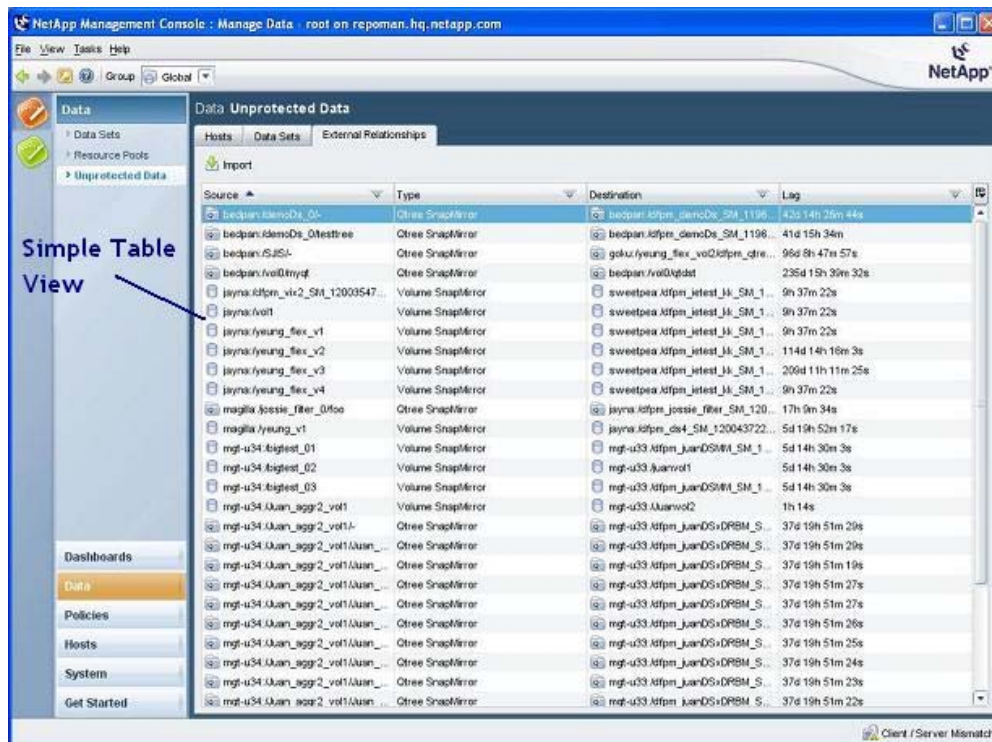# View

Summary

USER NEED

Users need a way to:
- Select an object
- View essential information about it
- Act on it

USE WHEN

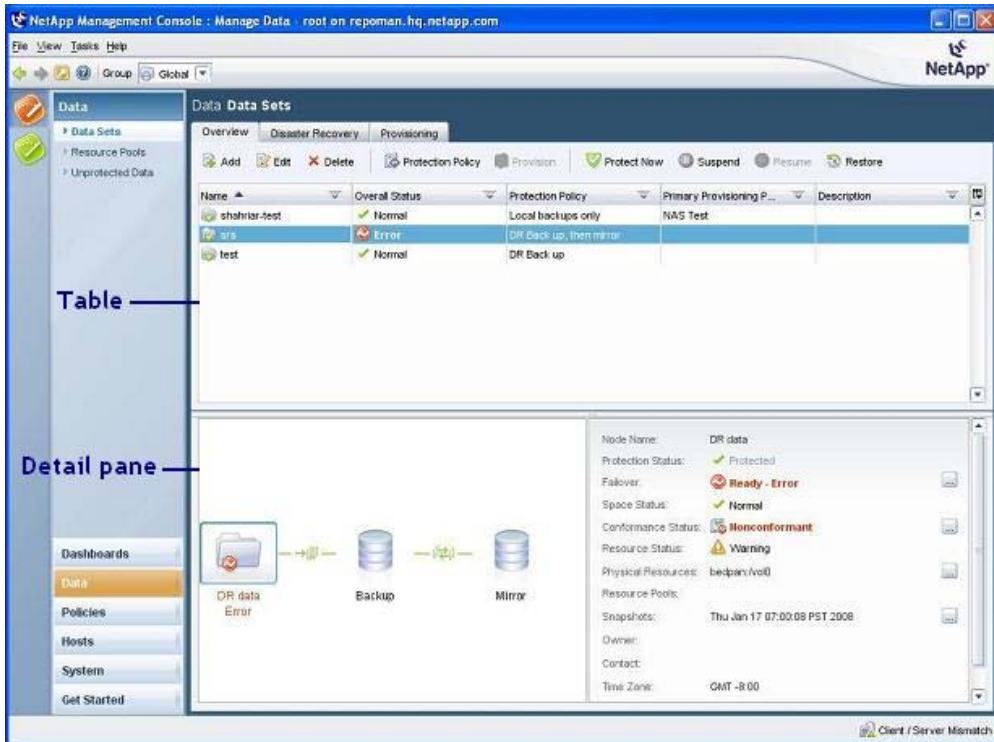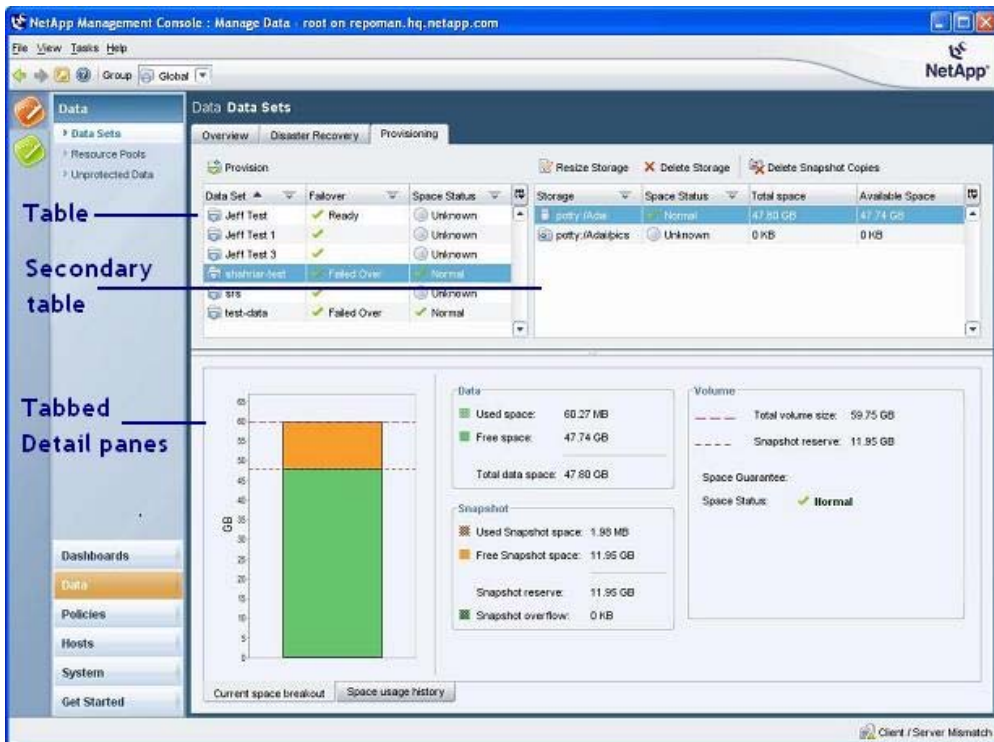- An application has many different objects of the same type

