



View



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What is a View?

- A *view* is a dynamic result of one or more relational operations operating on base relations to produce another relation.
- Virtual relation that does not necessarily actually exist in the database but is produced upon request, at time of request.



Views

- Contents of a view are defined as a query on one or more base relations.
- With *view resolution*, any operations on view are automatically translated into operations on relations from which it is derived.
- With *view materialization*, the view is stored as a temporary table, which is maintained as the underlying base tables are updated.



MySQL - CREATE VIEW

The format is:

```
CREATE VIEW ViewName [ (newColumnName [,...]) ]  
AS subselect  
[WITH [CASCADED | LOCAL] CHECK OPTION]
```

- Can assign a name to each column in view.
- If list of column names is specified, it must have same number of items as number of columns produced by *subselect*.
- If omitted, each column takes name of corresponding column in *subselect*.



MySQL - CREATE VIEW

- List must be specified if there is any ambiguity in a column name.
- The *subselect* is known as the *defining query*.
- **WITH CHECK OPTION** ensures that if a row fails to satisfy WHERE clause of defining query, it is not added to underlying base table.
- Need **SELECT** privilege on all tables referenced in subselect and USAGE privilege on any domains used in referenced columns.



CREATE VIEW - An Example

```
mysql> select * from Staff;
```

staffNo	fName	lName	position	sex	DOB	salary	branchNo
SA9	Mary	Howe	Assistant	f	1970-02-19	9270.00	B007
SG14	David	Ford	manager	M	1958-03-24	18000.00	B003
SG16	Alan	Brown	Assistant	M	1957-05-25	8549.00	B003
SG37	Ann	Beech	Assistant	f	1960-11-10	12360.00	B003
SG44	Anne	Jones	Assistant	NULL	NULL	8343.00	B003
SG45	Anna	Smith	Assistant	NULL	NULL	8446.00	B002
SG5	Susan	Brand	Manager	f	1940-06-03	25956.00	B003
SL21	John	White	Manager	M	1945-10-01	32445.00	B005
SL41	Julie	Lee	Assistant	f	1965-06-13	9270.00	B005

```
9 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```



CREATE VIEW - An Example

```
mysql> CREATE VIEW Manager3Staff  
-> AS SELECT *  
-> from Staff  
-> where branchNo = 'B003';
```

Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.02 sec)

```
mysql>
```



CREATE VIEW - An Example

```
mysql> select * from Manager3Staff;
```

staffNo	fName	lName	position	sex	DOB	salary	branchNo
SG14	David	Ford	manager	M	1958-03-24	18000.00	B003
SG16	Alan	Brown	Assistant	M	1957-05-25	8549.00	B003
SG37	Ann	Beech	Assistant	f	1960-11-10	12360.00	B003
SG44	Anne	Jones	Assistant	NULL	NULL	8343.00	B003
SG5	Susan	Brand	Manager	f	1940-06-03	25956.00	B003

5 rows in set (0.00 sec)

```
mysql>
```




CREATE VIEW - An Example

```
mysql> CREATE VIEW Staff3  
-> AS SELECT staffNo, fName, lName, position, sex  
-> from Staff  
-> where branchNo = 'B003';
```

Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.00 sec)

```
mysql> select * from Staff3;
```



CREATE VIEW - An Example

```
mysql> select * from Staff3;
```

staffNo	fName	lName	position	sex
SG14	David	Ford	manager	M
SG16	Alan	Brown	Assistant	M
SG37	Ann	Beech	Assistant	f
SG44	Anne	Jones	Assistant	NULL
SG5	Susan	Brand	Manager	f

5 rows in set (0.00 sec)



Grouped and Joined Views

- Create view of staff who manage properties for rent, including branch number they work at, staff number, and number of properties they manage.

