

Business Simulator

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Analysis

Introduction:

The purpose of this simulation is to help educate Business studies students, economics students and anyone else who is interested and give them some form of Idea of what it may be like to run their own business. I believe this would be beneficial to students (or anyone who wants to learn) as it allows them to explore the inner workings of a business and experiment with certain parameters and see how changing those parameters may affect the business. Allowing the player to understand how and why businesses act the way they do. This may also help students when answering exam questions since with the simulation they can apply what they have learned and recognise parts of the course in the game. Then when answering questions, they can use what they've taken from the game to help with their answer by using an application. It's also a fun game to play and could be a unique way to revise. The aim of the simulation is to either reach a certain amount of revenue/profit or just see what the highest amount you can make. The simulation involves the player buying and selling certain types of goods in a business. These include frozen goods, chilled goods, fresh goods and ambient/regular goods. The player will purchase x amount of a good at a price which is ever changing. Goods will all also be classed on their type based on elasticity, those being Inferior goods (Demand goes down when income goes up), normal goods (Demand up when income up) and luxury goods (high income elasticity). What this does is it shows the player of the game the concept of elasticities, allowing them to understand why the prices of goods are what they are. Furthermore the player will have a better understanding of the law of supply and demand. The economic formula to calculate the Income elasticity (YED) of a good is the %change in quantity demanded / %change in income. For my game however I have set the elasticity myself based on what type of good my products are. For example, wine would be a luxury good as when income goes up demand will go up. For a good to be deemed income elastic, it must have a $YED > 1$. So for my game there will be Strong Elastic goods where the YED will be 1.8, meaning if income increased by 10%, demand would increase 1.8x, meaning demand would increase by 18%. And there are also strong inelastic goods. These have

a YED of 0.5. Meaning if income increased by 10%, demand would only increase by 0.5x meaning demand will increase by 5%. As I stated previously, I have set the YED of these products myself based on what they're like in the real world. The simulation will also give the player an option to view a Profit/Loss sheet allowing them to get a better understanding of how their business is performing. As such, this will allow them to figure out what are bad actions and what are good actions.

User Installation Procedure:

In order for a user to have this running/working properly, the user will need to first download all the files from the NEAProtoSave file. Once this is done, the user should then change the connection string on line 23 to match the location where the file is saved on their own computer. For example, my connection string is:

```
@ "Data Source=C:\Users\sampr\OneDrive\Desktop\KAB6 Comp Sci\Comp Sci NEA\NEAProtoSave\NEAProtoSave\Files\NEAdataBaseTest.db;Version=3;".
```

The user will need to modify everything before "NEAProtoSave" to match the location of where they've stored the files. To do this simply, the user could go to the solution explorer and copy the file path of the NEAdataBaseTest file and paste it into the Connection string. Optionally, the user can also install DB Browser for SQLite. This isn't essential for the program to be run but it'll allow the user to be able to see their data. Once they've installed this, they can view the data by clicking on "Open Database", then going to where they've saved the NEAProtoSave folder, open the folder, open the files folder and then double click on the NEAdataBaseTest file.

Requirements:

The following are all requirements that I deem essential for my game to work as intended.

PreGame requirements:

- Pre1: Program should display the options "New Game", "Load Game" or "Quit"
- Pre2: If the user enters quit the program should display a thank you message and end
- Pre3: If the user enters new game, the program should prompt the user to make a username and password.
- Pre4: Once the user has entered a Username and password, they should be saved to the SQL database.
- Pre5: The user should then be sent to the setup phase.
- Pre6: If the user enters load game, prompt them to enter a username.
- Pre7: If the username is recognised, load the appropriate data from the SQL database (cash, goods and upgrades) and put the user in the setup phase
- Pre8: Else ,display an error message

Setup phase requirements:

- Set1: The program should let the user know they're in the setup phase
- Set2: Display the amount of cash the user has
- Set3: Display the amount of goods in fresh, frozen, chilled and regular storage.
- Set4: Display the options to Simulate, purchase goods, view storage, view and purchase upgrades and to save and quit.
- Set5: If the user enters Sim, they should then be sent to the simulation phase.
- Set6: If the user enters Purchase, begin the purchase phase
- Set7: If the user enters View, move them to the view storage phase
- Set8: If the user enters Upgrades, move them to the upgrades phase
- Set9: If the user enters Save, save their current data to the SQL database (Cash, goods, Upgrades)
- Set10: If the user enters quit, display a thank you message then end the game
- Set11: Display the option to view finances

Simulation phase requirements:

- Sim1: The program should let the user know they're in the simulation phase
- Sim2: Display how many units of each good was sold.
- Sim3: Display the amount each good was sold for.
- Sim4: Display the total amount of revenue the good made
- Sim5: Display the amount of cash the user has (After sales)
- Sim6: Display the amount of units in each storage
- Sim7: Tell the user if any goods expired and how many of each
- Sim8: Prompt the user to begin the next cycle
- Sim9: If it is a 4th cycle, force the user to pay £500 toward bills
- Sim10: Deduce £500 from the user's current cash.
- Sim11: If when the game attempts to collect the bills the user cannot afford it, tell the user they cannot afford to pay bills and as such the game will end
- Sim12: End the game if the user cannot pay bills.
- Sim13: Every simulation, increase or decrease the price of goods
- Sim14: Every simulation, store the amount of inflows and outflows of the business

Purchase phase requirements:

- Pur1: The program should let the user know they're in the purchase phase
- Pur2: Prompt the user to enter the type of goods they'd like to purchase
- Pur3: Display the types of goods available
- Pur4: Display the option to go back
- Pur5: If the user enters back, send them back to the setup phase
- Pur6: If the user enters an invalid option, prompt them to try again
- Pur7: When the user enters a valid storage type, display the goods in that storage type (e.g. if user enters frozen display the frozen goods)
- Pur8: When the user enters a valid storage type, move them to that storage area
- Pur9: Display the names of the goods in that storage type
- Pur10: Display the current prices of the goods in that storage type

- Pur11: If the user has the elasticity insight upgrade, display whether the good is elastic or inelastic.
- Pur12: Prompt the user to enter the name of the good they'd like to buy
- Pur13: If the name is invalid, display an error message then prompt them to try again
- Pur14: If the user entered a valid good, prompt them to enter the amount of the good they'd like to buy
- Pur15: If the input is invalid, display an error message then make the user pick which good they want to purchase again
- Pur16: If the user enters a valid quantity, display a success message
- Pur17: Then prompt the user to enter the selling price
- Pur18: If the input is invalid, display an error message then make the user pick which good they want to purchase again
- Pur19: If they enter a valid selling price display a success message and then a final success message showing the price and quantity.
- Pur20: If the user has entered everything correctly but they do not have the storage or quantity, display an error message then prompt them to try again.
- Pur21: If the user does not want to purchase the good, give them the option to go back
- Pur22: If the user enters back, return them to the start of the purchase phase.

