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Creating Views

Objectives

After completing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- Describe a view
- Create, alter the definition of, and drop a view
- Retrieve data through a view
- Insert, update, and delete data through a view
- Create and use an inline view
- Perform “Top-N” analysis

Database Objects

Object	Description
Table	Basic unit of storage; composed of rows and columns
View	Logically represents subsets of data from one or more tables
Sequence	Generates primary key values
Index	Improves the performance of some queries
Synonym	Alternative name for an object

What is a View?

EMPLOYEES Table:

EMPLOYEE_ID	FIRST_NAME	LAST_NAME	EMAIL	PHONE_NUMBER	HIRE_DATE	JOB_ID	SALA
100	Steven	King	SKING	515.123.4567	17-JUN-87	AD_PRES	240
101	Neena	Kochhar	NKOCHHAR	515.123.4568	21-SEP-89	AD_VP	170
102	Lex	De Haan	LDEHAAN	515.123.4569	13-JAN-93	AD_VP	170
103	Alexander	Hunold	AHUNOLD	590.423.4567	03-JAN-90	IT_PROG	90
10							60
							42
							58
							35
							31
							26
							25
							105
							110
							86
178	Kimberely	Grant	KGRANT	011.44.1644.429263	24-MAY-99	SA_REP	70
200	Jennifer	Whalen	JWHALEN	515.123.4444	17-SEP-87	AD_ASST	44
201	Michael	Hartstein	MHARTSTE	515.123.5555	17-FEB-96	MK_MAN	130
202	Pat	Fay	PFAY	603.123.6666	17-AUG-97	MK_REP	60
205	Shelley	Higgins	SHIGGINS	515.123.8080	07-JUN-94	AC_MGR	120
206	William	Gietz	WGIETZ	515.123.8181	07-JUN-94	AC_ACCOUNT	83

20 rows selected.

EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	SALARY
149	Zlotkey	10500
174	Abel	11000
176	Taylor	8600

Why Use Views?

- To restrict data access
- To make complex queries easy
- To provide data independence
- To present different views of the same data

Simple Views and Complex Views

Feature	Simple Views	Complex Views
Number of tables	One	One or more
Contain functions	No	Yes
Contain groups of data	No	Yes
DML operations through a view	Yes	Not always

Creating a View

- You embed a subquery within the `CREATE VIEW` statement.

```
CREATE [OR REPLACE] [FORCE|NOFORCE] VIEW view
  [(alias[, alias]...)]
 AS subquery
[WITH CHECK OPTION [CONSTRAINT constraint]]
[WITH READ ONLY [CONSTRAINT constraint]];
```

- The subquery can contain complex `SELECT` syntax.

Creating a View

- Create a view, EMPVU80, that contains details of employees in department 80.

```
CREATE VIEW  empvu80
 AS SELECT  employee_id, last_name, salary
    FROM    employees
    WHERE   department_id = 80;
View created.
```

- Describe the structure of the view by using the *i*SQL*Plus DESCRIBE command.

```
DESCRIBE empvu80
```

Creating a View

- Create a view by using column aliases in the subquery.

```
CREATE VIEW  salvu50
 AS SELECT  employee_id ID_NUMBER, last_name NAME,
            salary*12 ANN_SALARY
    FROM    employees
    WHERE   department_id = 50;
View created.
```

