Project Report - Enterprise Resource Planning

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Abstract—In modern organizations, it's important to manage resources, both for organizational efficiency and auditing purposes. More often than not, organizations deal with a lot of inventory items, vendors, employees, customers, etc. If they don't have an efficient way to handle the data, then operations will get messy real fast. This is apart from the audit-related roadblocks they will face when it's time to report their financials at year-end. To solve this problem, organizations maintain something called Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), which can go into hundreds, if not thousands of tables.

Index Terms-sql, database, streamlit, python, postgresql

I. Introduction

ERPs ideally involve complex databases that are carefully managed by a host of database operators or admins. We need to use database systems, because if we use Excel files to maintain the data, then the amount of time needed to make updates to the different related tables will be really complicated and would consume a lot of man-hours, which is expensive. If the number of tables/files is large, then the cost of maintaining the excel files will be prohibitive. This is excluding human error because human maintenance is not the perfect way to deal with large amounts of data. A simple "0" error would cause massive disruptions in the operations and would take a lot of time to correct, which would again mean deploying excess resources for mitigating such issues. A database management system would be a perfect system to maintain an ERP. By defining relations, we would be enforcing integrity and reducing the number of errors present in the data. This is apart from the efficiency gains in CRUD operations, which would lead to a drastic improvement in resource planning and a reduction in cost for mitigating issues.

II. TARGET USER

- The User: Anyone who needs to manage the resources in their organization, such as orders, inventory, supplier information, etc. would be a user.
- The Administer: Anyone who needs to do control checks (such as supplier and purchaser is not the same person), or maintain the database characteristics (Integrity, tables, backups, etc) would be an administrator.
- Real-life scenario description: Our goal is to simulate a simple system for entering data into an ERP and allow users to do basic querying.

III. DATABASE

A. Schema

We have used postgresql as our database for this project. The schema contains 12 tables:

- customers
- categories
- categories_description
- supplier
- products
- territories
- employees
- employee_territories
- shippers
- postal_address_lookup
- orders
- order_details

The customers table contain all the details related to the customer such as name, title, postal code, country, etc. The categories tables contain category names of different category and categories description has multiple subcategories within each category. Supplier contains details company name, title, postal code, etc with respect to a supplier. Products contains name, quantity per unit, discontinued or not, which supplier sends the product and to which category it belongs to. Territories contains territory id, names. Employees contains first & last name, title, contact, etc. Employee territory tells us to which territory(ies) a employee is assigned to. Shipper has details of all the shipper used to ship the products and postal address lookup table maps postal code and country to a city. The most important table are orders and order details where order contains details of a single order and order details list the products, quantity, discount, etc for each product in that order.

B. Dataset

The dataset for this project was manually augmented using python script. The most rows in the tables are in the order and order_details table with approximately 10k and 25k rows respectively.

C. Dataset modification and departure from Milestone 1

In milestone 1 there were 10 tables and some tables were not in BCNF form. We decomposed categories into two tables

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i.e., categories and categories description because categories had a column which had multiple values. Also, We remove city attribute from the respective tables and created a new table called postal_address_lookup to bring the tables in BCNF form. We have also created one function and one trigger for employee & employee territory tables. Whenever a new employee is added to the database then they get mapped to a random territory. We have also added indexes to improve complex query performance.

D. Constraints in the Database

Various constraints were added to the tables in order to ensure the integrity of the databases. All the foreign keys, referencing the primary key from the parent table, are modified whenever the value in the parent table changes. For example if the value in the parent table changes, then the value "Cascades" in the child table through the following command after the foreign key.

ON UPDATE CASCADE

If the value in the parent table is deleted, then the value is set to "NULL" in the child table through the following command after the foreign key.

