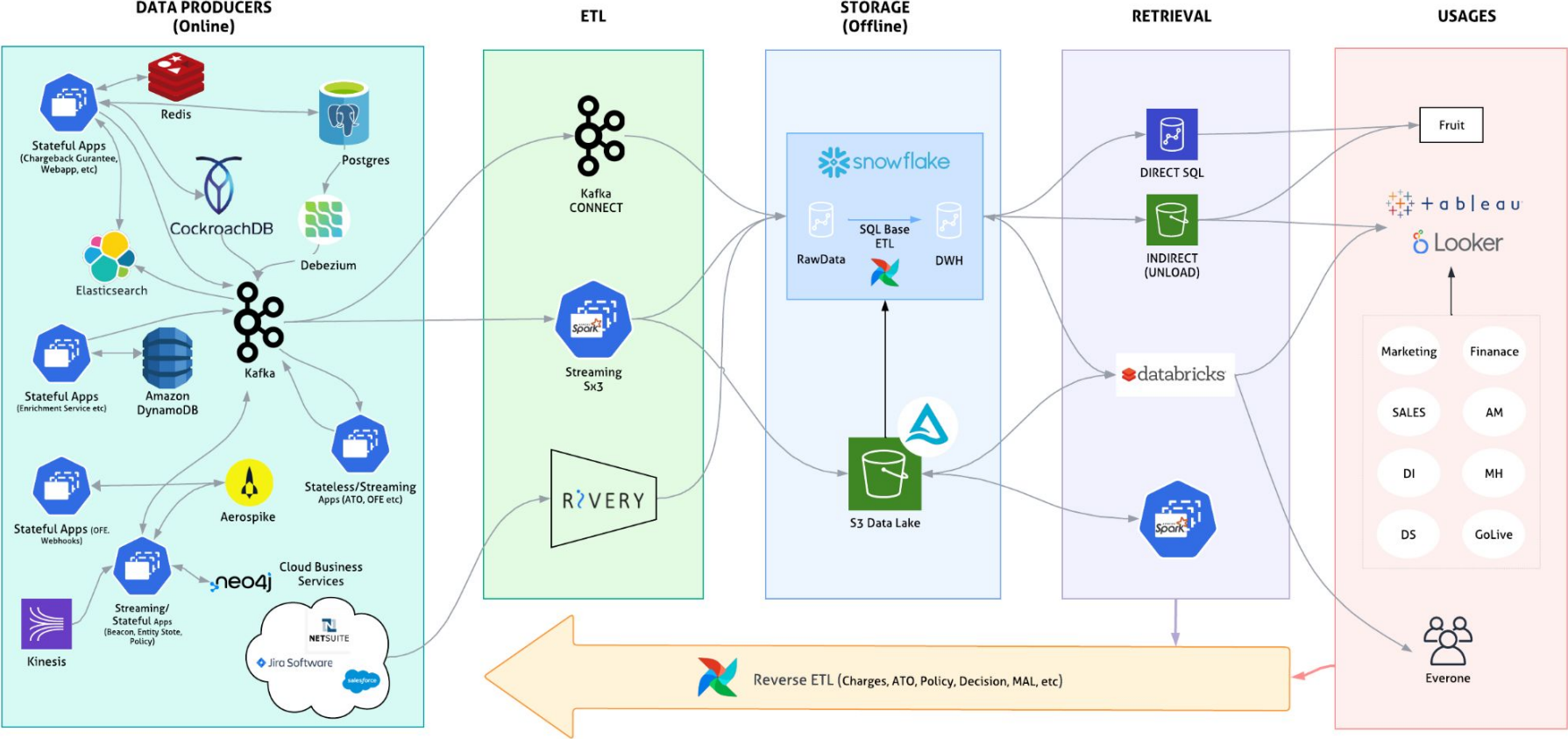
FINISH LINE

lastminute.com

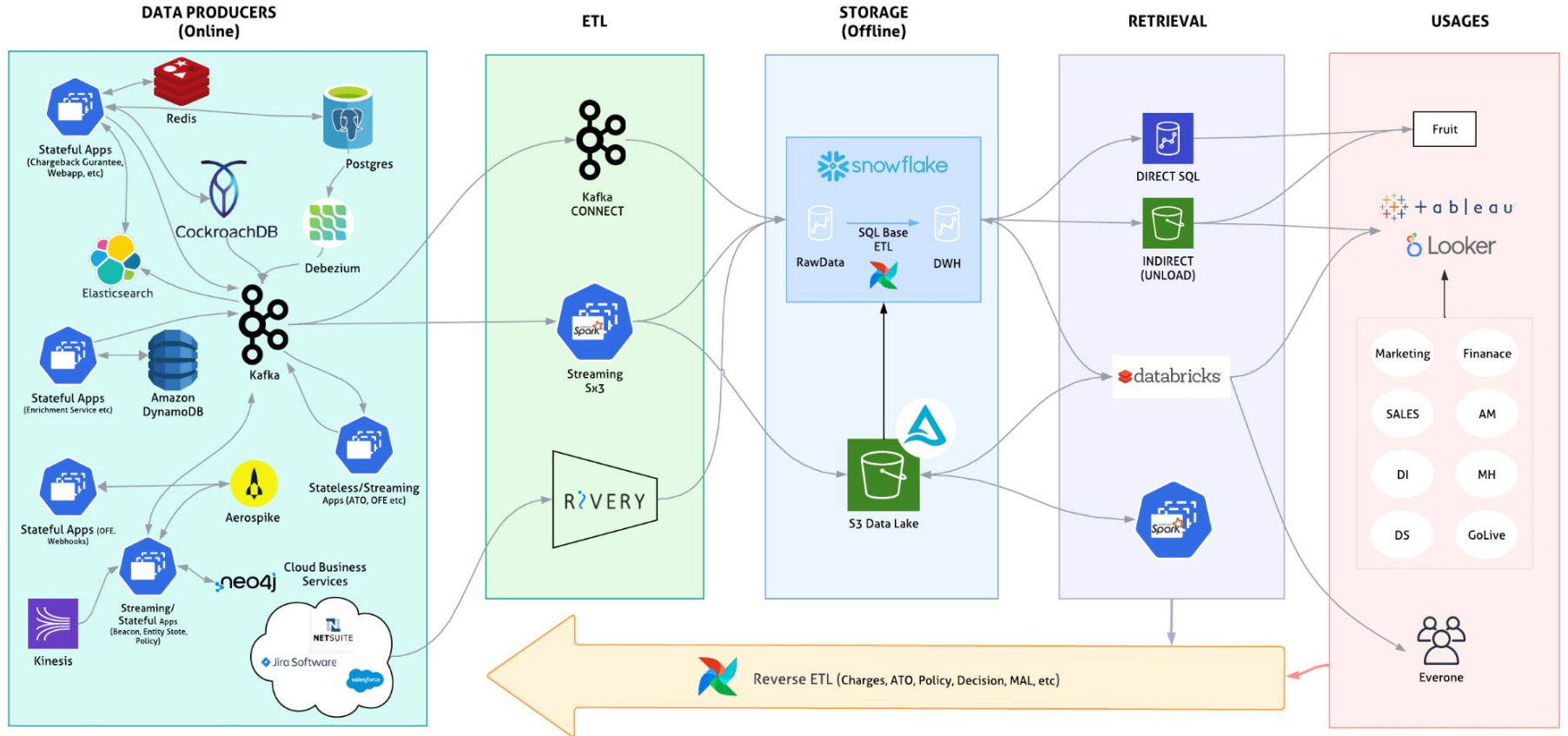
REVOLVE

CANADA GOOSE