View storage phase requirements:

- Sto1: The program should let the user know they're in the view storage phase
- Sto2: Program should display all the different types of storages
- Sto3: Program should display the amount of units in each storage
- Sto4: Prompt the user to enter the name of the storage they want to view
- Sto5: Give the user the option to go back
- Sto6: When the user enters back, send them back to the setup phase
- Sto7: When the user enters a storage type, display the goods in that storage

- Sto8: Program should display: the name of the good, quantity held and selling price
- Sto9: Prompt the user to enter any key to continue
- Sto10: Ensure the user can only hold the maximum amount of goods possible (e.g. if cap is 100 they shouldn't be able to hold >100 goods of that category)

Upgrades phase requirements:

- Upg1: The program should let the user know they're in the upgrades phase
- Upg2: Display the name of available upgrades
- Upg3: Display the price of the upgrades
- Upg4: Display a brief description of what the upgrade does
- Upg5: Have a way of selecting and purchasing the upgrades
- Upg6: Have a way of going back
- Upg7: Display a message once the user has purchased the upgrade
- Upg8: Prevent the user from purchasing an upgrade they already own
 - As in prevent the user from wasting money
- Upg9: Display a message if the user tries to buy the same upgrade again
- Upg10: Apply the upgrade successfully

Finance requirements:

- Fin1: Upon entering the finance menu, user should have the options to view current P/L sheet, previous P/L sheet or a grand total P/L sheet
- Fin2: Upon entering the finance menu, user should have the option to go back
- Fin3: If the user enters C on week 1, display a message to let the user know there's no current data
- Fin4: If the user enters C on any other week display the profit/loss sheet for that week
- Fin5: The sheet should show the week number
- Fin6: The sheet should show sales revenue

- Fin7: The sheet should show expenditures (Bills, Cost of goods, Upgrades)
- Fin8: Tell the user how much profit they made for the week.
- Fin9: Display whether or not they made a profit (if not display loss)
- Fin10: Tell the user if they made more or less profit than the previous week
- Fin11: If the user enters P on week 1, display error message
- Fin12: Else, display the previous p/l sheet
- Fin13: If the user enters T on week 1, display an error message
- Fin14: The grand P/L sheet should display the total revenue the user has made since starting
- Fin15: Should also display all total expenditures since starting
- Fin16: Display the net income for the business
- Fin17: Tell the user if the business has overall been profitable or not.
- Fin18: When the user is done, they can press the enter button to go back to the setup phase.

Aspects within the game

Goods & Storages:

Within the game, there will be multiple different aspects which contribute to the completion of the game. The first of which would be the storage. The higher the storage the more of an item you can hold. There will be multiple different types of storage which all correlate with the different types of products. The first type of storage and products are frozen. Frozen goods range from ice-creams to pizzas and fish. The main benefit of frozen products is that they are long lasting. The next type of storage and products are fresh products. This would be the fruits, vegetables and dips/sauces. Main benefit of fresh goods is that they sell quickly. Following this, there is then chilled goods. This would be stuff like meat, juices or milk. Main benefit of chilled goods is the wide variety. The final type of goods are ambient/regular goods. These would be stuff like sweets, biscuits etc. Good thing about these is that they're easy to store and stock. As mentioned in the introduction, goods are also assigned levels of Income elasticity.

Cash:

Within the game, the player will have a cash balance. Cash is integral. It's needed to buy goods, obtain upgrades and pay bills. The only way to earn cash will be from sales of goods. And as mentioned, cash can be spent on goods to sell, upgrades to improve your business or every 4 weeks at the end of the month on bills.

Upgrades:

Within the game, the player will have the options to buy upgrades. In order to purchase an upgrade you will need the correct amount of money and to have completed all prior prerequisites. There will be your basic upgrades like more storage space and shelf space. For example, in order to obtain "Frozen Upgrade II", you must first own "Frozen Upgrade I" and have sold 2000 total frozen goods. There will also be passive upgrades that can help you in other ways. For example "Money trees" will allow the player to earn a flat out 10% bonus on sales. Or "Experienced Entrepreneur" will allow the player to see elasticities of goods.

Example playthrough:

Player enter's New game, enters a name and password and is put into the Setup Phase. Player enters P to purchase goods, then F to purchase frozen goods. They buy 10 turkeys for £12 each and sell them for £15 each. They then enter sim and all 10 sell. The user then enters Save and Quits. This would be the most basic/barebones level of a playthrough

Research

Who is this for?

Ultimately, this can be used by anyone. However the main people it is intended for are students who study business or economics. This would allow those students to experience/ get an idea of some of the concepts they would've been taught in their lessons and apply them in a suitable environment. Teachers could use this simulator to help showcase what they

have taught and see how it is actually used in a business. Or it could be also used in some form of homework. As well as this, this can be used for people who just want to pass time/have fun.

Technology required:

I will be doing all the coding on my own personal laptop. The coding will be done in Microsoft Visual Studio in C#. In order to save and load data, I will be using SQLite and DBrowserForSQLite.

Research conducted:

A profit and loss statement (P&L), or income statement or statement of operations, is a financial report that provides a summary of a company's revenues, expenses, and profits/losses over a given period of time. The P&L statement shows a company's ability to generate sales, manage expenses, and create profits.

Investopedia:

Link: <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/balancesheet.asp> Date Visited 11.7.24
What the website gives: Explains the purpose of a balance sheet and the importance of having one
Takeaways:

- A balance sheet is a financial statement that reports a company's assets, liabilities, and shareholder equity.
- The balance sheet is one of the three core financial statements that are used to evaluate a business.
- It provides a snapshot of a company's finances (what it owns and owes) as of the date of publication.
- The balance sheet adheres to an equation that equates assets with the sum of liabilities and shareholder equity.
- Fundamental analysts use balance sheets to calculate financial ratios.

Forbes

Link: <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/business/balance-sheet/> Date Visited: 11.7.24
What the website gives: Explain the components of a balance sheet
Takeaways:

On hand assets:

- Liquid assets: Cash and cash equivalents, such as certificates of deposit (CDs)

- Accounts receivable (A/R): Money owed to your company
- Marketable securities: Liquid assets that are readily convertible into cash (generally reported under cash and cash equivalents)
- Inventory: Any products you have available for sale
- Prepaid expenses: Rent, insurance and contracts with vendors

Long term assets:

- Investments or securities that can't be liquidated within the next year
- Fixed assets: Land, machinery and buildings
- Intangible assets: Intellectual property, brand awareness and company reputation

Shareholder Equity

- Money generated by a company
- Money put into the business by its owners and shareholders
- Any other capital put into the business

Corporate Finance Institute:

Link:

<https://corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/accounting/balance-sheet/>

Date Visited: 11.7.24 What the website gives: A walkthrough of an example balance sheet Takeaways: The balance sheet on the website.

Wise

Link: <https://wise.com/us/income-statement/profit-loss-statement> Date

Visited: 11.7.24 What the website gives: Quick explanation of a profit loss sheet and a model sheet Takeaways: The model sheet

NetSuite

Link:

<https://www.netsuite.co.uk/portal/uk/resource/articles/accounting/profit-and-loss-statement.shtml> Date Visited: 11.7.24 What the website gives: An in

depth explanation of the profit/loss sheet Takeaways:

- A profit and loss statement includes a business's total revenue, expenses, gains, and losses, arriving at net income for a specific accounting period.
- Management analyses a P&L to determine how to increase profitability by increasing revenue, lowering costs or both. A P&L is also a useful tool for lenders and investors that are evaluating a business for a loan or investment.
- A profit and loss statement is prepared using one of two accounting methods: cash or accrual.

Paychex

Link:

<https://www.paychex.com/articles/finance/how-to-create-a-profit-and-loss-statement-for-small-businesses> Date Visited: 11.7.24 What the website gives:

An example of a PL sheet and how to use one Takeaways: The example

Design:

My program is object oriented and makes use of 8 classes to ensure the game runs as intended without any game breaking bugs or issues.

