

Business Systems Design and Analysis
Final Project

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ISM 4113

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Stage 1: System Descriptions

a) EasyBook is a mobile and tablet information system for small businesses and service providers to manage client bookings easily on a smartphone or tablet. Clients can view open time, book or cancel an appointment and are reminded automatically. Owners of the business can make bookings, change availability, and view current calendars on a daily basis. EasyBook seeks to provide scheduling as an easy, efficient, and paperless process.

<i>Attribute</i>	<i>Description</i>
Input	Customer information (name, contact), chosen service, date, and appointment time.
Output	Confirmation message, appointment details, notifications, and daily schedules for staff.
Boundary	The system boundary includes the users (clients and business owners), communication is to be done and appears in the mobile app, and the information stored in an internal to the business database. The business is using external systems (like payment systems) jammed within the business's broader systems.
Environment	Mobile devices accessing the app (Android/iOS), cloud database, and the internet.
Components	Mobile interface, scheduling module, and database (appointments, users, services), and notification module.
Interrelationship	Users provide information and the scheduling module stores this information in the database where this collected information is able to appear as data dashboards and confirmation messages that are displayed to the user.
Purpose	The purpose is to create a quick appointment scheduling system, to minimize scheduling conflicts, and to improve customer satisfaction.
Feedback	Automatic notifications to users, confirmation messages sent out to users and user reviews collected after the appointment to use moving forward as a business.
Constraints	Requires internet connection to use the app, and needs to address each and every aspect of data security and privacy.

b) Zhao, Yoo, Lavoie, Lavoie, and Simoes (2017) conducted a study where 36 papers reviewed twentyone different Web-based appointment scheduling systems. They believed that using an online scheduling system has many positive experiences, such as a decreased no-show rate, reduced time to see a staff member, less burden on office staff burdens, and improved experience reported by users. However, they also identified obstacles to adopting and implementing an online scheduling system, such as cost, inflexibility, data security, and comfort with technology by patients. Despite these issues, the study found a clear shift towards the use of Web-based appointment systems due to their potential to improve efficiency and accessibility. The findings of the study in general are consistent with the EasyBook mobile appointment system's intention to provide a simple and efficient way of booking appointments by businesses and customers using a mobile system.

Stage 2: Data Flow Diagram (DFDs)

A. Develop a Level-0 DFD

The Level-0 DFD indicates the major processes, data stores, external entities, and the data flows between them.

Minimum Requirements Check:

- Minimum **2 data stores** → The system has **3** data stores: **D1, D2, and D3**.
- Minimum **3 processes** → We have 3 main processes defined: **1. Client Booking Management,**

2. System Data Maintenance, and 3. Notification Generation.

- Minimum **1 source** → The **Client** is the main data source (the initiator of the requests).
- Minimum **1 sink** → The **Business Owner** is a data sink (the recipient of reports), and the Client is also a data sink (as the recipient of notifications).

Proposed Elements for EasyBook Level-0 DFD:

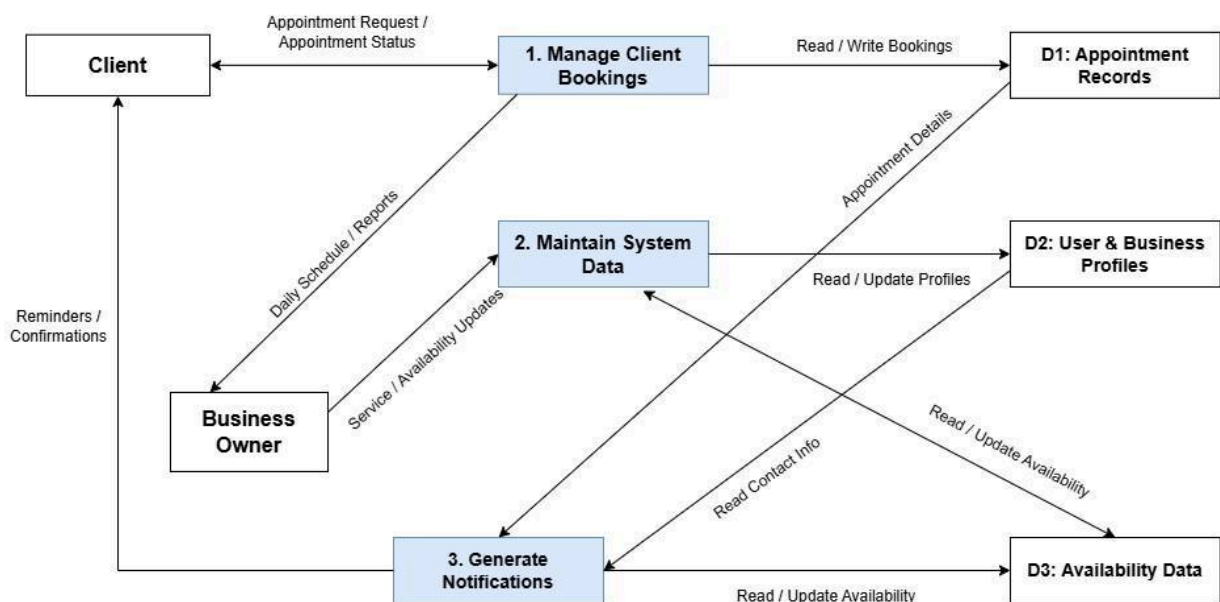
Element Type	Name	Role in EasyBook
External Entity (Source/Sink)	Client	Requests for appointments, receives confirmation/reminder.
External Entity (Source/Sink)	Business Owner	Responsible for managing information relative to the service, reviewing the daily schedule, and managing availability.
Process 1	1. Manage Client Bookings	Responsible for the core scheduling logic of booking, modifying, or canceling reservations.
Process 2	2. Maintain System Data	Responsible for changes made to the business profile, services, and the availability setting.
Process 3	3. Generate Notifications	Responsible for sending automated confirmations, reminders, and follow up messages.
Data Store 1	D1: Appointment Records	Stores each booking, including the Client ID, Service, Date/Time, and Status.
Data Store 2	D2: User & Business Profiles	Stores client contact information, owner login credentials, and services stored in a business.
Data Store 3	D3: Availability Data	Stores the current open and blocked time periods for the business.