# Riskified's Data Platform

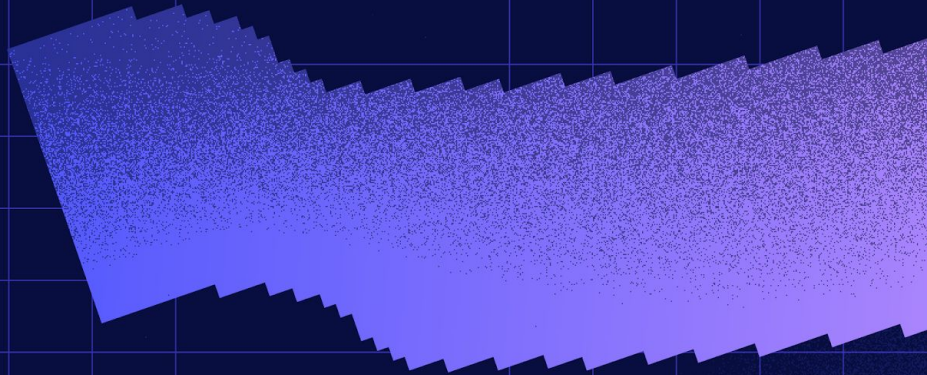


# Riskified's Data Platform



SO, WHY DID WE LEAVE POSTGRES?

