SQL DDL II

CS121: Relational Databases

Fall 2018 – Lecture 8

Last Lecture

- Covered SQL constraints
  - **`NOT NULL`** constraints
  - **`CHECK`** constraints
  - **`PRIMARY KEY`** constraints
  - **`FOREIGN KEY`** constraints
  - **`UNIQUE`** constraints
- Impact of **`NULL`** values on constraint enforcement
  - Specifically, **`FOREIGN KEY`** and **`UNIQUE`**…
- Automatic resolution of constraint violation

Constraint Names

- Can assign names to constraints
  - When constraint is violated, error indicates which constraint
  - Database usually assigns names to constraints if you don't
  - Rules on constraint names vary
- Example:

```
CREATE TABLE employee (
   ...
   CONSTRAINT emp_pk      PRIMARY KEY (emp_id),
   CONSTRAINT emp_ssn_ck  UNIQUE (emp_ssn),
   CONSTRAINT emp_mgr_fk  FOREIGN KEY (manager_id)
                          REFERENCES employee
```

- Useful for referring to specific constraints

Temporary Constraint Violation

- Constraints take time to enforce
  - Can dramatically impact performance of large data-import operations
- Some operations may need to temporarily violate constraints
  - The operation is performed within a larger transaction (i.e. a batch of operations that should be treated as a unit)
  - During the transaction, constraints are temporarily violated
  - At end of transaction, constraint is restored
- Defer constraint enforcement to end of transaction
  - At end of transaction, all changes are checked against deferred constraints

Deferring Constraint Application

- Can mark constraints as deferrable
- In constraint declaration, specify:
  - **`DEFERRABLE`** constraints may be deferred to end of transaction
  - **`NOT DEFERRABLE`** constraints are *always* applied immediately
- For **`DEFERRABLE`** constraints:
  - **`INITIALLY IMMEDIATE`** is applied immediately by default
  - **`INITIALLY DEFERRED`** is applied at end of transaction by default

Temporarily Removing Constraints

- To defer constraints in current transaction:

```
SET CONSTRAINTS c1, c2, ... DEFERRED;
```

  - Specified constraints must be deferrable
- Not all databases support deferred constraints
  - Only option is to temporarily remove and then reapply constraints
  - Will usually affect all users of database! Safest to ensure exclusive access for this.
  - Remove, then reapply constraints with **`ALTER TABLE`** syntax

Date and Time Values

- SQL provides data types for dates and times
- **`DATE`**
  - A calendar date, including year, month, and day of month
- **`TIME`**
  - A time of day, including hour, minute, and second value
  - Doesn't include fractional seconds
- **`TIME(P)`**
  - Just like **`TIME`**, but includes P digits of fractional seconds
  - Typically, P = [0, 6]

Date and Time Values (2)

- Can include timezone info as well:
  - `TIME WITH TIMEZONE`
  - `TIME(P) WITH TIMEZONE`
- `TIMESTAMP`
  - A combination of date and time values
  - Includes fractional seconds by default
  - Can also specify `TIMESTAMP(P)`
  - P = 6 by default
  - Timestamps can also include time zone info
    - `TIMESTAMP WITH TIMEZONE`
    - `TIMESTAMP(P) WITH TIMEZONE`

Date and Time Values (3)

- Often a variety of other non-standard types
  - **`DATETIME`** – Like **`TIMESTAMP`** but P = 0 by default
  - **`YEAR`** – Just a 4-digit year value
  - Nonstandard = not portable

Microsoft SQLServer Date Types

- SQLServer 2005 and earlier provide very different date/time support
  - **`DATETIME`** – more like standard **`TIMESTAMP`** type
    - Represents both date and time
    - Jan 1, 1753 – Dec 31, 9999; precision of 3.33ms (???)
  - **`SMALLDATETIME`**
    - Jan 1, 1900 – Jun 6, 2079; precision of 1 minute
  - No ability to represent only a date, or only a time!
- SQLServer 2008 adds more standard-like support
  - **`DATE`**, **`TIME`**, **`DATETIME2`** – similar to standard types
  - **`DATETIMEOFFSET`** – date/time value plus timezone

