
CartoDB Platform Documentation Documentation

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CartoDB, Inc.

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Contents:

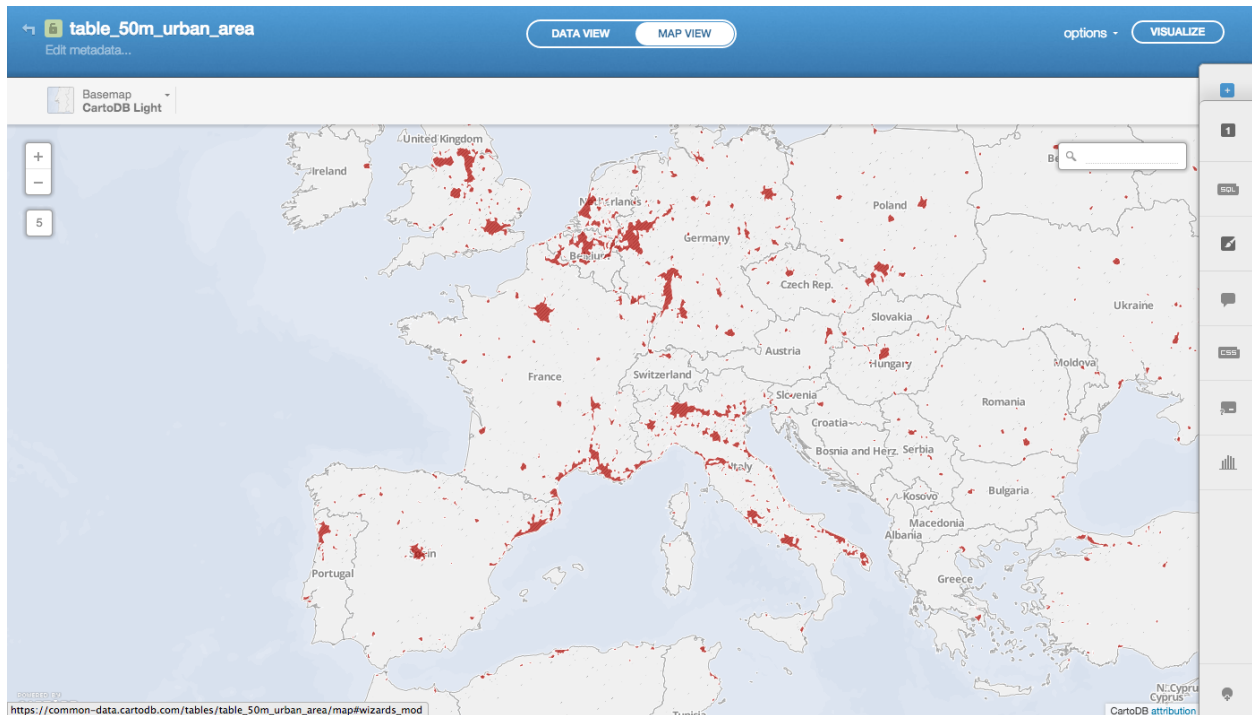
CHAPTER 1

CartoDB introduction

CartoDB is an open source tool that allows for the storage and visualization of geospatial data on the web.

It was built to make it easier for people to tell their stories by providing them with flexible and intuitive ways to create maps and design geospatial applications. CartoDB can be installed on your own server and we also offer a hosted service at cartodb.com.

If you would like to see some live demos, check out our [videos](#) on Vimeo. We hope you like it!