DFD Level-0 Narrative:

The EasyBook system's Level-0 DFD represents its three primary functional areas. The external entity **Client** issues an Appointment Request to **Process 1: Manage Client Bookings**, and the Client receives the Appointment Status back. The **Business Owner** issues **Service/Availability Updates** to **Process 2:**

Maintain System Data and requests the Daily Schedule/Reports from Process 1. **Process 3: Generate**

Notifications draws **Appointment Details** from **D1: Appointment Records** in order to output Reminders/Confirmations to the **Client**. All three processes utilize the data stores in order to maintain scheduling and user information.



B. Develop a Level-1 DFD

The **Process 1: Manage Client Bookings** has been decomposed below into a Level-1 DFD while maintaining balance by keeping the original external data flows (in and out of the system) the same.

Minimum Requirements Check:

- Minimum **2 data stores** → this diagram employs **D1: Appointment Records** and **D3:**

Availability Data (D2 is also included so be validated).

- Minimum **2 processes** → **Three** subprocesses (1.1, 1.2, and 1.3) have been used.

Decomposing Process 1: Manage Client Bookings

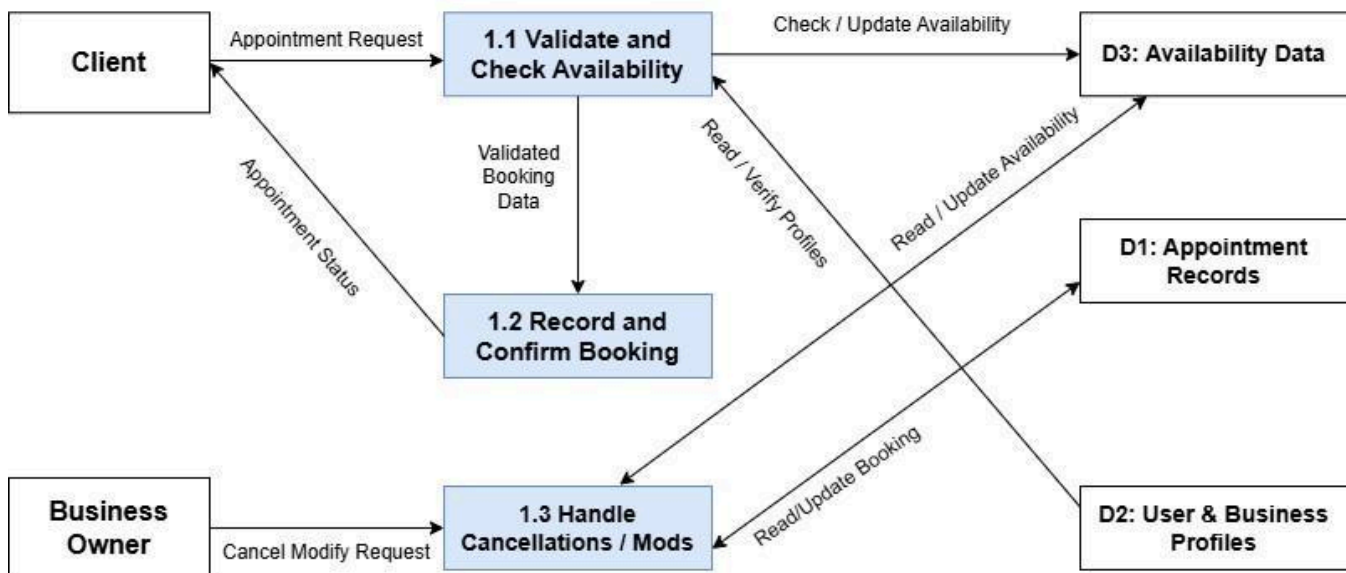
Sub-Process	Name	Role in DFD
1.1	Validate & Check Availability	Receives an <i>Appointment Request (Client)</i> . Reviews D3: Availability Data and D2: User & Business Profiles to confirm the service and time.
1.2	Record & Confirm Booking	Receives Validated Booking Data (from 1.1). Logs the appointment in D1: Appointment Records and notifies the Client of the <i>Appointment Status</i> .
1.3	Handle Cancellations/Mods	Receives <i>Cancel/Modify Request</i> (Business Owner). Modifies D1: Appointment Records and D3: Availability Data . (Refs D2 to verify profile if needed).

