











































































































<section-header><section-header><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item>























Views

• A view is like a "virtual" table

- Defined by a query, which describes how to compute the view contents on the fly
- DBMS stores the view definition query instead of view contents
- Can be used in queries just like a regular table

Creating and dropping views User(uid, name) Member(gid, uid) CREATE VIEW JessicaCircle AS SELECT * FROM User WHERE uid IN (SELECT uid FROM Member WHERE gid = 'jes'); Tables used in defining a view are called "base tables" . User and Member above To drop a view - DROP VIEW JessicaCircle;

Using views in queries

- Example: find the average popularity of members in Jessica's Circle
 - SELECT AVG(pop) FROM JessicaCircle;
 - To process the query, replace the reference to the view by its definition
 - SELECT AVG(pop) FROM (SELECT * FROM User WHERE uid IN (SELECT uid FROM Member WHERE gid = 'jes')) AS JessicaCircle;

Why use views?

Modifying views

- Does it even make sense, since views are virtual?
- It does make sense if we want users to really see views as tables
- Goal: modify the base tables such that the modification would appear to have been accomplished on the view

A simple case

CREATE VIEW UserPop AS SELECT uid, pop FROM User;

DELETE FROM UserPop WHERE uid = 123;

translates to:

DELETE FROM User WHERE uid = 123;

An impossible case

CREATE VIEW PopularUser AS SELECT uid, pop FROM User WHERE pop >= 0.8;

INSERT INTO PopularUser VALUES(987, 0.3);

• No matter what we do on *User*, the inserted row will not be in *PopularUser*

A case with too many possibilities

CREATE VIEW AveragePop(pop) AS SELECT AVG(pop) FROM User; - Note that you can rename columns in view definition

UPDATE AveragePop SET pop = 0.5;

- Set everybody's pop to 0.5?
- Adjust everybody's pop by the same amount?
- Just lower Jessica's pop?

SQL92 updateable views

- More or less just single-table selection queries
 - No join
 - No aggregation
 No subqueries
 - Other restrictions like "default/ no NOT NULL" values for attributes that are projected out in the view
 so that they can be extended with valid/NULL values in the base table
- Arguably somewhat restrictive
- Still might get it wrong in some cases
 - See the slide titled "An impossible case"
 Adding WITH CHECK OPTION to the end of the view definition will make DBMS reject such modifications

INSTEAD OF triggers for views

CREATE TRIGGER AdjustAveragePop

INSTEAD OF UPDATE ON AveragePop

REFERENCING OLD ROW AS o, NEW ROW AS n

FOR EACH ROW

UPDATE User

SET pop = pop + (n.pop-o.pop);