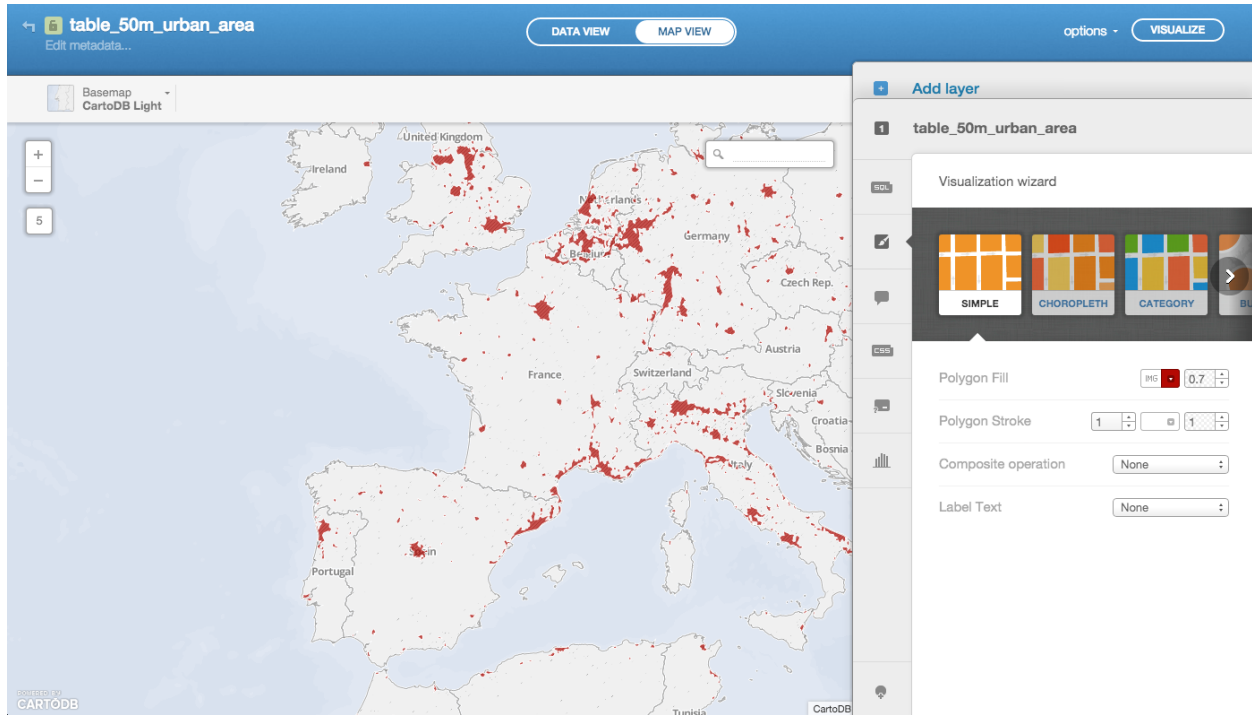


What can I do with CartoDB?

With CartoDB, you can upload your geospatial data (Shapefiles, GeoJSON, etc) using a web form and then make it public or private.

After it is uploaded, you can visualize it in a table or on a map, search it using SQL, and apply map styles using CartoCSS. You can even access it using the [CartoDB API OVERVIEW](#) and [SQL API](#), or export it to a file.

In other words, with CartoDB you can make awesome maps and build powerful geospatial applications! Definitely check out the [CartoDB Develop](#) for interactive examples and code.



table_50m_urban_area
options - VISUALIZE

DATA VIEW
MAP VIEW

cartodb_id - number	the_geom <small>geo</small> - geometry	featurecla - string	scalerank - number	created_at - date	updated_at - date
1	Polygon	Urban Area	5	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z
2	Polygon	Urban Area	5	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z
3	Polygon	Urban Area	5	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z
4	Polygon	Urban Area	5	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z
5	Polygon	Urban Area	5	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z
6	Polygon	Urban Area	5	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z
7	Polygon	Urban Area	5	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z
8	Polygon	Urban Area	5	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z
9	Polygon	Urban Area	5	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z
10	Polygon	Urban Area	5	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z
11	Polygon	Urban Area	5	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z
12	Polygon	Urban Area	5	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z
13	Polygon	Urban Area	5	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z
14	Polygon	Urban Area	5	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z
15	Polygon	Urban Area	5	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z	2014-08-28T07:27:33Z

Add layer

table_50m_urban_area

Custom SQL query
?

Ctrl + SPACE to autocomplete. CMD + S to apply your query.

```
1 SELECT * FROM table_50m_urban_area
```

Apply query

A common CartoDB stack is powered by those components:

PostgreSQL

PostgreSQL is the open source database powering CartoDB.

CartoDB uses PostgreSQL for two purposes:

- **Metadata storage.** This is the metadata used by the CartoDB editor. Editor models like users information, visualizations, or other metadata is stored in this database. The name and connection information of this database is specified on the Rails `app_config.yml` configuration file.
- **User data storage.** Each single user or organization in CartoDB has a individual PostgreSQL database. This database is created during the user signup process. Its database name and connection info is generated on the fly by the CartoDB application during this process. Both values are stored within the user info in the metadata database. Every user database name contains the user UUID.

Both metadata database and users databases can be hosted either in the same PostgreSQL cluster or different ones. Having both the in the same cluster is the recommended approach for small environments. The editor only knows how to connect to metadata database. However, within every request it checks the connection info of the user database which is stored in metadata database, as described before.

At this moment CartoDB requires PostgreSQL 9.3.x version.

PostGIS

PostGIS is the extension which adds spatial capabilities to PostgreSQL. It allows working with geospatial types or running geospatial functions in PostgreSQL. Is is required both on the user data clusters and the metadata cluster.

At this moment CartoDB requires PostGIS 2.1.x version.

Redis

Redis is a key-value store engine used by most components of the CartoDB application stack to store configuration and cache.

In contrast to the PostgreSQL metadata (which is used only by the CartoDB editor), the metadata stored in Redis is shared among the CartoDB editor, the SQL API, and the Maps API.

Important: Even though also used as a cache, there is also persistent data stored in Redis. In some environments Redis is configured by default to act without persistency (see <http://redis.io/topics/persistence>).

You must ensure Redis is configured properly to keep its data between restarts.

Data is stored in separate databases inside this Redis:

- Database 0: Table and visualization metadata, including map styles and named maps.
- Database 3: OAuth credentials metadata.
- Database 5: Metadata about the users, including API keys and database_hosts.

At this moment CartoDB requires redis 3.x version.

CartoDB PostgreSQL extension

The CartoDB PostgreSQL extension can be found at <https://github.com/CartoDB/cartodb-postgresql>.

This extensions is required by all the components of CartoDB and it must be installed in the server where user databases are stored.

It provides functions and other helpers needed by the Editor, Maps and SQL APIs like:

- CartoDBfying functions which convert raw PostgreSQL tables in tables recognized by CartoDB by adding some additional columns and triggers
- Multiuser schema handling functions
- Quota helpers
- Cache helpers
- etc..

The CartoDB extension depends on *PostGIS* and on the `pg_schema_triggers` extension.

