**Comparison: Flat File Systems vs. Relational Databases:**

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| Feature | Flat File Systems | Relational Databases |
| Structure | Data stored in a signal table or text file | Data stored in multiple related tables |
| Data Redundancy | duplicate data appears in multiple files | normalization minimizes redundancy |
| Relationships | all data kept separately | Supports relationships using primary and foreign keys |
| Example Usage | Small applications (configuration files) | Business applications (banking systems) |
| Drawbacks | Hard to update, lacks security and poor scalability | More complex setup, requires database software and management |