



# CHAPTER 1

## Databases and Database Users

# OUTLINE

- Types of Databases and Database Applications
- Basic Definitions
- Typical DBMS Functionality
- Example of a Database (UNIVERSITY)
- Main Characteristics of the Database Approach
- Types of Database Users
- Advantages of Using the Database Approach
- Historical Development of Database Technology
- Extending Database Capabilities
- When Not to Use Databases

# What is data, database, DBMS

- Data: Known facts that can be recorded and have an implicit meaning; raw
- Database: a highly organized, interrelated, and structured set of data about a particular enterprise
  - Controlled by a database management system (DBMS)
- DBMS
  - Set of programs to access the data
  - An environment that is both *convenient* and *efficient* to use
- Database systems are used to manage collections of data that are:
  - Highly valuable
  - Relatively large
  - Accessed by multiple users and applications, often at the same time.
- A modern database system is a complex software system whose task is to manage a large, complex collection of data.
- Databases touch all aspects of our lives

# Types of Databases and Database Applications

- Traditional applications:
  - Numeric and textual databases
- More recent applications:
  - Multimedia databases
  - Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
  - Biological and genome databases
  - Data warehouses
  - Mobile databases
  - Real-time and active databases
- First part of book focuses on traditional applications
- *A number of recent applications are described later in the book (for example, Chapters 24,25,26,27,28,29)*

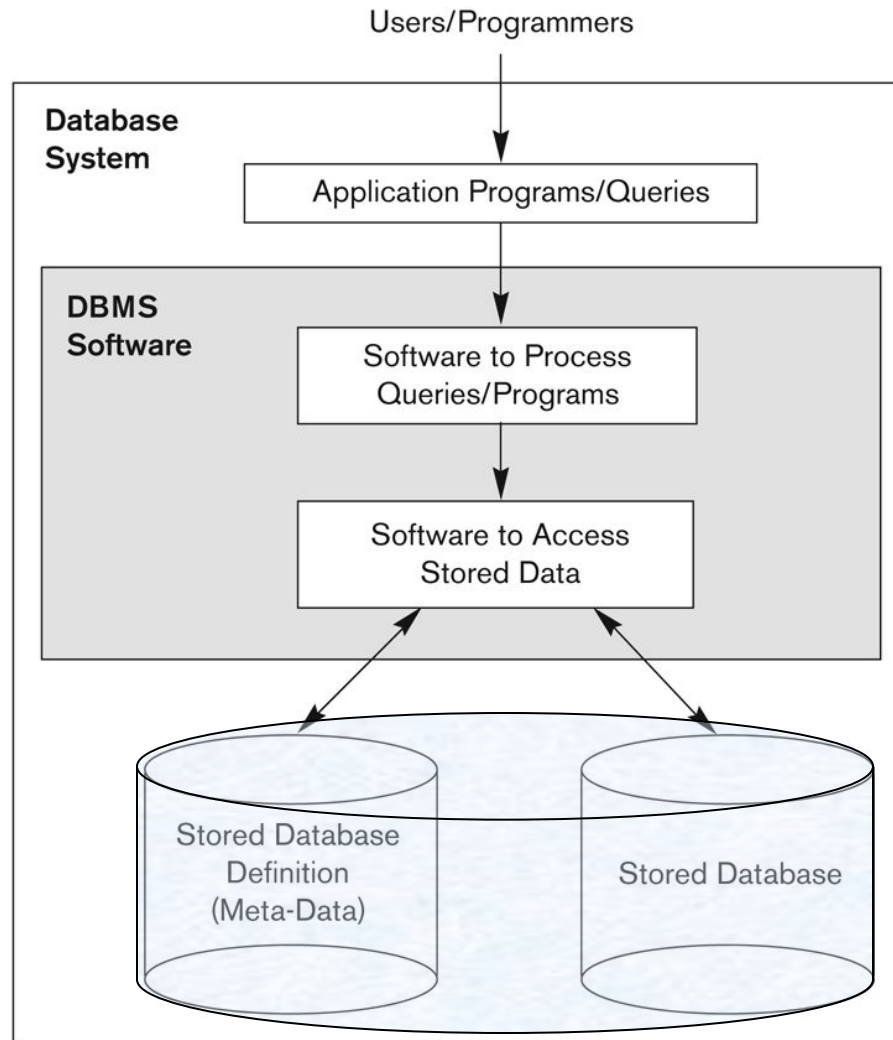
# Basic Definitions

- Database:
  - A collection of related data.
- Data:
  - Known facts that can be recorded and have an implicit meaning.
- Mini-world:
  - Some part of the real world about which data is stored in a database. For example, student grades and transcripts at a university.
- Database Management System (DBMS):
  - A software package/system to facilitate the creation and maintenance of a computerized database.
- Database system:
  - The DBMS software together with the data itself. Sometimes, the applications are also included.