Program Class & Databaseconfig class

Program is used to essentially start the game. Database Config creates a connection string. This string is used as a connection between the program and the SQL database. So whenever my program wants to read or write data to the database, it used the ConnectionString constant to know/find the location of the .db file containing the database

Game Class:

Is the biggest of all the classes and where the bulk of the mechanics take place. An explanation of what all the methods do are as follows(when I say in-memory I am referring to the actual program memory as opposed to what's stored in the DB):

EnsureUsersTablesExists():

Creates the four SQLite tables (Users, Goods, Storage, Upgrades) if they don't already exist. Called at the start of a new game to make sure persistence is ready.

AddGoodsToStorage(string UserName, int Good_Id, string ProductName, int GoodType, int Quantity, decimal SellingPrice, int CyclePurchased):

Inserts a purchased item into the Storage DB table for that user.

Used anytime the user buys goods (in PurchaseGoods) or when saving the game to persist current inventory.

UpgradesMenu():

Displays the list of available upgrades, reads the player's choice, and dispatches to purchase one. Invoked from the Setup Phase when the player types "U" to buy or view upgrades.

SaveUpgrades(string userName, string upgradeName):

Inserts (or ignores if the player already owns the upgrade) a purchased upgrade into the Upgrades DB table. Called immediately after an upgrade is bought to ensure that choice is applied and constant.

List<string> LoadUpgrades(string userName):

Fetches all upgrade names the user has already bought from the DB. Run when the game is loaded to re-apply any past upgrades.

ApplyUpgrades(List<string> loadedupgrades)

Looks up each loaded upgrade in the players playthrough list and applies its effect to the Store. Ensures that saved upgrades actually modify gameplay after loading

Game():

Initializes the store (with £1,000), market (pointing at the DB), cycle counter, and the in-game list of possible upgrades. Sets up all core objects before showing the main menu.

InitialiseUpgrades():

Fills the availableUpgrades list with each upgrade's name, cost, description, and effect delegate. Called once in Game so the program knows what upgrades exist.

PurchasedUpgrades(Upgrades upgrade):

Checks if the player already owns this upgrade, whether they can afford it, deducts cash, records the expense, applies the effect, and saves it. Invoked from UpgradesMenu() when the player pricks one to buy.

MainMenu():

Shows the "New Game / Load Game / Quit" screen, reads player's choice, and hands off to the appropriate setup or load logic. The very first screen the player sees when the program is started.

SetupNewPlayer()

Asks for a business name and password, creates a new user record via CreateNewPlayer, and then calls Start(). Follows from "New Game" in the main menu.

Bool CreateNewPlayer(string UserName, string Password):

Inserts a new row into Users (username + password + initial cash). Returns success or failure (e.g. duplicate name). Underpins SetupNewPlayer to actually register the player into the DB.

Start():

The core game loop: increments the cycle count, runs SetupPhase(), pays monthly bills every 4 weeks, checks for expired goods, runs SimulationPhase(), logs that week's finances, then repeats. Once the player either starts a new game or loads an old one, this drives week-by-week progression until they run out of money or quit.

SetupPhase():

Presents options (“Sim”, “Purchase”, “View”, “Upgrades”, “Finance”, “Save”, “Quit”) and routes to the correct sub-routine or returns to start the simulation. Called at the top of every cycle from Start().

SaveGame():

Updates the user’s cash in Users, clears out their old Storage entries, then re-inserts every item currently in memory. Can be called from the setup menu (“Save”).

LoadGame(string userName):

Reads the user’s cash from Users; if found, rebuilds their Store (cash + username), calls LoadPlayerGoods, then LoadUpgrades + ApplyUpgrades, and finally hands over to Start(). Follows from “Load Game” on the main menu.

LoadPlayerGoods(string userName):

Joins Storage with Goods in the DB to pull every stored product (name, quantity, price, type, cycle added) and re-creates them in the in-memory store. Ensures player’s on-hand inventory is restored when loading a game

PurchasePhase():

Lets the player choose which category of goods to buy (Fresh/Chilled/Frozen/Regular), then calls PurchaseGoods for that category. Accessed via “P” in the setup menu.

PurchaseGoods(string category)

Lists market prices for every item in that category (showing elasticity if the player has the upgrade), prompts for name, quantity, and chosen selling price, then attempts the purchase and calls AddGoodsToStorage. Handles the entire buy flow: display → input → cash/storage check → persistence.

ViewStoragePhase():

Displays how full each storage is, lets you pick one to inspect contents, and (work-in-progress) offers to remove items. Accessible via “V” in setup; lets the player audit and manage inventory.

SimulationPhase():

Clears the console, simulates a week’s worth of sales on every item via `Store.SimulateSales` (printing units sold and revenue), updates cash, then calls `market.UpdateMarketPrice()` to randomize next week’s prices. Called after the player finishes the setup phase each cycle.

FinanceMenu():

Offers “Current”, “Previous”, or “Total” Profit/Loss reports and routes to the corresponding sheet-display methods. Accessible via “F” in the setup phase.

DisplayPortfolio(int weekIndex):

Prints a detailed P&L report for an arbitrary week, including revenue, each expense line, net income, and % change vs. the prior week. Used by both `PreviousSheets()` and by selecting a specific week.

CurrentSheet():

Shows just the latest week’s P&L summary, highlights profit vs. loss, and compares to the previous week’s net income. Called when the player picks “Current” in `FinanceMenu()`.

PreviousSheets():

If at least two weeks have passed, invokes `DisplayPortfolio` for the week before last; otherwise reports “No previous data.” Handles “Previous” in `FinanceMenu()`.

TotalSheet():

Aggregates all weeks’ sales, purchases, bills, and upgrade expenses into grand totals, computes overall net income, and prints whether the player is profitable overall. Invoked for “Total” P&L in the finance menu.

StoreClass:

The Store class represents the player's business, it's the core of their in-game identity and manages all the operational aspects of running the store. is what makes the simulation interactive and strategic. While the Game class handles the flow, but the Store handles the mechanics, buying, selling, storing, and growing the business. As such, whatIt is responsible for is as follows:

- Tracking the player's money (Cash)
- Managing inventory across four storage types (Fresh, Chilled, Frozen, Regular)
- Handling purchases and sales (e.g., can they afford a product? Do they have space?)
- Applying upgrades (like sales boosts or market insights)
- Managing time-sensitive goods (e.g., removing expired chilled products)
- Handling storage limits to enforce strategic decisions
- Recording ownership of upgrades to modify gameplay effects

And this is a brief explanation of what each method does:

Store(decimal initialCash, string userName)

Initializes a new store for the player, sets starting cash and username. creates empty lists for each storage type (Fresh, Chilled, Frozen, Regular). prepares for any upgrades the player may buy. Called when the player starts a new game or load one, establishing the player's in-memory state.

AddProductToStorage(StorageType storageType, Product product):

Adds a Product object to the appropriate storage list in memory.

Used during game-load to rehydrate inventory and whenever the player buy goods (so that the in-memory store matches the DB).

AdjustCash(decimal Amount):

Adds (or subtracts, if negative) the given amount from Cash.

Used by upgrade effects or other routines that need to tweak the player's balance outside of buying/selling logic.

AddUpgrade(string upgradeName):

Records a purchased upgrade name in the ownedUpgrades set.

Called immediately after the player pays for an upgrade so subsequent checks (e.g. in purchase, display) know they own it.

