# Database Internals

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# The DBMS as a black box



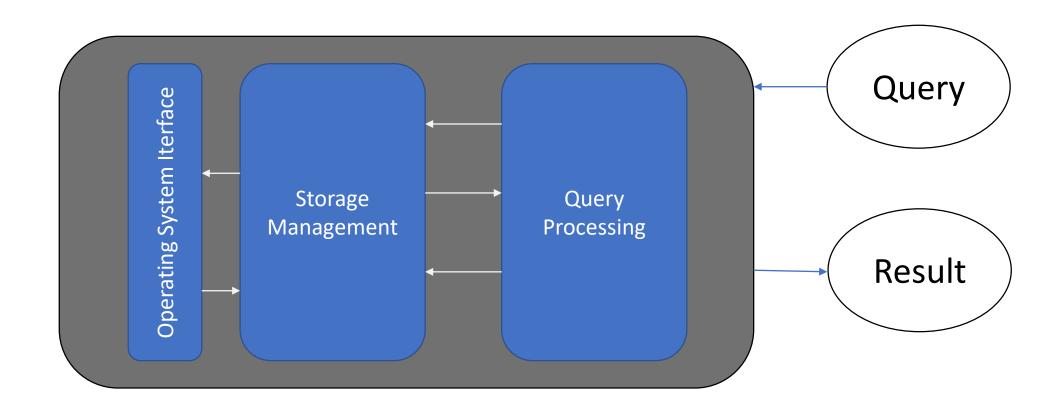
# Tracing a query through the system

### Consider the following query

```
SELECT library, postal code FROM library_locations WHERE Monday_Close > '6:00';
```

What happens to this query once the database management system receives it?

# Inside the black box



# Query Processing

### Parsing

• Takes the text of the query and ensures that it is consistent with syntax and existing objects in the system

### Rewrite

Uses preset rules to rewrite queries so that they can be more easily executed

### Optimization

- Creates a plan to access each unit of data required to execute the query
- Queries are broken into separate operations

#### Execution

Each
operation
identified
by the
optimizer is
performed.

# Storage Management

# Transaction Services

Responsible for ensuring that data remains consistent despite multiple concurrent operations

## Buffer Manager

Manages memory allocated for buffering data retrieved from disk

## Storage Manager

Manages the retrieval and writing of data from disk

### Recovery Services

Maintains the transaction log and commits data as necessary

### **Utilities**

Depend on the specific platform, but might include utilities for rapid loading of data, creating backups, others

# Where is the data?

 The simplest format for storing data is to keep each table in its own file

- Tables are logically organized into *tablespaces*, which organize disk storage for all space used by a database
  - determines the physical location of the data
  - may determine the physical format of the data
  - may determine the size of each individual block of data
  - may determine how the operating system participates in managing physical storage

# The physical organization of individual tables

- Each table is split into small blocks or pages
  - common default size of these blocks is 8 kB (but this can be changed)
    - transactional systems prefer smaller blocks
    - analytics-heavy systems may prefer larger blocks
- Data is usually not stored in any specified order
  - Indexes are a physical structure which may be built on specified keys to allow traversal of data in a particular order
    - Indexes are typically based on B+-trees but this varies by platform
    - Clustered indexes can be built to guarantee physical ordering of data
    - The creation of indexes takes processing time when records are inserted or modified and additional physical storage

# Buffering

- More important on platforms other than MySQL
- Large areas of memory (commonly called: buffer, buffer cache, bufferpool) caches data which is retrieved from disk to minimize I/O
  - Cache hit ratio: ratio of read operations (i.e. how many pages or blocks) satisfied by an element in the buffer vs those which must be read by disk
  - Most platforms allow multiple buffer areas per database and can be assigned to a set of tables

# Storage and Queries

- The optimizer must decide where to pull data from, how much, and at what point
  - There may be more than one possible combination of operations that can be used to retrieve data
  - Typical operations:
    - table scan: scan through entire table to retrieve values
    - index scan: use index to traverse entire table to retrieve values
  - Goal is to minimize I/O, keep cardinality (the number of rows) small, do as much work in parallel as possible

# A note on NoSQL databases

- Architecture varies very much by platform
- For example: MySQL document store
  - Each collection is a table
  - Each document in a collection is its own row in the collection's table
    - Two attributes: JSON and a unique ID
- Some design rules may help to improve query performance
  - keep JSON objects relatively flat
  - put similar documents together (the semantics of collections might help to improve usability & query performance)