

[MySQL \(/sql/docs/mysql/users\)](/sql/docs/mysql/users) | **PostgreSQL** | [SQL Server](#)

This page describes how Cloud

SQL works with PostgreSQL users and roles. PostgreSQL roles enable you to control what kind of access and capabilities a user has when they access your PostgreSQL instance.

For complete documentation about PostgreSQL roles, see [the PostgreSQL documentation](https://www.postgresql.org/docs/9.6/static/database-roles.html) (<https://www.postgresql.org/docs/9.6/static/database-roles.html>). For information about creating and managing Cloud SQL users, see [Creating and Managing Users](/sql/docs/postgres/create-manage-users) (</sql/docs/postgres/create-manage-users>).

PostgreSQL roles can be a single role, or they can function as a group of roles. A user is simply a role with the ability to login (the role has the `LOGIN` attribute). Because all roles created by Cloud SQL have the `LOGIN` attribute, Cloud SQL uses the terms "role" and "user" interchangeably. However, if you create a role with the `psql` client, it does not necessarily have the `LOGIN` attribute.

All PostgreSQL users must have a password. You cannot login with a user that does not have a password.

Because Cloud SQL PostgreSQL is a managed service it restricts access to certain system procedures and tables that require advanced privileges. In Cloud SQL customers cannot create or have access to users with superuser attributes.

When you create a new Cloud SQL for PostgreSQL instance, the default `postgres` user is already created for you, though you must set its password.

The `postgres` user is part of the `cloudsqlsuperuser` role, and has the following attributes (privileges): `CREATEROLE`, `CREATEDB`, and `LOGIN`. It does not have the `SUPERUSER` or `REPLICATION` attributes.

A default `cloudsqlimportexport` user is created with the minimal set of privileges needed for CSV import/export operations. You have the option to create your own users to perform these operations but if you don't, the default `cloudsqlimportexport` user will be used. The `cloudsqlimportexport` user is a system user and customers cannot directly use it.

You can [create other PostgreSQL users](/sql/docs/postgres/create-manage-users) (/sql/docs/postgres/create-manage-users) or roles. All users you create using Cloud SQL are created as part of the `cloudsqlsuperuser` role, and have the same set of attributes as the `postgres` user: `CREATEROLE`, `CREATEDB`, and `LOGIN`. You can change the attributes of any user by using the [ALTER ROLE](https://www.postgresql.org/docs/9.6/static/sql-alterrole.html) (<https://www.postgresql.org/docs/9.6/static/sql-alterrole.html>) command.

If you create a new user with the `psql` client, you can choose to associate it with a different role, or give it different attributes.

- [Configure the postgres user](/sql/docs/postgres/create-manage-users#user-root) (/sql/docs/postgres/create-manage-users#user-root) for your instance.
- [Create and manage users](/sql/docs/postgres/create-manage-users) (/sql/docs/postgres/create-manage-users).
- [Create and manage databases](/sql/docs/postgres/create-manage-databases) (/sql/docs/postgres/create-manage-databases).
- See the [PostgreSQL documentation about roles](https://www.postgresql.org/docs/9.6/static/database-roles.html) (<https://www.postgresql.org/docs/9.6/static/database-roles.html>).
- Learn about [options for connecting to your instance](/sql/docs/postgres/external-connection-methods) (/sql/docs/postgres/external-connection-methods).

