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How to create ER diagram for existing MySQL database with MySQL Workbench - MySQL Workbench Tutorials

3-4 минуты

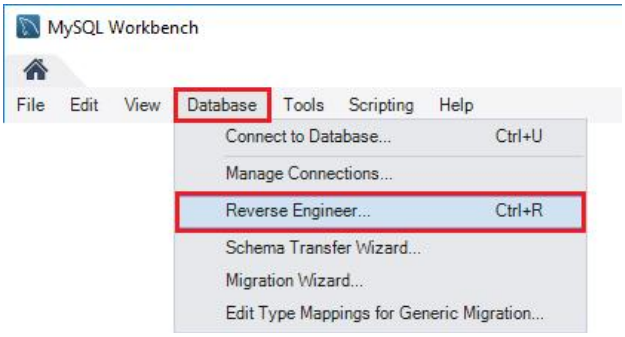
This artcle will show you how to create a diagram for existing MySQL or MariaDB database using **MySQL Workbench**.

Reverse engineer a database

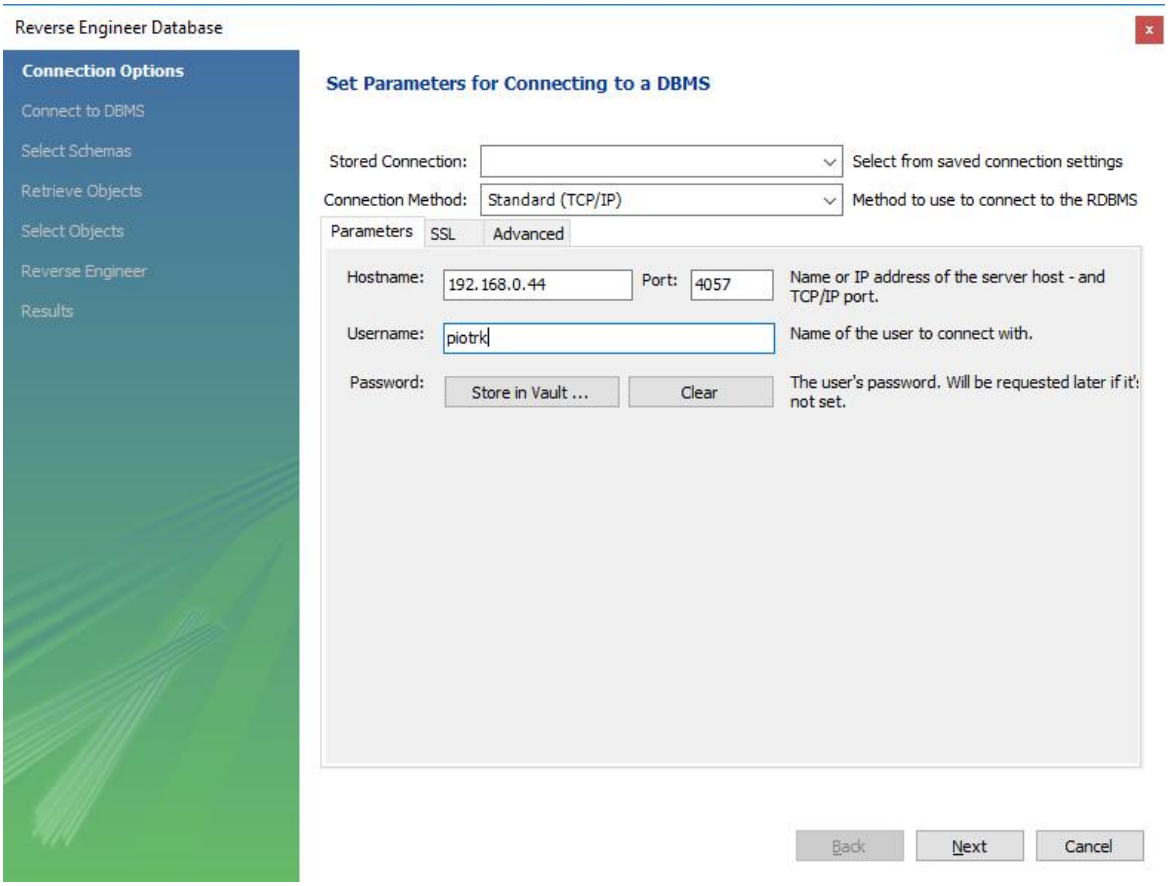
To create a diagram from existing database you need to use **reverse engineering** functionality to create a model.

