What is a database view?

A database view is the result of the selection of table columns from different tables of a database. The result set can be used as a table. After executing the query for creating a view, one can see and browse the information , navigate the view up and down, and from left to right.

According to Chapter 11, (Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Administration: Real-World Skills for MCSA Certification and Beyond (Exams)) a view is “a stored SELECT statement”.

Why and when would you use a view?

Views can be used to create an index to facilitate the output of displaying information in particular criteria like alphabetically ascending or descending order of a column; for setting permission to users; or to get the view after applying specific functions (Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Administration: Real-World Skills for MCSA Certification and Beyond (Exams)).

I remember when I was doing an individual assignment in the dBase III Plus class for the Programming Course in 1989, we had to create a program to allow the user to select what columns he/she wished to see from what tables by creating views. I also created some programs in Clipper with the same idea to create views on screen and with the opportunity to send the results of the views to printer.

References

Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Administration: Real-World Skills for MCSA Certification and Beyond (Exams