Bool HasUpgrade(string upgradeName):

Returns whether the given upgrade is already owned.

Checks in multiple places: To prevent duplicate purchases in PurchasedUpgrades To decide whether to show elasticity info in PurchaseGoods.

Bool BuyProduct(Product product):

Attempts to buy the given product:

1. Verifies there's enough cash ($\text{Cash} \geq \text{cost}$).
2. Verifies there's enough free storage ($\text{currentQty} + \text{product.Quantity} \leq \text{MaxStorageCapacity}$).
3. If both pass, deducts cash and adds the product to the in-memory storage.
Drives the core purchase logic in Game.PurchaseGoods; returns success/failure for user feedback.

Int GetCurrentStorageQuantity(StorageType storageType):

Sums the quantities of products in the specified storage area.

Displays how full each storage is, and to enforce capacity when buying.

Decimal SimulateSales(Market market):

Iterates every product in every storage:

1. Calls `market.SimulateProductSales(product)` to get units sold.
2. Computes revenue (units \times selling price), adds it to Cash, reduces inventory.
3. Logs each sale in the console.

Core of the sales phase (`Game.SimulationPhase`), returns total revenue to record in finances.

DisplayCash():

Prints the current cash balance in green if \geq £500, red if lower.

Called at key points (e.g. before purchases) to give the player an idea of their liquidity.

DisplayStatus():

Prints cash plus the fill-level of each storage type.

Shown every cycle in the setup phase (`Game.SetupPhase`), so players can decide what to buy or sell.

DisplayStorageStatus():

Prints “Fresh: x/100 units”, etc., for each storage. Used in the “View Storage” menu (`Game.ViewStoragePhase`) to overview inventory levels.

DisplayStorage(StorageType storageType):

Lists every product in the chosen storage with quantity and selling price.

Drilled-into view when the player picks a specific storage type in the “View Storage” flow.

Bool PayBills(decimal amount)

If Cash \geq amount, subtracts that amount, logs payment, and returns true; otherwise false. Called every four cycles in `Game.Start` to enforce fixed monthly costs and potentially trigger game over.

CheckForExpiredGoods(int currentCycle):

Scans chilled storage for any product that's been there ≥ 2 cycles, removes it, and notifies the player. Called right after bills in the monthly check, so expired goods can't be sold in subsequent simulations.

Product Class:

Acts as a simple data container that represents each individual good in the player's inventory. It holds all the key attributes the game needs in order to:

- Track what the item is (Name)
- Know how much it cost to buy (PurchasePrice) and how much it will sell for (SellingPrice)
- Record how many units you have (Quantity)
- Know where it belongs in storage (StorageType)
- Remember when it was stocked (CycleAdded) so perishables can expire
- Store its price-elasticity (Elasticity) for sales simulation logic .

Market Class:

The market class represents the SQLite DB which the in-memory store interacts with. It's responsible for:

- Initialising market data by loading every product's base purchase price from the SQLite Goods table
- Providing price information to both buying (so the player pays half the market price) and selling (to compare their selling price against "true" market price)
- Simulating dynamic market behavior via random price fluctuations each cycle
- Drives sales logic by calculating how many units of each product sell, based on price-elasticity and the relationship between the selling price and the market price
- Categorising goods into storage types and flagging whether they're elastic or inelastic when you have the right upgrade .

Market(string ConnectionString):

Saves the DB connection string, initializes the in-memory marketPrices dictionary, and immediately calls LoadGoodsFromDatabase().

When starting or loading a game, this status up all known products and their initial prices.

LoadGoodsFromDatabase():

Simply executes "SELECT GoodName, PurchasePrice FROM Goods;

And then fills marketPrices[GoodName] = PurchasePrice for each row.

Fills market with every product from DB so player can buy/sell them.

GetGoodId(string productName):

Similarly, it executes "SELECT Good_Id FROM Goods WHERE GoodName = @GoodName;

To look up the database ID for persistence.

Decimal GetMarketPrice(string productName):

Looks up the current price in marketPrices, rounds it to two decimal places.

Shown to the player during purchase (PurchaseGoods) and used internally in SimulateProductSales to compare against their selling price.

UpdateMarketPrice():

Iterates every key in marketPrices, applies a random $\pm £0.01-0.50$ change, and clamps it $\geq £0.01$ so prices stay positive. Called at the end of each sim cycle.

Int SimulateProductSales(Product product):

1. Fetch the marketPrice for that product.
2. Computes a priceFactor = marketPrice / product.SellingPrice.
3. Estimates base sales = Quantity \times priceFactor.
4. Adjusts for elasticity (StrongElastic, WeakElastic, WeakInelastic, StrongInelastic) with caps or fixed percentages.
5. Returns the lesser of that estimate and available Quantity.

Drives every sale in Store.SimulateSales, determining units sold and revenue added to the player's cash.

Dictionary<string, decimal> GetGoodsByCategory(string category):

Filters marketPrices by comparing GetStorageType(productName) to the given category (fresh/chilled/frozen/regular) and returns matching name and price. Used in Game.PurchaseGoods to display only the items you can buy for the category the player chose.

StorageType GetStorageType(string productName):

Returns a StorageType enum based on the switch of common product names. ENSures both purchase and load routines put items into the correct in-memory shelf

Bool IsElastic(string productName):

Returns true if the product is considered elastic based on a switch.

WeeklyFinances Class:

A simple data container that records everything needed for a single week's profit & loss statement. Each cycle through the game loop creates one WeeklyFinance instance, which then gets stored in the game's weeklyFinances list. Later, the various finance-report menus pull from these objects to show current, previous, or total P&L sheets

Int Week { get; set; }:

The week number this record corresponds to. Used in reports to label the week the player is viewing.

Decimal SalesRevenue { get; set; }:

Total income from sales during that week. Filled in Game.Start() from the accumulated currentWeekSalesRevenue. Shown under "Revenue" in every P&L report.

Decimal PurchaseExpenses{ get; set; }:

Total cost of goods bought that week, taken from currentWeekPurchaseExpenses in Game.Start(). Listed under “Expenditures” in weekly and grand-total sheets.

Decimal BillsExpenses { get; set; }

Sum paid toward the fixed £500 bills every 4 weeks in that cycle, comes from currentWeekBillsExpenses. Appears in the expenses section on the P&L sheet.

Decimal UpgradeExpenses { get; set; }:

Total spent on any upgrades that week.

Decimal NetIncome => SalesRevenue - (PurchaseExpenses + BillsExpenses + UpgradeExpenses);

A read only property that subtracts all expenses from revenues.

Upgrades Class:

Used to model a single purchasable upgrade.

What the upgrade is (Name)

Cost (Price)

What it does (Description)

What it actually does (Effect)

By centralizing these four elements, the Game class can treat every upgrade uniformly, displaying it, checking affordability, persisting ownership, and applying its in-game effect when purchased or re-loaded.

SQLite:

My program also utilises SQLite, in accordance with CRUD:

Create:

It creates tables if they don't already exist containing the goods, storages and users. As well as creating a new user in a new game run.

Retrieve:

Whenever the user is loading a new game, it will need to retrieve the data from the DB.

Update:

Similarly, whenever the user saves their game, it will need to update the current information in the database for the user with the in-memory information when the user enters save.

Delete:

If the user wishes to remove goods from their storage it will also remove it from the DB.

SQL to ensure tables exist:

The following SQL queries are used to make sure the tables required are all present. As without them the program will not be able to function fully. If the table already exists then nothing will happen but if for some reason the table doesn't exist, it will create them.