ON DELETE SET NULL

E. Attributes of the Tables

- Categories.
 - id: The Primary key.
 - name: Name of the type/category of the products.
- FDs in table: id $\rightarrow name$
- Supplier.
 - id: The Primary key.
 - company name: Company name of the supplier.
 - contact_name: Contact persons name for the company.
 - contact_title: Role of the contact person.
 - postal_code: Postal Code of suppliers city.
 - country: Suppliers country.
 - contact: Phone number of the contact person.
- FDs in table: id→ company_name, contact_name, postal_code, contact
- Products.
 - id: The Primary key.
 - name: Name of the product.
 - supplier_id: Supplier ID of the supplier proving the product.
 - category_id: Category of the product.
 - quantity_per_unit: Number of pieces in 1 unit of the product.
 - unit_price: Price of Product per unit.
 - stock: Number of available product count.
 - discontinued: Boolean field specifying whether the product is still active or discontinued.
- FDs in table: id \rightarrow name, supplier_id, category_id, discontinued, quantity_per_unit, unit_price, stock

- Categories_Description.
 - category_id: The Primary key.
 - name: Description of the category.
- Order_Details.
 - order_id: The Primary key.
 - product_id: ID of the ordered product.
 - unit_price: Price of the unit quantity of the product.
 - quantity: Quantity of the product ordered.
 - discount: Discount applied on the order.
- FDs in table: order_id→ product_id, unit_price, quantity, discount
- · Customers.
 - id: The Primary key.
 - name: Name of the company of the customer.
 - contact_name: Point of contact from the customer company.
 - title: Designation of the point of contact.
 - postal_code: Postal code for the customer company.
 - country: Country where the customer company is located.
 - contact: Phone number of the point of contact from the customer company.
- FDs in table: id→ name, contact_name, title, postal_code, country, contact
- Orders.
 - id: The Primary key
 - customer_id: ID of the customer making the order.
 - employee_id: ID of the employee facilitating the order.
 - order date: Date on which the order was placed.
 - delivery_date: Date on which the order was delivered.
 - shipped_date: Date on which the order was shipped to the customer.
 - shipper_id: Refers to the id shipper who shipped the order.
 - weight: Weight of the order being shipped.
 - ship_name: Name of the ship being used to ship the product.
 - ship_postal_code: Postal code where the order is being shipped.
 - ship_country: Country where the order is being shipped.
- FDs in table: id→ customer_id, employee_id, order_date, delivery_date, shipped_date, shipper_id, weight, ship_name, ship_postal_code, ship_country
- Shippers.
 - id: The Primary key
 - name: Name of the shipper.
 - contact: Contact number of the shipper.
- FDs in table: id $\rightarrow name, contact$
- Postal Address Lookup.
 - postal_code: Postal Code unique with respect to the country.

- country: Country which defines where the postal code belong.
- city: City association based on the postal code and the country.
- FDs in table: postal_code, country $\rightarrow city$
- Employees.
 - id: The primary key.
 - first_name: The first name of the employee.
 - last_name: The last name of the employee.
 - title: The designation of the employee.
 - birthdate: The birth date of the employee.
 - hire_date: The date on which the employee was hired.
 - postal_code: The postal code of the city where the employee is located.
 - country: The country where the employee is located.
 - reports_to: The id of the employee which the employee reports to.
 - contact: The contact number of the employee.
- FDs: id \rightarrow first_name, last_name, title, birthdate, hire_date, contact, reports_to, postal_code, country
- Territories.
 - id: The territory id.
 - name: Name of the territory.
- FDs in table: $id \rightarrow name$.
- Employee Territories.
 - employee id: Employee ID.
 - territory_id: The ID of the territory assigned to the employee.
- FDs in table: employee_id→ territory_id.

IV. WEBSITE

To demonstrate our final project, we have built a website. The details of both the front-end and back-end are mentioned below.

A. Setting up Python Environment and Database Connection:

To run the web app, all the dependencies needs to be installed. We have provided with an python script called 'requirements.py' which will take care of all the dependent components that are required for the app to work. We have used psycopg2 which is a Python-PostgreSQL Database Adapter. To set database environment variables such as DATABASE, USER, PASSWORD, and HOST, we have provided an 'config.py' file.

B. Project Directory Overview

The 'Application Code' directory contains 'app.py' and a sub-directory called 'pages' which contains different pages of our web app. We also have 'multipage.py', 'config.py' and 'sql_connect.py' in main directory which are used structuring and configuring our app.

