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Lhinking of Databases

Databases are organized on two levels: `physical' is how the data is stored, `logical' is how it's viewed

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A database is made of

- * Physical database -- tables actually stored on the hard disk
- * Logical database -- created on-the-fly virtual tables specified by ...
- Queries -- (programs written in SQL that) define how to make a logical table from physical tables
- GUIs -- the interface for users to DBs

edundancy is bad because it cc

ead to inconsistent data ... very bad • Keep only one copy of any data

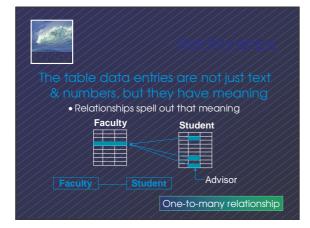
- ... does that make it right???
- Rather than repeating data, reference it in
- the places where it is needed
- Keep data in its own table
- Save its key wherever it is needed

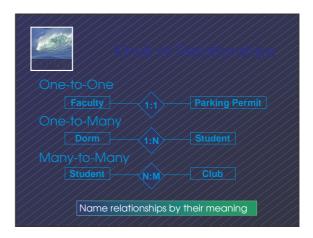
When users want the data, get it using its key!

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Physical databases store data in the "best" way -- no redundancy, ...

- Expect many tables of "simple" entities
- "Physical" means that the data is actually stored on the disk -- contrast with logical DBs that are "virtual tables"
- Physical databases are designed "for the computer" not for the user
- The "physical schema" gives table definitions and the relationships

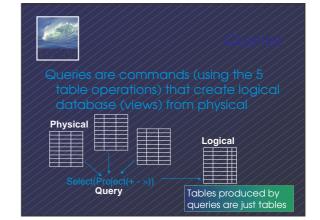




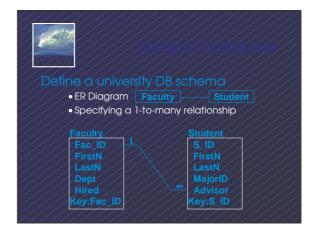
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Users want & need different information

- Different tasks require different information
- Different authority levels, e.g. need to know
- Customizing to users means everyone sees exactly what they need to see
- * A view is a user's customized database
- * Views are virtual, built on-the-fly from the
- physical database and not kept
 - Data is always current
 - Custom structure can be very adaptable









SELECT Student.FirstN, Student.LastN FROM Student WHERE MajorID=14;



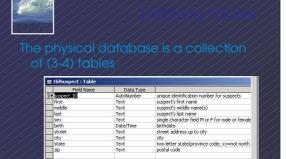
Notice that selection comes from the combined (by Inner Join) table

- Build physical DB to avoid redundancy, etc
 - Each physical table represents 1 entity
 - Expect that no physical table gives any
 - user their exact view
 - •To build view, build a query that ... Joins tables together into a 'super' table Trims out only the items the user wants
 - These guidelines are not an algorithm, but they usually produce good results

- "San Lucas Arrest Monitoring Application"
- The DB keeps track of suspects, police, and arrests. It monitors the blood alcohol and drug testing process while protecting the privacy of the citizens
- You will create the DB in MS Access, including tables, queries, forms and reports



http://dui.findlaw.com/index3.html



Field Properties





13121-010		
	JIs (forms) for users must be	neat
	attractive, with a slogan	<u> </u>
///////	E frm0fficer	
//////	Badge Number 233 Date Hired 6/1/2000	
[]/]///	Rank Patrolman Sinthdate 4/25/1971	
//////	First Name Brenda SSN 255-14-5441	
	Middle Lee	
//////	Last Name Harrison SLAMA	
//////	Street 4 wheel Dr.	
//////	City Bremerton State WA ZP 98201	
//////		
///////	Record: 14 4 2 + 11 +* of 3	
//////		





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