7.1.4   Use the Quick Database Diagrams Tools

Awesome, we've helped Bobby through a large chunk of data modeling! Understanding the data we're working with and finding the connections within is a huge step.
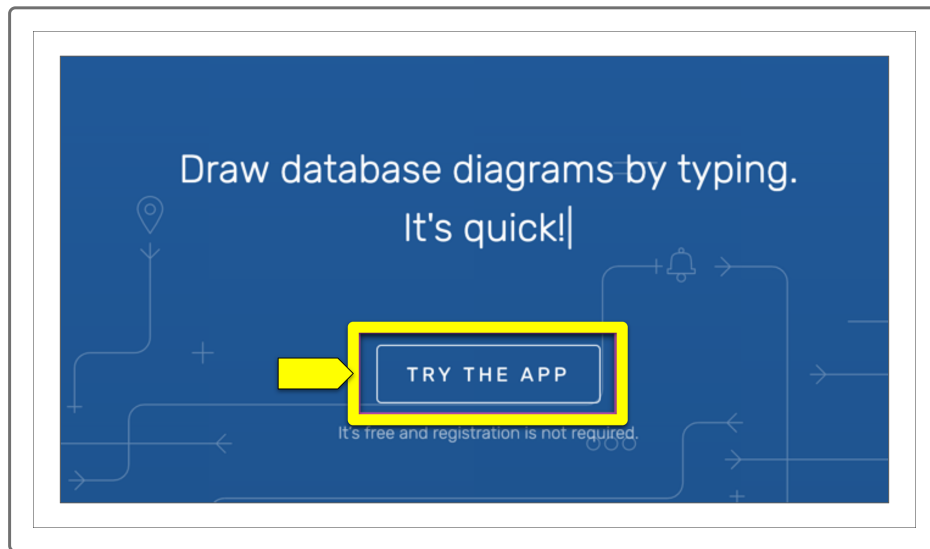
Another step is to create a map of the database. This map will show us each table in the database and the flow of data from one table to another. That's right, we're going to make a fancy flowchart. This provides us with an easy reference to the data without actually accessing it. This is called "modeling the data," and we can get started by creating a diagram with an online tool, instead of trying to make one from scratch. Our flow chart will help us navigate through the relationships more easily than if we had all six CSV files open side-by-side.

Using an online tool called Quick Database Diagrams ("Quick DBD" for short), we'll help Bobby start by familiarizing ourselves with the webpage, then create a conceptual ERD.
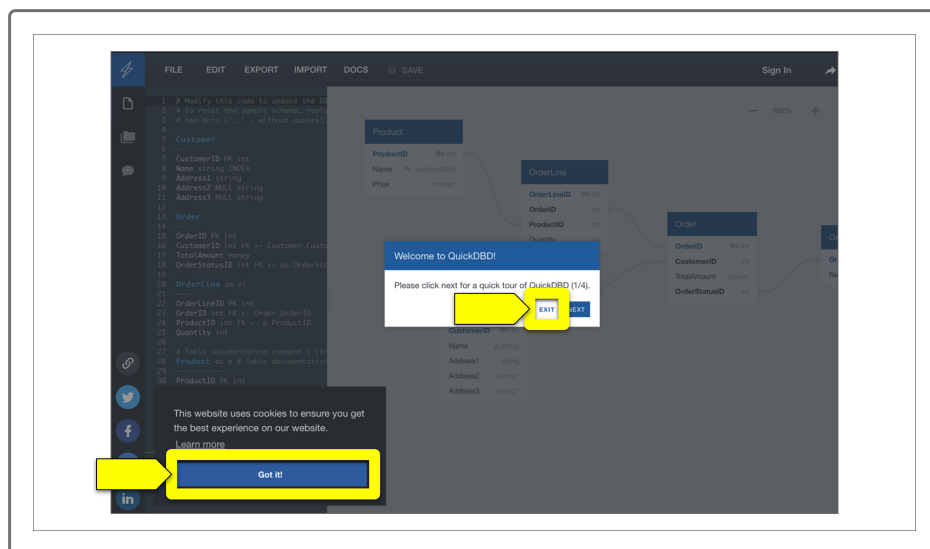
Quick DBD

To create our diagrams, we'll use Quick DBD through **quickdatabasediagrams.com** **(http://quickdatabasediagrams.com)**. Quick DBD is a great resource—it's intuitive and creates clean and comprehensible ERDs that are easily exported as image files.
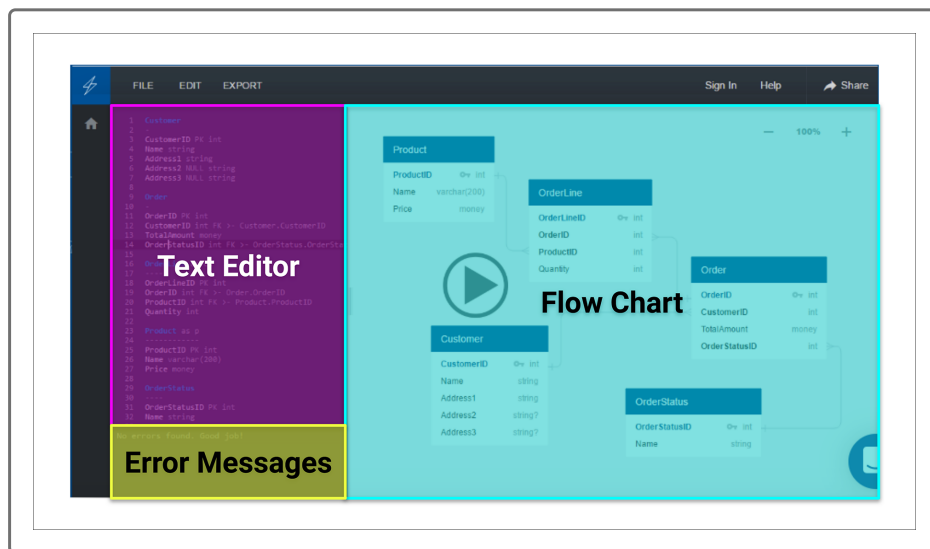
When you visit Quick DBD's site, click the "Try the App" button shown in the following image to get started. You don't need to create an account to make your first diagram.

The next screen is the text editor. Because it's your first visit, the text editor will have a sample ERD already in place, plus an option to tour the app and accept the website's cookies. Click the "Got it!" button to dismiss the message about cookies and go ahead and skip the tour, we're about to dive in!

Now you can view our canvas, split into two sections: a text editor and a flowchart workspace. Like the example previously shown, we'll build our tables using the text editor (on the left), and they'll display as a flow chart on the right.

As we build our tables, the flow chart will update, revealing the connections between the tables. Also, if we make a mistake, it quickly becomes apparent: the message box below the text editor will display any errors as they occur.

Instead of altering the sample, we'll go ahead and delete the text in the text editor to clear the canvas for our own use.