

Unit 4: HomeWork

Design Question:

Building on the ecommerce database design we are working on, the retailer wants to add support for “Gift orders”. The customer will now be able to order gifts for family and friends on a single order and have them shipped to different addresses.

- How would you change your database design to accommodate this requirement?
- Would you create new tables or change existing tables?
- Your ecommercedb now has close to 10k orders already. How will the requirement impact the existing orders in the tables? Are there special design considerations for handling the existing orders?

Turn in an updated ER model for the Ecommerce DB showing the design changes in addition to a word document addressing the questions above.

Answers for HW4:

Q1 (How would you change your database design to accommodate this requirement?) and Q2 (Would you create new tables or change existing tables?)

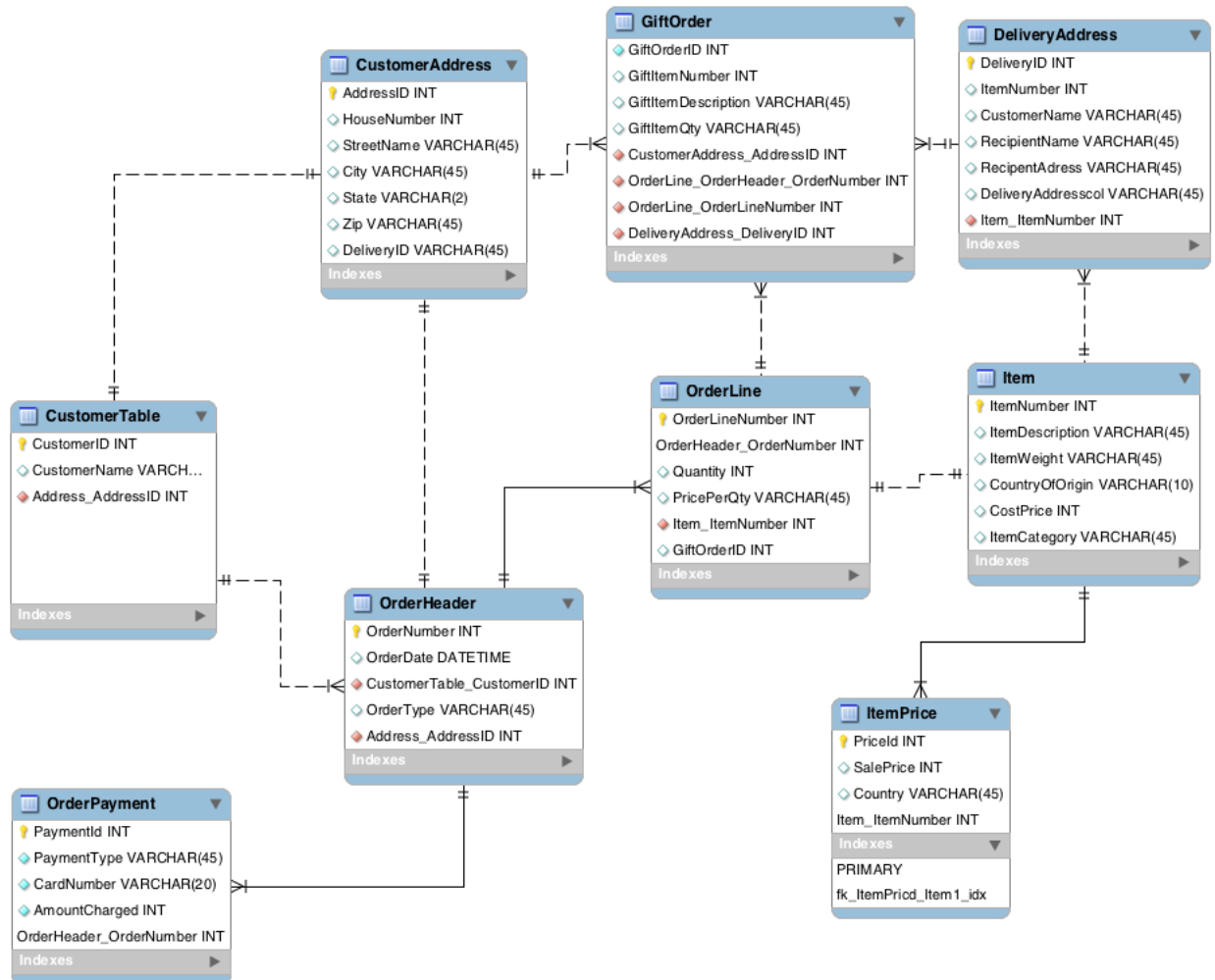
In the previously established Entity-Relationship (ER) Diagram, it only includes CustomerAddress table to deliver orders to customers who place orders. For the new “Gift orders” requirements, we can create new tables or change existing tables. However, creating new entity tables will be the easy and better way to address this question.

In order to meet the requirement to include gift order delivery, a new entity table DeliveryAddress should be set up for delivering gifts to family and friends.

For the requirement of ordering gifts for family and friends on a single order, another new entity table GiftOrder should be used to organize the single order in table OrderLine.

In addition, build the relations to hold the associations between table GiftOrder and OrderLine, DeliveryAddress, and CustomerAddress.

The Modified database design to meet “Gift orders” requirement is shown below:



Q3: Your ecommercedb now has close to 10k orders already. How will the requirement impact the existing orders in the tables? Are there special design considerations for handling the existing orders?

If the ecommercedb now has close to 10k orders already, the ER model will become less efficient. Therefore, we need to partition or index the database to enhance the performance, manageability and availability of data. For example, in the OrderLine table, we can set up different categories (such as GiftOrder, LargeOrder_1 ... n, etc.). Each category associates with corresponding delivery address.

The modified model is shown below:

