Views & Constraints

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Views

- In some cases, it is not desirable for all users to see the entire logical model (that is, all the actual relations stored in the database.)
- Consider a person who needs to know an instructors name and department, but not the salary. This person should see a relation described, in SQL, by

  select *ID*, *name*, *dept_name*
  from *instructor*

- A **view** provides a mechanism to hide certain data from the view of certain users.
- Any relation that is not of the conceptual model but is made visible to a user as a "virtual relation" is called a **view**.

View Definition

- A view is defined using the **create view** statement which has the form

  create view *v* **as** < query expression >

  where <query expression> is any legal SQL expression. The view name is represented by *v.*
- Once a view is defined, the view name can be used to refer to the virtual relation that the view generates.
- View definition is not the same as creating a new relation by evaluating the query expression
  - Rather, a view definition causes the saving of an expression; the expression is substituted into queries using the view.

Example Views

- A view of instructors without their salary

  create view *faculty* **as**
    select *ID*, *name*, *dept_name*
    from *instructor*

- Find all instructors in the Biology department

  select *name*
  from *faculty*
  where *dept_name* = 'Biology'

- Create a view of department salary totals

  create view *departments_total_salary*(*dept_name*, *total_salary*) **as**
    select *dept_name*, **sum** (*salary*)
    from *instructor*
    group by *dept_name*;

Views Defined Using Other Views

- **create view** *physics_fall_2009* **as**
  select *course*.*course_id*, *sec_id*, *building*, *room_number*
  from *course*, *section*
  where *course*.*course_id* = *section*.*course_id*
  and *course*.*dept_name* = ’Physics’
  and *section*.*semester* = ’Fall’
  and *section*.*year* = ’2009’;
- **create view** *physics_fall_2009_watson* **as**
  select *course_id*, *room_number*
  from *physics_fall_2009*
  where *building*= ’Watson’;

View Expansion

- Expand use of a view in a query/another view

```
create view physics_fall_2009_watson as
(select course_id, room_number
from (select course.course_id, building, room_number
        from course, section
        where course.course_id = section.course_id
            and course.dept_name = ’Physics’
            and section.semester = ’Fall’
            and section.year = ’2009’)
where building= ’Watson’;
```

Views Defined Using Other Views

- One view may be used in the expression defining another view
- A view relation v_1 is said to *depend directly* on a view relation v_2 if v_2 is used in the expression defining v_1
- A view relation v_1 is said to *depend on* view relation v_2 if either v_1 depends directly to v_2 or there is a path of dependencies from v_1 to v_2
- A view relation v is said to be *recursive* if it depends on itself.

Update of a View

- Add a new tuple to *faculty* view which we defined earlier

  insert into *faculty* **values** ('30765', 'Green', 'Music');

  This insertion must be represented by the insertion of the tuple

  ('30765', 'Green', 'Music', null)

  into the *instructor* relation

Materialized Views

- **Materializing a view**: create a physical table containing all the tuples in the result of the query defining the view
- If relations used in the query are updated, the materialized view result becomes out of date
  - Need to **maintain** the view, by updating the view whenever the underlying relations are updated.

Integrity Constraints

- Integrity constraints guard against accidental damage to the database, by ensuring that authorized changes to the database do not result in a loss of data consistency.
  - A checking account must have a balance greater than $10,000.00
  - A salary of a bank employee must be at least $4.00 an hour
  - A customer must have a (non-null) phone number

Integrity Constraints on a Single Relation

- **not null**
- **primary key**
- **unique**
- **check** (P), where P is a predicate

Not Null and Unique Constraints

- **not null**
  - Declare *name* and *budget* to be **not null**

    name **varchar**(20) **not null**
    budget **numeric**(12,2) **not null**

- **unique** (A_1, A_2, …, A_m)
  - The unique specification states that the attributes *A*1, *A*2, … *A*m form a candidate key.
  - Candidate keys are permitted to be null (in contrast to primary keys).

The check clause

- **check** (P)

  where P is a predicate

  Example: ensure that semester is one of fall, winter, spring or summer:

  create table *section* (
      course_id **varchar** (8),
      sec_id **varchar** (8),
      semester **varchar** (6),
      year **numeric** (4,0),
      building **varchar** (15),
      room_number **varchar** (7),
      time slot id **varchar** (4),
      primary key (*course_id*, *sec_id*, *semester*, *year*),
      check (*semester* **in** ('Fall', 'Winter', 'Spring', 'Summer'))
  );

Referential Integrity

- Ensures that a value that appears in one relation for a given set of attributes also appears for a certain set of attributes in another relation.

  - Example: If "Biology" is a department name appearing in one of the tuples in the *instructor* relation, then there exists a tuple in the *department* relation for "Biology".

- Let A be a set of attributes. Let R and S be two relations that contain attributes A and where A is the primary key of S. A is said to be a **foreign key** of R if for any values of A appearing in R these values also appear in S.

Cascading Actions in Referential Integrity

- **create table** *course* (
```
    course_id  char(5) primary key,
    title      varchar(20),
    dept_name  varchar(20) references department
)
```
- **create table** *course* (
```
    …
    dept_name varchar(20),
    foreign key (dept_name) references department
            on delete cascade
            on update cascade,
    . . .
)
```
- alternative actions to cascade: **set null**, **set default**

Authorization on Views

- **create view** *geo_instructor* **as**
  (**select** *
  from *instructor*
  where *dept_name* = ’Geology’);
- **grant select on** *geo_instructor* **to** *geo_staff*
- Suppose that a *geo_staff* member issues
  - **select** *
    from *geo_instructor*;
- What if
  - *geo_staff* does not have permissions on *instructor?*
  - creator of view did not have some permissions on *instructor?*

Other Authorization Features

- **references** privilege to create foreign key
  - **grant reference** (*dept_name*) **on** *department* **to** Mariano;
  - why is this required?
- transfer of privileges
  - **grant select on** *department* **to** Amit **with grant option**;
  - **revoke select on** *department* **from** Amit, Satoshi **cascade**;
  - **revoke select on** *department* **from** Amit, Satoshi **restrict**;
- Etc. read Section 4.6 for more details we have omitted here.