Learn about reverse engineering and models in MySQL Workbench

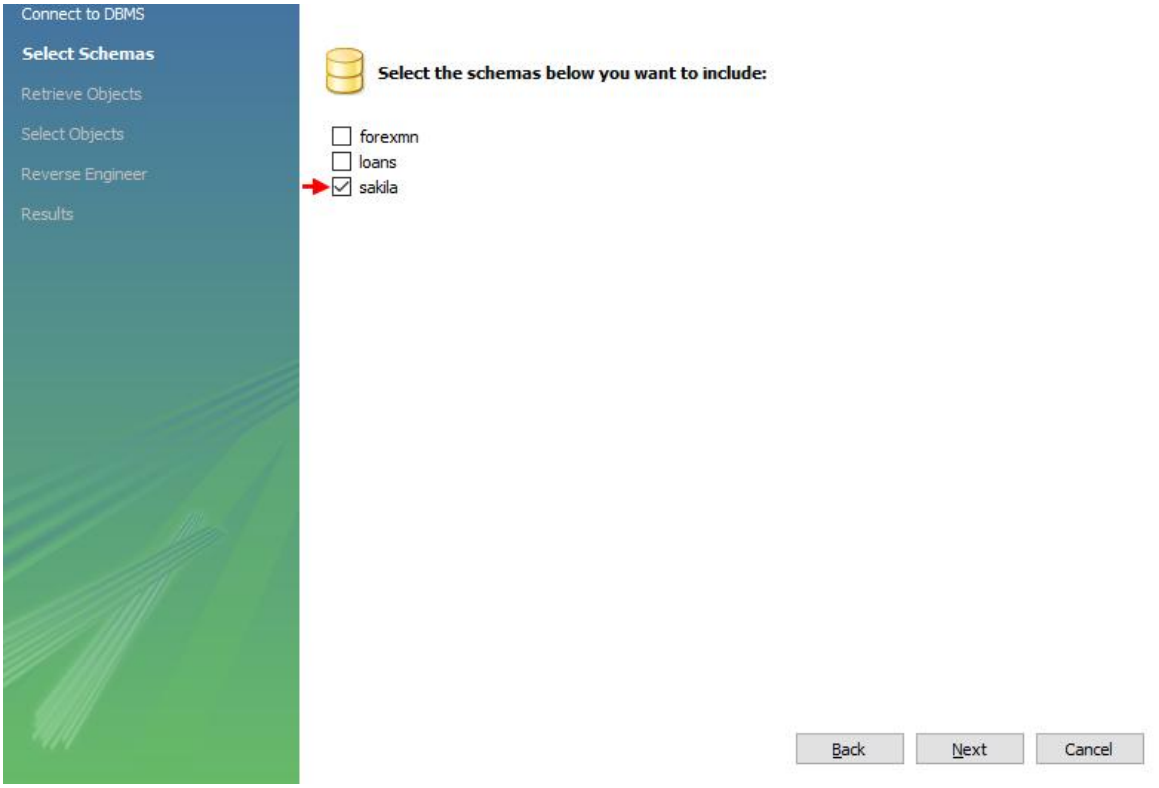
To reverse engineer database go to menu **Database** and choose **Reverse Engineer...** option.