# Impact of Databases and Database Technology

- **Businesses:** Banking, Insurance, Retail, Transportation, Healthcare, Manufacturing
- **Service industries:** Financial, Real-estate, Legal, Electronic Commerce, Small businesses
- **Education :** Resources for content and Delivery
- **More recently:** Social Networks, Environmental and Scientific Applications, Medicine and Genetics
- **Personalized applications:** based on smart mobile devices

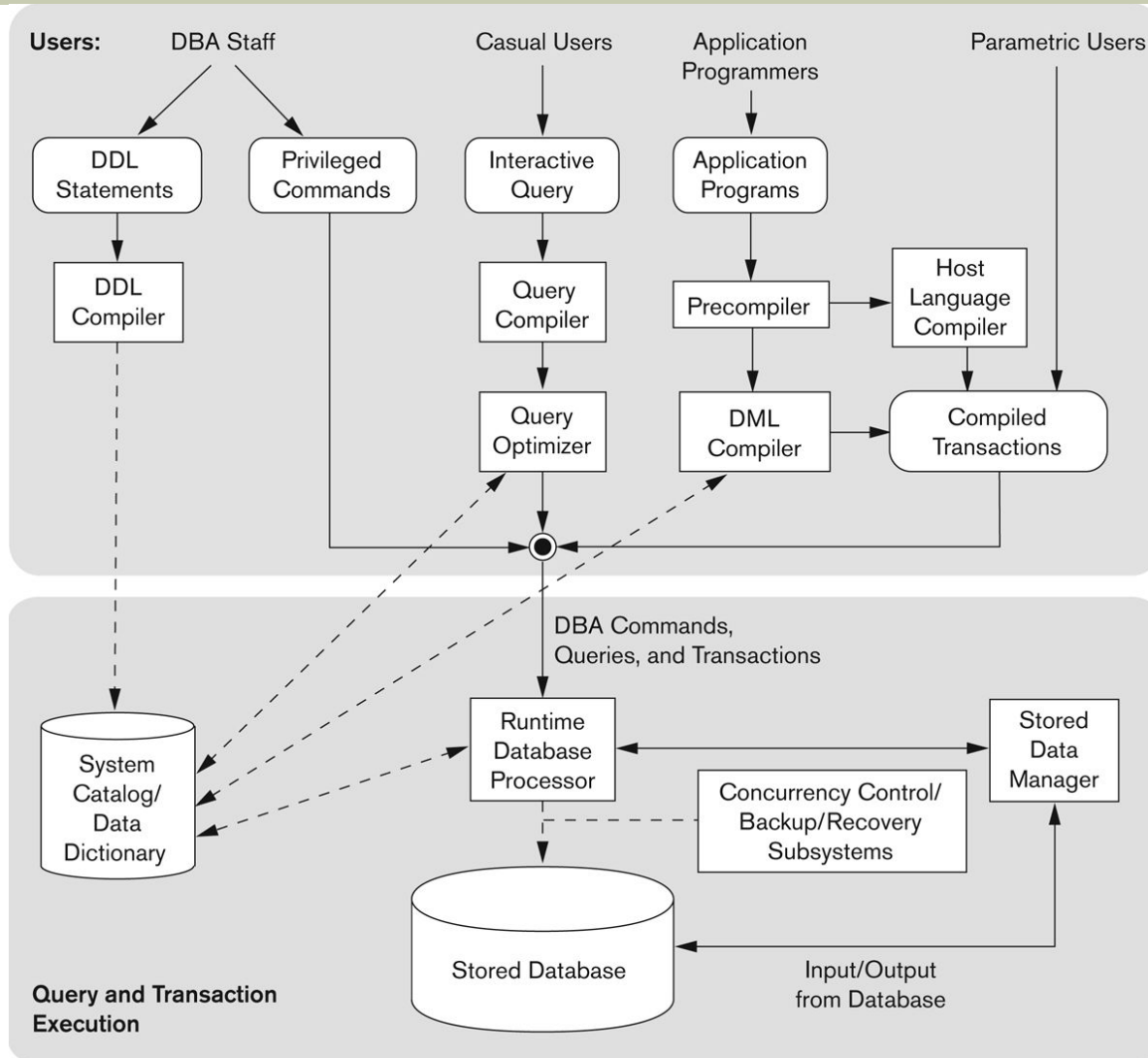
# A simplified architecture for a database system