Date and Time Formats

- Date and time values follow specific formats
  - Enclosed in single-quotes
- Examples: MER-A "Spirit" launch time
  - Timestamp value (UT; +0):
    `'2003-06-10 17:58:46.773'`
  - Date value: `'2003-06-10'`
  - Time value: `'17:58:47'`
- Can have invalid date/time values:
  - Invalid time: `'25:14:68'`
  - Invalid date: `'2001-02-31'`
  - Some DBMSes can allow partial/invalid dates and times, if required by an application

Date and Time Formats (2)

- Most DBMSes support many date/time formats
- Most widely supported is ISO-8601 date/time format
  - ISO-8601 format:

    `'2003-06-10 17:58:46.773'`
    - year-month-day hour:minutes:seconds.milliseconds
    - Sometimes date and time are separated by "T" character
    - Time is in 24-hour time format
    - Optional timezone specification at end
  - Other formats:

    `'June 10, 2003 5:58:46 PM'`

    `'10-Jun-2003 17:58:46.773'`
  - Most databases can parse all of these

“Current Time” Values

- Several functions provide current date and time values

  `CURRENT_DATE()`

  `CURRENT_TIME()`

  `CURRENT_TIMESTAMP()`

  - Include time zone information

  `LOCALTIME()`

  `LOCALTIMESTAMP()`

  - Don’t include time zone information
- Usually many other functions too, e.g. **`NOW()`**
  - Nonstandard, but widely supported

Components of Dates and Times

- Date and time values are *not* atomic
  - Not really allowed in the Relational Model…
  - (In reality, many SQL types are not atomic)
- SQL provides a function to extract components of dates and times
  - **`EXTRACT (`*`field`*` FROM `*`value`*`)`**
  - Can specify:
    - **`YEAR`**, **`MONTH`**, **`DAY`**, **`HOUR`**, **`MINUTE`**, **`SECOND`**
    - **`TIMZEONE_HOUR`**, **`TIMEZONE_MINUTE`**
  - Many other (nonstandard but common) options too
    - week of year, day of year, day of week, quarter, century, …

Example Date Operation

- Sales records:

```
CREATE TABLE salesrecords (
  sale_id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY,
  cust_id INTEGER NOT NULL,
  sale_time TIMESTAMP NOT NULL,
  sales_total NUMERIC(8, 2) NOT NULL,
  ...
);
```

- Compute monthly sales totals:
  - Start by finding month of each sale

```
SELECT sale_id,
  EXTRACT (MONTH FROM sale_time) AS sale_month
  FROM salesrecords;
```

  - Build larger query using this information

Time Intervals

- **`INTERVAL`**
  - Data type for time intervals
  - Supports operations on dates and times
  - Also supports a precision: **`INTERVAL(P)`**
- If *x* and *y* are date values:

  x – *y* produces an **`INTERVAL`**
- If *i* is an **`INTERVAL`** value:

  x + *i* or *x* – *i* produces a date value
- Can use **`INTERVAL`** to specify fixed intervals
  - **`INTERVAL 1 WEEK`**
  - **`INTERVAL '1 WEEK'`**

Example Date Schema

- Event database schema:

```
CREATE TABLE event (
  event_id   INTEGER       PRIMARY KEY,
  event_type VARCHAR(20)   NOT NULL,
  event_date DATE          NOT NULL,
  event_desc VARCHAR(200)
);
```

- To generate notices of upcoming events:

```
SELECT * FROM event
 WHERE event_date >= CURRENT_DATE() AND
       event_date <=
           (CURRENT_DATE() + INTERVAL 1 WEEK);
```

Example Date Schema (2)

- Can rewrite to use **BETWEEN** syntax:

```
SELECT * FROM event
 WHERE event_date BETWEEN
      CURRENT_DATE() AND
      (CURRENT_DATE() + INTERVAL 1 WEEK);
```

- Current date/time functions are evaluated only once during a query! ☺
  - e.g. query will see one value for **CURRENT_TIME()** even if it runs for an extended period of time