CartoDB Editor

The editor is the web management component of CartoDB. Within the editor you can find all the features available in CartoDB. These are some of the most significant tasks you can do with the editor:

- User management. Credentials, authorization, personal info and billing.
- Connect datasets to your CartoDB account either by importing your datasets or other ones publicly available.
- Create maps from your datasets
- Publishing and permissions management of datasets and maps

- Synchronized tables management

Internally the editor is the operations core of CartoDB. It manages PostgreSQL metadata database, keep some metadata in sync with Redis, manages new datasets import queues with resque, etc..

It is developed in Ruby on Rails and like the other components of CartoDB is Open Source and you can find the source code at [CartoDB/cartodb](#)

You can find usage documentation at <http://docs.cartodb.com/cartodb-editor.html>

Although you can checkout any branch of the repository most of them are usually work in progress that is not guaranteed to work. In order to run a production ready Editor service you need to use **master** branch.

Service modes

The code of CartoDB editor needs to run in two different modes. HTTP server mode and background jobs mode.

The **HTTP server** processes the http requests sent to the service and returns a response synchronously. Any ruby rack server can be used to start the editor in this mode. Some examples of rack servers are mongrel, webrick, thin or unicorn.

The **background jobs** mode is started with [resque](#). In this mode the service keep polling some redis keys in order to find pending background jobs. When it finds one, it processes it and change the state of the job in redis. CartoDB uses this mode for different type of jobs like datasets imports or synchronized tables.

Maps API

The Maps API provides a node.js based API that allows you to generate maps based on data hosted in your CartoDB account by applying custom SQL and CartoCSS to the data

Like the other components of CartoDB is Open Source and you can find the source code at [CartoDB/Windshaft-cartodb](#)

You can find usage documentation at <http://docs.cartodb.com/cartodb-platform/maps-api.html>

Although you can checkout any branch of the repository most of them are usually work in progress that is not guaranteed to work. In order to run a production ready Maps API service you need to use **master** branch.

SQL API

The SQL API provides a node.js based API for running SQL queries against CartoDB.

Like the other components of CartoDB is Open Source and you can find the source code at [CartoDB/CartoDB-SQL-API](#)

You can find usage documentation at <http://docs.cartodb.com/cartodb-platform/sql-api.html>.

Although you can checkout any branch of the repository most of them are usually work in progress that is not guaranteed to work. In order to run a production ready SQL API service you need to use **master** branch.

Warning: CartoDB is guaranteed to run without any issue in Ubuntu 12.04 x64. This documentation describes the process to install CartoDB in this specific OS version.

However this doesn't mean that it won't work with other Operating Systems or other Ubuntu. There are also many successful installations on Amazon EC2, Linode, dedicated instances and development machines running OS X and Ubuntu 12.04+.

System requirements

Besides the OS version mentioned in the introduction, there are some systems requirements needed before starting with the installation of the stack. Also this process assumes that you have enough permissions in the system to run successfully most part of the commands of this doc.

System locales

Installations assume you use UTF8. You can set the locale by doing this:

```
sudo locale-gen en_US.UTF-8
sudo update-locale LANG=en_US.UTF-8 LC_ALL=en_US.UTF-8
```

Build essentials

Although we try to maintain packaged versions of almost every part of the stack, there are some parts like gems or npm packages that need some development tools in the system in order to compile. You can install all the needed build tools by doing this:

```
sudo apt-get install autoconf binutils-doc bison build-essential flex
```

GIT

You will need git commands in order to handle some repositories and install some dependencies:

```
sudo apt-get install git
```

APT tools

In order to easily install some packages repositories sources is suggested to install this tool:

```
sudo apt-get install python-software-properties
```

PostgreSQL

- Add PPA repository

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:cartodb/postgresql-9.3 && sudo apt-get update
```

- Install client packages

```
sudo apt-get install libpq5 \  
libpq-dev \  
postgresql-client-9.3 \  
postgresql-client-common
```

- Install server packages

```
sudo apt-get install postgresql-9.3 \  
postgresql-contrib-9.3 \  
postgresql-server-dev-9.3 \  
postgresql-plpython-9.3
```

- Install schema triggers. This is a extension of packaged by cartodb needed for other postgresql extensions

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:cartodb/pg-schema-trigger && sudo apt-get update  
sudo apt-get install postgresql-9.3-pg-schema-triggers
```

PostgreSQL access authorization is managed through `pg_hba.conf` configuration file, which is normally in `/etc/postgresql/9.3/main/pg_hba.conf`. Here it's defined how the users created in postgresql cluster can access the server. This involves several aspects like type of authentication (md5, no password, etc..) or source IP of the connection. In order to simplify the process of the installation we are going to allow connections with postgres user from localhost without authentication. Of course this can be configured in a different way at any moment but changes here should imply changes in database access configuration of CartoDB apps.

