

Practical Database Design: Implementing Responsible Data Solutions with SQL Querying

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Better Understand an Organization's Data Needs

To help us reign in a client's expectations, we need to lean into formalizing the organization's data requirements documentation. Data requirements aren't discussed as often—they tend to be assumed or gathered over time. But it's as important as business requirements and software requirements documentations. Both business operations and software development become easier to map out and manage when there's a solid data plan.

Here is a 10-point checklist I run through to ensure I have a fuller picture of an organization's data needs.

10-Point Checklist

1. Identify entities and their attributes.
2. Establish relationships and cardinalities.
3. Capture data workflow.
4. Specify data formats and conventions.
5. Define data storage mechanisms.
6. Address data integrity and quality.
7. Address data integration and interoperability.
8. Document data management processes.
9. Collaborate with other data experts.
10. Validate and verify data requirements.