DFD Level-1 Narrative:

The Level-1 DFD provides a detailed breakdown of **Process 1: Manage Client Bookings**. Once the Client submits an Appointment Request, it goes into **Process 1.1: Validate & Check Availability** and validates the appointment request by consulting **D3: Availability Data** on the schedule, but also by referring to **D2: User & Business Profiles** to verify that the Client/service is eligible for an appointment. Once validated, the appointment request moves to **Process 1.2: Record & Confirm Booking**. Process

1.2 will read and write to **D1: Appointment Records** where the record will be stored, and return a final

Appointment Status to the Client. Separately, the **Business Owner** can take action on modifies or cancels by submitting a request through the Cancel/Modify Request flow into **Process 1.3: Handle Cancellations/Mods**. Process 1.3 reads/writes data to D2 to access the profiles and will initiate data updates against **D1** and **D3** as appropriate. As with the Level-0 diagram, this decomposition preserves balance.



C. Develop a Level-2 DFD

The Level-1 **Process 1.2: Record & Confirm Booking** is further detailed in a Level-2 Data Flow Diagram (DFD), maintaining balance by containing identical external data flows from the parent process.

Minimum Requirements Check:

- Minimum 2 data stores → **D1: Appointment Records** and **D3: Availability Data** are included in the diagram.

- Minimum **2 processes** → **Three** subprocesses (1.2.1, 1.2.2, and 1.2.3) are included as the process detail logic for confirming the booking.

Decomposing Process 1.2: Record & Confirm Booking

Sub-Process	Name	Role in DFD
1.2.1	Store Appointment Data	Obtains Validated Booking Data and writes the full record into D1: Appointment Records . This action will create the New Booking Record that will be needed by process 1.2.3.
1.2.2	Update Availability Slot	Obtains Time Slot Info in conjunction with 1.2.1 into D3: Availability Data using a column for 'Booked' status for that specific time slot.
1.2.3	Prepare Confirmation Message	Obtains the New Booking Record from 1.2.1, creates the message, and sends the final Confirmation Data directly to the external entity Client .

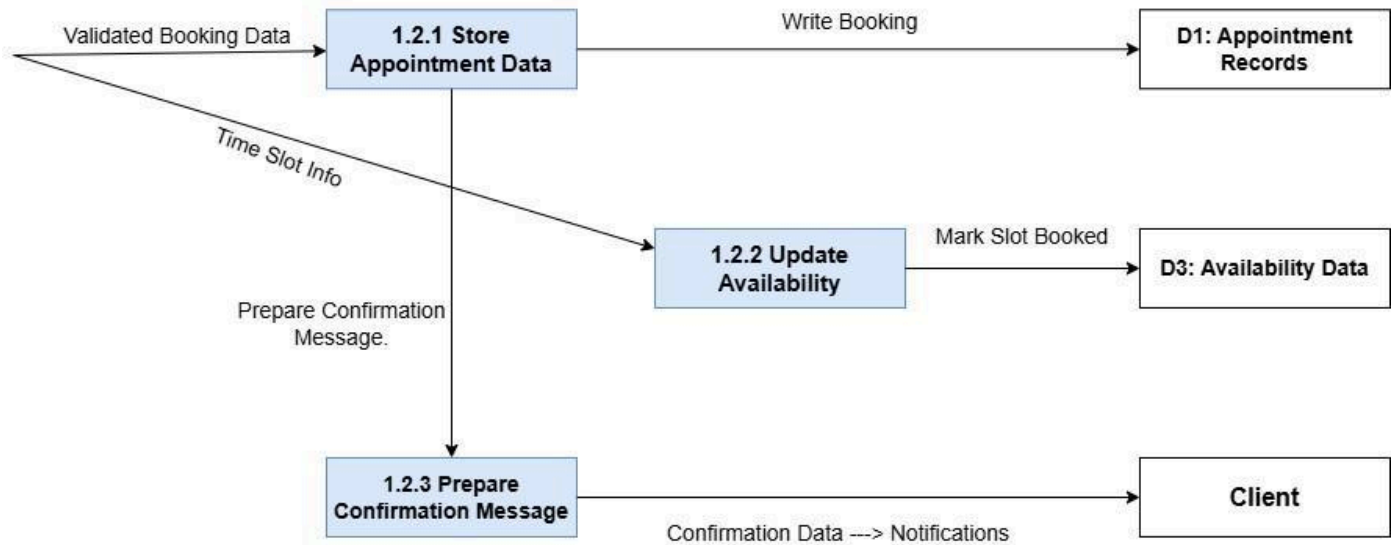
DFD Level-2 Narrative:

The Level-2 DFD for Process 1.2: Record & Confirm Booking encompasses a three-step process that starts with the arrival of the **Validated Booking Data** from Process 1.1, and then promptly branches into two parallel flows. The record is then stored: the complete record is routed to **Process 1.2.1: Store**

Appointment Data, where the data is persisted - the full appointment details are passed via the Write

Booking flow to **D1: Appointment Records**; concurrently, the slot information is transferred as Time Slot Info to **Process 1.2.2: Update Availability Slot** to update **D3: Availability Data** and prevent

double-booking of appointments. When the record is stored, there will be a new New Booking Record generated by Process 1.2.1 for **Process 1.2.3: Prepare Confirmation Message** to produce the end result - the Confirmation Data will be sent to the external early on, **Client**.



