This assignment was interesting in the sense that the goals of the database had to entirely inferred from the data present without back and forth from a customer. From what I can tell the goal is to have a database of orders for keeping track of operations – from sales’ and purchasing’s perspective. Another roadblock is that it’s not clear who would be using this system. Different considerations would need to be taken into account if this will be used by an operations manager or executive who just knows a bit of IT versus a dedicated IT employee (Business Analyst).

I chose to create a database in PostgreSQL since it is available for free (budget of the database is always a question), easy to install and compatible with Windows (my OS), MAC or Linux, and it includes both command line and GUI options for interacting with it, once established. Though it is unclear who would be using it, and how large or unwieldy the flat files used would be, the specialized nature of products (animal traps) and limited customers/suppliers suggested the database might be used by small business owner or executive for keeping track of operations and that a local installation might work well. As the number of users and the complexity of the database rises, moving to a local, dedicated server or a cloud solution could certainly be useful.

Beyond these questions of scale and use case, I did have specific questions on some of the fields. Specifically, if the minimum quantity was a restriction imposed by a supplier or on customers. Additionally, I didn’t know if the warehouse necessarily depended on the supplier. New warehouses/suppliers could be added, of course, but for the current slate, this was not clear. I assumed that the supplier did not completely designate the warehouse for the purposes of this exercise.