

# CHAPTER 1

## Databases and Database Users

Note: Slides, content, web links and end chapter questions are prepared from Pearson textbook (Elmasri & Navathe), and other Internet resources.

# Topics of Discussion

- A. Basic Definition – Database
- B. Types and Database Applications
- C. Typical DBMS Functionality
- D. Example of a Database
- E. Characteristics of the Database Approach
- F. Types of Database Users
- G. Advantages Using the Database Approach
- H. Historical Development of Database Technology
- I. Extending Database Capabilities
- J. When Not to Use Databases

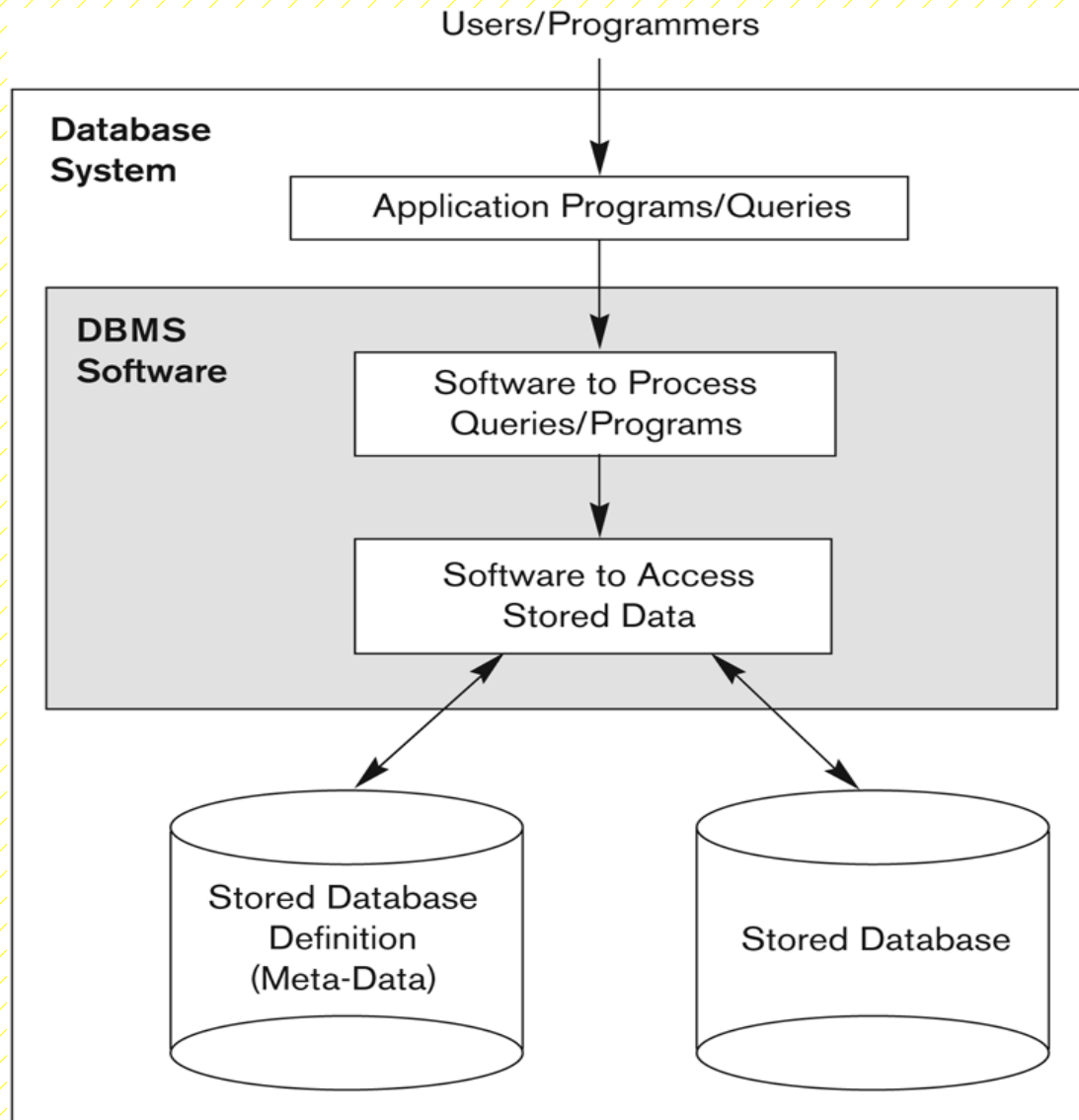
# A. Basic Definitions

- **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. (database system and DBMS can interchangeably used.)