Stage 3: Entity-Relation (E-R) Diagrams

A. E-R Diagram

The Entity-Relationship (E-R) diagram corresponding to EasyBook has been developed around six fundamental entities which depict all the principal data elements recognized during the problem analysis at Stages 1 and 2. The entities are: Client, Business, Service, Appointment, Availability Slot, and Review.

Each entity has the subsequent attributes:

CLIENT

- *Client_ID* (Primary Key)
- Name
- Email
- Phone

BUSINESS

- *Business_ID* (Primary Key)
- Name
- Location

- Phone

SERVICE

- *Service_ID* (Primary Key)
- *Business_ID* (Foreign Key)
- Description
- Price

APPOINTMENT

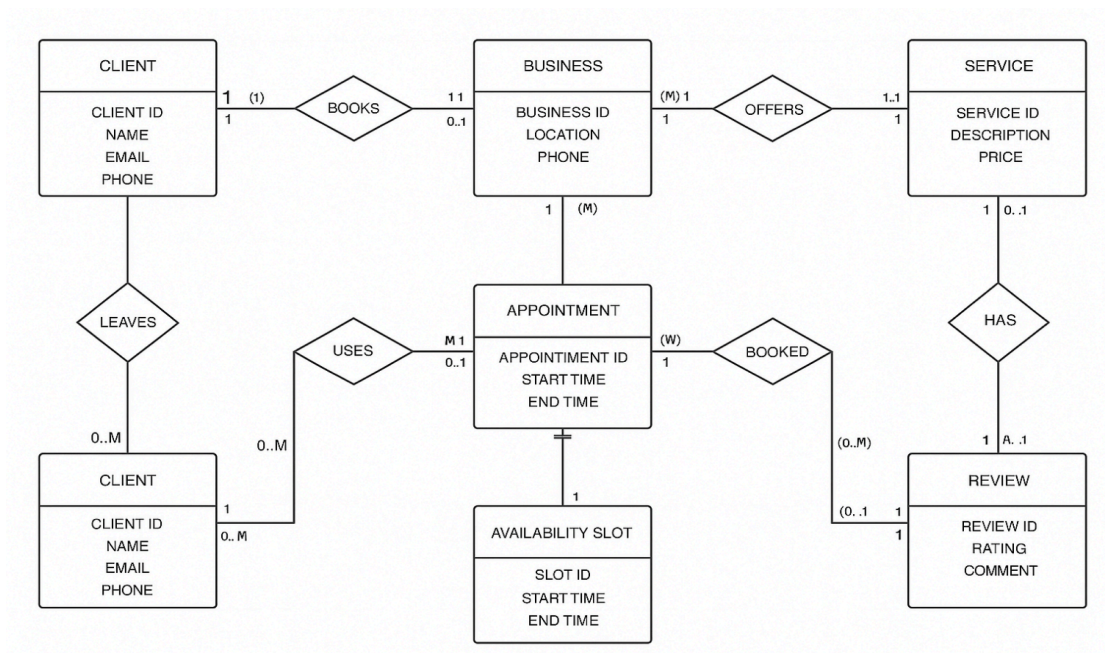
- *Appointment_ID* (Primary Key)
- *Client_ID* (Foreign Key)
- *Service_ID* (Foreign Key)
- *Slot_ID* (Foreign Key)
- Status

AVAILABILITY_SLOT

- *Slot_ID* (Primary Key)
- *Business_ID* (Foreign Key)
- Start_Time
- End_Time

REVIEW

- *Review_ID* (Primary Key)
- *Client_ID* (Foreign Key)
- *Business_ID* (Foreign Key)
- Rating
- Comment



B. E-R Diagram Description

The E-R diagram representing EasyBook showcases the interactions between clients, beauty businesses, services, appointments, time-slot availability, and customer reviews.

A **Client** can make several **Appointments**, thus a **mandatory one-to-many** relationship is formed. An appointment is linked to a single client. Clients can also leave **Reviews** which lead to an **optional zero-to-many** relationships because a client might decide to give one or more reviews or none at all.

A **Business** offers various **Services**, hence a **mandatory one-to-many** relationship is established; every service must be linked to one and only one business. Besides, businesses get Reviews from clients, thus they have an **optional-many** relationships with the Review entity.

Each **Service** can be involved in several appointments at the same time, thus a **mandatory one-to-many** relationship between services and appointments is created. Every appointment has to link to a service.

The **Availability Slot** entity keeps track of the times when a business is ready to take appointments. An availability slot could either be filled or left empty, hence an **optional zero-to-many** relationships between Availability Slot and Appointment exists. Nevertheless, each appointment must be assigned to one and only one availability slot, thus a **mandatory one** requirement is imposed on the Appointment side.

The Review entity finally connects Clients and Businesses by recording client feedback. Reviews are associated with both Client and Business in a mandatory one way as each review must be related to one specific person and one specific business.