Issues  
encountered



# Aurora postgres

- Single writer server
- Transaction limit
- Multiple clusters

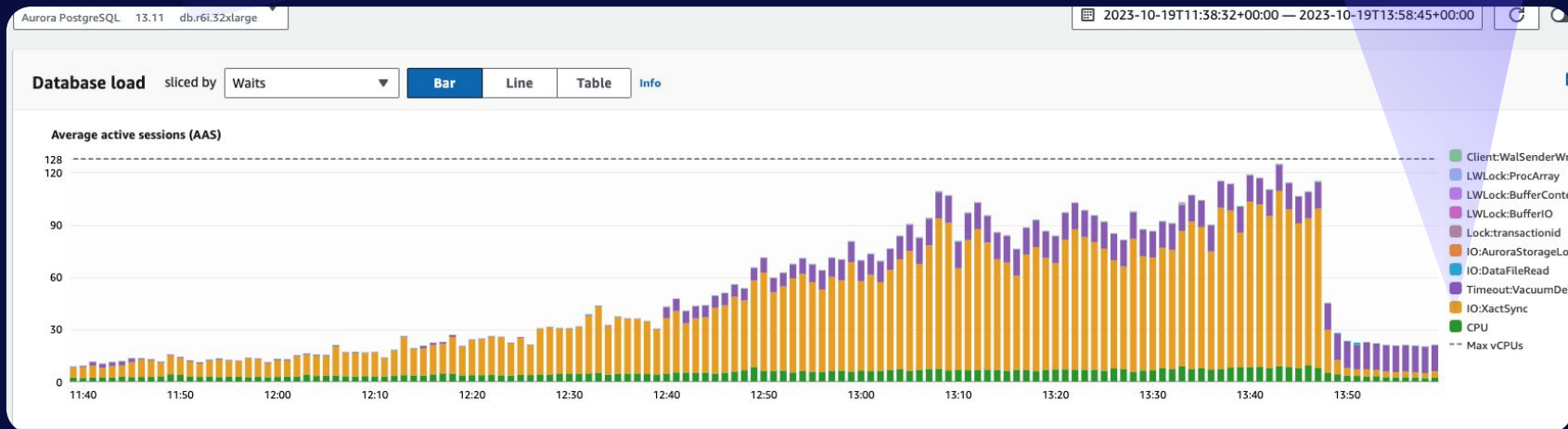




# Scaling limitation

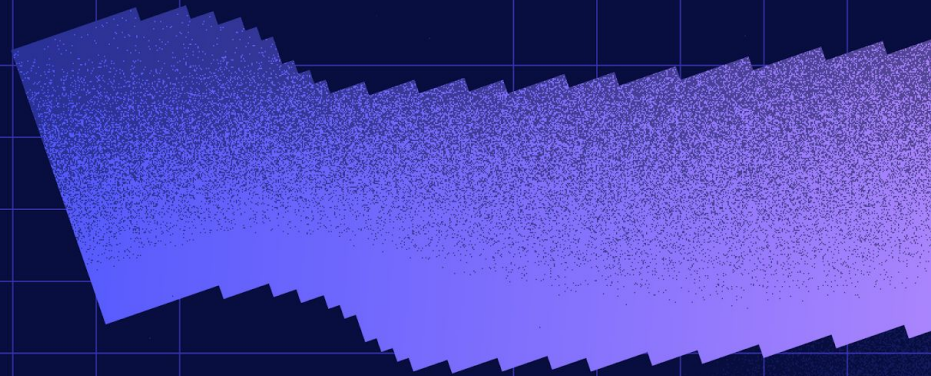
Aurora PostgreSQL 13.11 db.r6i.32xlarge

IO:XactSync



CHOOSING RIGHT

# POC summary



## Test criteria

- Postgres compatible to avoid Application changes
- Scale, Resilience & Operations
  - Online upgrades, failures, backups ...
- Installation & data loading
- Security
- Performance