“Large Object” Types

- SQL **`CHAR(N)`** and **`VARCHAR(N)`** types have limited sizes
  - For **`CHAR`**, usually N < 256
  - For **`VARCHAR`**, usually N < 65536
- **`BLOB`** and **`CLOB`** types support larger data sizes
  - “LOB” = Large Object
  - Useful for storing images, documents, etc.
  - Support varies widely across DBMSes
  - **`TEXT`** is also rather common
    - Large text fields, e.g. MB or GB of text data

Example Schema

- Schema for storing book reviews:

```
CREATE TABLE bookreview (
  review_id    INT PRIMARY KEY,
  book_title   VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL,
  book_image   BLOB,
  reviewer     VARCHAR(30) NOT NULL,
  pub_time     TIMESTAMP NOT NULL,
  review_text CLOB NOT NULL,
  UNIQUE (book_title, reviewer)
);
```

- Review text can be large
- Can also include a book image, if desired

Large Object Notes

- General support for "large object" types is usually focused on smaller objects
  - No larger than a few 10s of KBs
  - A few MBs is *definitely* pushing it
- Most expensive part is moving large objects into and out of database
  - For simple, general purpose DBMSes, can involve constructing large SQL statements with escaped data
- Databases also don't store this information very efficiently

Large Object Notes (2)

- For objects larger than ~100 KB, should definitely use the filesystem
  - That's what it's designed for!
  - Store *filesystem paths* in the database instead
- For smaller objects that are frequently retrieved, storing on filesystem can take load off database
  - e.g. user icons for a social networking website
  - Let webserver serve them directly from the filesystem – again, it knows how to do that kind of thing more quickly
- Some DBMSes have specialized support for storing and manipulating very large objects
  - Just don't expect your application to be easily portable…

Default Values

- Can specify default values for columns
  - ***colname type* DEFAULT *expr***
  - Can specify an actual value
    - **book_rating INT DEFAULT 3**
  - Can specify an expression
    - **pub_time TIMESTAMP DEFAULT NOW()**
- If default value is unspecified, DB will use **NULL**
- Affects **INSERT** statements
  - Columns with default values don't have to be specified
  - Columns without a default value *must* be specified at insert-time!

Serial Primary Key Values

- Many databases offer special support for integer primary keys
  - DB will generate unique values for use as primary keys
- Examples:
  - PostgreSQL and MySQL:

```
CREATE TABLE employee (
  emp_id   SERIAL PRIMARY KEY,
  ...
```

  - Microsoft SQLServer:

```
CREATE TABLE employee (
  emp_id   INT IDENTITY PRIMARY KEY,
  ...
```

Updated Book Review Schema


```
CREATE TABLE bookreview (
  review_id    SERIAL       PRIMARY KEY,
  book_title   VARCHAR(50)  NOT NULL,
  book_image   BLOB,
  reviewer     VARCHAR(30)  NOT NULL,
  pub_time     TIMESTAMP    NOT NULL DEFAULT NOW(),
  book_rating  INT          NOT NULL DEFAULT 3,
  review_text  CLOB         NOT NULL,
  UNIQUE (book_title, reviewer)
);
```

- Every new review gets a unique ID value
- Publication time is set to current time when review is added to database
- Default book rating is 3 out of 5

Altering Table Schemas

- SQL **`ALTER TABLE`** command allows schema changes
- Wide variety of operations
  - Rename a table
  - Add and remove constraints
  - Add and remove table columns
  - Change the type of a column
  - Change default values for columns
- Very useful for migrating schema to new version
  - Migration process must be carefully designed…
- Again, support varies across DBMSes

Example Alterations

- Rename the *bookreview* table:

```
ALTER TABLE bookreview
  RENAME TO item_review;
```

- Remove the book image column:

```
ALTER TABLE bookreview
  DROP COLUMN book_image;
```

- Add a constraint to the *bookreview* table:

```
ALTER TABLE bookreview
  ADD CHECK (book_rating BETWEEN 1 AND 5);
```

Table Alteration Notes

- Can drop columns from tables
  - What if the column is a key?
  - What if the column is referenced by a view?
  - Can often specify **`CASCADE`** to delete dependent objects, if desired
- Newly added columns must have a default value
  - Existing rows in database get default value for new column
- Changing table schema can be *very* expensive
  - Some operations can require scanning or rewriting the entire table
    - Some DBs do this for all schema-alteration commands, e.g. MySQL
  - e.g. adding a new constraint requires a table scan

