Electronic Web Store Database Design

Core Entities and Relationships

1. User Management

users

- user_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- username (VARCHAR(50), UNIQUE)
- email (VARCHAR(100), UNIQUE, NOT NULL)
- password_hash (VARCHAR(255), NOT NULL)
- first_name (VARCHAR(50))
- last_name (VARCHAR(50))
- phone (VARCHAR(15))
- date_registered (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)
- last_login (DATETIME)
- is_active (BOOLEAN, DEFAULT TRUE)
- is_admin (BOOLEAN, DEFAULT FALSE)

user_addresses

- address_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- user_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- address_type (ENUM('billing', 'shipping'), NOT NULL)
- street_address (VARCHAR(255), NOT NULL)
- city (VARCHAR(100), NOT NULL)
- state_province (VARCHAR(100))
- postal_code (VARCHAR(20))
- country (VARCHAR(100), NOT NULL)
- is_default (BOOLEAN, DEFAULT FALSE)
- created_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)

2. Product Catalog

categories

- category_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- category_name (VARCHAR(100), NOT NULL)
- parent_category_id (FK, INT, NULL) -- for subcategories
- description (TEXT)
- image_url (VARCHAR(255))
- is_active (BOOLEAN, DEFAULT TRUE)
- sort_order (INT, DEFAULT 0)

brands

- brand_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- brand_name (VARCHAR(100), NOT NULL, UNIQUE)
- description (TEXT)
- logo_url (VARCHAR(255))
- website_url (VARCHAR(255))
- is_active (BOOLEAN, DEFAULT TRUE)

products

- product_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- product_name (VARCHAR(255), NOT NULL)
- sku (VARCHAR(50), UNIQUE, NOT NULL)
- brand_id (FK, INT)
- category_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- description (TEXT)
- specifications (JSON) -- for technical specs
- price (DECIMAL(10,2), NOT NULL)
- compare_price (DECIMAL(10,2)) -- original price for discounts
- cost_price (DECIMAL(10,2)) -- for profit calculations
- weight (DECIMAL(8,2))
- dimensions (VARCHAR(50)) -- e.g., "10x5x3 inches"
- warranty_period (INT) -- in months
- is_active (BOOLEAN, DEFAULT TRUE)
- is_featured (BOOLEAN, DEFAULT FALSE)
- created_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)
- updated_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP ON UPDATE CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)

product_images

- image_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- product_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- image_url (VARCHAR(255), NOT NULL)
- alt_text (VARCHAR(255))
- is_primary (BOOLEAN, DEFAULT FALSE)
- sort_order (INT, DEFAULT 0)

product_variants

- variant_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- product_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- variant_name (VARCHAR(100)) -- e.g., "64GB Silver"
- sku (VARCHAR(50), UNIQUE, NOT NULL)
- price (DECIMAL(10,2), NOT NULL)
- stock_quantity (INT, DEFAULT 0)
- variant_attributes (JSON) -- color, size, storage, etc.
- is_active (BOOLEAN, DEFAULT TRUE)

3. Inventory Management

inventory

- inventory_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- product_id (FK, INT)
- variant_id (FK, INT)
- quantity_available (INT, DEFAULT 0)
- quantity_reserved (INT, DEFAULT 0) -- for pending orders
- reorder_level (INT, DEFAULT 0)
- last_updated (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP ON UPDATE CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)

inventory_movements

- movement_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- product_id (FK, INT)
- variant_id (FK, INT)
- movement_type (ENUM('in', 'out', 'adjustment'), NOT NULL)
- quantity (INT, NOT NULL)
- reference_type (ENUM('purchase', 'sale', 'return', 'adjustment'))
- reference_id (INT) -- order_id, return_id, etc.
- notes (TEXT)
- created_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)
- created_by (FK, INT) -- user_id