## POC: Candidates

- VoltDB
- Xpand (clustrix)
- NuoDB
- CockroachDB
- SingleStore (MemSQL)
- YugabyteDB

# POC: Tested

- YugabyteDB

- CockroachDB

name	postgres compatible	QL	Editions	technology	SASS/On-prem	scaling	SDM
VoltDB	no	ansi SQL	EE	In memory DB. Tables partitioned by column. small tables are replicated. fully ACID-compliant transactional database by serialisation	on-prem	VoltDB is optimized for both horizontal and vertical scaling	ss0
Xpand (clustrix)	no	MYSQL (maria)	EE and CE	Sierra Database Engine for querying. Theres a Transaction manager and a data manager. Data is distributed in a proprietary algorithm	on-prem	horizontal	ss0
NuoDB	no	ansi SQL	EE and CE	Client connects to Admin Process which refers to the Transaction manager node which talks to Storage manager node for the data.	on-prem (multi cloud) and k8s	horizontal	ss0
CockroachDB	yes	PostgreSQL wire protocol.	EE and CE	Requests to the cluster arrive as SQL statements, but data is ultimately written to and read from the storage layer as key-value (KV) pairs. To handle this, the SQL layer converts SQL statements into a plan of KV operations, which it then passes along to the transaction layer.	on-prem (non ARM ec2), CockroachDB Cloud and serverless (beta)	horizontal	<a href="https://www.stronqdm.com/loves/cockroachdb">https://www.stronqdm.com/loves/cockroachdb</a>
(SingleStore) MemSQL	no	ansi SQL (MySQL compatible)		in-memory rowstore and an on-disk columnstore. data is sharded across nodes. uses MVCC (data versioning). Has aggregator nodes (client) and leaf (storage) in a ratio of 1:5 (agg:leaf)	on-prem (all clouds)/ managed	horizontally	<a href="https://www.stronqdm.com/loves/singlestore">https://www.stronqdm.com/loves/singlestore</a>



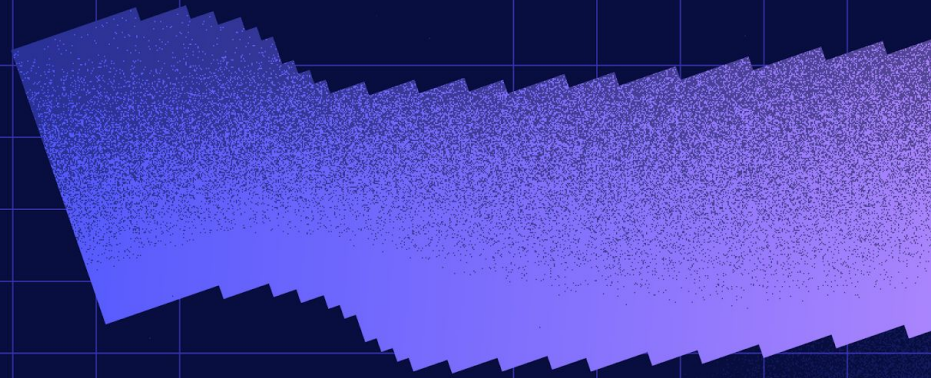


## Performance metrics

- **Jmeter**
  - Postgres < 1ms
  - CockroachDB ±3ms
- **Main App sample process**
  - Postgres ±60ms
  - CockroachDB ±80ms

OUR SOLUTION

# Implementation details





## Our list of requirements

### Any Tech

- Single server auto replacement
- Replace all nodes in the cluster
- Automatic deployments
- Change management
- Rolling restarts
- Monitoring