This is the `pg_hba.conf` with the no password access from localhost:

```
local all postgres trust  
local all all trust  
host all all 127.0.0.1/32 trust
```

For these changes to take effect, you'll need to restart postgres:

```
sudo service postgresql restart
```


- Create some users in PostgreSQL. These users are used by some CartoDB apps internally

```
sudo createuser publicuser --no-createrole --no-createdb --no-superuser -U_
↳postgres
sudo createuser tileuser --no-createrole --no-createdb --no-superuser -U postgres
```

- Install CartoDB postgresql extension. This extension contains functions that are used by different parts of the CartoDB platform, included the Editor and the SQL and Maps API.

```
git clone https://github.com/CartoDB/cartodb-postgresql.git
cd cartodb-postgresql
git checkout <LATEST cartodb-postgresql tag>
sudo make all install
```

GIS dependencies

- Add GIS PPA

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:cartodb/gis && sudo apt-get update
```

- Install Proj

```
sudo apt-get install proj proj-bin proj-data libproj-dev
```

- Install JSON

```
sudo apt-get install libjson0 libjson0-dev python-simplejson
```

- Install GEOS

```
sudo apt-get install libgeos-c1v5 libgeos-dev
```

- Install GDAL

```
sudo apt-get install gdal-bin libgdal-dev libgdal-dev
sudo apt-get install ogr2ogr-static-bin
```

PostGIS

- Install PostGIS

```
sudo apt-get install libxml2-dev
sudo apt-get install liblwgeom-2.1.8 postgis postgresql-9.3-postgis-2.2_
↳postgresql-9.3-postgis-scripts
```

- Initialize template postgis database. We create a template database in postgresql that will contain the postgis extension. This way, every time CartoDB creates a new user database it just clones this template database

```
sudo createdb -T template0 -O postgres -U postgres -E UTF8 template_postgis
sudo createlang plpgsql -U postgres -d template_postgis
psql -U postgres template_postgis -c 'CREATE EXTENSION postgis;CREATE EXTENSION_
↳postgis_topology;'
sudo ldconfig
```

- Run an installcheck to verify the database has been installed properly

```
sudo PGUSER=postgres make installcheck # to run tests
```

Warning:

if test_ddl_triggers fails it's likely due to an incomplete installation of schema_triggers. You need to add schema_triggers.so to the shared_preload_libraries setting in postgresql.conf :

```
$ sudo vim /etc/postgresql/9.3/main/postgresql.conf
shared_preload_libraries = 'schema_triggers.so'
$ sudo service postgresql restart # restart postgres
```

After this change the 2nd installcheck of carto-db-postgresql should be OK.

Check <https://github.com/cartodb/cartodb-postgresql> for further reference

- Restart PostgreSQL after all this process

```
sudo service postgresql restart
```

Redis

Redis 3+ is needed.

- Add redis PPA

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:cartodb/redis && sudo apt-get update
```

- Install redis

```
sudo apt-get install redis-server
```

Warning: By default redis server is configured to not have any type of disk persistence. If stopped or restarted everything stored in redis will be lost. In CartoDB redis is not just a simple cache storage. It stores information that need to be persisted.

Make sure to have proper values of *save*, *appendonly* and *appendfsync* config attributes. For more information check <http://redis.io/topics/persistence>

NodeJS

NodeJS is required by different parts of the stack. The more significant are the Maps and SQL APIs. It's also used to install and execute some dependencies of the editor.

- Add the PPA

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:cartodb/nodejs-010 && sudo apt-get update
```

- Install NodeJS

```
sudo apt-get install nodejs
```

Note this should install both NodeJS 0.10.26 and npm 1.4.3. You can verify the installation went as expected with:

```
nodejs -v
npm -v
```

SQL API

- Download API

```
git clone git://github.com/CartoDB/CartoDB-SQL-API.git
cd CartoDB-SQL-API
git checkout master
```

- Install npm dependencies

```
npm install
```

- Create configuration. The name of the filename of the configuration must be the same than the environment you are going to use to start the service. Let's assume it's development.

```
cp config/environments/development.js.example config/environments/development.js
```

- Start the service. The second parameter is always the environment if the service. Remember to use the same you used in the configuration.

```
node app.js development
```

MAPS API

- Download API

```
git clone git://github.com/CartoDB/Windshaft-cartodb.git
cd Windshaft-cartodb
git checkout master
```

- Install npm dependencies

```
npm install
```

Warning: If this fails due to package cairo not found in the pkg-config search path, you can install it like this

```
$ sudo apt-get install libpango1.0-dev
```

After this change, re-run npm install, and it should be OK.

- Create configuration. The name of the filename of the configuration must be the same than the environment you are going to use to start the service. Let's assume it's development.

```
cp config/environments/development.js.example config/environments/development.js
```

- Start the service. The second parameter is always the environment of the service. Remember to use the same you used in the configuration.

```
node app.js development
```

Ruby

- Download ruby-install. Ruby-install is a script that makes ruby install easier. It's not needed to get ruby installed but it helps in the process.

```
wget -O ruby-install-0.5.0.tar.gz https://github.com/postmodern/ruby-install/  
→archive/v0.5.0.tar.gz  
tar -xzf ruby-install-0.5.0.tar.gz  
cd ruby-install-0.5.0/  
sudo make install
```

- Install some ruby dependencies

```
sudo apt-get install libreadline6-dev openssl
```

- Install ruby 2.2.3. CartoDB has been deeply tested with Ruby 2.2.