The model includes all cardinality types required:

- **Mandatory one:** Appointment → Client
- **Mandatory many:** Business → Service
- **Optional 0 or 1:** Appointment → Availability Slot (on the slot side)
- **Optional many (0..M):** Client → Review

C. Cardinality Assumptions and Justifications

The cardinalities selected for this E-R diagram are based on the functional requirements described in Stages 1 and 2:

1. Client to Appointment (Mandatory 1-to-Many)

To create an appointment, it is necessary that a client already exists, and one client can arrange many appointments. This is the manner in which most booking systems work where the client can make several bookings in the future.

2. Business to Service (Mandatory 1-to-Many)

A business must possess at least one service for the system to operate. Services cannot come into existence without a business owner thereby enforcing a one-to-many relationship that is mandatory.

3. Service to Appointment (Mandatory 1-to-Many)

Each appointment will always be associated with one service only and different customers may book the same service at different times. Thus, a one-to-many relationship is formed.

4. Availability Slot to Appointment (Optional Zero-to-Many)

The time slots are the creation of the businesses but they may not necessarily get the booking. Thus, a slot can have no appointments at all. Nonetheless, each appointment can only take place within one slot.

5. Client to Review (Optional Zero-to-Many)

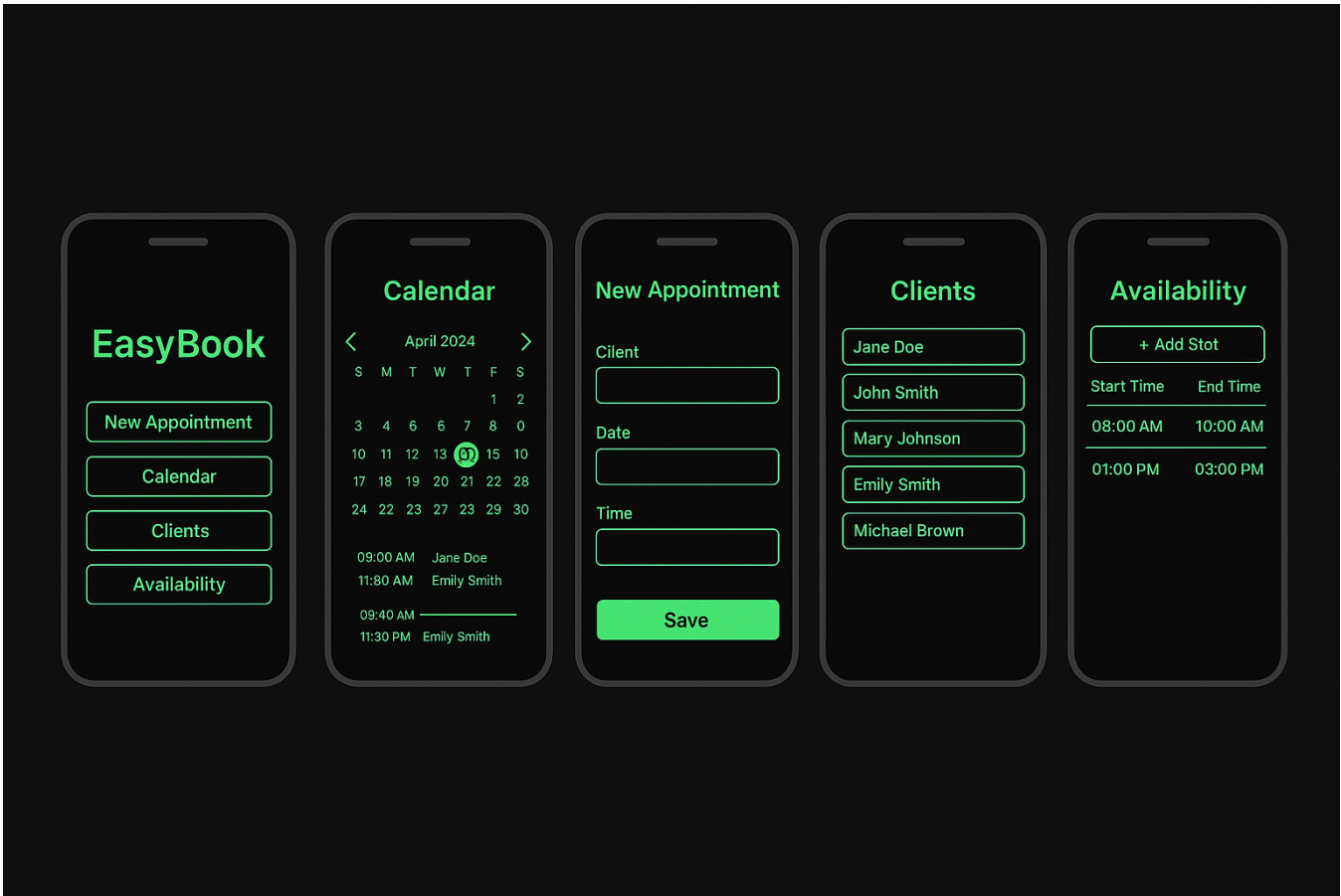
It is not mandatory for Customers to write reviews, but they can submit a lot of reviews if they want to do so.

6. Business to Review (Mandatory 1-to-Many)

It is required that every review must be related to a particular business that is being criticized. A

business can collect an unlimited number of reviews, but then each review must be connected to one specific business.