```
mysql> CREATE VIEW StaffPropCnt (branchNo, staffNo, cnt)
-> AS SELECT s.branchNo, s.staffNo, COUNT(*)
-> FROM Staff s, PropertyForRent p
-> WHERE s.staffNo = p.staffNo
-> GROUP BY s.branchNo, s.staffNo;
```

Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.00 sec)

```
mysql>
```



CREATE VIEW - An Example

```
mysql> select * from StaffPropCnt;
```

branchNo	staffNo	cnt
B003	SG14	1
B003	SG37	2
B003	SG5	1
B005	SL41	1
B007	SA9	1

5 rows in set (0.00 sec)

```
mysql>
```



MySQL – DROP VIEW

- The Format is:

DROP VIEW *ViewName* [**RESTRICT** | **CASCADE**]

- Causes definition of view to be deleted from database.
- For example:

```
mysql> DROP View Manager3Staff;
```

Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.00 sec)

```
mysql>
```



MySQL – DROP VIEW

- With CASCADE, all related dependent objects are deleted; i.e., any views defined on view being dropped.
- With RESTRICT (default), if any other objects depend for their existence on continued existence of view being dropped, command is rejected.



View Resolution

- Count number of properties managed by each member at branch B003.

```
mysql> SELECT staffNo, cnt FROM StaffPropCnt  
      -> WHERE branchNo = 'B003' ORDER BY staffNo;
```

```
+-----+-----+  
| staffNo | cnt |  
+-----+-----+  
| SG14    | 1   |  
| SG37    | 2   |  
| SG5     | 1   |  
+-----+-----+
```

```
3 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

```
mysql>
```



View Resolution

- View column names in SELECT list are translated into their corresponding column names in the defining query:

```
SELECT s.staffNo As staffNo,  
       COUNT(*) As cnt
```

- View names in FROM are replaced with corresponding FROM lists of defining query:

```
FROM Staff s, PropertyForRent p
```




View Resolution

- WHERE from user query is combined with WHERE of defining query using AND:

```
WHERE s.staffNo = p.staffNo AND branchNo = 'B003'
```

- GROUP BY and HAVING clauses copied from defining query:

```
GROUP BY s.branchNo, s.staffNo
```

- ORDER BY copied from query with view column name translated into defining query column name

```
ORDER BY s.staffNo
```



View Resolution

- Final merged query is now executed to produce the result:

```
SELECT s.staffNo AS staffNo, COUNT(*) AS cnt
FROM Staff s, PropertyForRent p
WHERE s.staffNo = p.staffNo AND
      branchNo = 'B003'
GROUP BY s.branchNo, s.staffNo
ORDER BY s.staffNo;
```



Restrictions on Views

- SQL imposes several restrictions on creation and use of views.
- If a column in view is based on an aggregate function:
 - Column may appear only in `SELECT` and `ORDER BY` clauses of queries that access view.
 - Column may not be used in `WHERE` nor be an argument to an aggregate function in any query based on view.



Restrictions on Views

- For example, following query would fail:

```
SELECT COUNT(cnt)
FROM StaffPropCnt;
```

- Similarly, following query would also fail:

```
SELECT *
FROM StaffPropCnt
WHERE cnt > 2;
```



Restrictions on Views

- Grouped view may never be joined with a base table or a view.
- For example, `StaffPropCnt` view is a grouped view, so any attempt to join this view with another table or view fails.



View Updatability

- All updates to base table reflected in all views that encompass base table.
- Similarly, may expect that if view is updated then base table(s) will reflect change.



View Updatability

- However, consider again view StaffPropCnt.
- If we tried to insert record showing that at branch B003, SG5 manages 2 properties:

```
INSERT INTO StaffPropCnt  
VALUES ('B003', 'SG5', 2);
```

- Have to insert 2 records into PropertyForRent showing which properties SG5 manages. However, do not know which properties they are; i.e., do not know primary keys!



View Updatability

- If we change the definition of view and replacecount with actual property numbers:

```
CREATE VIEW StaffPropList (branchNo, staffNo, propertyNo)
  AS SELECT s.branchNo, s.staffNo, p.propertyNo
     FROM Staff s, PropertyForRent p
     WHERE s.staffNo = p.staffNo;
```




View Updatability

- Now try to insert the record:

```
INSERT INTO StaffPropList  
VALUES ( 'B003', 'SG5', 'PG19' );
```

- There is still problem, because in PropertyForRent none of the columns (except postcode/staffNo) are not allowed nulls.
- However, there is no way of giving remaining nonnull columns values.