```
sudo ruby-install ruby 2.2.3
```

- Ruby-install will leave everything in /opt/rubies/ruby-2.2.3/bin. To be able to run ruby and gem later on, you'll need to add the Ruby 2.2.3 bin folder to your PATH variable. It's also a good idea to include this line in your bashrc so that it gets loaded on restart

```
export PATH=$PATH:/opt/rubies/ruby-2.2.3/bin
```

- Install bundler. Bundler is an app used to manage ruby dependencies. It is needed by CartoDB's editor

```
sudo gem install bundler
```

- Install compass. It will be needed later on by CartoDB's editor

```
sudo gem install compass
```

Editor

- Download the editor code

```
git clone --recursive https://github.com/CartoDB/cartodb.git  
cd cartodb
```

- Install pip

```
sudo wget -O /tmp/get-pip.py https://bootstrap.pypa.io/get-pip.py  
sudo python /tmp/get-pip.py
```

- Install a necessary package for python dependencies

```
sudo apt-get install python-all-dev
```

- Install dependencies

```
sudo apt-get install imagemagick unq zip
RAILS_ENV=development bundle install
npm install
sudo pip install --no-use-wheel -r python_requirements.txt
```

Warning:

If this fails due to the installation of the gdal package not finding Python.h, you'll need to do this:

```
export CPLUS_INCLUDE_PATH=/usr/include/gdal
export C_INCLUDE_PATH=/usr/include/gdal
export PATH=$PATH:/usr/include/gdal
```

After this, re-run the pip install command, and it should work. If gdal keeps failing, see more information here: <http://gis.stackexchange.com/questions/28966/python-gdal-package-missing-header-file-when-installing-via-pip>

- Add the grunt command to the PATH

```
export PATH=$PATH:$PWD/node_modules/grunt-cli/bin
```

- Install all necessary gems

```
bundle install
```

- Precompile assets. Note that the last parameter is the environment used to run the application. It must be the same used in the Maps and SQL APIs

```
bundle exec grunt --environment development
```

- Create configuration files

```
cp config/app_config.yml.sample config/app_config.yml
cp config/database.yml.sample config/database.yml
```

- Initialize the metadata database

```
RAILS_ENV=development bundle exec rake db:migrate
RAILS_ENV=development bundle exec rake db:setup
```

- Create an admin user

```
RAILS_ENV=development bundle exec rake db:setup_user
```

- Start the redis-server that allows access to the SQL and Maps APIs:

```
redis-server &
```

- Start the editor HTTP server

```
RAILS_ENV=development bundle exec rails server
```

- In a different process/console start the resque process

```
RAILS_ENV=development bundle exec ./script/resque
```

Running CartoDB

First run, setting up an user

First run, setting up first time to run your development version of CartoDB. Let's suppose that we are going to create a development env and that our user/subdomain is going to be 'development'

```
cd cartoDB
export SUBDOMAIN=development

# Add entries to /etc/hosts needed in development
echo "127.0.0.1 ${SUBDOMAIN}.localhost.lan" | sudo tee -a /etc/hosts

# Create a development user
sh script/create_dev_user ${SUBDOMAIN}
```

Running all the processes

Start the resque daemon (needed for import jobs):

```
bundle exec script/resque
```

Finally, start the CartoDB development server on port 3000:

```
bundle exec thin start --threaded -p 3000 --threadpool-size 5
```

Node apps

```
cd cartoDB-sql-api && node app.js
cd windshaft-cartoDB && node app.js
```

You should now be able to access '<http://<mysubdomain>.localhost.lan:3000>' in your browser and login with the password specified above.

Enjoy

In this section you can find some helpful configuration examples related with **Basemaps**, **Domainles Urls** and **Common-data**.

Basemaps

The way to add/change the basemaps available in CartoDB is changing the `config/app_config.yml`. Basically you need to add a new entry called `basemaps`, that entry can have different sections and each section one or more basemaps.

Each section corresponds to row in CartoDB basemap dialog. If the `basemaps` entry is not present a set of default basemaps will be used (CartoDB and Stamen ones, check the default basemaps file https://github.com/CartoDB/cartodb/blob/master/lib/assets/javascripts/cartodb/table/default_layers.js)

Also, it's always necessary to have a default basemap among all the configured ones in the `app_config.yml`. The way to set a basemap as default a "default" attribute needs to be added to the basemap. There can be several basemaps in the config with the attribute default set, however, only the first one found in the same order than in the `app_config` will be used as default.

Here is an example `config.yml`:

```
basemaps:
  CartoDB:
    positron_rainbow:
      default: true # Ident with spaces not with tab
      url: 'http://{s}.basemaps.cartocdn.com/light_all/{z}/{x}/{y}.png'
      subdomains: 'abcd'
      minZoom: '0'
      maxZoom: '18'
      name: 'Positron'
      className: 'positron_rainbow'
      attribution: '@ <a href="http://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright">OpenStreetMap
      ↩</a> contributors © <a href="http://cartodb.com/attributions#basemaps">CartoDB</a>'
      dark_matter_rainbow:
        url: 'http://{s}.basemaps.cartocdn.com/dark_all/{z}/{x}/{y}.png'
```