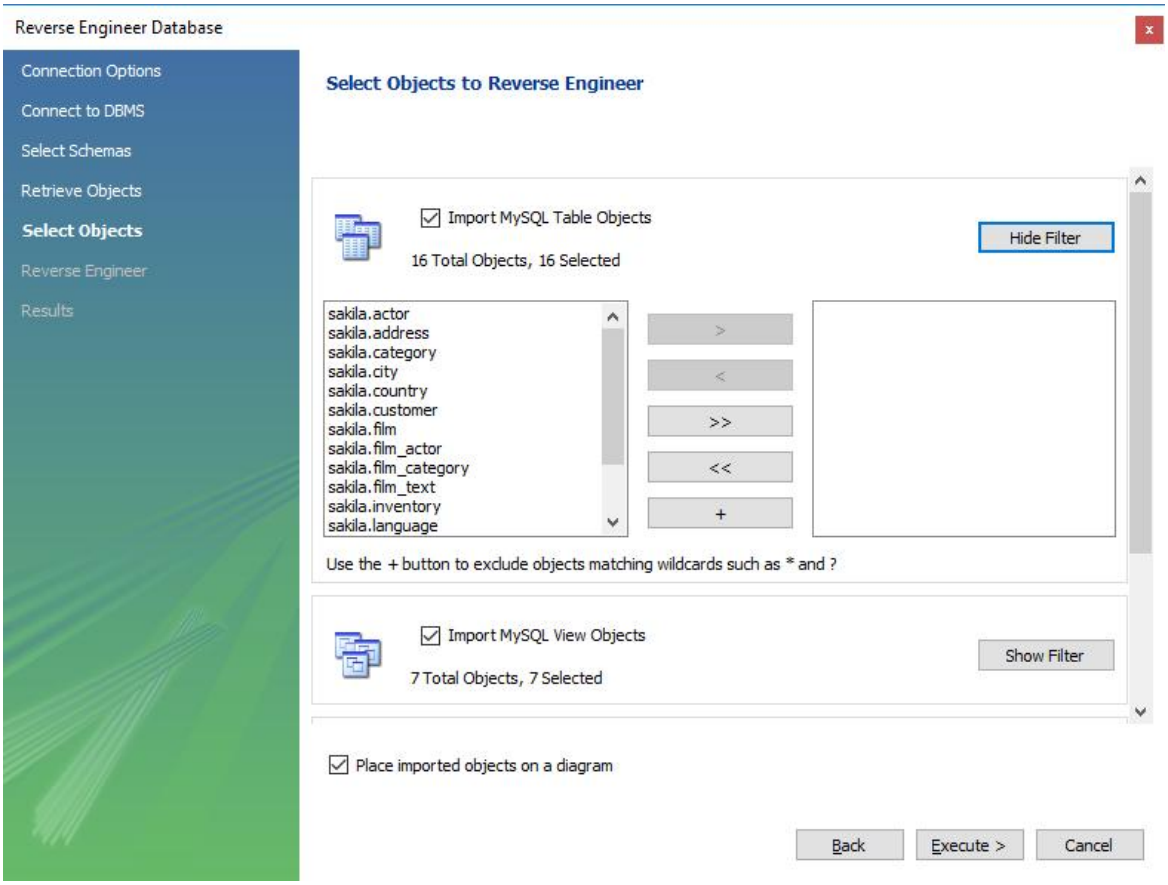
Provide connection details to your database and click **Next**. Wait for the connection and click **Next** again.



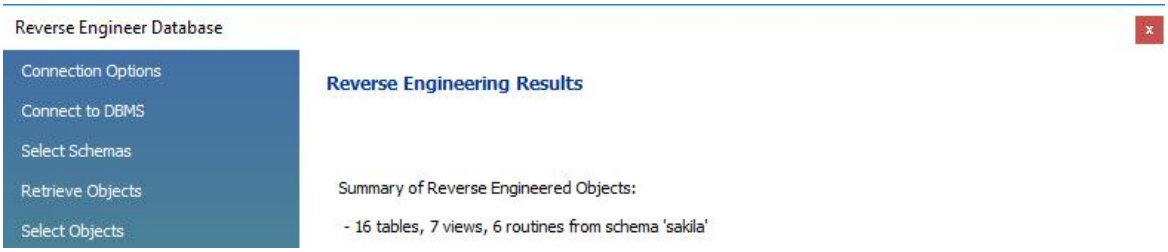
When successfully connected wizard will show you list of available schemas on the server. Select the ones you want to reverse engineer.