**Figure 1.1**  
A simplified database  
system environment.



# A simplified architecture for a database system



# What a DBMS Facilitates

- *Define* a particular database in terms of its data types, structures, and constraints
- *Construct* or load the initial database contents on a secondary storage medium
- *Manipulating* the database:
  - Retrieval: Querying, generating reports
  - Modification: Insertions, deletions and updates to its content
  - Accessing the database through Web applications
- *Processing* and *sharing* by a set of concurrent users and application programs – yet, keeping all data valid and consistent

# Other DBMS Functionalities

- DBMS may additionally provide:
  - Protection or security measures to prevent unauthorized access
  - “Active” processing to take internal actions on data
  - Presentation and visualization of data
  - Maintenance of the database and associated programs over the lifetime of the database application

# Application Programs and DBMS

- Applications interact with a database by generating
  - Queries: that access different parts of data and formulate the result of a request
  - Transactions: that may read some data and “update” certain values or generate new data and store that in the database

# Example of a Database (with a Conceptual Data Model)

- Mini-world for the example:
  - Part of a UNIVERSITY environment
- Some mini-world *entities*:
  - STUDENTs
  - COURSEs
  - SECTIONs (of COURSEs)
  - (Academic) DEPARTMENTs
  - INSTRUCTORs

# Example of a Database (with a Conceptual Data Model)

- Some mini-world *relationships*:
  - SECTIONs *are of specific* COURSEs
  - STUDENTs *take* SECTIONs
  - COURSEs *have prerequisite* COURSEs
  - INSTRUCTORs *teach* SECTIONs
  - COURSEs *are offered by* DEPARTMENTs
  - STUDENTs *major in* DEPARTMENTs
- Note: The above entities and relationships are typically expressed in a conceptual data model, such as the entity-relationship (ER) data or UML class model (see Chapters 3, 4)

# Example of a Simple Database

## COURSE

Course_name	Course_number	Credit_hours	Department
Intro to Computer Science	CS1310	4	CS
Data Structures	CS3320	4	CS
Discrete Mathematics	MATH2410	3	MATH
Database	CS3380	3	CS

## SECTION

Section_identifier	Course_number	Semester	Year	Instructor
85	MATH2410	Fall	04	King
92	CS1310	Fall	04	Anderson
102	CS3320	Spring	05	Knuth
112	MATH2410	Fall	05	Chang
119	CS1310	Fall	05	Anderson
135	CS3380	Fall	05	Stone

## GRADE\_REPORT

Student_number	Section_identifier	Grade
17	112	B
17	119	C
8	85	A
8	92	A
8	102	B
8	135	A

## PREREQUISITE

Course_number	Prerequisite_number
CS3380	CS3320
CS3380	MATH2410
CS3320	CS1310

**Figure 1.2**

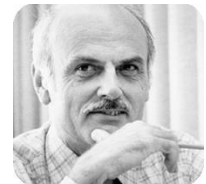
A database that stores student and course information.

# The relational model

Columns

<i>ID</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>dept_name</i>	<i>salary</i>
22222	Einstein	Physics	95000
12121	Wu	Finance	90000
32343	El Said	History	60000
45565	Katz	Comp. Sci.	75000
98345	Kim	Elec. Eng.	80000
76766	Crick	Biology	72000
10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000
58583	Califieri	History	62000
83821	Brandt	Comp. Sci.	92000
15151	Mozart	Music	40000
33456	Gold	Physics	87000
76543	Singh	Finance	80000

Rows



E.F. “Ted”  
Codd



# Main Characteristics of the Database Approach

- Self-describing nature of a database system:
  - A DBMS catalog stores the description of a particular database (e.g. data structures, types, and constraints)
  - The description is called meta-data\*.
  - This allows the DBMS software to work with different database applications.
- Insulation between programs and data:
  - Called program-data independence.
  - Allows changing data structures and storage organization without having to change the DBMS access programs
    - E.g., ADTs

# Example of a Simplified Database Catalog

## RELATIONS

Relation_name	No_of_columns
STUDENT	4
COURSE	4
SECTION	5
GRADE_REPORT	3
PREREQUISITE	2

**Figure 1.3**

An example of a database catalog for the database in Figure 1.2.