C. Running the Code

The file 'app.py' is responsible to start the streamlit server by default on the local host and on port number 8501. It is in the main project directory and it can be run by the following command:

streamlit run app.py

```
(base) wizard@Sagars-MBP DMQL_Project % streamlit run app.py 2022-05-02 12:36:32.609 INFO numexpr.utils: NumExpr defaulting to 8 threads.

You can now view your Streamlit app in your browser.

Local URL: http://localhost:8501
Network URL: http://l92.168.1.101:8501
```

Fig. 1. Streamlit run command

D. Back-end

We used a python framework called Streamlit to develop our website backend. Our main file is 'app.py' located in the Application Code directory which is responsible for starting the web app. To add the multi-page functionality we have a python script for each page which can be located under the pages directory. When you run the web app, the first page is the home page.

- 1) Home Page: This page is responsible for displaying each table and an option to perform insert, update, and delete for that respective table. User can navigate different tables using the drop down in the app navigation panel to view different tables. We have also implemented pagination feature for huge tables. To view each table and perform DML commands we have handled different SQL commands in the backend.
- 2) Handling Form issues in Streamlit: Everytime an action is performed on the Streamlit the app gets refreshed. Because of this all the data inside the input fields of form gets refreshed on submission. To resolve this and store the values of the input fields of the form Session State of the Streamlit were used. In session state one can create a variable and store the value in that variable. Even when the app is refreshed the value is retained in the session state variable and can be used after the app has refreshed. Hence using session states the values entered in the input fields of the form were retained and used for the respective operations.
- 3) Filter Tables Page: This page provides a lot of flexibility to the user to slice through different tables based on different filters. In simple terms, user can play with SELECT statement in SQL using the UI components. Again, here the user has the freedom to choose table, choice of attribute to view and apply different algebraic, boolean, logical, and operators like BETWEEN, LIKE. Based on the filter values and attributes the appropriate SQL command is executed to fetch the results from the database.

4) Advanced Queries Page: In this page we have defined various use cases related to our ERP system. Each use cases captures various database concepts such as joins over multiple tables, order by, group by and having operations; along with various other filtering options based on where clause. User can choose values for each filters/fields and based on those values each time a SQL query is executed in the backend and the result is displayed in the form of a table.

E. Front-end

After starting the web app, we land upon the home page of the web app.

1) Home Page: In fig 2, on the left side which contains the navigational panel, home option is selected by default which indicates we are on the home page. Below which we can observe other radio buttons that let's us navigate to different pages in our web app. Below that there is a drop down that let's user to choose which table to show and that table is displayed in the middle. Right of the table we can observe three button - Insert, Update, and Delete; upon clicked opens a form in which values can be filled based on each table and the respective SQL command is executed on submit.



Fig. 2. Home Page

- 2) Filter Tables Page: In fig 3, we can observe an snippet of how the page works. On the left hand, Filter tables option is selected indicating we are on that page and below that user can select various options to choose from on how to slice the table. Based on the values user mentions, a SQL query gets executed in the backend when 'Get Result' button is clicked. The result of the query is displayed below the button. Table above the button is the original table displayed for the reference.
- 3) Advance Queries Page: In fig 4, we can observe that on the navigation panel Advance Queries option is selected and below that there is a drop down that contains a list of different use cases. Use cases are independent and cater different aspects of ERP systems. Also, each use case has different set of filters based on which the underlying query changes and every time the value changes the corresponding query with new values gets executed and the result is displayed.

V. QUERY OPTIMIZATION

To build reliable and scalable system it is necessary to optimize the system performance.

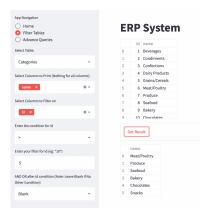


Fig. 3. Filter Tables Page



Fig. 4. Advance Queries Page

A. Problematic queries

1) Query 1:

```
SELECT
    s.id,
    s.company_name,
    s.contact_name,
    s.contact,
    p.name AS product,
    p.unit_price,
    p.stock,
    p.discontinued,
    SUM(od.quantity) AS quantity_sold
FROM
    supplier s,
    products p,
    order details od
WHERE
    s.id = p.supplier id
    AND p.id = od.product_id
    and s.id = '14'
GROUP BY
    od.product_id,
    s.id,
    s.company_name,
    s.contact_name,
    s.contact,
    p.name,
    p.unit_price,
    p.stock,
```