Wait for the schemas being read and continue with **Next**. On next screen you have an option to **select object types** and **filter specific objects**. Let's ignore it and import all objects. Click **Execute >**.

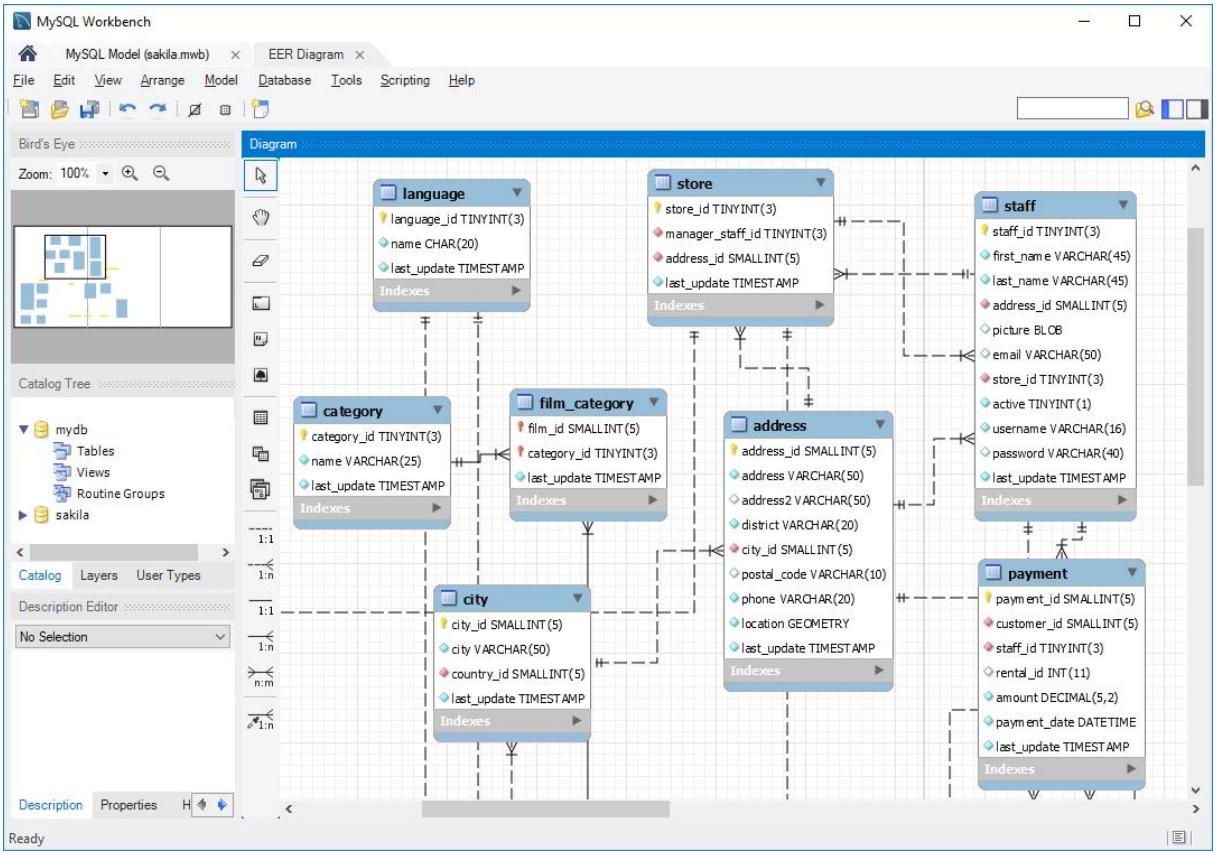


Wait for reverse engineering to take place and when done continue with **Next**. Final screen shows you a summary of the import. Close with **Finish**.