Users Table:

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS Users
(
    Id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT,
    Username TEXT NOT NULL UNIQUE,
    Password TEXT NOT NULL, Cash REAL
)
```

Goods Table:

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS Goods
(
    Good_Id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY,
    GoodName TEXT NOT NULL,
    PurchasePrice REAL NOT NULL,
    GoodType INT NOT NULL,
    CycleExpires INT NOT NULL
)
```

Storage Table:

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS Storage
(
    Storage_Id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY,
    UserName TEXT NOT NULL,
    GoodName TEXT NOT NULL,
    Good_Id INT NOT NULL,
    Quantity INT NOT NULL,
    SellingPrice REAL NOT NULL,
    CyclePurchased INT NOT NULL,
    GoodType INT NOT NULL, --1 = Chilled, 2 = Fresh, etc.
    FOREIGN KEY(Good_Id) REFERENCES Goods(Good_Id)
)
```

Upgrades Table:

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS Upgrades
(
    UpgradeId INTEGER PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT,
    UserName TEXT NOT NULL,
    UpgradeName TEXT NOT NULL,
    UNIQUE(UserName, UpgradeName)
)
```

Inserting Data

The following SQL/code is used to save/insert data into the database table and load/retrieve data from the database. I decided that the best way for data to be saved for this project was by using a connection string to create

a direct path to the database and where the data will be saved. This was done by using:

```
public const string ConnectionString
= @"Data Source=C:\\Users\\sampr\\OneDrive\\Desktop\\KAB6 Comp
Sci\\Comp Sci NEA\\NEAProtoSave\\NEAProtoSave\\Files\\
NEAdataBaseTest.db;Version=3;";
```

To act as a way to open a file and read/write to the file

AddGoodsToStorage:

```
INSERT INTO Storage (UserName, Good_Id, GoodName, Quantity,
SellingPrice, CyclePurchased, GoodType)
VALUES (@UserName, @Good_Id, @GoodName, @Quantity, @SellingPrice,
@CyclePurchased, @GoodType);";
```

```
using (SQLiteConnection conn = new
SQLiteConnection(DataBaseConfig.ConnectionString))
{
    conn.Open();
    using (SQLiteCommand cmd = new SQLiteCommand(insertSQL, conn))
    {
        cmd.Parameters.AddWithValue("@UserName", UserName);
        cmd.Parameters.AddWithValue("@Good_Id", Good_Id);
        cmd.Parameters.AddWithValue("@GoodName", ProductName);
        cmd.Parameters.AddWithValue("@Quantity", Quantity);
        cmd.Parameters.AddWithValue("@SellingPrice", SellingPrice);
        cmd.Parameters.AddWithValue("@CyclePurchased", CyclePurchased);
        cmd.Parameters.AddWithValue("@GoodType", GoodType);

        cmd.ExecuteNonQuery();
    }
}
```

CreateNewPlayer:

```
string sql = "INSERT INTO Users (Username, Password, Cash) VALUES
(@UserName, @Password, @Cash);";
```

Saving Data

Save Upgrades

```
string SQL = @"
INSERT OR IGNORE INTO Upgrades (UserName, UpgradeName)
VALUES (@UserName, @UpgradeName);";

using (SQLiteConnection conn = new
SQLiteConnection(DataBaseConfig.ConnectionString))
{
    conn.Open();
    using (SQLiteCommand cmd = new SQLiteCommand(SQL, conn))
    {
        cmd.Parameters.AddWithValue("@UserName", userName);
        cmd.Parameters.AddWithValue("@UpgradeName", upgradeName);
        cmd.ExecuteNonQuery();
    }
}
```

Save Game:

```
UPDATE Users SET Cash = @Cash WHERE UserName = @UserName;
```

```
string ClearStorageSQL = "DELETE FROM Storage WHERE UserName =
@UserName;"; // clears the storage table and adds the new/updated
data(goods)
```

Removing Data

RemoveGoodsFromStorage:

This SQL checks that the goods are actually there and able to be removed/valid:

```
string checkSQL = @"
SELECT Quantity FROM Storage WHERE UserName = @UserName AND
Good_Id = @Good_Id AND GoodName = @GoodName
```

```
AND SellingPrice = @SellingPrice AND CyclePurchased = @CyclePurchased  
AND GoodType = @GoodType;";  
int currentQuantity = 0;
```

This SQL then removes all the goods if the user wants them all removed:

```
string RemoveSQL = @"  
DELETE FROM Storage WHERE UserName = @UserName AND Good_Id =  
@Good_Id AND GoodName = @GoodName  
AND SellingPrice = @SellingPrice AND CyclePurchased = @CyclePurchased  
AND GoodType = @GoodType;";
```

And then this SQL only removes a certain amount, e.g. if the player has 50 milk and they just want to remove 10:

```
int newQuantity = currentQuantity - QuantityRemove;  
string UpdateSQL = @" UPDATE Storage SET Quantity = @Quantity  
WHERE UserName = @UserName  
AND Good_Id = @Good_Id AND GoodName = @GoodName AND  
SellingPrice = @SellingPrice  
AND CyclePurchased = @CyclePurchased AND GoodType =  
@GoodType;";
```

Retrieving data:

LoadUpgrades:

```
string SQL = "SELECT UpgradeName FROM Upgrades WHERE UserName =  
@UserName;";
```

LoadGame:

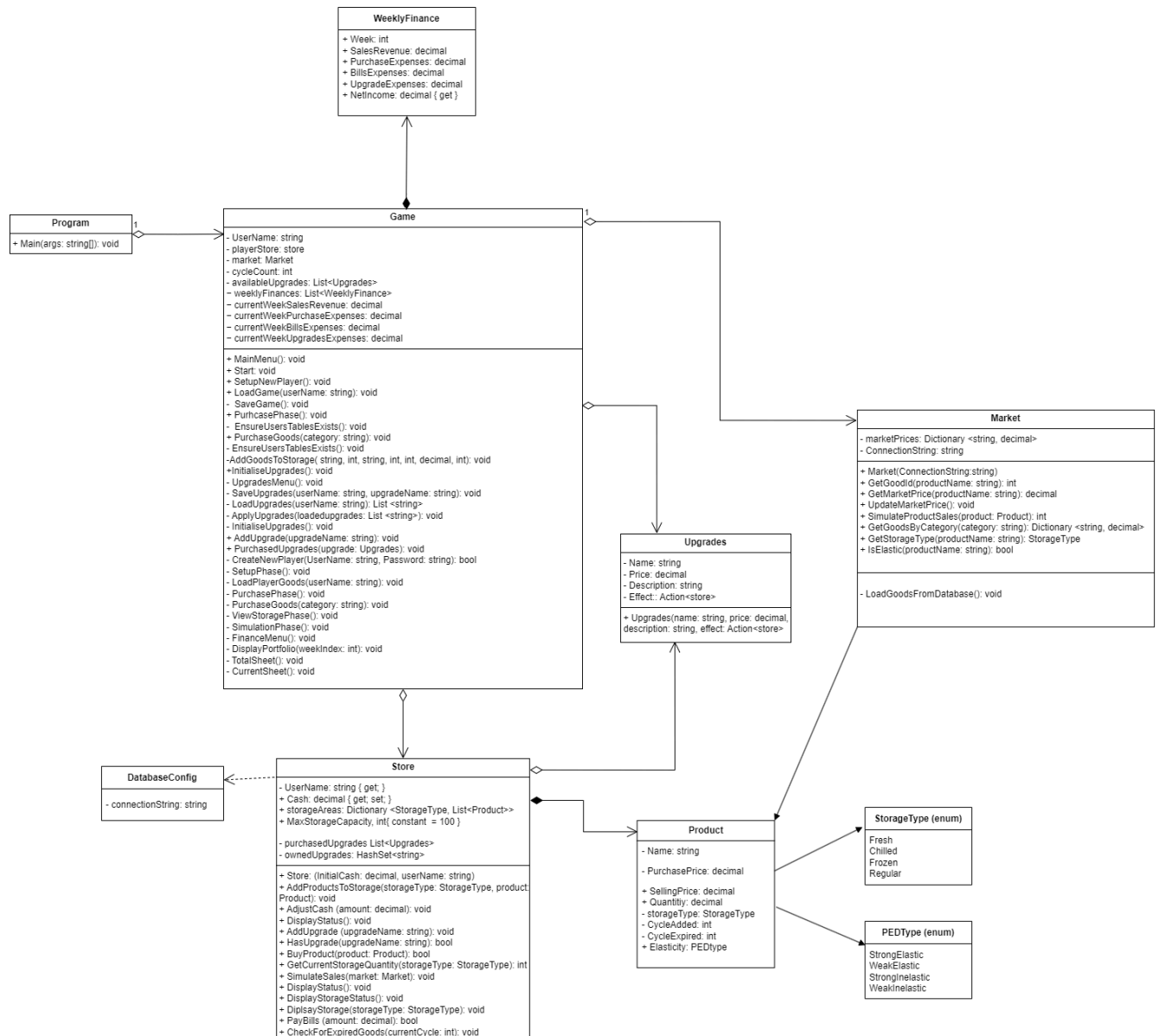
```
string sql = "SELECT Cash FROM Users WHERE LOWER(Username) =  
LOWER(@Username);";
```

