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Module 9 Discussion 2

The owners’ suggested design seems to be an attempt to capture all personnel records in a single table. While this might work for a very small operation, it presents several issues as the company scales up:

Redundancy: There will be redundant entries for store information, like telephone numbers, for each employee listed, leading to unnecessary data duplication.

Update Anomalies: If a store’s telephone number changes, it would need to be updated in multiple records, increasing the chance of errors.

Limited Flexibility: The design restricts each store to exactly one technician and up to four sales reps. What if a store hires more employees or has fewer than four sales reps?

No Room for Growth: As the company expands, the table will become increasingly unwieldy, and any changes in staff roles or additions of new job titles would require a redesign of the table structure.

A better design would involve separating the data into related tables to reduce redundancy and accommodate growth:

A table for Stores with fields for store number, location, and store telephone.

A table for Employees with fields for name, home telephone, role (manager, technician, or sales rep), and a foreign key linking to the store number.

This normalized design allows for more flexibility, reduces redundancy, and makes it easier to maintain accurate and up-to-date information.