```

    subdomains: 'abcd'
    minZoom: '0'
    maxZoom: '18'
    name: 'Dark matter'
    className: 'dark_matter_rainbow'
    attribution: '@ <a href="http://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright">OpenStreetMap
↪</a> contributors © <a href="http://cartodb.com/attributions#basemaps">CartoDB</a>'
    positron_lite_rainbow:
      url: 'http://{s}.basemaps.cartocdn.com/light_nolabels/{z}/{x}/{y}.png'
      subdomains: 'abcd'
      minZoom: '0'
      maxZoom: '18'
      name: 'Positron (lite)'
      className: 'positron_lite_rainbow'
      attribution: '@ <a href="http://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright">OpenStreetMap
↪</a> contributors © <a href="http://cartodb.com/attributions#basemaps">CartoDB</a>'

    stamen:
      toner_stamen:
        url: 'https://stamen-tiles-{s}.a.ssl.fastly.net/toner/{z}/{x}/{y}.png'
        subdomains: 'abcd'
        minZoom: '0'
        maxZoom: '18'
        name: 'Toner'
        className: 'toner_stamen'
        attribution: 'Map tiles by <a href="http://stamen.com">Stamen Design</a>, ↪
↪under <a href="http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0">CC BY 3.0</a>. Data by
↪<a href="http://openstreetmap.org">OpenStreetMap</a>, under <a href="http://www.
↪openstreetmap.org/copyright">ODbL</a>.'

```

Basemaps with a layer of labels

Basemaps can optionally add a layer with labels on top of other layers. To do so, you should add the labels key to the basemap config, as follows:

```

positron_rainbow:
  default: true
  url: 'http://{s}.basemaps.cartocdn.com/light_all/{z}/{x}/{y}.png'
  subdomains: 'abcd'
  minZoom: '0'
  maxZoom: '18'
  name: 'Positron'
  className: 'positron_rainbow'
  attribution: '@ <a href="http://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright">OpenStreetMap</a> ↪
↪contributors © <a href="http://cartodb.com/attributions#basemaps">CartoDB</a>'
  labels:
    url: 'http://{s}.basemaps.cartocdn.com/light_only_labels/{z}/{x}/{y}.png'

```

Domainless URLs

Historically, CartoDB URLs were based on a `username.cartodb.com/PATH` schema. When Multiuser accounts were introduced, an alternate schema `organizationname.cartodb.com/u/username/PATH` was

built alongside the “classic” one. Both schemas introduce some problems for opensource and/or custom installs of the platform, as they require DNS changes each time a new user or organization is added.

Subdomainless urls are the answer to this problems. Modifying some configuration settings, any CartoDB installation can be setup to work with a new schema, `cartodb.com/user/username/PATH`.

The following sections details the steps to make it work and the limitations it has.

Configuration changes for Domainless URLs

- For a default installation, `app_config.yml` contains this relevant values:

```
session_domain:      '.localhost.lan'
subdomainless_urls: false
```

- To activate subdomainless urls, change to (notice the removed starting dot from `session_domain`):

```
session_domain:      'localhost.lan'
subdomainless_urls: true
```

- Non-default HTTP and HTTPS ports can also be configured here for REST API calls, with the following `app_config.yml` attributes:

```
# nil/integer. HTTP port to use when building urls.
# Leave empty to use default (80)
http_port:
# nil/integer. HTTPS port to use when building urls.
# Leave empty to use default (443)
https_port:
```

Remember that as with other configuration changes, Rails application must be restarted to apply them.

Limitations

If you leave the dot at `session_domain` having subdomainless urls, you will be forced to always have a subdomain. Any will do, but must be present. If you remove the dot it will work as intended without any subdomain.

When subdomainless urls are used, organizations will be ignored from the urls. In fact, typing `whatever.cartodb.com/user/user1` and `cartodb.com/user/user1` is the same. The platform will replicate the sent subdomain fragment to avoid CORS errors but no existing organization checks will be performed. You should be able to use them, assign quota to the organization users, etc.

Common Data

This service uses the visualizations API to retrieve all the public datasets from a defined user and serve them as importable datasets to all the users of the platform through the data library options.

All can be configured through the `common_data` settings section. If the `base_url` option is set, this will be the base url the service is going to use to build the URL to retrieve datasets. For example:

```
common_data:
  protocol: 'https'
  username: 'common-data'
  base_url: 'https://common-data.cartodb.com'
  format: 'shp'
```

Use `https://common-data.cartodb.com` as the base url to retrieve all the public datasets from that user.

This is the default behaviour in CartoDB, but if you want to use your own system and user for this purpose you have to define the `username` property pointing to the user that will provide the datasets in your own instance. The URL in this case is going to be built using your instance base url. For example if your instance base url is `http://www.example.com` and the config is:

```
common_data:
  protocol: 'https'
  username: 'common-data-user'
  format: 'shp'
```

the system populates the data library with the public datasets from `http://common-data-user.example.com...`

The `format` option is used to define the format of the file generated when you are importing one datasets from the data library. When you import a dataset it uses a stored URL to download that dataset as a file, in the format defined in the config, and import as your own dataset.

Certain operations in the CartoDB platform can be done using rake tasks or scripts that bundle several of them together. In this section you will instructions to carry out various common operations.

Common operations in CartoDB include:

Creating users

Creating users in CartoDB is simple thanks to the `create_dev_user` script located in `scripts/create_dev_user`. To execute this script, be sure to be located at the `cartodb` repository root directory and simply run:

