FUNDAMENTALS OF

Database

Systems

SIXTH EDITION

summary

A database is a collection of related data.

A database has the following implicit properties:

* A database represents some aspect of the real world, sometimes called the miniworld or the universe of discourse (UoD). Changes to the miniworld are reflected in the database.
* A database is a logically coherent collection of data with some inherent meaning. A random assortment of data cannot correctly be referred to as a database.
* A database is designed, built, and populated with data for a specific purpose. It has an intended group of users and some preconceived applications in which these users are interested.

A database management system (DBMS) is a collection of programs that enables

users to create and maintain a database. The DBMS is a general-purpose software sys-

tem that facilitates the processes of defining, constructing, manipulating, and sharing

databases among various users and applications.

The information

stored in the catalog is called meta-data, and it describes the structure of the pri-

mary database.