# 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

# Simplified database system environment



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

# B. Type and Database Applications

## 1. Traditional Applications:

- Numeric and Textual Databases
- For example, if we go to the bank to deposit or withdraw funds, if we make a hotel or airline reservation, or if we purchase something online, our activities will involve someone or some computer program accessing a database.
- Even purchasing items at a supermarket often automatically updates the database that holds the inventory of grocery items.  
(Will see two databases -COMPANY and UNIVERSITY with detailed hands-on using MS SQL Server in Ch-5,6,7and 10)

# Type and Database Applications

## 2. More Recent Applications:

- Multimedia Databases
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Biological and Genome Databases
- Data Warehouses
- Mobile databases
- Real-time and Active Databases

# Recent Developments

- Social Networks started capturing a lot of information about people and about communications among people- posts, tweets, photos, and videos in systems such as:
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - LinkedIn
- All of the above constitutes a database.
- Search Engines
  - Google
  - Bing
  - Yahoo
- Collect their own repository of web pages for search purposes



# Recent Developments

- New Technologies are emerging from the so-called non-database software vendors to manage vast amounts of data generated on the web.
- Big Data storage systems involving large clusters of distributed computers. (will see at Ch-25)
- NOSQL (Not Only SQL) systems. (we will see in detail at Ch-24)
- A large amount of data now resides on the “cloud” which means it is stored in huge data centers (usually) using thousands of machines, like Amazon Web Services, MS Azure, Google Cloud. (will do hands-on at Ch-24,25)

## C. Typical DBMS Functionality

- 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

# Typical DBMS Functionality

- 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
- Applications must not allow unauthorized users to access data.
- Applications must keep up with changing user requirements against the database

# Additional DBMS Functionality

- 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
    - Called database software and system maintenance.

## D. Example of a Database

- Simple Database: Considering the names, telephone numbers, and addresses of the people you know. Nowadays, this data is typically stored in mobile phones, which have their own simple database software.
- Large and Complex Database: An example of a large commercial database is Amazon.com. It contains data for over 80 million active users, and millions of books, CDs, videos, DVDs, games, electronics, apparel, and other items. The database occupies over 42 terabytes (a terabyte is  $10^{12}$  bytes worth of storage) and is stored on hundreds of computers (called cluster or just servers).
- The database is continually updated as new items are added to the inventory, and stock quantities are updated as purchases are transacted.

# 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/ Professors

# 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 data model.

# Example of a simple database

**Figure 1.2** A database that stores student and course information.

## STUDENT

Name	Student_number	Class	Major
Smith	17	1	CS
Brown	8	2	CS

## 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	07	King
92	CS1310	Fall	07	Anderson
102	CS3320	Spring	08	Knuth
112	MATH2410	Fall	08	Chang
119	CS1310	Fall	08	Anderson
135	CS3380	Fall	08	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



## E. 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.

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\* Some newer systems such as a few NOSQL systems need no meta-data: they store the data definition within its structure making itself describing.

# 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

# Characteristics of the Database Approach

- **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.
- See two examples of view, in next slide.

# Characteristics of the Database Approach

## TRANSCRIPT

(a)

Student_name	Student_transcript				
	Course_number	Grade	Semester	Year	Section_id
Smith	CS1310	C	Fall	08	119
	MATH2410	B	Fall	08	112
Brown	MATH2410	A	Fall	07	85
	CS1310	A	Fall	07	92
	CS3320	B	Spring	08	102
	CS3380	A	Fall	08	135

## COURSE\_PREREQUISITES

(b)

Course_name	Course_number	Prerequisites
Database	CS3380	CS3320
		MATH2410
Data Structures	CS3320	CS1310

**Figure 1.5** Two views derived from the database in Figure 1.2. (a) The TRANSCRIPT view. (b) The COURSE\_PREREQUISITES view.

# Characteristics of the Database Approach

- **Sharing of data and multi-user transaction processing:**

- Allowing a set of **concurrent users** to retrieve from and 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. This allows hundreds of concurrent transactions to execute per second.

## F. 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/Actors Behind the Scene”).

# Database Users – Actors on the Scene

- Actors on the scene
  - **Database administrators:**
    - Responsible for authorizing access to the database, coordinating and monitoring its use, acquiring software and hardware resources, controlling its use, and monitoring the 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

- **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

- **System Analysts and Application Developers**

This category currently accounts for a very large proportion of the IT workforce.

- **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

- 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 the building of applications and allow using databases effectively.
  - **Operators and Maintenance Personnel:** They manage the actual running and maintenance of the database system hardware and software environment.

# G. Advantages of the Database Approach

- Controlling redundancy in data storage and in development and maintenance efforts.
- Sharing of data among multiple users.

**GRADE\_REPORT**

Student_number	Student_name	Section_identifier	Course_number	Grade
17	Smith	112	MATH2410	B
17	Smith	119	CS1310	C
8	Brown	85	MATH2410	A
8	Brown	92	CS1310	A
8	Brown	102	CS3320	B
8	Brown	135	CS3380	A

(a)

**GRADE\_REPORT**

Student_number	Student_name	Section_identifier	Course_number	Grade
17	Brown	112	MATH2410	B

(b)

a) Consistent data and b) Inconsistent record

# Advantages of the Database Approach

- Restricting unauthorized access to data. Such as only the DBA staff using privileged commands and facilities.
- Providing persistent storage for program Objects
  - E.g., Object-Oriented DBMSs make program objects persistent.
- Providing Storage Structures (e.g. indexes) for efficient Query Processing.
- Providing optimization of queries for efficient processing.
- Providing backup and recovery services.

