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Entity Relationship Diagram

- Information Engineering Relations
- Entities
- Complete Example

Based on the Information Engineering notation.

This is an extension to the existing [Class Diagram](#). This extension adds:

- Additional relations for the Information Engineering notation.
- An `entity` alias that maps to the class diagram `class`.
- An additional visibility modifier `*` to identify mandatory attributes.

Otherwise, the syntax for drawing diagrams is the same as for class diagrams. All other features of class diagrams are also supported.

Information Engineering Relations

Type	Symbol
Zero or One	o--
Exactly One	--
Zero or Many	}o--
One or Many	} --

Examples:

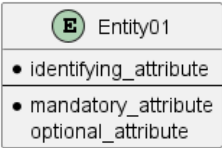
@startuml
Entity01 }|..| Entity02
Entity03 }o..o| Entity04
Entity05 ||--o{ Entity06
Entity07 |o--|| Entity08
@enduml

The diagram illustrates the relationships between eight entities (Entity01 to Entity08) using various Information Engineering symbols. Entity01 is connected to Entity02 with a }|..| symbol. Entity03 is connected to Entity04 with a }o..o| symbol. Entity05 is connected to Entity06 with a ||--o{ symbol. Entity07 is connected to Entity08 with a |o--|| symbol.

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Entities

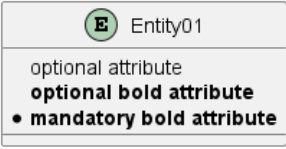
```
@startuml
entity Entity01 {
    * identifying_attribute
    --
    * mandatory_attribute
    optional_attribute
}
@enduml
```



Again, this is the normal class diagram syntax (aside from use of `entity` instead of `class`). Anything that you can do in a class diagram can be done here.

The `*` visibility modifier can be used to identify mandatory attributes. A space can be used after the modifier character to avoid conflicts with the creole bold:

```
@startuml
entity Entity01 {
    optional attribute
    **optional bold attribute**
    * **mandatory bold attribute**
}
@enduml
```



Complete Example

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```
' hide the spot
hide circle

' avoid problems with angled crows feet
skinparam linetype ortho

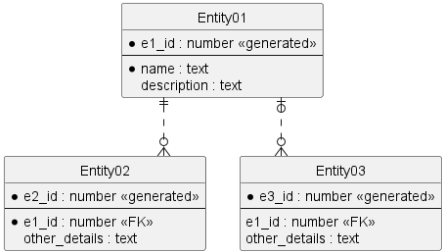
entity "Entity01" as e01 {
  *e1_id : number <<generated>>
  --
  *name : text
  description : text
}

entity "Entity02" as e02 {
  *e2_id : number <<generated>>
  --
  *e1_id : number <<FK>>
  other_details : text
}

entity "Entity03" as e03 {
  *e3_id : number <<generated>>
  --
  e1_id : number <<FK>>
  other_details : text
}

e01 ||..o{ e02
e01 |o..o{ e03

@enduml
```



Currently the crows feet do not look very good when the relationship is drawn at an angle to the entity. This can be avoided by using the `linetype ortho` `skinparam`.