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Web Development

Relational databases

A common type of database is a Relational Database Management System (RDBMS), in which data is stored according to the relationship it has to other data. In many implementations, an RDBMS consists of storing data in different tables and building relationships between rows in the tables.

Data that is stored in an RDBMS is available for querying by using a language called *Structured Query Language* (SQL). Most relational databases support SQL, and most of them offer full support for SQL that conforms to American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards. However, different database implementations offer different features, and not all of them support the full range of ANSI SQL equally. This issue makes writing SQL that can be used equally in many different databases difficult.

Another type of database is *Object database*, although these databases are uncommon.

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How you can access the database is specific to the server-side programming language you are using to build your web application. Each programming language features its own drivers that you can use to connect to the database and access information. The drivers allow you to run queries and commands and work with the results.

Technologies are available that help you connect your server-side web application code to a database. These technologies are called Object-Relational Mapping (ORM) tools, and they allow you to write code without having to worry about the different SQL implementations because many of them dynamically generate SQL for you. ORM tools also enable you to write code that maps the data in a database to objects in your code without having to write more code to do it.

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