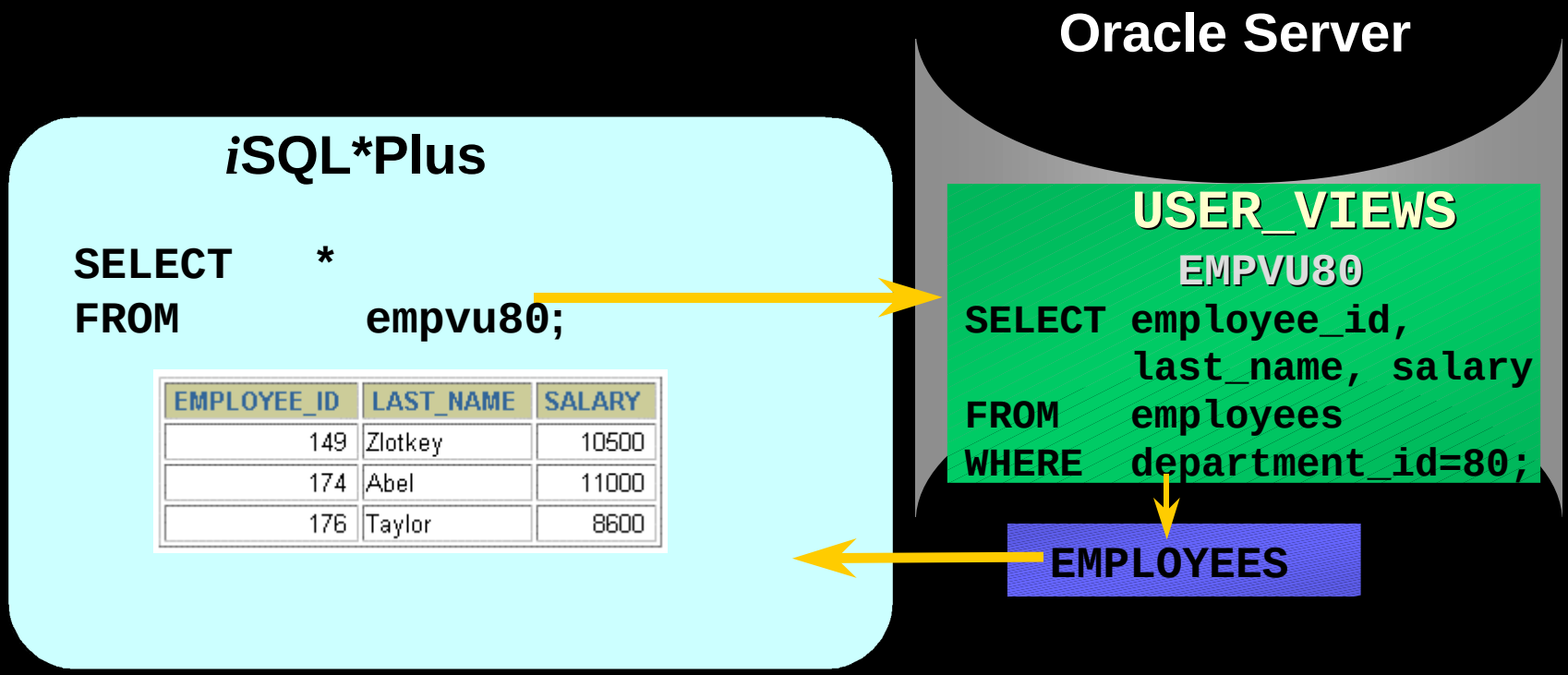
- Select the columns from this view by the given alias names.

Retrieving Data from a View

```
SELECT *
FROM  salvu50;
```

ID_NUMBER	NAME	ANN_SALARY
124	Mourgos	69600
141	Rajs	42000
142	Davies	37200
143	Matos	31200
144	Vargas	30000

Querying a View



Modifying a View

- Modify the `EMPVU80` view by using `CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW` clause. Add an alias for each column name.

```
CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW empvu80
  (id_number, name, sal, department_id)
AS SELECT  employee_id, first_name || ' ' || last_name,
           salary, department_id
   FROM    employees
   WHERE   department_id = 80;
View created.
```

- Column aliases in the `CREATE VIEW` clause are listed in the same order as the columns in the subquery.

Creating a Complex View

Create a complex view that contains group functions to display values from two tables.

```
CREATE VIEW dept_sum_vu
  (name, minsal, maxsal, avgsal)
AS SELECT    d.department_name, MIN(e.salary),
             MAX(e.salary),AVG(e.salary)
   FROM      employees e, departments d
   WHERE     e.department_id = d.department_id
   GROUP BY  d.department_name;
View created.
```

Rules for Performing DML Operations on a View

- You can perform DML operations on simple views.
- You cannot remove a row if the view contains the following:
  - Group functions
  - A `GROUP BY` clause
  - The `DISTINCT` keyword
  - The pseudocolumn `ROWNUM` keyword

Rules for Performing DML Operations on a View

You cannot modify data in a view if it contains:

- Group functions
- A `GROUP BY` clause
- The `DISTINCT` keyword
- The pseudocolumn `ROWNUM` keyword
- Columns defined by expressions

Rules for Performing DML Operations on a View

You cannot add data through a view if the view includes:

- Group functions
- A `GROUP BY` clause
- The `DISTINCT` keyword
- The pseudocolumn `ROWNUM` keyword
- Columns defined by expressions
- `NOT NULL` columns in the base tables that are not selected by the view

Using the WITH CHECK OPTION Clause

- You can ensure that DML operations performed on the view stay within the domain of the view by using the WITH CHECK OPTION clause.

```
CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW empvu20
AS SELECT   *
   FROM     employees
   WHERE    department_id = 20
   WITH CHECK OPTION CONSTRAINT empvu20_ck ;
View created.
```

- Any attempt to change the department number for any row in the view fails because it violates the WITH CHECK OPTION constraint.

Denying DML Operations

- You can ensure that no DML operations occur by adding the `WITH READ ONLY` option to your view definition.
- Any attempt to perform a DML on any row in the view results in an Oracle server error.

Denying DML Operations

```
CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW empvu10
    (employee_number, employee_name, job_title)
AS SELECT   employee_id, last_name, job_id
   FROM     employees
   WHERE    department_id = 10
   WITH READ ONLY;
View created.
```

Removing a View

You can remove a view without losing data because a view is based on underlying tables in the database.

```
DROP VIEW view;
```

```
DROP VIEW empvu80;
View dropped.
```

Inline Views

- An inline view is a subquery with an alias (or correlation name) that you can use within a SQL statement.
- A named subquery in the `FROM` clause of the main query is an example of an inline view.
- An inline view is not a schema object.

