

ENTITY CLUSTERING

"Some enterprise-wide information systems have more than 1,000 entity types and relationships. How do we present such an unwieldy picture of organizational data to developers and users? With a really big piece of paper?"

Entity Clustering: is a set of one or more entity types and associated relationships grouped into a single abstract entity type.

- Because an entity cluster behaves like an entity type, entity clusters and entity types can be further grouped to form a higher-level entity cluster.
- Entity clustering is a hierarchical decomposition of a macro-level view of the data model into finer and finer views, eventually resulting in the full, detailed data model.

FIGURE 3-13 Entity clustering for Pine Valley Furniture Company
(a) Possible entity clusters (using Microsoft Visio)

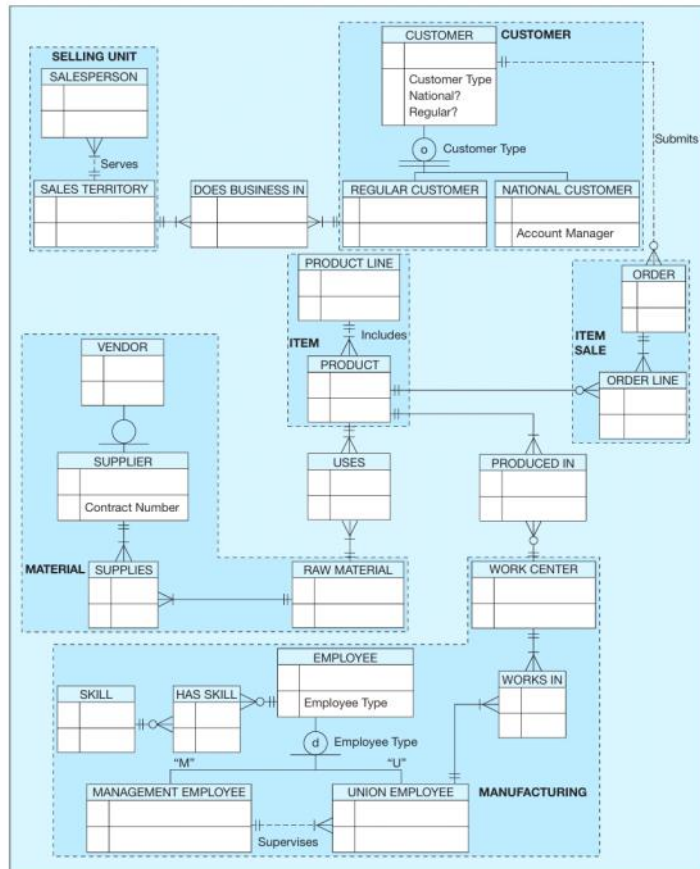


FIGURE 3-13 (continued)
(b) EER diagram for entity clusters (using Microsoft Visio)