4. Shopping Cart

shopping_cart

- cart_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- user_id (FK, INT)
- session_id (VARCHAR(255)) -- for guest users
- created_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)
- updated_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP ON UPDATE CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)

cart_items

- cart_item_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- cart_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- product_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- variant_id (FK, INT)
- quantity (INT, NOT NULL, DEFAULT 1)
- unit_price (DECIMAL(10,2), NOT NULL)
- added_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)

5. Order Management

orders

- order_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- order_number (VARCHAR(50), UNIQUE, NOT NULL)
- user_id (FK, INT)
- order_status (ENUM('pending', 'confirmed', 'processing', 'shipped', 'delivered', 'cancelled', 'refunded'), DEFAULT 'pending')
- payment_status (ENUM('pending', 'authorized', 'captured', 'failed', 'refunded'), DEFAULT 'pending')
- subtotal (DECIMAL(10,2), NOT NULL)
- tax_amount (DECIMAL(10,2), DEFAULT 0)
- shipping_amount (DECIMAL(10,2), DEFAULT 0)
- discount_amount (DECIMAL(10,2), DEFAULT 0)
- total_amount (DECIMAL(10,2), NOT NULL)
- currency (VARCHAR(3), DEFAULT 'USD')
- billing_address (JSON) -- store address as JSON
- shipping_address (JSON)
- notes (TEXT)
- created_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)
- updated_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP ON UPDATE CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)

order_items

- order_item_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- order_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- product_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- variant_id (FK, INT)
- product_name (VARCHAR(255), NOT NULL) -- snapshot at time of order
- sku (VARCHAR(50), NOT NULL)
- quantity (INT, NOT NULL)
- unit_price (DECIMAL(10,2), NOT NULL)
- total_price (DECIMAL(10,2), NOT NULL)

6. Payment Processing

payments

- payment_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- order_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- payment_method (ENUM('credit_card', 'debit_card', 'paypal', 'stripe', 'bank_transfer'), NOT NULL)
- payment_status (ENUM('pending', 'completed', 'failed', 'refunded'), DEFAULT 'pending')
- transaction_id (VARCHAR(255)) -- from payment gateway
- amount (DECIMAL(10,2), NOT NULL)
- currency (VARCHAR(3), DEFAULT 'USD')
- gateway_response (JSON) -- store gateway response
- processed_at (DATETIME)
- created_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)

7. Shipping and Fulfillment

shipping_methods

- shipping_method_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- method_name (VARCHAR(100), NOT NULL)
- carrier (VARCHAR(100))
- estimated_days (INT)
- base_cost (DECIMAL(10,2), NOT NULL)
- cost_per_kg (DECIMAL(10,2), DEFAULT 0)
- free_shipping_threshold (DECIMAL(10,2))
- is_active (BOOLEAN, DEFAULT TRUE)

shipments

- shipment_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- order_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- shipping_method_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- tracking_number (VARCHAR(255))
- carrier (VARCHAR(100))
- status (ENUM('pending', 'shipped', 'in_transit', 'delivered', 'returned'), DEFAULT 'pending')
- shipped_at (DATETIME)
- delivered_at (DATETIME)
- shipping_address (JSON)
- notes (TEXT)
- created_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)

8. Reviews and Ratings

product_reviews

- review_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- product_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- user_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- order_id (FK, INT) -- to verify purchase
- rating (INT, NOT NULL, CHECK(rating >= 1 AND rating <= 5))
- title (VARCHAR(255))
- review_text (TEXT)
- is_verified_purchase (BOOLEAN, DEFAULT FALSE)
- is_approved (BOOLEAN, DEFAULT TRUE)
- helpful_count (INT, DEFAULT 0)
- created_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)
- updated_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP ON UPDATE CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)

