# Questions for Data Base Design

Functionality (what system should do lesser extent how)

1. What should the system do?
2. What should the user interface look like?
3. What response times are needed?
4. What reports are needed?
5. Do power users and administrators need to be able to define new reports?

Data Needs (what data is needed so we can only include needed tables)

1. What data is needed for the user interface?
2. Where should that data come from?
3. How is the data related?
4. How is the normal way of handling this?

Data Integrity (constraints)

1. What values are allowed in which fields?
2. Which fields are required? (phone, mobile, fax, all?)
3. What are the high and low ends of the values?
4. Should there be validating checks for queries?
5. Does the customer need to be logged in to place orders?
6. If customer cancels an account, do we delete the shopping cart or leave it as inactive?
7. Does the system need 24/7 access?
8. How volatile is the data?
9. How often does it need to be backed up?
10. How disastrous will it be it if crashes?
11. How quickly can we get it back up and running?
12. How be would it be if we lose data during the crash?

Security

1. Does each user need a separate password?
2. Do users access different parts of data?
3. Does the data need to be encrypted within the data base?
4. Are there going to be different classes of users? (clerks, managers, admin)
5. How many of each class of user?
6. Will only one person access the data at a time?
7. Will there be documentation describing the users’ tasks and responsibilities?

Environment

1. Are the systems with which this one will interact with?
   1. How will it interact?
   2. Will it send data? How?
   3. Will it receive data? How?
   4. Is there documentation needed?

# References

Stephens, R. (2009). *Database Design Solutions.* Indianapolis: Wiley Publishing, Inc.