Default diagram

When the process ends with success you get a new model (more about models here) with default diagram with all tables and views.



There is an easier solution

Create ER diagrams with no FK constraints & share them in interactive HTML.

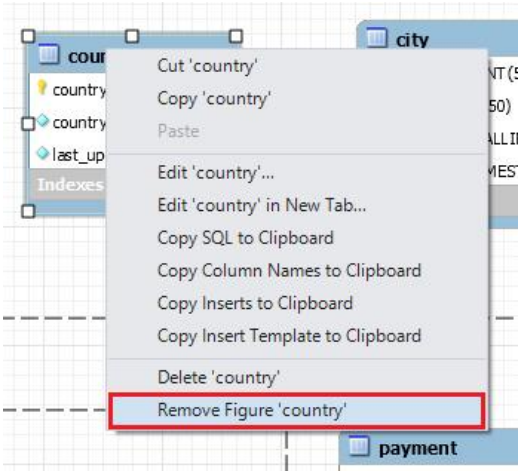
Try free now

Clean out diagram

What you probably want to do right after you created a default diagram is to remove unnecessary tables and views and arrange tables to make it easier to grasp.

To remove table from diagram select it, right click and choose **Remove Figure** option.

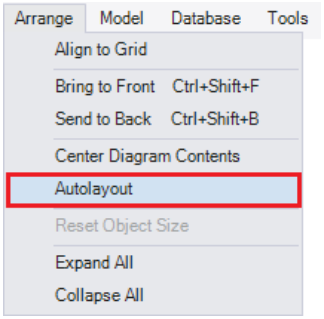
Be careful not to choose Delete option as it will remove table not only form diagram but also your model catalog. Without a warning!



Arrange tables

To arrange tables you can try **autoarrange** option, but you'll need some manual work on top of that.

To use autoarrange go to menu, select **Arrange** and **Autolayout**.



To manually arrange tables simply select them and move around when you feel they fit best. Good luck.

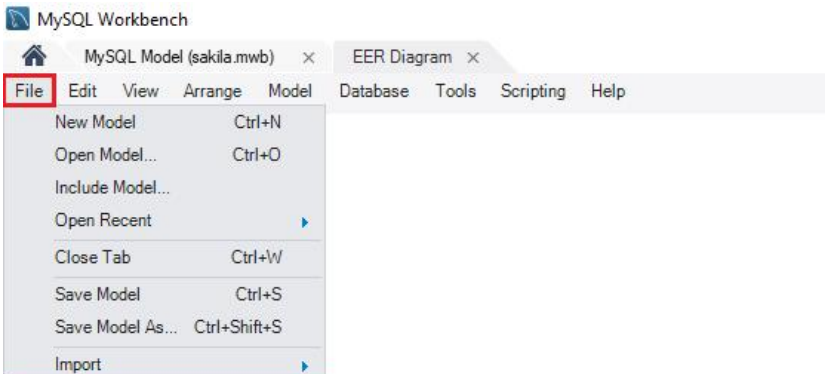
Save model

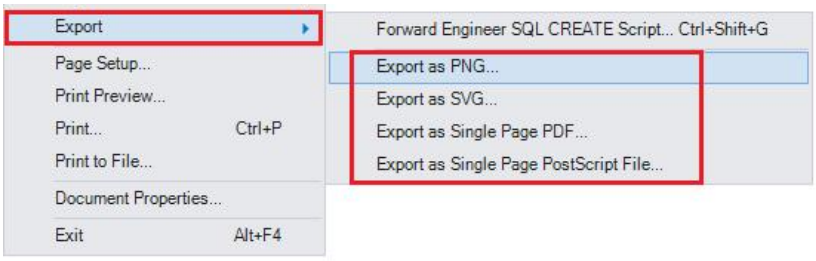
Once you have completed your diagram make sure to save it. It is saved in a MySQL Workbench model in a **.mwb** file in **Documents** folder.