9. Discounts and Promotions

coupons

- coupon_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- coupon_code (VARCHAR(50), UNIQUE, NOT NULL)
- discount_type (ENUM('percentage', 'fixed_amount', 'free_shipping'), NOT NULL)
- discount_value (DECIMAL(10,2), NOT NULL)
- minimum_order_amount (DECIMAL(10,2), DEFAULT 0)
- usage_limit (INT) -- total usage limit
- usage_limit_per_user (INT, DEFAULT 1)
- usage_count (INT, DEFAULT 0)
- valid_from (DATETIME, NOT NULL)
- valid_until (DATETIME, NOT NULL)
- is_active (BOOLEAN, DEFAULT TRUE)
- created_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)

coupon_usage

- usage_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- coupon_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- user_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- order_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- discount_amount (DECIMAL(10,2), NOT NULL)
- used_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)

10. Wishlist

wishlists

- wishlist_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- user_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- product_id (FK, INT, NOT NULL)
- variant_id (FK, INT)
- added_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)

11. Analytics and Reporting

page_views

- view_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- product_id (FK, INT)
- user_id (FK, INT)
- session_id (VARCHAR(255))
- ip_address (VARCHAR(45))
- user_agent (TEXT)
- viewed_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)

search_queries

- query_id (PK, INT, AUTO_INCREMENT)
- search_term (VARCHAR(255), NOT NULL)
- user_id (FK, INT)
- session_id (VARCHAR(255))
- results_count (INT, DEFAULT 0)
- clicked_product_id (FK, INT)
- searched_at (DATETIME, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP)

Key Indexes for Performance

-- User indexes

CREATE INDEX idx_users_email ON users(email);
CREATE INDEX idx_users_username ON users(username);

-- Product indexes

CREATE INDEX idx_products_category ON products(category_id);
CREATE INDEX idx_products_brand ON products(brand_id);
CREATE INDEX idx_products_sku ON products(sku);
CREATE INDEX idx_products_active ON products(is_active);

-- Order indexes

CREATE INDEX idx_orders_user ON orders(user_id);
CREATE INDEX idx_orders_status ON orders(order_status);
CREATE INDEX idx_orders_date ON orders(created_at);
CREATE INDEX idx_order_items_order ON order_items(order_id);
CREATE INDEX idx_order_items_product ON order_items(product_id);

-- Inventory indexes

CREATE INDEX idx_inventory_product ON inventory(product_id); CREATE INDEX idx_inventory_variant ON inventory(variant_id);

-- Review indexes

CREATE INDEX idx_reviews_product ON product_reviews(product_id);
CREATE INDEX idx_reviews_user ON product_reviews(user_id);
CREATE INDEX idx_reviews_approved ON product_reviews(is_approved);

-- Analytics indexes

CREATE INDEX idx_page_views_product ON page_views(product_id);

CREATE INDEX idx_page_views_date ON page_views(viewed_at);

CREATE INDEX idx_search_queries_term ON search_queries(search_term);

Business Rules and Constraints

Data Integrity Rules

- 1. Stock Management: Ensure inventory quantities cannot go negative
- 2. Price Validation: All prices must be positive values
- 3. Order Totals: Order totals must equal sum of items + tax + shipping discounts
- 4. Unique Constraints: SKUs must be unique across products and variants
- 5. Email Validation: User emails must be unique and valid format

Security Considerations

- 1. Password Storage: Always hash passwords using bcrypt or similar
- 2. **PII Protection**: Encrypt sensitive data like credit card information
- 3. **Session Management**: Implement secure session handling for shopping carts
- 4. Input Validation: Validate all user inputs to prevent SQL injection
- 5. Access Control: Implement role-based permissions for admin functions

Performance Optimizations

- 1. Caching: Implement Redis/Memcached for frequently accessed product data
- 2. Database Partitioning: Consider partitioning large tables like orders by date
- 3. Read Replicas: Use read replicas for analytics and reporting queries
- 4. CDN: Store product images and static assets on CDN
- 5. Database Connection Pooling: Use connection pooling for better performance

This database design provides a solid foundation for an electronic web store with room for scalability and additional features as the business grows.