

**NAME**

createdb – create a new PostgreSQL database

**SYNOPSIS**

**createdb** [*connection–option...*] [*option...*] [*dbname* [*description*]]

**DESCRIPTION**

createdb creates a new PostgreSQL database.

Normally, the database user who executes this command becomes the owner of the new database. However, a different owner can be specified via the **-O** option, if the executing user has appropriate privileges.

createdb is a wrapper around the SQL command **CREATE DATABASE**. There is no effective difference between creating databases via this utility and via other methods for accessing the server.

**OPTIONS**

createdb accepts the following command–line arguments:

*dbname*

Specifies the name of the database to be created. The name must be unique among all PostgreSQL databases in this cluster. The default is to create a database with the same name as the current system user.

*description*

Specifies a comment to be associated with the newly created database.

**-D** *tablespace*

**--tablespace=***tablespace*

Specifies the default tablespace for the database. (This name is processed as a double–quoted identifier.)

**-e**

**--echo**

Echo the commands that createdb generates and sends to the server.

**-E** *encoding*

**--encoding=***encoding*

Specifies the character encoding scheme to be used in this database. The character sets supported by the PostgreSQL server are described in Section 23.3.1.

**-I** *locale*

**--locale=***locale*

Specifies the locale to be used in this database. This is equivalent to specifying **--lc–collate**, **--lc–ctype**, and **--icu–locale** to the same value. Some locales are only valid for ICU and must be set with **--icu–locale**.

**--lc–collate=***locale*

Specifies the LC\_COLLATE setting to be used in this database.

**--lc–ctype=***locale*

Specifies the LC\_CTYPE setting to be used in this database.

**--builtin–locale=***locale*

Specifies the locale name when the builtin provider is used. Locale support is described in Section 23.1.

**--icu–locale=***locale*

Specifies the ICU locale ID to be used in this database, if the ICU locale provider is selected.

**--icu–rules=***rules*

Specifies additional collation rules to customize the behavior of the default collation of this database. This is supported for ICU only.

**--locale-provider={builtin|libc|icu}**

Specifies the locale provider for the database's default collation.

**-O** *owner*

**--owner=owner**

Specifies the database user who will own the new database. (This name is processed as a double-quoted identifier.)

**-S** *strategy*

**--strategy=strategy**

Specifies the database creation strategy. See CREATE DATABASE STRATEGY for more details.

**-T** *template*

**--template=template**

Specifies the template database from which to build this database. (This name is processed as a double-quoted identifier.)

**-V**

**--version**

Print the createdb version and exit.

**-?**

**--help**

Show help about createdb command line arguments, and exit.

The options **-D**, **-I**, **-E**, **-O**, and **-T** correspond to options of the underlying SQL command **CREATE DATABASE**; see there for more information about them.

createdb also accepts the following command-line arguments for connection parameters:

**-h** *host*

**--host=host**

Specifies the host name of the machine on which the server is running. If the value begins with a slash, it is used as the directory for the Unix domain socket.

**-p** *port*

**--port=port**

Specifies the TCP port or the local Unix domain socket file extension on which the server is listening for connections.

**-U** *username*

**--username=username**

User name to connect as.

**-w**

**--no-password**

Never issue a password prompt. If the server requires password authentication and a password is not available by other means such as a .pgpass file, the connection attempt will fail. This option can be useful in batch jobs and scripts where no user is present to enter a password.

**-W**

**--password**

Force createdb to prompt for a password before connecting to a database.

This option is never essential, since createdb will automatically prompt for a password if the server demands password authentication. However, createdb will waste a connection attempt finding out that the server wants a password. In some cases it is worth typing **-W** to avoid the extra connection attempt.

**--maintenance-db=dbname**

Specifies the name of the database to connect to when creating the new database. If not specified, the postgres database will be used; if that does not exist (or if it is the name of the new database being

created), `template1` will be used. This can be a connection string. If so, connection string parameters will override any conflicting command line options.

## ENVIRONMENT

### PGDATABASE

If set, the name of the database to create, unless overridden on the command line.

### PGHOST

### PGPORT

### PGUSER

Default connection parameters. **PGUSER** also determines the name of the database to create, if it is not specified on the command line or by **PGDATABASE**.

### PG\_COLOR

Specifies whether to use color in diagnostic messages. Possible values are `always`, `auto` and `never`.

This utility, like most other PostgreSQL utilities, also uses the environment variables supported by `libpq` (see Section 32.15).

## DIAGNOSTICS

In case of difficulty, see `CREATE DATABASE (CREATE_DATABASE(7))` and `psql(1)` for discussions of potential problems and error messages. The database server must be running at the targeted host. Also, any default connection settings and environment variables used by the `libpq` front-end library will apply.

## EXAMPLES

To create the database `demo` using the default database server:

```
$ createdb demo
```

To create the database `demo` using the server on host `eden`, port `5000`, using the `template0` template database, here is the command-line command and the underlying SQL command:

```
$ createdb -p 5000 -h eden -T template0 -e demo
CREATE DATABASE demo TEMPLATE template0;
```

## SEE ALSO

`dropdb(1)`, `CREATE DATABASE (CREATE_DATABASE(7))`