LoadPlayerGoods:

```
string sql = @" SELECT g.GoodName, s.Quantity, s.SellingPrice, s.GoodType,  
s.CyclePurchased  
FROM Storage s  
INNER JOIN Goods g ON s.Good_Id = g.Good_Id  
WHERE s.UserName = @UserName;";
```

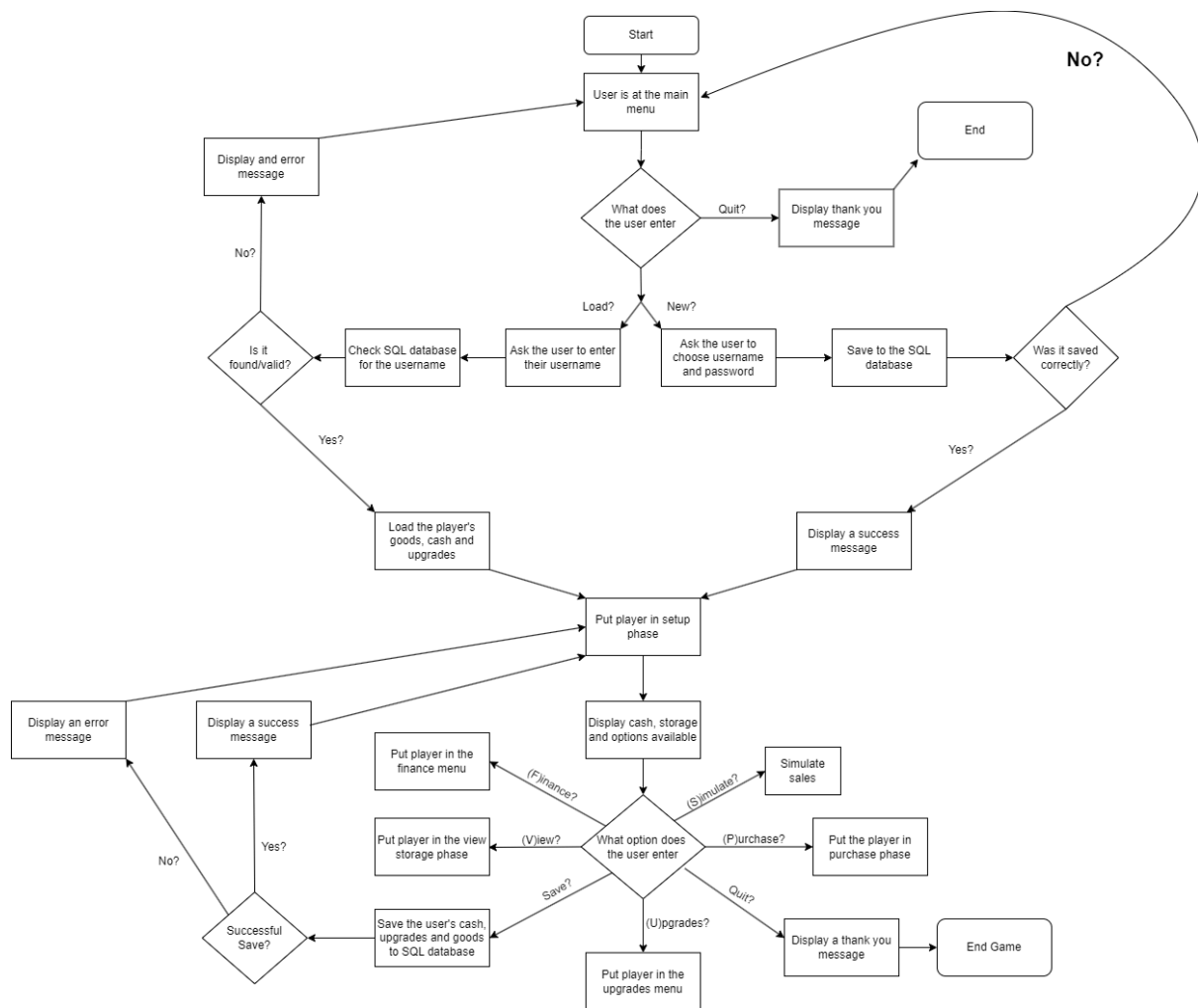
Images:**Class Diagram:**

Below is a class diagram showcasing the classes in my program, meanwhile the flowcharts showcase the main stages of the game and what happens during these stages.



