DATABASE TERMINOLOGY

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DATABASE

Organized collection of files containing data stored in organized logical data structures.

SCHEMA

Named collection (namespace) of objects inside a database, including logical structures such as tables, indexes and stored procedures.

TABLE

Unit of logical data storage in a database, consisting of columns and rows.

INDEX

Optional organized data structure to speed up data access.

Different index types help speed up different access patterns. Index types include B-Tree, Bitmap and Reverse Key.

CONSTRAINT

Named rule to prevent invalid data entry into a table.

Types of constraints include Check, Foreign Key, Primary Key, NOT NULL and Unique Key.

VIEW

Tailored presentation of data in one or more tables.

A view presents the output of a SQL query over one or more tables as another table without duplication of data.

SQL

Declarative language to access a database, define database objects, and store, query and manipulate data in those objects.

Short for Structured Query Language.

STORED PROCEDURE

Subroutine stored in the database that can be invoked to perform a certain task.

STORED FUNCTION

Subroutine stored in the database that returns a value and can be called in a SQL statement.