```
$ ./script/create_dev_user
```

You will be prompted to input 3 parameters:

- **subdomain** is the same as the user's user name. This is what you will enter in the browser to access the user's dashboard: `https://<user_name>.cartodb.com`. Set it to whatever you want the user's user name to be.
- **password** this is the password the new user will use to login into their account.
- **admin password** this password will be an admin password for the newly created users.

Upon script completion, the new user will have been created.

Creating organizations

To create a new organization, a rake task called `create_new_organization_with_owner` is used. For this task to work properly, a user **created beforehand** must be provided as an owner (if you're not sure how to create a user, refer to "Creating Users").

In order to create the organization, 4 parameters must be set:

- `ORGANIZATION_NAME` is a short nickname for the organization, that may only contain letters, numbers and dash (-) characters. For example, 'cartodb' would be OK.
- `ORGANIZATION_DISPLAY_NAME` is a longer, more beautiful name for the organization. It may contain any characters needed. For example, 'CartoDB Inc.'
- `ORGANIZATION_SEATS` is the number of users that will be able to be created under the organization. For example, 5 seats will mean that a maximum of 5 users can belong to the organization.
- `ORGANIZATION_QUOTA` is the space quota in **bytes** that the organization is assigned. For example, $1024 * 1024 * 1024$ is 1GB of quota.
- `USERNAME` is the user name of the owner of the organization. In our example, let's assume that our user name is 'manolo'.

This task is executed like:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:db:create_new_organization_with_owner ORGANIZATION_NAME="
↳<org_name>" ORGANIZATION_DISPLAY_NAME="<org_display_name>" ORGANIZATION_SEATS="<org_
↳seats>" ORGANIZATION_QUOTA="<org_quota>" USERNAME="<username>"
```

and an example execution for creating an organization owned by 'manolo', named 'CartoDB Inc.', referred to as 'cartodb', with 5 seats and a 1GB quota, would be:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:db:create_new_organization_with_owner ORGANIZATION_NAME=
↳"cartodb" ORGANIZATION_DISPLAY_NAME="CartoDB Inc." ORGANIZATION_SEATS="5"
↳ORGANIZATION_QUOTA="1073741824" USERNAME="manolo"
```

Changing Feature Flags

CartoDB uses feature flags, so different users can have access to different features of CartoDB. If you would like to enable or disable feature flags to one or all users or to a given organization, you can use the rake tasks described in this section. Feature flag creation and deletion are also covered.

Enabling a feature for all users

Enabling a feature for all users is done with a rake task called `enable_feature_for_all_users` and it takes one parameter.

- `feature_flag_name` is the name of the feature flag to be enabled. For example: 'special_dashboard'.

This task is executed like:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:features:enable_feature_for_all_users[<feature_flag_name>]
```

And an example to enable the 'special_dashboard' feature could be:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:features:enable_feature_for_all_users["special_dashboard"]
```

Enabling a feature for a given user

Enabling a feature for a given user is done with a rake task called `enable_feature_for_user` and it takes two parameters.

- `feature_flag_name` is the name of the feature flag to be enabled. For example: 'special_dashboard'.

- `user_name` is the user name of the user to whom the feature flag is to be enabled. For example: 'manolo'.

This task is executed like:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:features:enable_feature_for_user[<feature_flag_name>,<user_
↪name>]
```

Warning: Please be very careful **NOT** to leave a space between parameters, as it will cause rake to spit a don't know how to build task type error.

And an example to enable the 'special_dashboard' feature for user with user name 'manolo' could be:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:features:enable_feature_for_user["special_dashboard",
↪"manolo"]
```

Enabling a feature for a given organization

Enabling a feature for a given organization is done with a rake task called `enable_feature_for_organization` and it takes two parameters.

- `feature_flag_name` is the name of the feature flag to be enabled. For example: 'special_dashboard'.
- `organization_name` is the internal name ('cartodb' vs 'CartoDB Inc.') to which the feature flag is to be enabled. For example: 'cartodb'.

This task is executed like:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:features:enable_feature_for_organization[<feature_flag_
↪name>,<organization_name` `
```

Warning: Please be very careful **NOT** to leave a space between parameters, as it will cause rake to spit a don't know how to build task type error.

And an example to enable the 'special_dashboard' feature for organization 'cartodb' could be:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:features:enable_feature_for_organization["special_dashboard
↪","cartodb"]
```

Disabling a feature for all users

Disabling a feature for all users is done with a rake task called `disable_feature_for_all_users` and it takes one parameter.

- `feature_flag_name` is the name of the feature flag to be disabled. For example: 'special_dashboard'.

This task is executed like:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:features:disable_feature_for_all_users[<feature_flag_name>]
```

And an example to disable the 'special_dashboard' feature could be:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:features:disable_feature_for_all_users["special_dashboard"]
```

Disabling a feature for a given user

Disabling a feature for a given user is done with a rake task called `disable_feature_for_user` and it takes two parameters.

- `feature_flag_name` is the name of the feature flag to be disabled. For example: 'special_dashboard'.
- `user_name` is the user name of the user to whom the feature flag is to be disabled. For example: 'manolo'.

This task is executed like:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:features:disable_feature_for_user[<feature_flag_name>,  
↪<user_name>]
```

Warning: Please be very careful **NOT** to leave a space between parameters, as it will cause rake to spit a don't know how to build task type error.