# Advantages of the Database Approach

- Providing multiple interfaces to different classes of users.
- Representing complex relationships among data.
- Enforcing integrity constraints on the database.
- Drawing inferences and actions from the stored data using deductive and active rules and triggers.

# Additional Implications of Using the Database Approach

- Potential for enforcing standards:
  - This is very crucial for the success of database applications in large organizations. **Standards** refer to data item names, display formats, screens, report structures, meta-data (description of data), Web page layouts, etc.
- Reduced application development time:
  - Incremental time to add each new application is reduced.

# Additional Implications of Using the Database Approach

- Flexibility to change data structures:
  - Database structure may evolve as new requirements are defined.
- Availability of current information:
  - Extremely important for on-line transaction systems such as shopping, airline, hotel, car reservations.
- Economies of scale:
  - Wasteful overlap of resources and personnel can be avoided by consolidating data and applications across departments.



# H. Historical Development of Database Technology

- Early Database Applications:
  - The Hierarchical and Network Models were introduced in the mid-1960s and dominated during the '70s.
  - A bulk of the worldwide database processing still occurs using these models, particularly, the hierarchical model using IBM's IMS system.
- Relational Model-based Systems:
  - Relational model was originally introduced in 1970 and was heavily researched and experimented with within IBM research and several universities.
  - Relational DBMS Products emerged in the early 1980s.

# Historical Development of Database Technology

- Object-oriented and emerging applications:
  - Object-Oriented Database Management Systems (OODBMSs) were introduced in the late 1980s and early 1990s to cater to the need for complex data processing in CAD and other applications.
    - Their use has not taken off much.
  - Many relational DBMSs have incorporated object database concepts, leading to a new category called *object-relational* DBMSs (ORDBMSs)
  - *Extended relational* systems add further capabilities (e.g. for multimedia data, text, XML, and other data types)

# Historical Development of Database Technology

- Data on the Web and E-commerce Applications:
  - Web contains data in HTML (Hypertext markup language) with links among pages.
  - This has given rise to a new set of applications and E-commerce is using new standards like XML (eXtended Markup Language).
  - Script programming languages such as PHP and JavaScript allow the generation of dynamic Web pages that are partially generated from a database.
    - Also allow database updates through Web pages

# I. Extending Database Capabilities

- New functionality is being added to DBMSs in the following areas:
  - Scientific Applications – Physics, Chemistry, Biology - Genetics
  - Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and Astronomy
  - Image Storage and Management
  - Audio and Video Data Management
  - Data Warehousing and Data Mining – a very major area for future development using new technologies.
  - Spatial Data Management and Location Based Services
  - Time Series and Historical Data Management
- The above gives rise to *new research and development* in incorporating new data types, complex data structures, new operations and storage and indexing schemes in database systems.

# Extending Database Capabilities

- Background since the advent of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:
  - First decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has seen tremendous growth in user generated data and automatically collected data from applications and search engines.
  - Social Media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter are generating millions of transactions a day and businesses are interested to tap into this data to “understand” the users.
  - Cloud Storage and Backup is making unlimited amount of storage available to users and applications

# Extending Database Capabilities

- Emergence of Big Data Technologies and NoSQL databases
  - New data storage, management, and analysis technology were necessary to deal with the onslaught of data in petabytes a day ( $10^{15}$  bytes or 1000 terabytes) in some applications. This is now called “Big Data”.
  - Hadoop (originated from Yahoo) and MapReduce Programming approach to distributed data processing (originated from Google), Google file systems have given rise to Big Data technologies.
  - NoSQL (Not Only SQL) systems have been designed for rapid search and retrieval from documents, but the processing of huge graphs also occurs on social networks and other forms of unstructured data with flexible models of transaction processing. (will see at ch24-25)

## J. When not to use a DBMS

- Main inhibitors (costs) of using a DBMS:
  - High initial investment and possible need for additional hardware.
  - Overhead for providing generality, security, concurrency control, recovery, and integrity functions.
- When a DBMS may be unnecessary:
  - If the database and applications are simple, well defined, and not expected to change.
  - If access to data by multiple users is not required.
- When a DBMS may be infeasible:
  - In embedded systems where a general-purpose DBMS may not fit in available storage



# When not to use a DBMS

- When no DBMS may suffice:
  - If there are stringent real-time requirements that may not be met because of DBMS overhead (e.g., telephone switching systems)
  - If the database system is not able to handle the complexity of data because of modeling limitations (e.g., in the complex genome and protein databases)
  - If the database users need special operations not supported by the DBMS (e.g., GIS and location-based services).



# End Chapter Questions

- 1.1. Define the following terms.  
*data, database, DBMS, database system, database catalog, program-data independence, user view, DBA, end user, canned transaction, deductive database system, persistent object, meta-data, and transaction-processing application.*
- 1.4. What are the responsibilities of the DBA and the database designers?
- 1.5. What are the different types of database end users? Discuss the main activities of each.
- 1.6. Discuss the capabilities that should be provided by a DBMS.