# **Lecture 02**

**Overview of Lecture**

* Database Architecture
* External View of the database
* Conceptual view of the database

**Database Architecture:**

Standardization of database systems is a very beneficent in terms of future growth, because once a system is defined to follow a specific standard, or is built on a specific standard, it provides us the ease of use in a number of aspects.

First if any organization is going to create a new system of the same usage shall create the system according to the standards and it will be easier to develop, because the standards which are already define will be used for developing the system.

Secondly if any organization wants to create application software that will provide additional support to the system, it will be an easier task for them to develop such system and integrate them into existing database applications.

Users which will be using the system will be comfortable with the system because a system built on predefined standards is easy to understand and use, rather than understanding learning and using an altogether new system which is designed and built without following any standards.

Expansion to systems which are not built on standards is very hard and needs lots of efforts.

Technical staff working on a system built on standard has no problem to learn the use and architecture of the system and whenever there is a need in change of staff new staff members can be hired and put to work without any prior training for the use of system.

In the database, same data is stored in a specific feasible format and is available to different users in different formats as desired by different users. For example, consider we have stored the DOB (Date of Birth) in the database in a particular format, like in the form of dd-mm-yyyy (for example, 28-03-1987). However, the users from different departments may require to view the date of birth in different forms; the examination department may ask it to be displayed as month-day-yyyy (like march-28-1987) the Registrar’s office may ask to display date of birth as mm/dd/yyyy, still the Library may need the in the form of dd/mm/yy. The Three Level Schema allows us to access the data in different formats at the external level, which is stored in a specific format at the internal level.



Three level architecture of database

The Architecture:

The schemas is the repository used for storing definitions of the structures used in database, it can be anything from any entity to the whole organization. For this purpose the architecture defines different schemas stored at different levels for isolating the details one level from the other.

Different levels existing at different levels of the database architecture are expressed below with emphasis on the details of all the levels individually. Core of the database architecture is the internal level of schema which is discussed a bit before getting into the details of each level individually. The internal level implements all the inner details and defines the intentions of the database. Internal schema or view defines the structures of the data and other data related activities in the database. For example it defines that for a student what data will be stored in terms of attributes of the student and it also defines how different values for these attributes will be stored, also it tells that who is allowed to make changes to the database and what changes he can make, etc.

These details give us the internal schema and are called the **intention** of the database. Intention for a database is almost permanent, because while designing the database it is ensured that no information is left behind which is important enough to be stored in the database and what information is important to be stored in the database from the future point of view.

Once the intention of the database has been defined then it is undesirable to change the intention for any reason. Because any small change in the intention of the database may need a lot of changes to be made to the data stored in the database. **Extension** of the database is performed on the bases of a complete intention, i-e once a database has been defined it is populated with the data of the organization for which the database is created. This population of the database is also called as the extension of the database. Extension is always done according to the rules defined in the internal schema design or the intention of the database.

Effects of changes made to different levels of the database architecture:

We can make changes to the different levels of the database but these changes need very serious consideration before they are made, Changes at different levels of database architecture need different levels of users attention for example a change to the data made for the extension of data will effect only a single record whereas when we make a change to the internal level of the database the change effects all the stored records, similarly an invalid change in the extension of the database is not that fatal as a change in the intention of the database because a change in the extension of the database is not very hard to undo; in case of a mishap whereas a change of the same magnitude to the intention of the database might cause a large number of database errors (inconsistencies and data loss).

External View (Level, Schema or Model):

This level is explicitly an end user level and presents data as desired by the users of the database. As it is known that the database users are classified on two grounds

* Section of the organization
* Nature of Job of the users

The external level of the database caters to the needs of all the database users starting from a user who can view the data only which is of his concern up-to the users who can see all the data in the database and make all type of actions on that data.

External level of the database might contain a large number of user views, each user view providing the desired features and fulfilling requirements for the user or user group for which it is intended. The restriction or liberty a user or user groups get in his rights is the external view of that user groups and is decided very carefully.