And an example to disable the 'special_dashboard' feature for user with user name 'manolo' could be:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:features:disable_feature_for_user["special_dashboard",  
↪"manolo"]
```

Disabling a feature for a given organization

Disabling a feature for a given organization is done with a rake task called `disable_feature_for_organization` and it takes two parameters.

- `feature_flag_name` is the name of the feature flag to be disabled. For example: 'special_dashboard'.
- `organization_name` is the internal name ('cartodb' vs 'CartoDB Inc.') to which the feature flag is to be disabled. For example: 'cartodb'.

This task is executed like:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:features:disable_feature_for_organization[<feature_flag_  
↪name>,<organization_name`
```

Warning: Please be very careful **NOT** to leave a space between parameters, as it will cause rake to spit a don't know how to build task type error.

And an example to disable the 'special_dashboard' feature for organization 'cartodb' could be:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:features:disable_feature_for_organization["special_  
↪dashboard", "cartodb"]
```

Adding a feature flag

Adding feature flags should be done using the rake task called `add_feature_flag`. This rake task only takes one argument:

- `feature_flag_name` is the name of the feature flag to be created.

This task is executed like:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:features:add_feature_flag[<feature_flag_name>]
```

And an example to create a feature flag named “special_dashboard” could be:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:features:add_feature_flag["special_dashboard"]
```

Removing a feature flag

Removing feature flags should be done using the rake task called `remove_feature_flag`. This rake task only takes one argument:

- `feature_flag_name` is the name of the feature flag to be removed.

This task is executed like:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:features:remove_feature_flag[<feature_flag_name>]
```

And an example to remove a feature flag named “special_dashboard” could be:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:features:remove_feature_flag["special_dashboard"]
```

Listing all feature flags

All existing feature flags can be listed using the rake task called `list_all_features`.

This task is executed like:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:features:list_all_features
```

Changing limits

This section explains how to use rake tasks to change several limits for users.

Change user import limits

Using the rake task `set_custom_limits_for_user`, you can change import limits for a given user. The parameters this task takes are:

- `user_name` is the user name of the user for whom these limits will be changed.
- `import_file_size` is the maximum size in **bytes** for a file to be imported.
- `table_row_count` is the maximum number of rows for a file to be imported.
- `concurrent_imports` is the maximum number of concurrent imports that can be handled at once.

This task is executed like:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:set_custom_limits_for_user[<user_name>,<import_file_size>,  
↪<table_row_count>,<concurrent_imports>]
```

and an example execution could be:

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:set_custom_limits_for_user["manolo","1048576","50000","5"]
```

Increasing Twitter imports limit

Increasing the Twitter imports limit should be done using rake task `increase_limits_for_twitter_import_users`. This rake task takes no parameters. Upon execution, all users with Twitter imports enabled will have **1500MB of file size quota** and a **5M row quota** limit.

Exporting/Importing visualizations

You might be interested in exporting and importing visualizations because of several reasons:

- Backup purposes.
- Moving visualizations between different hosts.
- Moving visualizations between users.
- Using the same visualization with different data.

With `cartodb:vizs:export_user_visualization_json` task you can export a visualization to JSON, and with `cartodb:vizs:import_user_visualization_json` you can import it. First outputs to stdout and second reads stdin.

This example exports `c54710aa-ad8f-11e5-8046-080027880ca6` visualization.

```
$ bundle exec rake cartodb:vizs:export_user_visualization_json['c54710aa-ad8f-11e5-8046-080027880ca6'] > c54710aa-ad8f-11e5-8046-080027880ca6.json
```

and this imports it into `6950b745-5524-4d8d-9478-98a8a04d84ba` user, who is in another server.

```
$ cat c54710aa-ad8f-11e5-8046-080027880ca6.json | bundle exec rake cartodb:vizs:import_user_visualization_json['6950b745-5524-4d8d-9478-98a8a04d84ba']
```

Please keep in mind the following:

- Exporting has **backup purposes**, so it keeps ids. If you want to use this to replicate a visualization in the same server you can edit the JSON and change the ids. Any valid, distinct UUID will work.
- It **does export neither the tables nor its data**. Destination user should have tables with the same name than the original one for the visualization to work. You can change the table names in the JSON file if names are different.

HTTP Header Authentication

With web servers such as NGINX or others you can perform SSO by making the web server add a trusted, safe header to every request sent to CartoDB. Example:

```
User browser - GET http://myorg.mycompany.lan/dashboard -> NGINX (adds 'sso-user-email': 'alice@myorg.com' header) -> CartoDB server
```

You can enable HTTP Header Authentication at CartoDB by adding the following to `app_conf.yml` (taken from `app_conf.yml.sample`):

```
http_header_authentication:  
  header: # name of the trusted, safe header that your server adds to the request  
  field: # 'email' / 'username' / 'id' / 'auto' (autodetection)  
  autocreation: # true / false (true requires field to be email)
```

Configuration for the previous example:

```
http_header_authentication:  
  header: 'sso-user-email'  
  field: 'email'  
  autocreation: false
```

Autocreation

Even more, if you want not only *authentication* (authenticating existing users) but also *user creation* you can turn autocreation on by setting `autocreation: true`. If you do so, when a user with the trusted header performs his first request his user will be created automatically. This feature requires that `field` is set to `email`, since the new user will be created with it:

- `email`: value of the header (`alice@myorg.com`).
- `username`: user of the email (`alice`).
- `password`: random. He can change it in his account page.
- `organization`: taken from the subdomain (`myorg`).

CHAPTER 7

Indices and tables

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