The major differences between the **Databases** and **Data Warehouses** are as follows:-

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| **FEATURES** | **DATABASE** | **DATA WAREHOUSE** |
| **Characteristic** | It is based on Operational Processing. | It is based on Informational Processing. |
| **Data** | It mainly stores the Current data which always guaranteed to be up-to-date. | It usually stores the Historical data whose accuracy is maintained over time. |
| **Function** | It is used for day-to-day operations. | It is used for long-term informational requirements and decision support. |
| **User** | The common users are clerk, DBA, database professional. | The common users are knowledge worker (e.g., manager, executive, analyst) |
| **Unit of work** | Its work consists of short and simple transaction. | The operations on it consists of complex queries.. |
| **Focus** | The focus is on “Data IN” | The focus is on “Information OUT” |
| **Orientation** | The orientation is on Transaction. | The orientation is on Analysis. |
| **DB design** | The designing of database is ER based and application-oriented. | The designing is done using star/snowflake schema and its subject-oriented. |
| **Summarization** | The data is primitive and highly detailed. | The data is summarized and in consolidated form. |
| **View** | The view of the data is flat relational. | The view of the data is multidimensional. |
| **Access** | The most frequent type of access type is read/write. | It mostly use the read access for the stored data. |
| **Operations** | The main operation is index/hash on primary key. | For any operation it needs a lot of scans. |
| **Number of records accessed** | A few tens of records. | A bunch of millions of records. |
| **Number of users** | In order of thousands. | In the order of hundreds only. |
| **DB size** | 100 MB to GB. | 100 GB to TB. |
| **Priority** | High performance, high availability | High flexibility, end-user autonomy |
| **Metric** | To measure the efficiency, transaction throughput is measured. | To measure the efficiency, query throughput |