### CockroachDB

- Backups
- CDC



Single server auto replacement

+

Replace all nodes in the cluster

Automatic deployments

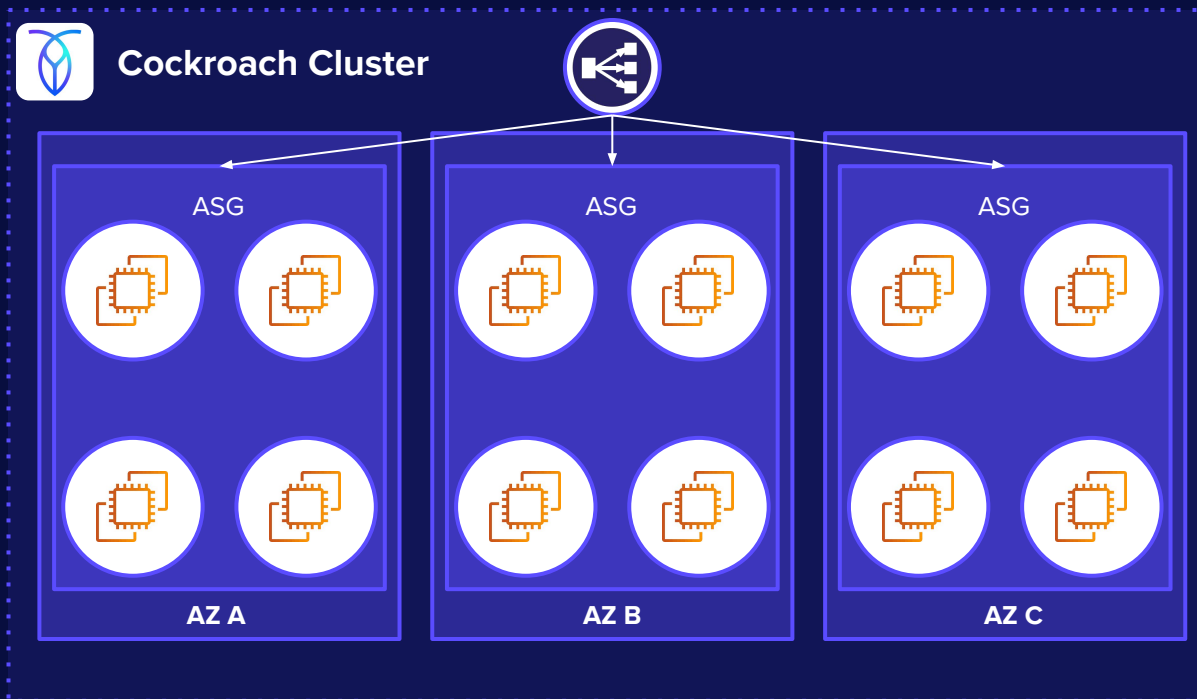
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Change management

Rolling restarts

Monitoring & Backup

## Easy management using ASG per AZ



Single server auto replacement

+

Replace all nodes in the cluster

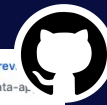
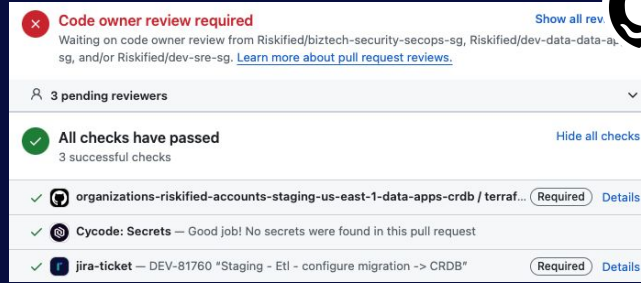
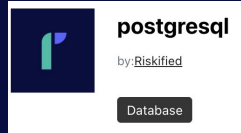
Automatic deployments

+

Change management

Rolling restarts

Monitoring & Backup



GitHub Actions for trigger plan and apply on PR and merge

```
Terraform will perform the following actions:

# module.crdbs-c2c.module.cluster-
sg.aws_security_group_rule.ingress_source_security_group_id[7] must be replaced
-/+ resource "aws_security_group_rule" "ingress_source_security_group_id" {
  ~ description      = "C2C connection" -> "cockroachdb port for grafana"
  ~ from_port        = 30004 -> 26257 # forces replacement
  ~ id               = "sgrule-1264463790" -> (known after apply)
  ~ security_group_rule_id = "sgr-00e858c3812f763e4" -> (known after apply)
  ~ source_security_group_id = "sg-0a0dc81fbc0240cdd" -> "sg-0969ca947661510cd" # forces replacement
  ~ to_port          = 30040 -> 26257 # forces replacement
  # (4 unchanged attributes hidden)
}
```



Terraform for managing AWS components

```
"WatchdogTimestampMonotonic": "0",
"WatchdogUsec": "0"
}
}
META: ran handlers
META: ran handlers

PLAY RECAP *****
localhost : ok=138 changed=39 unreachable=0 failed=0 skipped=115 rescued=0 ignored=1
```