Stage 4: User Interface Design



The user interface of EasyBook was developed to deliver an uncomplicated, user-friendly, and extremely accessible experience to both the clients and the business owners. Since the system is aimed at mobile and tablet users, the design is in accordance with the latest app design trends that include clean screens, large touch-friendly buttons, and light mental effort for the user. Every screen has a unified black background with neon green highlights which not only creates a strong visual contrast but also helps in reading easily in bright as well as low light conditions.

1. Main Window

The Main Window is the core navigation point of the system. The design includes large and high-contrast navigation buttons so that the users can select their desired function quickly with very little scrolling. Users are welcomed by a tiny header which helps them to navigate through the system while the four principal options - Schedule Appointment, Calendar, My Clients and Availability - are clearly displayed one by one for a better comprehension. This type of arrangement not only cuts down on time spent navigating, but also makes it easier for those who are not very tech-savvy to get into the system.

2. Calendar View

The Calendar View features a clean grid layout that shows both open and booked time slots. The days and hours are clearly marked, as well as the neon highlighting which makes the available times very easy to spot. Users can click on any free slot to start the scheduling process, and the appointments show up in organized blocks with clearly readable starting and ending times. The interface is designed to be simple without cluttering and only the necessary information regarding scheduling is displayed, thus making the users less tired with their decision-making.

3. Appointment Form

The Appointment Form is designed for quick and accurate data entry from mobile devices using a straightforward single-column layout. Large, user-friendly input areas are employed for all fields—Client Name, Service, Date, Start Time, and End Time. Typing errors are reduced through the use of drop-down menus and calendar pickers. The "Save Appointment" button, which is brightly illuminated in neon green, not only denotes the accomplishment but also lessens the likelihood of accidental omission.

4. Client List

The Client List consists of a searchable and alphabetically arranged list of all clients. Each client has a clean card-style layout and their name, phone number, and email are displayed. Pressing on a client gives access to further management options. This is particularly useful for business owners as they can quickly get the client information they need without going through complex menus.

5. Availability Manager

One tool is called Availability Manager and it is where businesses can customize appointment schedule time. The interface presents availability in a clear timeline format, with the active availability being shown by bright green blocks. Users can perform availability operations like adding, changing, or deleting through the use of simple button controls, and thus one does not need to worry about the time taken for the updates to be done—they can be done even in the busiest hours of the business. The design of the system is such that it is easy to understand and edit, so that there will not be any conflicting schedules.

User-Friendly Design Features

The UI has implemented some major usability principles throughout all screens:

- **Consistency:** All screens have similar color scheme, typography and layout structure.
- **High contrast:** The black-and-neon combination is very readable and helps to avoid visual fatigue.
- **Touch-friendly elements:** Buttons and fields have sizes that enable easy tapping on mobile devices.
- **Minimal data entry:** Users' input is reduced by using drop-downs, pickers and predefined options.
- **Clear navigation:** The Main Window allows access to all important functions directly without having to go through deep menu levels.
- **Feedback cues:** The system's responses are made clearer to users by means of highlighted selections, confirmation buttons and visually distinct inputs.
- **Error prevention:** The use of structured forms and controlled input types leads to fewer errors during the process of booking or changing appointments.

Stage 5: Database Design using Microsoft Access

A.

Based on the EasyBook E-R diagram developed in Stage 3, the following relational schema represents the tables generated using standard ER-to-Relational mapping rules.

1. CLIENT Table

Primary Key: Client_ID

Attributes:

- Client_Name
- Email
- Phone

Relationship Mapping:

- *CLIENT books APPOINTMENT*: Client_ID appears as a **foreign key** in APPOINTMENT.

2. BUSINESS Table

Primary Key: Business_ID

Attributes:

- Location
- Phone

Relationship Mapping:

- *BUSINESS offers SERVICE*: Business_ID appears as a **foreign key** in SERVICE.
- *BUSINESS manages AVAILABILITY_SLOT*: Business_ID appears as a **foreign key** in AVAILABILITY_SLOT.
- *BUSINESS schedules APPOINTMENT*: Business_ID appears as a **foreign key** in APPOINTMENT.

3. SERVICE Table

Primary Key: Service_ID

Attributes:

- Description
- Price

Foreign Keys:

- Business_ID → BUSINESS

Relationship Mapping:

- *SERVICE has REVIEW*: Service_ID appears as a **foreign key** in REVIEW.

4. APPOINTMENT Table

Primary Key: Appointment_ID

Attributes:

- Start_Time
- End_Time

Foreign Keys:

- Client_ID → CLIENT
- Business_ID → BUSINESS
- Service_ID → SERVICE
- Slot_ID → AVAILABILITY_SLOT

Relationship Mapping:

This table resolves multiple relationships:

- *CLIENT books APPOINTMENT*
- *APPOINTMENT uses AVAILABILITY_SLOT*
- *APPOINTMENT is booked for a SERVICE*

5. AVAILABILITY_SLOT Table

Primary Key: Slot_ID

Attributes:

- Start_Time
- End_Time

Foreign Keys:

- Business_ID → BUSINESS

Relationship Mapping:

Each slot belongs to one business and can be associated with zero or many appointments.

