Advanced Data Model in Salesforce

Advanced Data Model in Salesforce is related to **external Ids**, **external** relationships and **hierarchical relationships**. As we reviewed in the previous post Data Model in Salesforce, **Data Model** is a **collection of objects related** each other **to represent our data** in the Salesforce Database. Now we are going to see more advance information about this subject.

External IDs

- Fields that contain a **unique identifier** from a **system outside** of Salesforce.
- Created with the **Unique ID** setting. That way, External Id values **are unique** to each record inside Salesforce.
- **Limit** can be **up to 25 External ID fields** on an object.
- The field **type** must be **number, text** or **email.**
- Are **searchable** in Salesforce.

External Relationships

External Lookup

- Allows linking a Salesforce object with a **parent external object.**
- It's used to allows **referencing data outside** of the Salesforce organization.
- External object field **values come** from an **external data source.**

Indirect Lookup

- Links a child external object with a **parent standard or custom object** from Salesforce**.**
- Needs a **custom unique external ID** field on the parent object.
- The **external column name** and a unique **external id** field are used for matching and associating the records.

Implications of External and Indirect Lookup Relationships

- External and Indirect lookup relationships are available **for external objects**.
- **Related list of child external objects** could be **impacted** if the **external systems availability** is impacted.
- Lookup **searches** are **not available** for both lookups.
- Cross-filters are **not supported in reports**.

Hierarchical Relationships

- Can be defined on the **User object** to allow relating **one user** to **another.**
- For example, you can create a user related to their boss' user with hierarchical relationship.