Ansible for installing the software

Single server auto replacement

+

Replace all nodes in the cluster

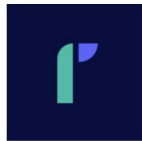
Automatic deployments

+

Change management

Rolling restarts

Monitoring & Backup



**postgresql**

by: [Riskified](#)

Database

VERSION  
**1.32.0**

🕒 PUBLISHED  
**18 days ago**

<> SOURCE CODE

[Riskified/terraform-provider-postgresql](#)

Feel free to use it :)

Single server auto  
replacement

+

Replace all nodes  
in the cluster

Automatic deployments

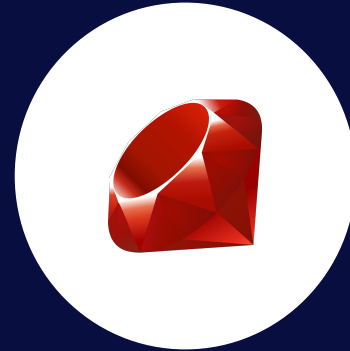
+

Change management

**Rolling restarts**

Monitoring & Backup

## Ruby from Airflow



Single server auto replacement

+

Replace all nodes in the cluster

Automatic deployments

+

Change management

Rolling restarts

**Monitoring & Backup**

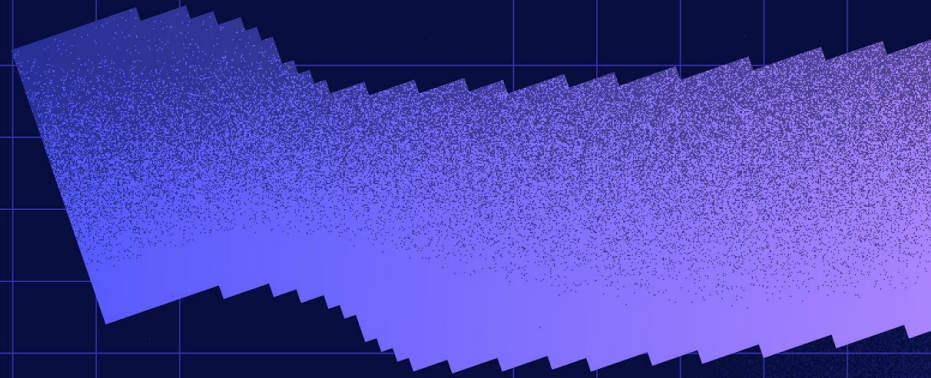
- Prometheus, Grafana & built in console
- Using the built-in exporters



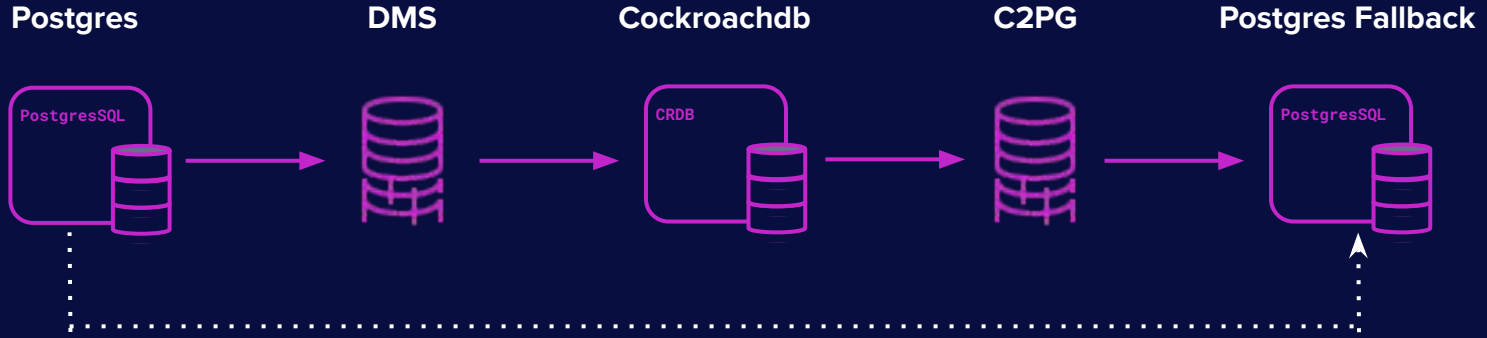
- Scheduled backups to S3
- Local & DR regions

**MIGRATION PROCESS**

**Road to success**



# Migrations with AWS DMS and Replicator (belt & suspenders)



1. Create schemas, users
2. Full load + CDC with AWS Data Migration Service
3. Create a copy from source
4. CDC using C2PG (partitioned tables need custom script)



## Migration tips & guidelines - Docs

- Use Cockroach cloud migration tool
- Replace IDENTITY columns with **unordered\_unique\_rowid** on busy tables
- Read the documentation!