External views are also helpful when we want to display the data which is not place in the database or not stored at all. Example of the first case can be a customer Phone number stored in the database. But when contacting the person it might appear that the area code for that specific user is not stored in the database, in that case we can simply pick up the area or city id of the customer and find the area code for that city from the corresponding Area Codes table.

Another situation may arise when we want to get a student enrolled in an institution and want to make sure that the student qualifies for the minimum required age limit, we will look the database, for the students age but if we have stored only the date of birth of the student then the age of the student needs to be calculated at that very instance; this can be done very easily in the specific user view and age of the student can be calculated, even the user-view itself can tell us whether the student qualifies for the admission or not.

As the user view is the only entity or the interface through which a user will operate the database or use it so it must be designed in such a way that it is easy to use and easy to manage and self-descriptive, also it is easy to navigate through. Also it should not allow the user to get or retrieve data which is not allowed to the user, so the user view should both be a facilitator and also a barrier for proper utilization of the database system.

As the system grows it is possible that a user view may change in structure, design and the access it provides to the users. SO External views are designed and create in way that they can be modified at a later stage without making any changes in the logical or internal views.

In the diagram below we can see two different users working as end users having their own external view; we can see that the same data record is displayed in two entirely different ways.

 

Mapping between External layer and lower layers

Conceptual or Logical View:

This is the level of database architecture which contains the definition of all the data to be stored in the database and also contains rules and information about that structure and type of that data.

The conceptual view is the complete description of the data stored in the database. It stores the complete data of the organization that is why it is also known as the community view of the database. The conceptual view shows all the entities existing in the organization, attribute or characteristics associated with those entities and the relationships which exist among the entities of the organization.

We can take the example of the customers of a company. Now the conceptual schema will have all the details of the products of the company, retailing stores of the company, products present in the stock, products which are ready to be delivered, salespersons of the company, manager of the company and literally every other thing which is associated with the business of the company in any way.

Now after having all the information we know that the customers buy products from the outlets of the company, thus in such a case a specific customer has a relationship with that specific outlet of the company, or the customer may be represented as having association with the sales person which in-turn has association with the outlet., there may be a number of customers at a certain outlet and also to manage these salespersons there will be one or more managers.

We can see from the above given scenario that all the entities are logically related to each other in way or the other. The conceptual schema actually manages all such relationship and maps these relationships among the member entities. Conceptual schema along-with having all the information which is to be stored in the database stores the definition of the data to be stored. The definition may contain types of data, and constraints on data values etc.

Conceptual schema is also responsible for holding the authorization and authentication information, means that only those people can make use of the database whom we have allowed to make these changes, so therefore it is the task of the DBMS to ensure be checking the conceptual schema that he is authorized to check the data or make any changes to the data.

Conceptual schema as it describes the intention of the database; it is not changed often, because to make a change to the conceptual schema of the database requires lots of consideration and may involve changes to the other views/levels of the database also.

As in the previous example we saw two database users accessing the database and we saw that both of them are having totally different user views. Here when we see in the logical view of the data we can see that the data stored in the database is stored only once and two users get different data from the same copy of data at the underlying conceptual level.

 

External and conceptual layers

By summarizing it all we can say that the external view is the view of database system in which user get the data as they need and these database users need not to worry about the underlying details of the data, all these users have to do is to provide correct requirement information to the DBA or the database designer whoever is designing the database for the system, so that the DBA or the database designer can create the database in such a way that they can fulfill the users requirements using the conceptual schema of the database.

Conceptual view/schema is that view of the database which holds all the information of the database system and provides basis for creating any type of the required user views and can accommodate any user fulfilling his/her requirements.

**Internal or Physical View / Schema**

This is the level of the database which is responsible for the storage of data on the storage media and places the data in such a format that i t is only readable by the DBMS. Although the internal view and the physical view are so close that they are generally referred to a single layer of the DBMS but there lays thin line which actually

Separated the internal view from the physical view. As we know that data when stored onto a magnetic media is stored in binary format, because this is the only data format which can be represented electronically, No matter what is the actual format of data, either text , images, audio or video. This binary storage mechanism is always implemented by the Operating System of the Computer.

