X.3. Suppliers

      HelloWorld does not actually make any products but rather servers as a marketplace where people can browse items that are for sale that someone else has posted. There is no limitation on who can post items for bidding or sale so a supplier can either be a large company or any individual looking to make a quick buck on an item they have. These suppliers as essential to the business model since without any suppliers there would be no items for sale or for bidding on. Since the suppliers is a backbone to the business it is necessary to make sure that they are reliable and that their information is kept. Information about the supplier is necessary because if anything where to go wrong with the products or shipping you need to be able to contact them to straighten things out. There is also other reasons that certain information is needed in order for different aspects of the business to run smoothly so here they are listed out.

      An important key piece of information that is needed about the supplier is their point of contact. It was covered earlier why this is important but it is because if something where to go wrong with the item it would be your job to contact them and straighten things out and we want that information to be available to you. Their address would be necessary as well in case it was necessary for you to check out the supplier for yourself or to estimate shipping times from the location. Also within the database model along with the previous attributes mentioned would be phone number, name and rating. It would be important to have the suppliers linked to a rating so that individual users can also weed out suppliers that are unreliable. Also since the suppliers are suppling the items there needs to be a relationship between the suppliers and the items that they posted for sale or bidding. Along with a relationship to items we can have the suppliers have a relationship with the categories entity so that suppliers can be linked to different categories to help organize or narrow search results for different products on the site. Here is what the diagram would look like for suppliers.