

Flat File Systems

Definition

A flat file system is a simple database management system that stores data in plain text files, often with a single table structure, without any hierarchy or relationships between records.

Structure

Data is stored in a single file, typically as a list of records with each record containing fields separated by delimiters (e.g., commas, tabs).

Simplicity

They are easy to set up and use, making them suitable for small-scale applications or scenarios where complex data management isn't required.

Use Cases

Commonly used in simple applications like configuration files, small-scale data storage, or for data import/export between systems.

Limitations

- 1) Lack of data integrity,
- 2) difficulty in managing large datasets, and
- 3) poor scalability makes them unsuitable for complex or large-scale applications.