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EXAMPLE

A simple view with just a list

A view with a list and below it, a detail pane with information about the item selected in the list

A view with a list, a secondary list, and below them, a tabbed set of detail panes with information about the item selected in the primary list

How It Works

GETTING TO IT

Each item in the navigation pane is associated with a view:

- If a main item in the navigation pane has no sub-items, selecting the item displays its view.
- If a main item has sub-items, selecting a sub-item displays the view associated with it.
- If a sub-item has tabs, selecting a tab displays the view associated with it.

DEFAULT BEHAVIORS

Initial state:
- The list's defaults -- the columns that are displayed, the column widths, the list's sort order -- are in effect.
- The first item in the list is selected.
- If a view has a tabbed detail pane, the leftmost tab is selected.
- Information about the item selected in the list appears in the detail pane.

Thereafter:
- The item that's selected in the list remains selected throughout the session -- even if the user goes to a different view -- until the user selects a different item.
- For information about the behavior of the elements of the list, see
  Manage Column button
  Filter button
  Table management features
- See detail pane for information about its behaviors.

INTERACTING WITH IT

 Selecting an item in the view's list:
- Displays information about the item
- Enables the user to use the action buttons or the commands in the context menu to act on the item

ACTION BUTTONS

Every view has one or more action buttons associated with it.

Clicking an action button:
- Carries out the action on the item that's selected in the list. (Except for Add: instead Add inserts a new item in the table.)

Several actions are common to many views:
- (see Add wizard)
- (see Edit dialog box)
- (see Copy button)
- (see Delete button)

CONTEXT MENUS
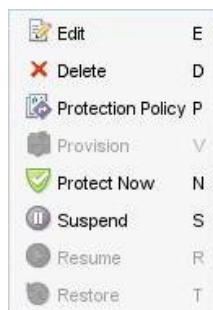
 Right-clicking an item in a list selects it (if it's not already selected) and displays a context menu of commands that duplicate the action buttons.

Clicking a command:
• Carries out the command on the item that's selected. (See context menu for details.)

TABLE MANAGEMENT CONTROLS

 Clicking the Manage Columns button displays a menu that enables users to:
- Add and remove columns
- Display a horizontal scroll bar
- Resize the columns to fit the width of the list

For details see Manage Column button.

Clicking the Filter button:
- Displays only the items that match the filter criteria (For details see [Filter button](#).)

Clicking a column heading:
- Sorts the column by the contents of the column. (For details see [Table management features](#).)

Dragging a column heading:
- Moves the column to a new location in the list. (For details see [Table management features](#).)

Dragging the column splitter:
- Resizes the column to the left of the splitter. (For details see [Table management features](#).)

Dragging the pane splitter below the list:
- Shortens or lengthens the list. (For details see [Table management features](#).)

INTERFACE STATES

A list item can have either of two states: selected or unselected.

For the interface states of the other components of a view see:
- [Tabs](#)
- [Action buttons](#)
- [Manage Column button](#)
- [Filter button](#)
- [Table management features](#)
- [Copy button](#)
- [Delete button](#)
- [Detail pane](#)
- [Context menu](#)

Rationale

Views provide a consistent interface for focusing on a single object in the system, getting basic information about it, and acting on it.

Issues

Issue: None.

-- [JeffreySchwamberger](#) - 12 Feb 2008

r7 - 14 Oct 2008 - 18:08:53 - [JeffreySchwamberger](#)