6. REVIEW Table

Primary Key: Review_ID

Attributes:

- Rating
- Comment

Foreign Keys:

- Client_ID → CLIENT
- Service_ID → SERVICE
- Appointment_ID → APPOINTMENT

Relationship Mapping:

Clients may leave a review for appointments they completed.

Table Name	Primary Key	Foreign Keys	Notes
Client	Client_ID	-	Stores client info
Business	Business_ID	-	Stores business info
Service	Service_ID	Business_ID	Each service belongs to a business
Availability_Slot	Slot_ID	Business_ID	Business-defined availability
Appointment	Appointment_ID	Client_ID, Business_ID, Service_ID, Slot_ID	Main activity table
Review	Review_ID	Client_ID, Service_ID, Appointment_ID	One review per appointment

B.

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All Access Obj... Search...

Tables

- APPOINTMENT
- BUSINESS
- CLIENT
- SERVICE

Queries

- Business Appointments Qu...
- Client Appointments Query

Forms

- Appointment Form
- Business Form
- Client Form
- Service Form

Reports

- Appointments Report

Appointment	ClientID	BusinessID	ServiceID	StartTime	EndTime	Click to Add
* (New)	0	0	0			

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Queries

- Business Appointments Qu...
- Client Appointments Query

Forms

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- Business Form
- Client Form
- Service Form

Reports

- Appointments Report

BusinessID	Name	Location	Phone	Click to Add
* (New)				

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- Client Form
- Service Form

Reports

- Appointments Report

APPOINTMENT BUSINESS CLIENT SERVICE Relation

ClientID	Name	Email	Phone	Click to Add
(New)				

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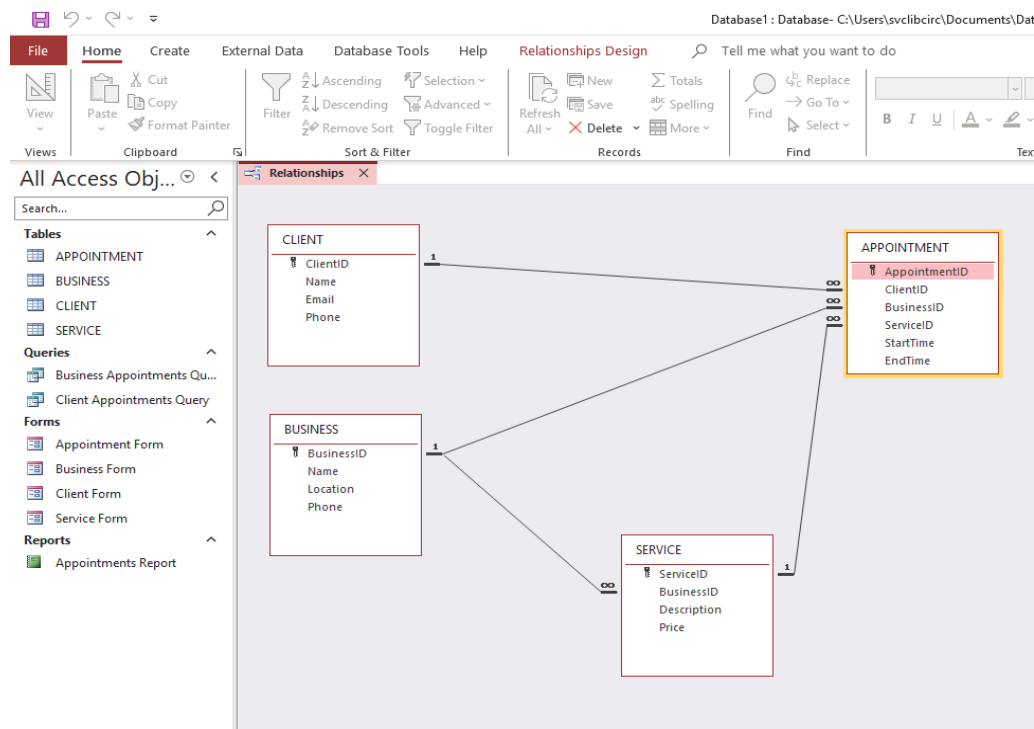
Reports

- Appointments Report

APPOINTMENT BUSINESS CLIENT SERVICE Relationships

ServiceID	BusinessID	Description	Price	Click to Add
(New)	0		\$0.00	

Relationship Diagram



Forms

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Access Appointment form. The ribbon includes File, Home, Create, External Data, Database Tools, and Help. The ribbon has options for View, Paste, Cut, Copy, Format Painter, Filter, Sort & Filter, Selection, Refresh, Save, Delete, Records, and Tell me what you want to do. The left pane shows the All Access Objects list with Tables (APPOINTMENT, BUSINESS, CLIENT, SERVICE), Queries (Business Appointments Qu..., Client Appointments Query), Forms (Appointment Form, Business Form, Client Form, Service Form), and Reports (Appointments Report). The main area displays the Appointment form with the following fields and input controls:

Field	Input Control
AppointmentID	(New)
ClientID	0
BusinessID	0
ServiceID	0
StartTime	
EndTime	

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File Home Create External Data Database Tools Help Tell me what you want to do