Export diagram

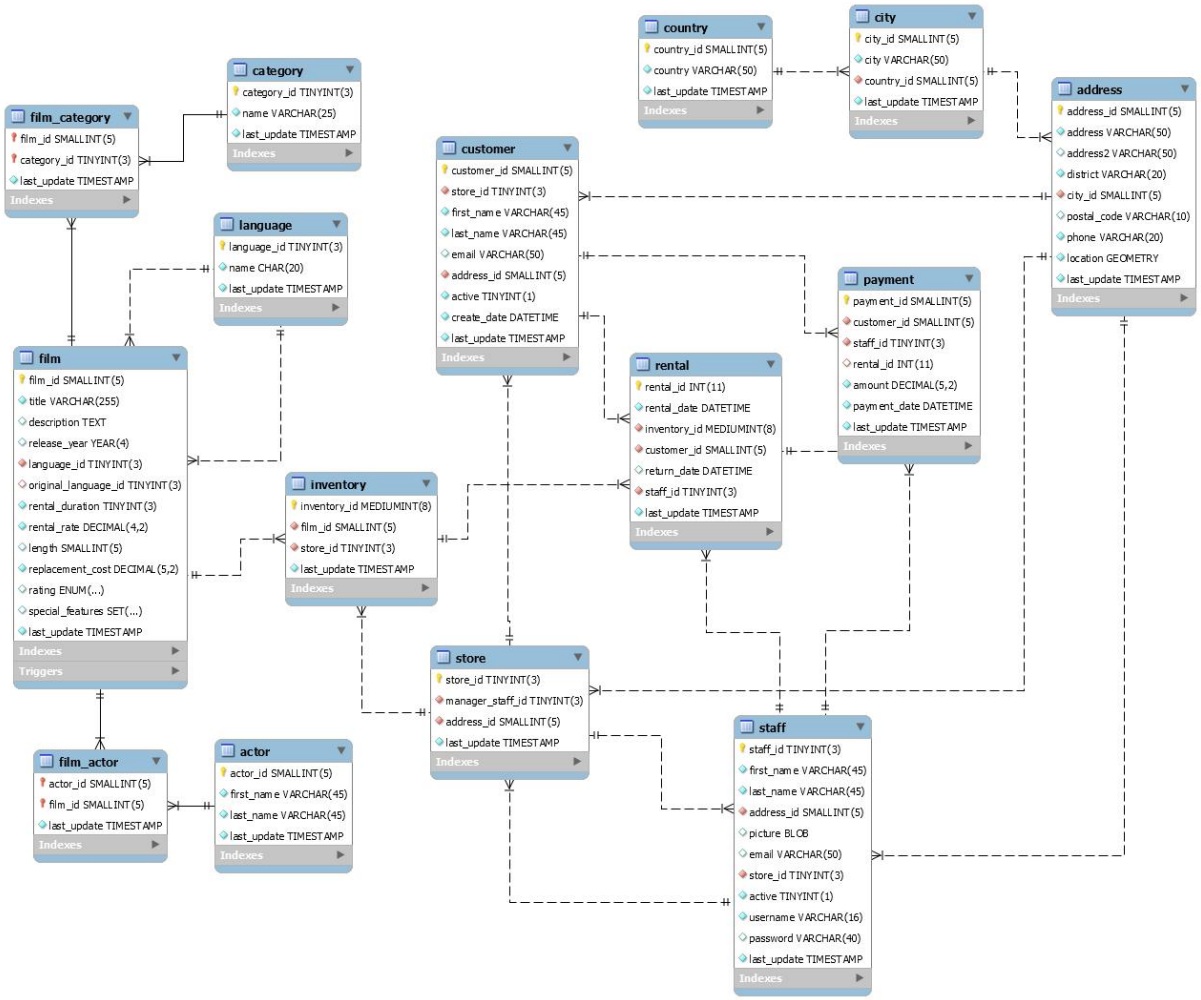
When your diagram is complete and safe it you can export it to **png**, **pdf**, **ps** or **svg**.