Temporary Tables

- Sometimes want to generate and store relations temporarily
  - Complex operations implemented as multiple queries
  - This is relational algebra assignment operation: ←
- SQL provides temporary tables for these cases
  - Table's contents are associated with client's session
  - Clients can't access each others' temp table data
- SQL standard specifies global temporary tables
  - Temporary table has a global name and schema
  - Only the contents of the temporary table are per-client
  - When client disconnects, their temporary data is purged

Temporary Tables (2)

- Many databases also provide local temporary tables
  - Table's schema is also local to client session
  - When client disconnects, the table is dropped
  - Different clients can use same table name with different schemas
- Client can manually purge data from temp tables when needed
  - In case of local temp tables, can also drop them anytime during session

Temporary Table Syntax

- Simple variation of **CREATE TABLE** syntax
  - Add **TEMPORARY** (or **GLOBAL TEMPORARY**) to command
- Example:
  - Make a temporary table to store counts of sales grouped by month

```
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE salesbymonth (
   sale_month INT NOT NULL,
   num_sales  INT NOT NULL
);
```

Temporary Table Example

- Can populate temp table with computed values

```
INSERT INTO salesbymonth
   SELECT EXTRACT (MONTH FROM sale_time) AS mon,
          COUNT(*)
     FROM salesrecords GROUP BY mon;
```

  - Only need to perform computations once
  - Can improve efficiency of large or multi-step operations
  - Temporary results are cleaned up at end of session
- Issue queries against temporary table and use results

```
SELECT sale_month, num_sales, promotion_desc
  FROM salesbymonth
       JOIN promotions USING (sale_month);
```

Using Temporary Tables

- Temporary tables can dramatically improve performance of certain queries
- Approach:
  - Create temporary table to store useful but costly intermediate results
    - Don't use many (or any) constraints – want to be fast!
  - Populate temporary table via **`INSERT ... SELECT`** statement
  - Use temporary table to compute other results
  - Temporary table goes away automatically, at end of transaction, or at end of session

Alternate Temp-Table Syntaxes

- Databases frequently support alternate syntaxes for creating and populating temporary tables
  - Simplify the common case!
- One common syntax (e.g. MySQL, Postgres, Oracle):

```
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE tblname AS
  select_stmt;
```

- Another common syntax (e.g. Postgres, SQLServer):

```
SELECT ... INTO TEMPORARY TABLE ...;
```

- Both syntaxes can also create non-temporary tables

Real-World Example

- A query run on an older MySQL server instance:

```
SELECT ident, total_a / total_b AS ratio
FROM (SELECT CONCAT(a1, a2) AS ident,
             SUM(val_a) AS total_a
      FROM t1 GROUP BY ident) AS result1,
     (SELECT CONCAT(a1, a2) AS ident,
             SUM(val_b) AS total_b
      FROM t2 GROUP BY ident) AS result2
WHERE result1.ident = result2.ident;
```

- Overall query takes ~15 mins to execute on fast server
- Inner queries complete in << 1 second by themselves

Real-World Example (2)

- MySQL query:

```
SELECT ident, total_a / total_b AS ratio
FROM (SELECT CONCAT(a1, a2) AS ident,
             SUM(val_a) AS total_a
      FROM t1 GROUP BY ident) AS result1,
     (SELECT CONCAT(a1, a2) AS ident,
             SUM(val_b) AS total_b
      FROM t2 GROUP BY ident) AS result2
WHERE result1.ident = result2.ident;
```

- Problem is that MySQL cannot *efficiently* join two derived results using a computed column
  - A limitation of MySQL's join processor ☹

Real-World Example (3)

- A solution:
  - First, create temporary tables to hold intermediate results

```
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE temp1 AS
   SELECT CONCAT(a1, a2) AS ident,
          SUM(val_a) AS total_a
   FROM t1 GROUP BY ident;
```

    - …same with other inner query…
  - Second, create indexes on temporary tables
  - Finally, issue outer query against temporary tables
- Result:
  - Entire process, including create/drop temp tables, takes < 1 second (as opposed to ~15 minutes)