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Tables

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- CLIENT
- SERVICE

Queries

- Business Appointments Qu...
- Client Appointments Query

Forms

- Appointment Form
- Business Form
- Client Form
- Service Form

Reports

- Appointments Report

BUSINESS

BusinessID (New)

Name

Location

Phone

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File Home Create External Data Database Tools Help Tell me what you want to do

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Tables

- APPOINTMENT
- BUSINESS
- CLIENT
- SERVICE

Queries

- Business Appointments Qu...
- Client Appointments Query

Forms

- Appointment Form
- Business Form
- Client Form
- Service Form

Reports

- Appointments Report

CLIENT

ClientID (New)

Name

Email

Phone

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Tables

- APPOINTMENT
- BUSINESS
- CLIENT
- SERVICE

Queries

- Business Appointments Qu...
- Client Appointments Query

Forms

- Appointment Form
- Business Form
- Client Form
- Service Form

Reports

- Appointments Report

SERVICE

ServiceID [New]

BusinessID 0

Description

Price \$0.00

Queries

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File Home Create External Data Database Tools Help Tell

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Tables

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Queries

- Business Appointments Qu...
- Client Appointments Query

Forms

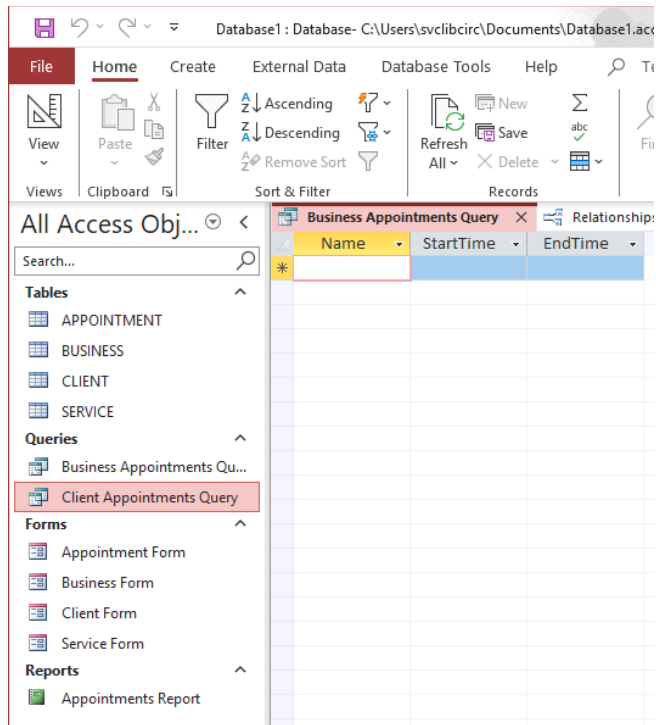
- Appointment Form
- Business Form
- Client Form
- Service Form

Reports

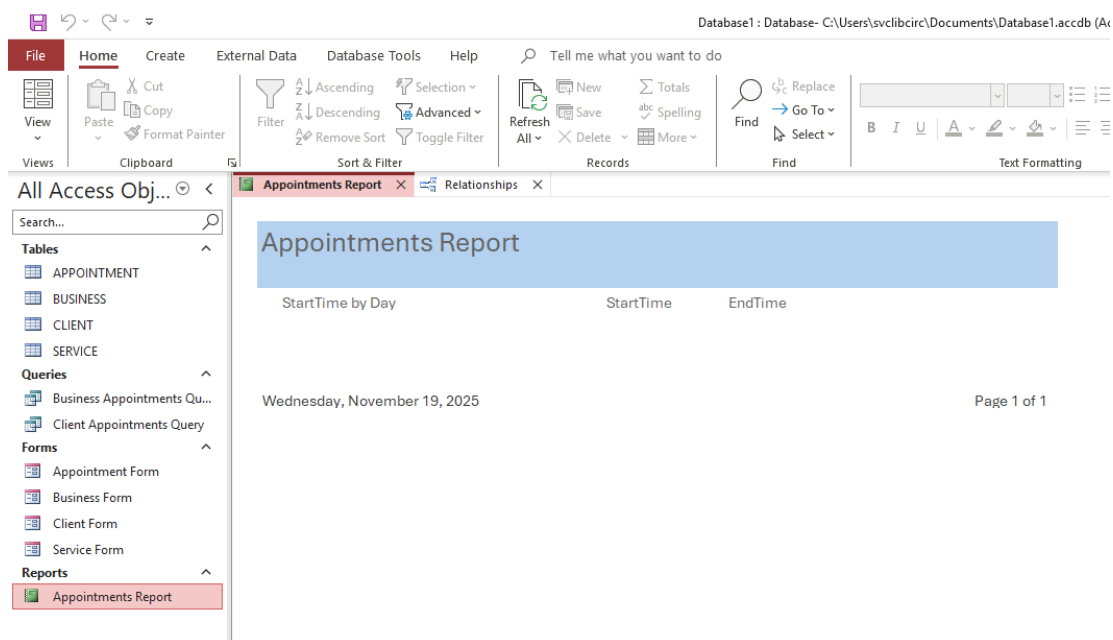
- Appointments Report

Business Appointments Query

Name	StartTime	EndTime
*		



Report



References

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