Database Design

Presentation of the ERD to the Client

Objectives

This lesson covers the following objectives:

- Share and translate the ER model with the client in an engaging way
- Use non-technical terms when describing the ER model to the client
- Document design revisions requested by the client

Purpose

Continue to apply what you've learned and simulate a real-world situation.

Most clients will not be familiar with data-modeling techniques and terminology. Using their own business terms and examples will help your client understand your presentation and model.

Tell Your Story

Your presentation should be organized and well prepared. It is a good idea to assign roles and responsibilities to different group members for each part of the presentation.

This presentation provides you an opportunity, as a consultant, to check your assumptions of the business requirements with the Director. “Tell the story” that the client told you during your initial meeting while showing and explaining the ERD.

Use a Simple Vocabulary

Consultants should not use technical terms with the client such as unique identifier, attribute, or entity. Clients do not know what these things are. You can, and should, show the client how to read relationships on the diagram. Once the client understands how to read the diagram, they should be able to help verify if the relationship is correct.

This is also a time for you to make sure that you are gathering all the data the client requires for each of the entities. For example, "Is there any other information that you would like to know about your adopters besides name and address?"

Terminology

Key terms used in this lesson included:

- Consultant
- Client

Summary

In this lesson, you should have learned how to:

- Share and translate the ER model with the client in an engaging way
- Use nontechnical terms when describing the ER model to the client
- Document design revisions requested by the client