DBMS to some extent decides the way data is to be stored on the disk. This decision of the DBMS is based on the requirements specified by the DBA when implementing the database. Moreover the DBMS itself adds information to the data which is to be stored.

For example a DBMS has selected a specific File organization for the storage of data on disk, to implement that specific file system the DBMS needs to create specific indexes. Now whenever the DBMS will attempt to retrieve the data back form the file organization system it will use the same indexes information for data retrieval. This index information is one example of additional information which DBMS places in the data when storing i t on the disk. At the same level storage space utilization if performed so that the data can be stored by consuming minimum space, for this purpose the data compression can be performed, this space optimization is achieved in such a way that the performance of retrieval and storage process is not compromised. Another important consideration for the storage of data at the internal level is that the data should be stored in such a way that i t is secure and does not involve any security risks. For this purpose different data encryption algorithms may be used. Lines below detail further tidbits of the internal level.

The difference between the internal level and the external level demarcates a boundary between these two layers, now what is that difference, it in fact is based on the access or responsibility of the DBMS for the representation of data. At the internal Level the records are presented in the format that are in match with schema definition of the records, whereas at the physical level the data is not strictly in record format , rather it is in character format. , means the rules identified by the schema of the record are not enforced at this level. Once the data has been transported to the physical level it is then managed by the operating system. Operating system at that level uses its own data storage utilities to place the data on disk.

**Functions of DBMS**

* Data Processing
* A user accessible Catalog
* Transaction Support
* Concurrency Control Services
* Recovery Services
* Authorization Services
* Support for Data Communication
* Integrity Services

DBMS lies at the heart of the course; i t is the most important component of a database system. To understand the functionality of DBMS it is necessary that we understand the relation of database and the DBMS.

Two important functions that the DBMS performs are:

1. User management
2. Data Management

The detailed descript ion of the above two major activities of DBMS is given below;

**Data Processing**

By Data management we mean a number of things it may include certain operations on the data such as: creation of data, Storing of the data in the database, arrangement of the data in the databases and data-stores, providing access to the data in the database, and placing of the data in the appropriate storage devices. These action performed on the data can be classified as data processing.

**A User Accessible Catalog**

DBMS has another very important task known as access proviso to catalog. Catalog is an object or a place in the DBMS which stores almost all of the information of the database, including schema information, user information right of the users, and many more things about the database. Modern relational DBMS require that the Administrative users of the database should have access to the catalog of the database.

**Transaction Support**

DBMS is responsible for providing transaction support. Transaction is an act ion that is used to perform some manipulation on the data stored in the database. DBMS is responsible for supporting all the required operations on the database, and also manages the transaction execution so that only the authorized and allowed actions are performed.

**Concurrency Support**

Concurrency support means to support a number of transactions to be executed simultaneously, Concurrency of transactions is managed in such a way that i f two or more transaction is making certain processing on the same set of data, in that case the result of all the transactions should be correct and no information should be lost.

**Recovery Services**

Recovery services mean that in case a database gets an inconsistent state to get corrupted due to any invalid action of someone, the DBMS should be able to recover itself to a consistent state, ensuring that the data loss during the recovery process of the database remains minimum.

**Authorization Services**

The database is intended to be used by a number of users, who will perform a number of actions on the database and data stored in the database, The DBMS is used to al low or restrict different database users to interact with the database. It is the responsibility of the database to check whether a user intending to get access to database is authorized to do so or not. If the user is an authorized one than what actions can he/she per form on the data?

**Support for Data Communication**

The DBMS should also have the support for communication of the data indifferent ways. For example if the system is working for such an organization which is spread across the country and it is deployed over a number of offices throughout the country, then the DBMS should be able to communicate to the central database stat ion. Or if the data regarding a product is to be sent to the customers worldwide i t should have the facility of sending the data of the product in the form of a report or offer to its valued customers.