Distributed Database

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A **Distributed Database** is basically a Database that is not limited to one system, it is spread over different sites, i.e, on multiple computers or over a network of computers. A distributed database system is located on various sites that don't share physical components. This may be required when a particular database needs to be accessed by various users globally. It needs to be managed such that for the users it looks like one single database.

Types:

1. **Homogeneous Database:** In a homogeneous database, all different sites store database identically. The operating system, database management system, and the data structures used – all are the same at all sites. Hence, they're easy to manage.

1. **Heterogeneous Database:** In a heterogeneous distributed database, different sites can use different schema and software that can lead to problems in query processing and transactions. Also, a particular site might be completely unaware of the other sites. Different computers may use different operating systems and different database applications. They may even use different data models for the database. Hence, translations are required for different sites to communicate.

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