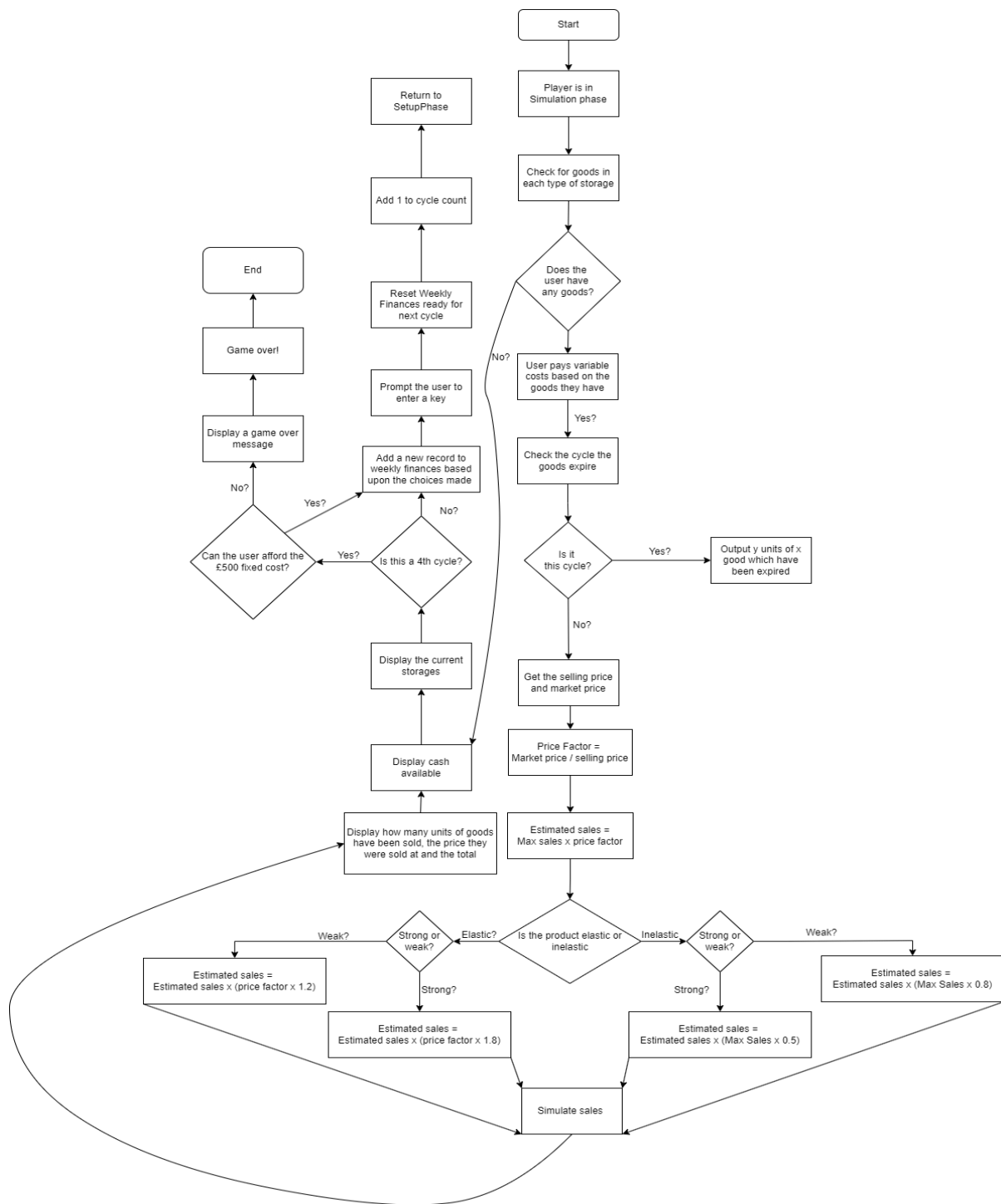
Setup Phase flowchart:

Below is a flowchart which depicts the logic/flow of the Setup phase. Showing all the options/paths available to the player in this phase.



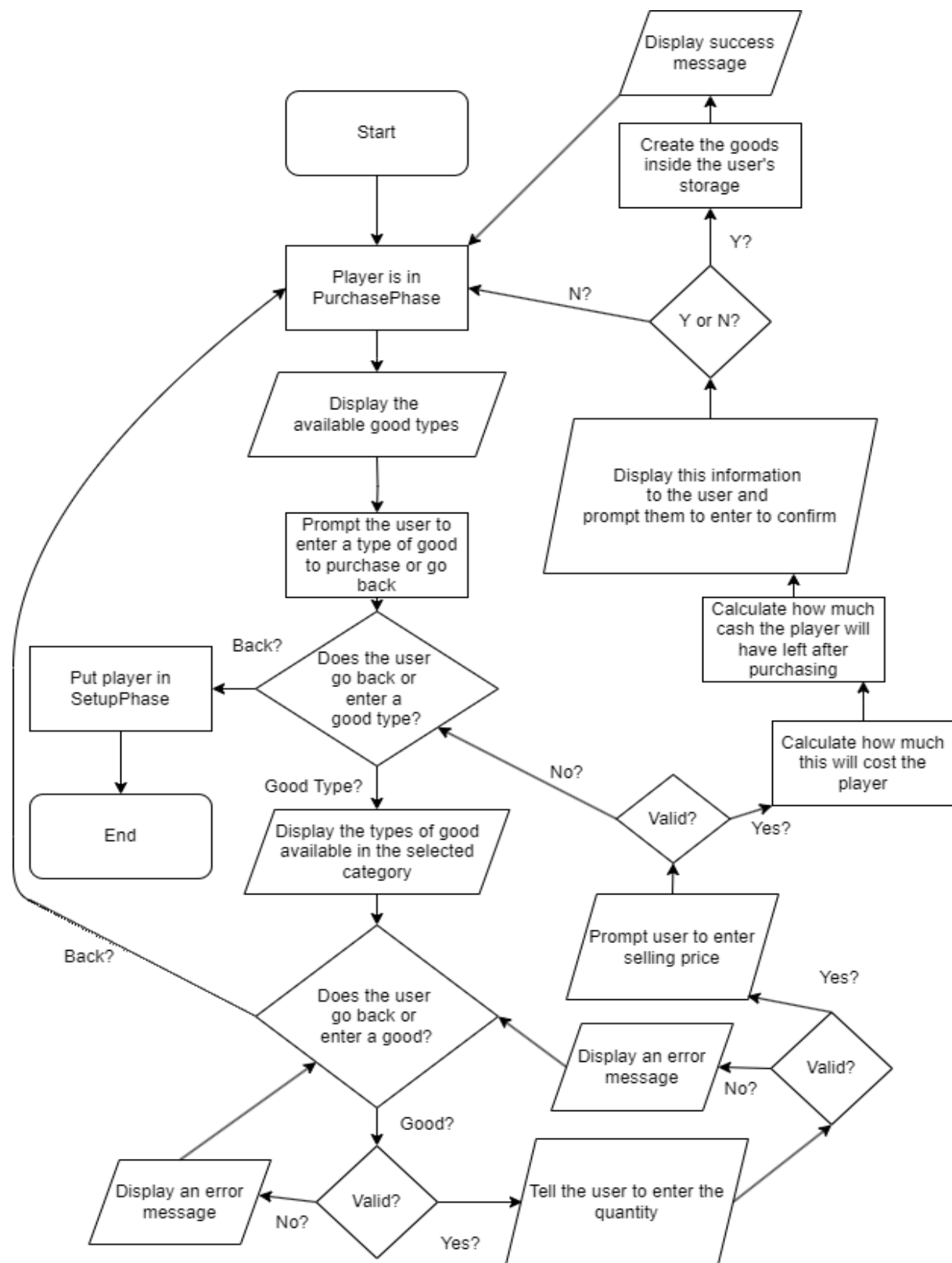
Simulation Phase flowchart:

The flowchart below depicts the logic/flow of the simulation phase. Most of the flowchart is “behind the scenes” as in the simulation phase the user only sees the result of their actions. While the flowchart shows how we arrive at that result.



