

Catalog

The distributed database schema information is stored in a data dictionary/directory, also called a catalog or simply a directory. It is a meta-database that stores a number of information.

There are two types of directories:

1. Global directory/dictionary(GD/D) that describes the database schema as the end users see it, and that permits the required global mappings between external schemas and the GCS
2. Local directory/dictionary (LD/D), that describes the local mappings and describes the Schema at each site. Thus, the local database management components are integrated by means of global DBMS functions.

Uses:

1. It indicates who created the relations, data types, access privileges
2. It keeps track of how data is distributed across sites
3. Gives a unique identifier to each replica of a fragment
4. Local catalogs describes all objects at a site and keeps track of replicas of relations created at this site
5. Records the dependencies that access modules have on database objects.