View Updatability

- ISO specifies that a view is updatable if and only if:
 - `DISTINCT` is not specified.
 - Every element in `SELECT` list of defining query is a column name and no column appears more than once.
 - `FROM` clause specifies only one table, excluding any views based on a join, union, intersection or difference.



View Updatability

- ISO specifies that a view is updatable if and only if:
 - No nested SELECT referencing outer table.
 - No GROUP BY or HAVING clause.
 - Also, every row added through view must not violate integrity constraints of base table.



View Updatability

- For view to be updatable, DBMS must be able to trace any row or column back to its row or column in the source table.



WITH CHECK OPTION

- Rows exist in a view because they satisfy WHERE condition of defining query.
- If a row changes and no longer satisfies condition, it disappears from the view.
- New rows appear within view when insert/update on view cause them to satisfy WHERE condition.
- Rows that enter or leave a view are called **migrating rows**.
- WITH CHECK OPTION prohibits a row migrating out of the view.



WITH CHECK OPTION

- LOCAL/CASCADED apply to view hierarchies.
- With LOCAL, any row insert/update on view and any view directly or indirectly defined on this view must not cause row to disappear from view unless row also disappears from derived view/table.
- With CASCADED (default), any row insert/ update on this view and on any view directly or indirectly defined on this view must not cause row to disappear from the view.



WITH CHECK OPTION

```
CREATE VIEW Manager3Staff  
AS SELECT *  
FROM Staff  
WHERE branchNo = 'B003'  
WITH CHECK OPTION;
```

- Cannot update branch number of row B003 to B002 as this would cause row to migrate from view.
- Also, cannot insert a row into view with a branch number that does not equal B003.



WITH CHECK OPTION

- Now consider the following:

```
CREATE VIEW LowSalary
  AS SELECT * FROM Staff
    WHERE salary > 9000;

CREATE VIEW HighSalary
  AS SELECT * FROM LowSalary
    WHERE salary > 10000
  WITH LOCAL CHECK OPTION;

CREATE VIEW Manager3Staff
  AS SELECT * FROM HighSalary
    WHERE branchNo = 'B003';
```




WITH CHECK OPTION

```
UPDATE Manager3Staff  
  SET salary = 9500  
 WHERE staffNo = 'SG37';
```

- This update would fail: although update would cause row to disappear from `HighSalary`, row would not disappear from `LowSalary`.
- However, if update tried to set salary to 8000, update would succeed as row would no longer be part of `LowSalary`.



WITH CHECK OPTION

- If HighSalary had specified WITH CASCADED CHECK OPTION, setting salary to 9500 or 8000 would be rejected because row would disappear from LowSalary.
- To prevent anomalies like this, each view should be created using WITH CASCADED CHECK OPTION.



Advantages of Views

- Data independence – presents a consistent, unchanging picture of the database's structure even when the source tables change
- Currency – changes to the base tables are reflected immediately in the views.
- Improved security– users can be granted access to the database through a relatively small set of views.



Advantages of Views

- Reduced complexity – simplifies the writing of queries.
- Convenience – users see only what they need.
- Customization – views can be customized to the needs of individual users.
- Data integrity – CHECK OPTION clause of the CREATE VIEW command ensures that rows satisfy the WHERE clause of the defining query.



Disadvantages of Views

- Update restriction – in some cases (as we saw), a view might not be updated.
- Structure restriction – Structure is determined at the time of creation. Any columns added to the data base will not show up unless the view is dropped and redefined.
- Performance – The use of view slows down response time in some cases.



View Materialization

- View resolution mechanism may be slow, particularly if view is accessed frequently.
- View materialization stores view as temporary table when view is first queried.
- Thereafter, queries based on materialized view can be faster than recomputing view each time.
- Difficulty is maintaining the currency of view while base tables(s) are being updated.



View Maintenance

- View maintenance aims to apply only those changes necessary to keep view current.
- Consider following view:

```
CREATE VIEW StaffPropRent (staffNo)
  AS SELECT DISTINCT staffNo
     FROM PropertyForRent
     WHERE branchNo = 'B003' AND
        rent > 400;
```



Thank You!