Top-N Analysis

- Top-N queries ask for the *n* largest or smallest values of a column. For example:
  - What are the ten best selling products?
  - What are the ten worst selling products?
- Both largest values and smallest values sets are considered Top-N queries.

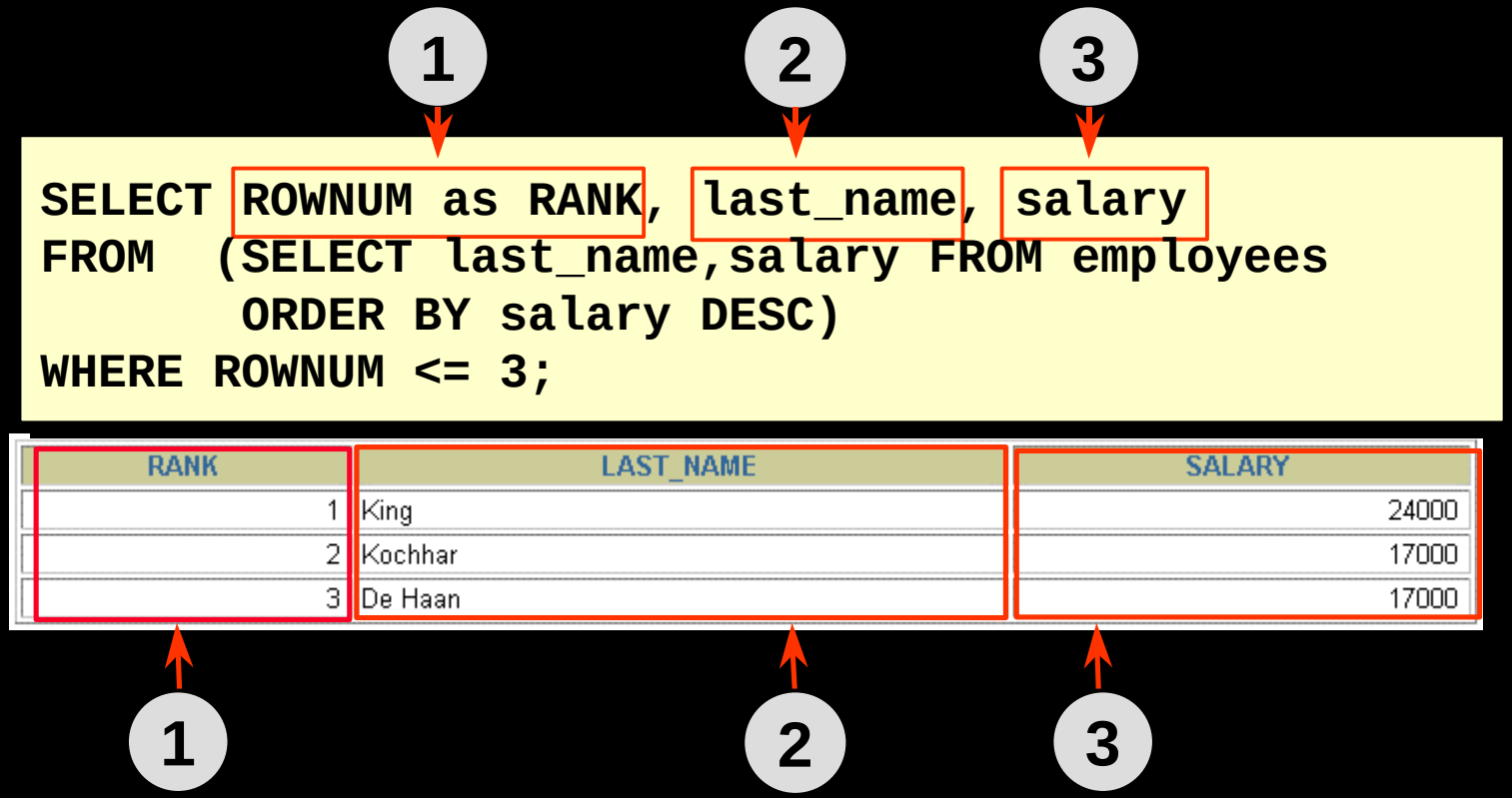
Performing Top-N Analysis

The high-level structure of a Top-N analysis query is:

```
SELECT [column_list], ROWNUM
FROM   (SELECT [column_list]
        FROM table
        ORDER  BY Top-N_column)
WHERE  ROWNUM <=  N;
```

Example of Top-N Analysis

To display the top three earner names and salaries from the EMPLOYEES table:



Summary

In this lesson, you should have learned that a view is derived from data in other tables or views and provides the following advantages:

- Restricts database access
- Simplifies queries
- Provides data independence
- Provides multiple views of the same data
- Can be dropped without removing the underlying data
- An inline view is a subquery with an alias name.
- Top-N analysis can be done using subqueries and outer queries.