

RETURNING INTO - support both pre-update and post-update values

The RETURNING INTO clause returns data from the rows that have been affected by the DML statement: For INSERT it returns the after-insert values of the new row's columns. For UPDATE it returns the after-update values of the affected rows' columns. For DELETE it returns the before-delete values of the affected rows' columns.

For INSERT there are no before-insert values, so the "after-insert values" is the only reasonable option. Likewise, for DELETE there are no after-delete values, so the "before-delete values" is the only reasonable option.

But for UPDATE there are both **before-update** and **after-update** values, but currently the RETURNING INTO clause supports only the **after-update** values.

I think it will be really useful if for UPDATE we'll be able to get the before-update values in addition to the after-update values. This will also make the feature more symmetric and complete, in my opinion.

Currently, if we need to know the before-update values, we have to make two SQL statement calls: SELECT (FOR UPDATE) for the record(s) we're about to update, and then the UPDATE itself.

For more details, and an example, please see <http://db-oriented.com/2017/10/07/returning-into-enhancement-suggestion>

Thank you,
Oren.