

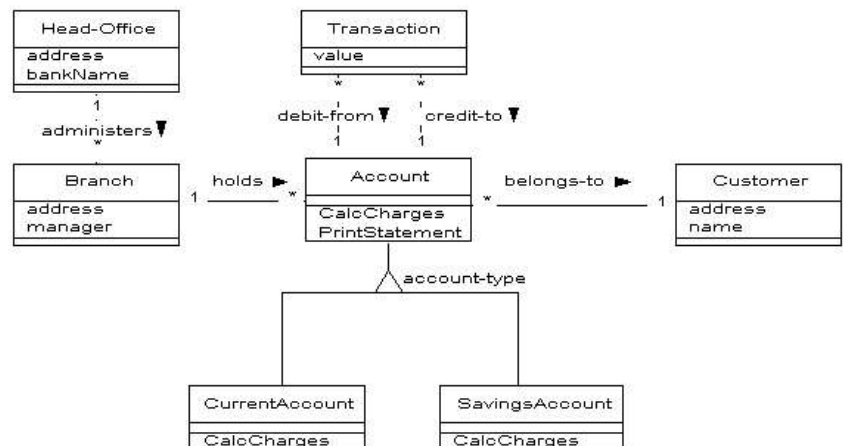


Announcements > Week 4

Week 4

Posted May 26, 2025 2:38 AM

Welcome to week 4. Last week we looked at process modeling. This week we dive into object modeling. The textbook reading looks at two kinds of models; the entity-relationship model and the object model.



Entity-relationship diagrams

are a very useful tool for describing the structure of data to be stored in our system. E-R diagrams relate very closely to relational databases. It is a tool I have used time and time again to model the databases to support various systems. There are a few different notations used for E-R diagrams, and our textbook presents the "crow's foot" notation which has always been my preference. E-R diagrams, as the name suggests, focus on the entities to be represented in the system and the relationships between them.

Object models are quite similar but incorporate ideas of the object-oriented programming concepts we find in programming languages like Python, Java, and C++. We have entities we represent in the model, and these entities have properties and operations associated with them. The notation is somewhat similar to that of E-R modeling.

I will tend to use E-R models when I know my target database platform is a relational database (such as Oracle or MySQL), and object models when my

platform is a NoSQL database (such as MongoDB). But don't take that as a rule. That's just my preference.

We have another discussion topic this week so be sure to get your initial post in by Thursday evening, and two replies by Sunday. Also, there is an assignment that asks you to examine an object model.

Finally, please keep an eye on project 1 which is due at the end of week 5.

Have a great week and, as always, feel free to reach out if you have any questions.