

## Unit 7:

### « Normalisation in practice



Neelam Pirbhai-Jetha

#### **My first attempt...**

32 days ago

4 replies



Last 27 days ago

*After having gone through the course lecture, read a few chapters and watched a couple of YouTube videos on normalisation, I have tried to work on a table structure that conforms to the Third Normal Form.*

*As shown below, I have just added a new id column to most tables since an id seems to reduce repetitive information, and can be used as a key to show the relations.*

*For instance, a property\_id was given as information on the property is needed in almost all tables.*

*I'm just not sure if there was a need to create an owner\_id. But then, owners can change...*

#### **property\_details**

property_id	street	post-code	type	bed-rooms	price	pets_allowed	deposit_amount

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owner\_details

property_id	owner_id	owner_name	owner_address	owner_telephone

client\_details

client_id	client_name	client_date_of_birth	client_telephone

rental\_details

Property_id	Client_id	rental_start_date	duration	deposit_paid

maintenance\_contractor

maintenance_id	property_id	contractor_name	contractor_telephone

maintenance\_issue

maintenance_id	is-	estimate_cost	re-

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maintenance\_issue

maintenance_id	is-	estimate_cost	re-

Reply

Maximum rating: -

4 replies

Post by **Lukman Mohamed** 21 days ago

Peer Response

Hi Neelam,

Are you making a composite key for the 'owner\_details' table?

Also, regarding your last question, do you mean if you are supposed to add an 'owner\_id' column to the 'owner\_details' table? I think you should.

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4 replies

Post by **Lukman Mohamed** 21 days ago

Peer Response

Hi Neelam,

Are you making a composite key for the 'owner\_details' table?

Also, regarding your last question, do you mean if you are supposed to add an 'owner\_id' column to the 'owner\_details' table? I think you should.

If you are worried about changing owners, then maybe consider making a table only for 'owner\_details' and then add the 'owner\_id' to the 'property\_details' table. And when you want to view the bigger picture, you can always use joins.

And when owners change, you can easily update it in the 'property\_details' table.

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Owner

PK	id	int
	name	string
	address	string
	phone_number	int

Property

PK	id	int
FK	owner_id	int
	type	string
	bedrooms	int
	price	float
	perts_allowed	boolean
	street	string
	postcode	string

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Hi Lukman,  
Thanks for your comments and the updated ERD. I'll definitely follow your advice.  
Best wishes,

Reply

Maximum rating: -

Post by [Oliver Buckley](#)  
Re: My first attempt...

38 days ago

I think that this looks like a good first attempt, Neelam.

The use of dedicated ID columns is an interesting one and there are two schools of thought on this. One is that it is absolutely fine to insert a key column (synthetic key) as it helps to satisfy some of the normal forms. However, the other viewpoint is that by using data in the tables to create composite keys you are making your data more descriptive and readable.

There isn't really a 'right' answer...

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