# ***Why Storing Files in the Database Is Considered Bad Practice***

**Saving attachments (files)** directly in a database is generally not recommended due to various reasons such as performance issues, increased database size, and complexity in managing the files. Instead, a common practice is to store the files in a file system or cloud storage and store the corresponding file metadata or references in the database.

# Why Storing Files in the Database Is Considered Bad Practice?

1**-Slower database queries:**

Storing files in the database slows down overall query performance simply because there is more data transmitted between the application and the database.

Additionally, files use up RAM which is used internally by the database to improve performance. Frequently accessed data is stored in RAM because it provides much faster reads than disk storage.

**2-Database maintenance becomes more difficult**

A larger database is more difficult to maintain than a smaller database. A sure way to rapidly increase the size of your database is to store large files in it. Backing up a larger database takes more time and results in larger backup files that are slower to move around. Other maintenance tasks also get slower over time and are more likely to fail — restoring from backup, adding indexes, database defragmentation, etc.

**3 -Storing and serving files is more complex**

Storing files as binaries in the database has a similar downside — escaping/encoding binary data in your application before sending it off to the database.

So, the explanation above lead us to ask the important questions:

Where can you store files instead?

Aside from the database, you can store files locally. It's common to store a path to the file's location (File path) in the database.

Reference:

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