



C H A P T E R

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**DATABASE
DESIGN**

Files versus Database

A **file** is a collection of similar records.

A **database** is a collection of interrelated files (meaning that records in one file are physically related to records in another file).

- related via foreign keys

Pros and Cons of Conventional Files

Pros

- Easy to design because of their single-application focus
- Excellent performance due to optimized organization for a single application

Cons

- Harder to adapt to sharing across applications
- Harder to adapt to new requirements (designed for ‘current’ applications).
- Need to duplicate attributes in several files.