## COLUMNS

Column_name	Data_type	Belongs_to_relation
Name	Character (30)	STUDENT
Student_number	Character (4)	STUDENT
Class	Integer (1)	STUDENT
Major	Major_type	STUDENT
Course_name	Character (10)	COURSE
Course_number	XXXXNNNN	COURSE
....	....	....
....	....	....
....	....	....
Prerequisite_number	XXXXNNNN	PREREQUISITE

*Note:* Major\_type is defined as an enumerated type with all known majors. XXXXNNNN is used to define a type with four alpha characters followed by four digits

# Main Characteristics of the Database Approach (continued)

- Data abstraction:
  - A data model is used to hide storage details and present the users with a conceptual view of the database.
  - Programs refer to the data model constructs rather than data storage details
- Support of multiple views of the data:
  - Each user may see a different view of the database, which describes only the data of interest to that user.

# Main Characteristics of the Database Approach (continued)

- Sharing of data and multi-user transaction processing:
  - Allowing a set of concurrent users to retrieve from and to update the database.
  - *Concurrency control* within the DBMS guarantees that each transaction is correctly executed or aborted
  - *Recovery* subsystem ensures each completed transaction has its effect permanently recorded in the database
  - OLTP (Online Transaction Processing) is a major part of database applications; allows hundreds of concurrent transactions to execute per second.

# Database Users

- Users may be divided into
  - Those who actually use and control the database content, and those who design, develop and maintain database applications (called “*Actors on the Scene*”), and
  - Those who design and develop the DBMS software and related tools, and the computer systems operators (called “*Workers Behind the Scene*”).

# Database Users – Actors on the Scene

- Actors on the scene
  - Database administrators
    - Responsible for authorizing access to the database, for coordinating and monitoring its use, acquiring software and hardware resources, controlling its use and monitoring efficiency of operations.
  - Database designers
    - Responsible to define the content, the structure, the constraints, and functions or transactions against the database. They must communicate with the end-users and understand their needs.

# Database End Users

- Actors on the scene (continued)
  - End-users: They use the data for queries, reports and some of them update the database content. End-users can be categorized into:
    - Casual: access database occasionally when needed
    - Naïve or parametric: they make up a large section of the end-user population.
      - They use previously well-defined functions in the form of “canned transactions” against the database.
      - Users of mobile apps mostly fall in this category
      - Bank-tellers or reservation clerks are parametric users who do this activity for an entire shift of operations.
      - Social media users post and read information from websites

# Database End Users (continued)

- **Sophisticated:**
  - These include business analysts, scientists, engineers, others thoroughly familiar with the system capabilities.
  - Many use tools in the form of software packages that work closely with the stored database.
- **Stand-alone:**
  - Mostly maintain personal databases using ready-to-use packaged applications.
  - An example is the user of a tax program that creates its own internal database.
  - Another example is a user that maintains a database of personal photos and videos.



# Database Users – Actors on the Scene (continued)

- System analysts and application developers
  - System analysts: They understand the user requirements of naïve and sophisticated users and design applications including canned transactions to meet those requirements.
  - Application programmers: Implement the specifications developed by analysts and test and debug them before deployment.
  - Business analysts: There is an increasing need for such people who can analyze vast amounts of business data and real-time data (“Big Data”) for better decision making related to planning, advertising, marketing etc.

# Database Users – Actors behind the Scene

- **System designers and implementors:** Design and implement DBMS packages in the form of modules and interfaces and test and debug them. The DBMS must interface with applications, language compilers, operating system components, etc.
- **Tool developers:** Design and implement software systems called tools for modeling and designing databases, performance monitoring, prototyping, test data generation, user interface creation, simulation etc. that facilitate building of applications and allow using database effectively.
- **Operators and maintenance personnel:** They manage the actual running and maintenance of the database system hardware and software environment.