

30. The system of claim 24, the relational database is distributed across at least two network locations such that the description component runs against each location database to generate respective data files.

31. The system of claim 30, the respective data files are retrieved and processed to reconstruct the relational database.

32. The system of claim 30, the data files are retrieved and processed by corresponding applications in a disconnected environment.

33. The system of claim 24, the format is one of implementation-neutral and implementation-specific.

34. A method of representing a relational database, comprising:

accessing relational schema information of the relational database; and

generating declarative description data of the relational schema.

35. The method of claim 34, the declarative description data is based upon an XML syntax.

36. The method of claim 34, further comprising generating physical information from the relational schema information, the physical information is part of the declarative description data.

37. The method of claim 34, further comprising generating logical information by annotating physical information from the relational schema information.

38. The method of claim 34, further comprising segmenting the declarative description data into more manageable data.

39. The method of claim 34, further comprising updating the declarative description data when the relational database is changed.

40. The method of claim 34, the relational schema information is metadata.

41. The method of claim 34, further comprising reconstructing the relational database in a disconnected environment by processing the declarative description data.

42. The method of claim 34, restricting access to the declarative description data according to user profile privileges.

43. The method of claim 34, restricting access to the relational database while providing open access to the declarative description data.

44. A method of representing a relational database, comprising:

accessing metadata of the relational database;

generating physical data from the metadata according to a declarative description language;

generating logical data by annotating the physical data using the declarative description language; and

storing the physical and logical information in a data file.

45. The method of claim 44, further comprising accessing the data file to reconstruct the structure and/or data of the relational database in an offline environment.

46. A system that facilitates representing a relational database in a different format, comprising:

means for accessing metadata of the relational database;

means for generating physical data from the metadata according to a declarative description language;

means for generating logical data by annotating the physical data using the declarative description language; and

means for storing the physical and logical information in a data file.

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