p.discontinued

```
HAVING
    SUM(od.quantity) > 0
ORDER BY
    s.id;
```

```
Data Output Explain Messages Notifications
      QUERY PLAN
 1 HashAggregate (cost=1899.30..1905.45 rows=164 width=138) (actual time=9.120..9.233 rows=202 loops=1)
 2 [...] Group Key: s.id, od.product_id, p.name, p.unit_price, p.stock, p.discontinued
 3 [...] Filter: (sum(od.quantity) > 0)
 4 [...] Batches: 1 Memory Usage: 113kB
 5 [...] -> Nested Loop (cost=853.33..1890.69 rows=492 width=134) (actual time=2.214..8.642 rows=489 loops=1)
 6 [...] -> Seq Scan on supplier s (cost=0.00..2.75 rows=1 width=49) (actual time=0.018..0.026 rows=1 loops=1)
     [...] Filter: (id = 14)
 8 [...] Rows Removed by Filter: 59
 9 [...] -> Hash Join (cost=853.33..1883.02 rows=492 width=89) (actual time=2.193..8.519 rows=489 loops=1)
 10 [...] Hash Cond: (od.product_id = p.id)
 11 [ ]-> Seg Scan on order details od (cost=0.00, 963,83 rows=25083 width=8) (actual time=0.314,3.043 rows=25083 loops=1)
 12 [...] -> Hash (cost=850.51..850.51 rows=225 width=85) (actual time=1.858..1.859 rows=225 loops=1)
 13 [...] Buckets: 1024 Batches: 1 Memory Usage: 36kB
 14 [...] -> Seq Scan on products p (cost=0.00..850.51 rows=225 width=85) (actual time=0.320..1.768 rows=225 loops=1)
 15 [...] Filter: (supplier_id = 14)
 16 [...] Rows Removed by Filter: 11256
 17 Planning Time: 0.592 ms
 18 Execution Time: 9.350 ms
```

Fig. 5. Problematic Query 1

The fig 5 shows the analysis of the query. As we can see that there are multiple tables involved and multiple joins happening on the basis of the foreign keys in the table the execution time and cost of the query was higher.

We decided to use index on the product_id of order_details table and supplier_id in products table. Indexing of these columns on which the joins are happening led to faster retrieval of the results and in less cost. The result of the analysis of the same query after indexing can be observed in fig 6.

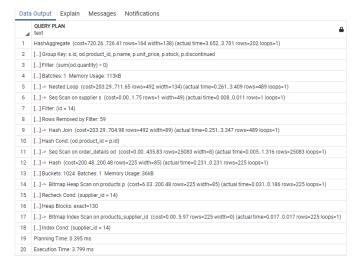


Fig. 6. Optimized Query 1

In fig 6, we can see various improvements over fig 5. For example, the hash aggregate cost for the non-indexed query is significantly higher as compared to the indexed query.

Another interesting statistic to look at is the nested loop cost, which is again significantly higher for the non-indexed query as compared to the indexed query. Most importantly, the execution time of the indexed query is far less as compared to the non-indexed query.

```
2) Query 2:
Select
    o.id as order_id,
    o.order_date,
    o.shipped_date,
    o.delivery_date,
    s.name as shippers_name,
    p.name as product_name,
    od.quantity,
    od.unit_price
    od.discount,
    od.quantity * od.unit price *
    (1 - od.discount) as total_price
from
    orders o,
    shippers s,
    order details od,
    products p
where
    o.shipper_id = s.id
    and o.id = od.order_id
    and od.product_id = p.id
    and o.customer_id = 'KUJKU'
    AND o.order_date BETWEEN '1970-01-01'
    and '2009-03-25'
order by
    o.id;
```

The image 7 shows the analysis of another problematic query. The query is used to get the details of the customers and their corresponding orders and its details. As we can see that four different tables are joined to get the desired output. Also along with the joins, there are certain filters imposed like order dates between two dates and customer id equal to customer id of a certain customer. The retrieval of the results is costly and time consuming as we can see from the below analysis of the query

To improve the process of retrieving the results for the query, we decided to add indexes on the columns which were used for joining the four different tables. Indexes were applied on order_id, product_id of the order_details table and customer_id of the order table. This resulted in fast and cost efficient retrieval of the result. The analysis of the query after indexing is shown in the below image

