

DB storage architectures: Rows and Columns



COS 518: *Advanced Computer Systems*
Lecture 8

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Basic row-based storage

8	32	4	2	4	= 50
Id BIGINT	Name CHAR(32)	Age INT	Gender SMALLINT	Birthday DATE	

2

Basic row-based storage

	8	32	4	2	4	= 50
0	Id BIGINT	Name CHAR(32)	Age INT	Gender SMALLINT	Birthday DATE	
50	Id BIGINT	Name CHAR(32)	Age INT	Gender SMALLINT	Birthday DATE	
100	Id BIGINT	Name CHAR(32)	Age INT	Gender SMALLINT	Birthday DATE	
150	Id BIGINT	Name CHAR(32)	Age INT	Gender SMALLINT	Birthday DATE	

3

Basic row-based storage

	8	32	4	2	4	= 50
0	Id BIGINT	Name CHAR(32)	Age INT	Gender SMALLINT	Birthday DATE	
50	Id BIGINT	Name CHAR(32)	Age INT	Gender SMALLINT	Birthday DATE	
100	Id BIGINT	Name CHAR(32)	Age INT	Gender SMALLINT	Birthday DATE	
150	Id BIGINT	Name CHAR(32)	Age INT	Gender SMALLINT	Birthday DATE	

READ 32 bytes at positions (0 + 8), (50 + 8), (100 + 8), (150 + 8)

4

Row-based storage: variable lengths

8	0 - 255	4	2	4	= 18 - 273
Id BIGINT	URL VARCHAR(255)	Size INT	Code SMALLINT	Fetchd DATE	

How do you walk through all the URLs?
No longer at fixed offsets

5

Row-based storage: variable lengths

8	0 - 255	4	2	4	= 18 - 273
Id BIGINT	URL VARCHAR(255)	Size INT	Code SMALLINT	Fetchd DATE	

- Data stored in fixed-sized pages on disk
 - E.g., typically 8K in PostgreSQL
 - Page includes metadata and actual data items
 - Items = indexes, data rows

6

Row-based storage: variable lengths

Table 63-2. Overall Page Layout

Item	Description
PageHeaderData	24 bytes long. Contains general information about the page, including free space pointers.
ItemIdData	Array of (offset,length) pairs pointing to the actual items. 4 bytes per item.
Free space	The unallocated space. New item pointers are allocated from the start of this area, new items from the end.
Items	The actual items themselves.
Special space	Index access method specific data. Different methods store different data. Empty in ordinary tables.

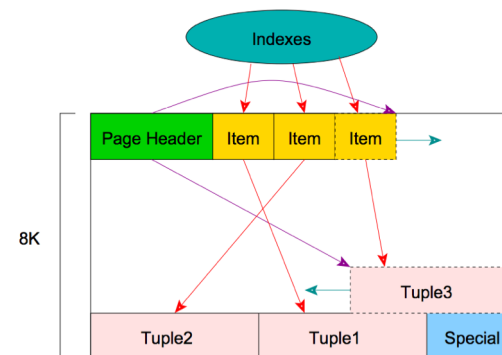
<https://www.postgresql.org/docs/9.5/static/storage-page-layout.html>

ItemIdData: [58, 101), (102, 290), (291, 59)]

58	Id BIGINT	URL VARCHAR(255)	Size INT	Code SMALLINT	Fetchd DATE
102	Id BIGINT	URL VARCHAR(255)	Size INT	Code SMALLINT	Fetchd DATE
291	Id BIGINT	URL VARCHAR(255)	Size INT	Code SMALLINT	Fetchd DATE

7

Row-based storage: variable lengths



8

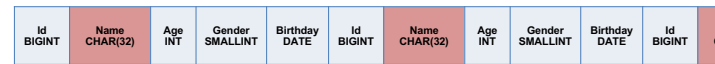
Types of database workloads

- OLTP = OnLine Transaction Processing
 - Write-heavy
 - Transactions
- OLAP = OnLine Analytical Processing
 - Read-heavy
 - Analytical scans or “rollups” along column
 - “SELECT AVG(latency) FROM system WHERE time > now() – interval(“1h”)

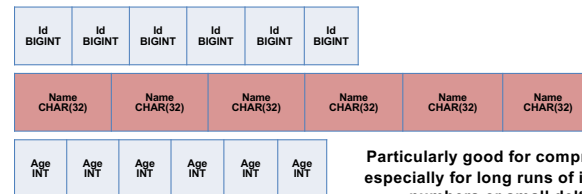
9

Comparison of disk layouts

- Row-oriented layout



- Column-oriented layout



Particularly good for compression, especially for long runs of identical numbers or small deltas

10

Good discussion of benefits of columns...

C-Store: A Column-oriented DBMS

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<http://db.csail.mit.edu/projects/cstore/vldb.pdf>

Column-Stores vs. Row-Stores: How Different Are They Really?

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<http://db.csail.mit.edu/projects/cstore/abadi-sigmod08.pdf>

11