To export diagram go to menu, select **File**, then **Export**, select one of the available formats and provide folder and filename.





Here is my diagram:

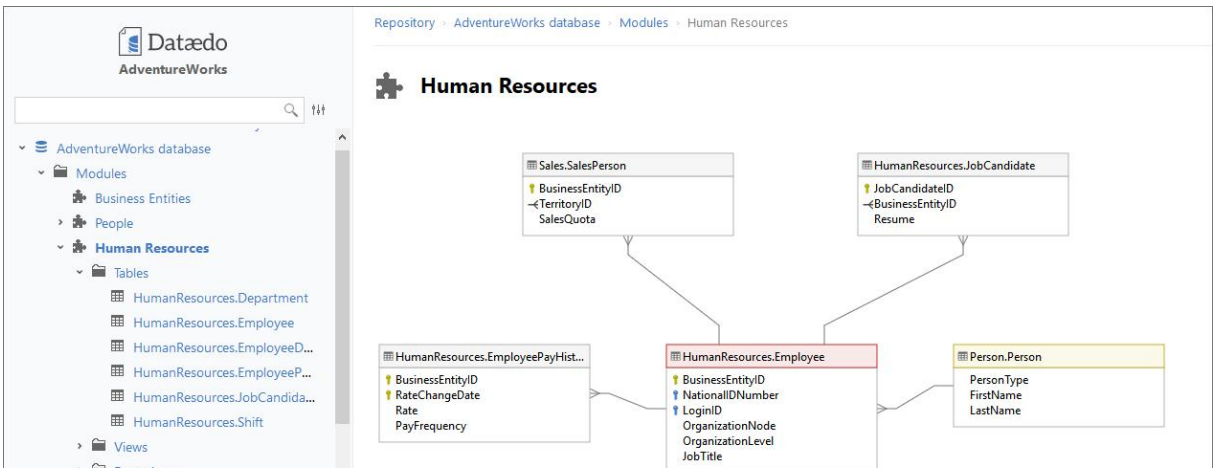


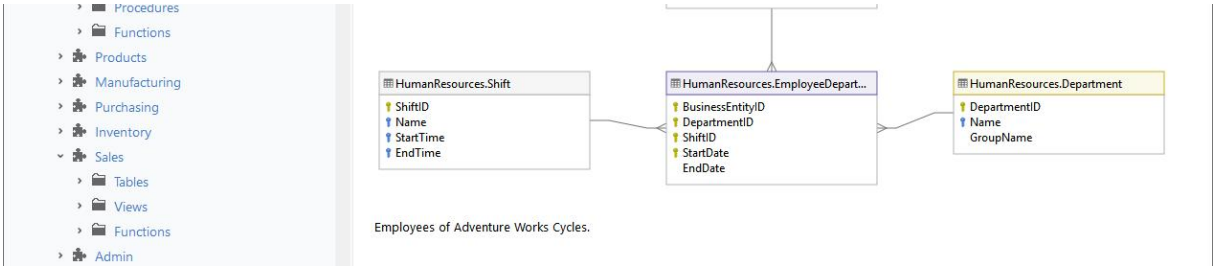
See it in other formats:

- **Sample PDF export**
- **Sample SVG export**

A better way to share diagrams: Dataedo

There is a better way to create and share diagrams for existing databases - Dataedo. Here is a sample export of complete database documentation with diagrams:





[See live HTML database documentaion sample]

A few of the benefits:

1. Easy and convenient sharing in interactive HTML
2. Draw diagrams for databases with no FK constraints
3. Attach complete data dicionary

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