## Migration tips & guidelines

- Use port 5432 in addition to 26257
- Reuse existing DNS
- Read committed transaction isolation
- Wrap schema migrations in explicit transactions

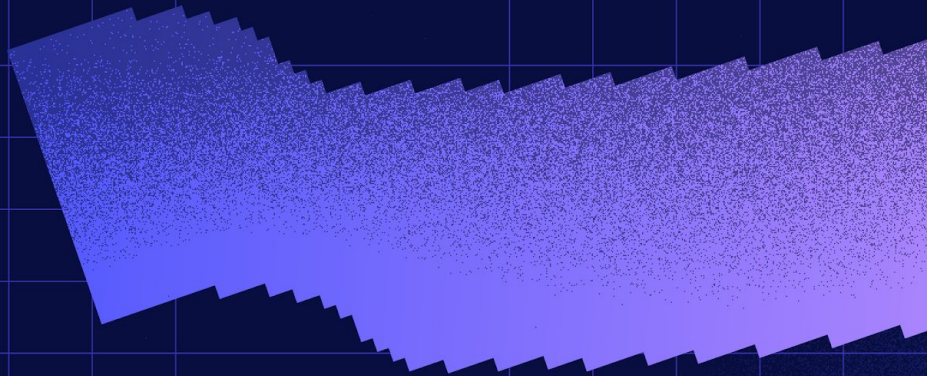


# Changefeeds

- Replication slots → Changefeeds
- Message format is a bit different
- Don't need a Kafka Connect cluster
- We use Terraform automation
  - Using SQL migration provider
  - Creating changefeeds, Kafka and registry connections

LESSONS LEARNED  
(SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO)

# Clients & SDKs



# Ruby

- Ruby on Rails works as is with the Postgres adaptor
- Use the SSL flag for production
- Rake - needs adapting
  - db: migrate
  - db: test:prepare - adapted due to db:migrate



## Node & ORM

- Define SSL at the connection
  - We use global certificates
  - Postgres doesn't need it



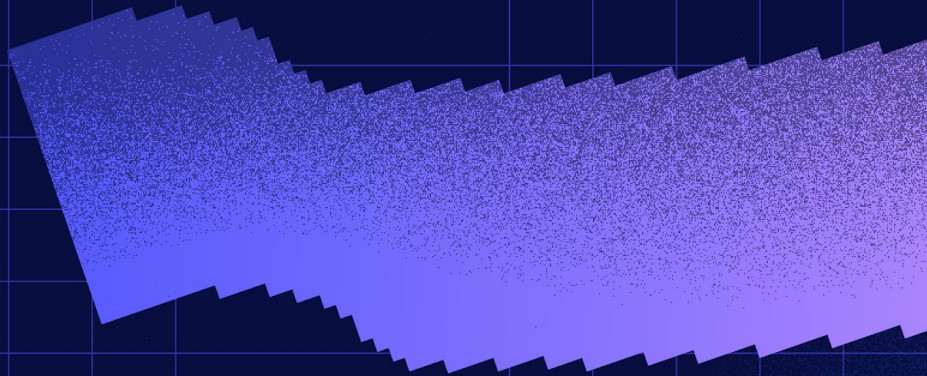
**Scala & JDBC**

**JUST WORKS!**



TLDR;

Let's wrap it up




## Wrap Up

- Scalability issues were solved by CockroachDB
- AWS Auto Scaling Groups to manage the cluster
- Migration required minor application changes
- Replaced Debezium with Changefeeds





A German Shepherd dog is shown in profile, looking towards the left. The dog is in a domestic interior, with a doorway and some furniture visible in the background. The lighting is somewhat dim, and the overall tone is casual.

**ANY QUESTIONS?**

riskified tech;

# Thank you for your time!

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