In fig 8, we can see various improvements over fig 7. For example, the sort cost for the non-indexed query is significantly higher as compared to the indexed query. Another interesting statistic to look at is the nested loop cost, which is again

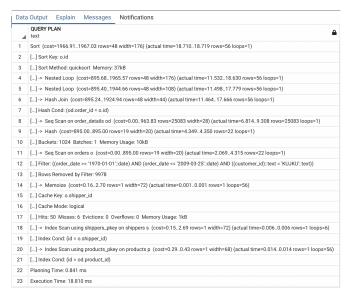


Fig. 7. Problematic Query 2

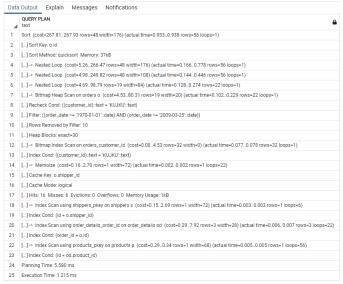


Fig. 8. Optimized Query 2

significantly higher for the non-indexed query as compared to the indexed query. Most importantly, the execution time of the indexed query is far less as compared to the non-indexed query.

```
3) Query 3:
```

```
select
   orders.id,
   orders.order_date,
   orders.shipped_date,
   orders.delivery_date,
   orders.shipped_date -
   orders.delivery_date as delay,
   order_details.quantity,
```

```
order_details.unit_price,
order_details.discount,
order_details.quantity *
order_details.unit_price *
(1 - order_details.discount)
as total_price,
products.name as product_name
from
    orders
    left join order_details
    on orders.id = order_details.order_id
    left join products
    on order_details.product_id=products.id
order by
    total_price desc
```

The image 9 shows the analysis of the query. This query is used to calculate the delay between the shipped date and the delivery date of all the orders. As a large amount of data will be present in order details and order tables joining these two table is a costly operation. This can be seen from the analysis of the query.

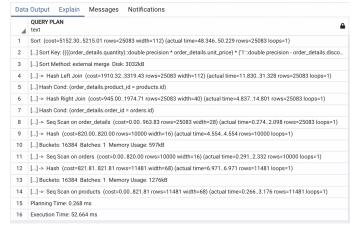


Fig. 9. Problematic Query 3

To improve the efficiency of joining data of two different tables without any filters on it, indexes have been used. Indexing is applied on product_id and order_id of the order_details table. The analysis of the query after indexing can be seen in 10.

In fig 10, we can see various improvements over fig 9. For example, the sort cost for the non-indexed query is significantly higher as compared to the indexed query. Another interesting statistic to look at is the hash left join cost, which is again significantly higher for the non-indexed query as compared to the indexed query. Most importantly, the execution time of the indexed query is far less as compared to the non-indexed query.



Fig. 10. Optimized Query 3

VI. CONCLUSION

For implementing a Enterprise Resource Planning solution, we had to implement a host of database techniques in order for it be practical and robust. From designing the ER diagram, converting the tables into BCNF form, implementing a website which a user can use to interact with the database to perform all CRUD operations, and observe statistics of different use cases through visualizations, we have created a system which can be operated by anyone looking to manage a small to medium organization.

VII. ER DIAGRAM

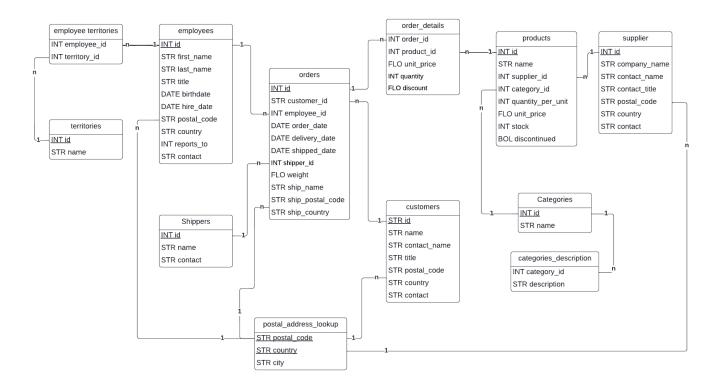


Fig. 11. ER Diagram