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INFO 330 Databases and Data Modeling

Assignment 04

Views and Functions

Introduction

This document is about views and functions. Together they make up an abstraction layer that separates the user and the tables database. This can make querying the database and interacting with the database easier for the user. It can also preserve the integrity of the data. Properly implementing views are necessary for a good database.

Question Responses

1. A view is important because it can streamline interaction with the user. Professor Root described it as a saved select statement, one that makes it easier for people to query for data they want. A view is also important because it keeps unwanted information for being accessed. A view can be selective in what data from the table is shown. Views act as an abstraction layer and are important to maintaining the data and information of a table.
2. A view is a saved select statement, it shows the data already in the table. They are easy to implement and helpful to allow people to view data while not directly interacting with it. A user defined function (UDF) on the other hand can be interacted with, people can input parameters into a UDF and receive an output that can be used in other queries. Views cannot do this.
3. Working off the previous question, a stored procedure differs from views in that they are a named collection of SQL programming code. Stored procedures are more flexible in how they are coded and how they can be used when compared to views. Stored procedures do not use Select; they use Execute. This information comes from module 4 notes.

Summary

Views start out simple but can become quite complicated. It gets even more complicated with UDF and stored procedures. However, all three serve their purposes and all three are important to keep in mind when designing and working with a database. Good implementation of views, UDF, and stored procedures will lead to a good end database.