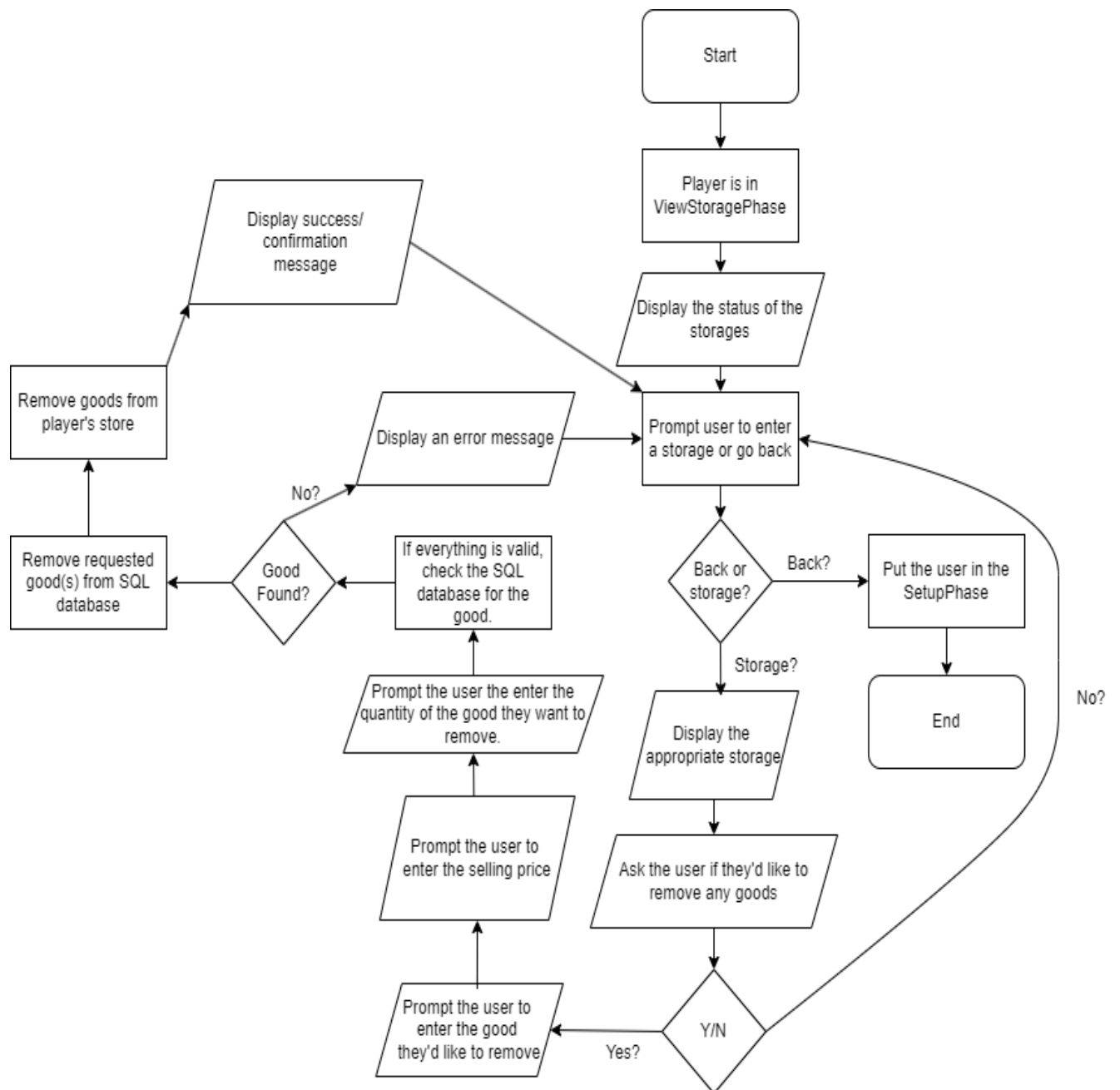
Purchase Phase flowchart:

The following flowchart then shows the logic behind the user purchasing goods.



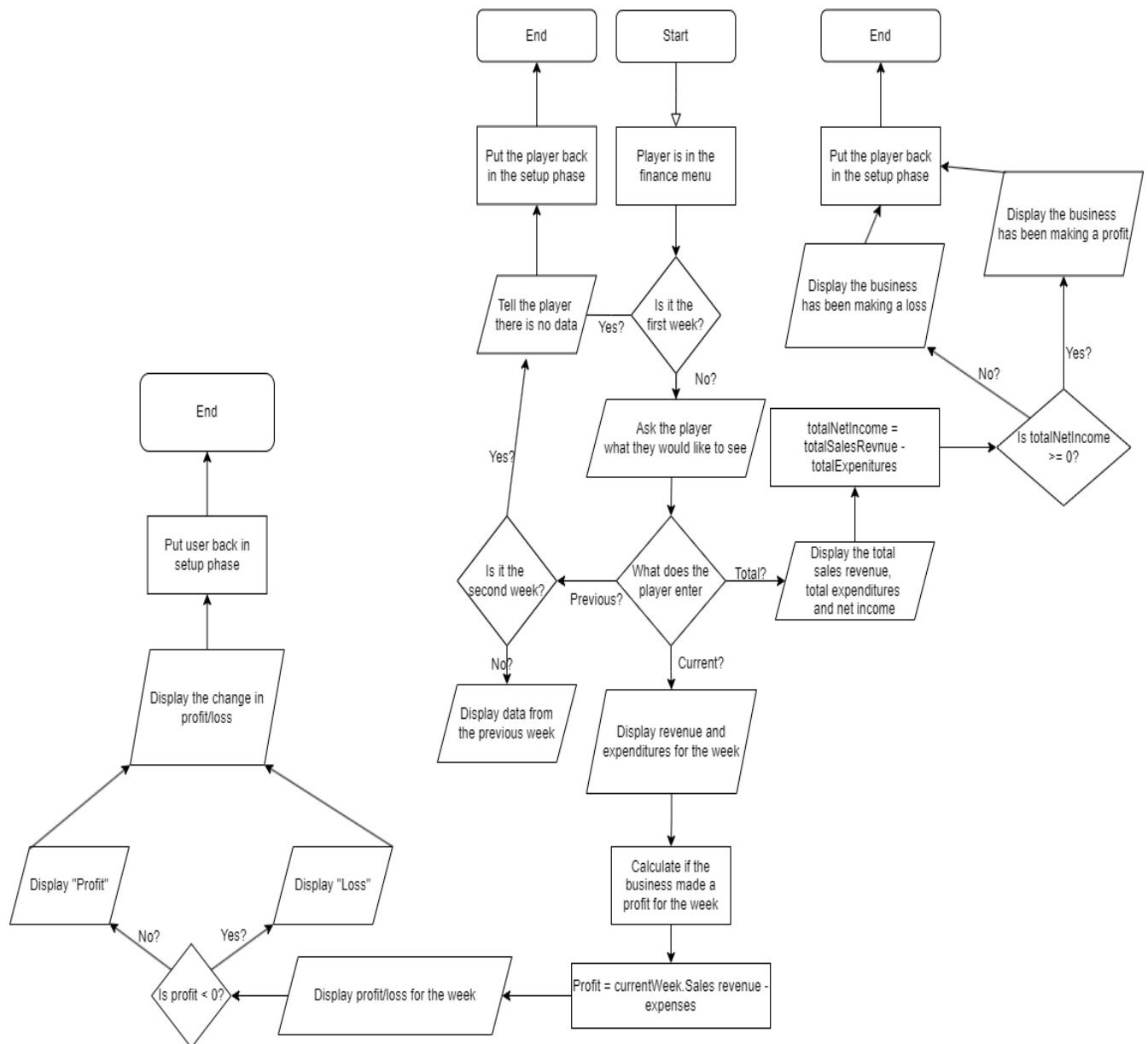
View Storage Phase flowchart:

Flowchart showing the logic of how the user may view their storage



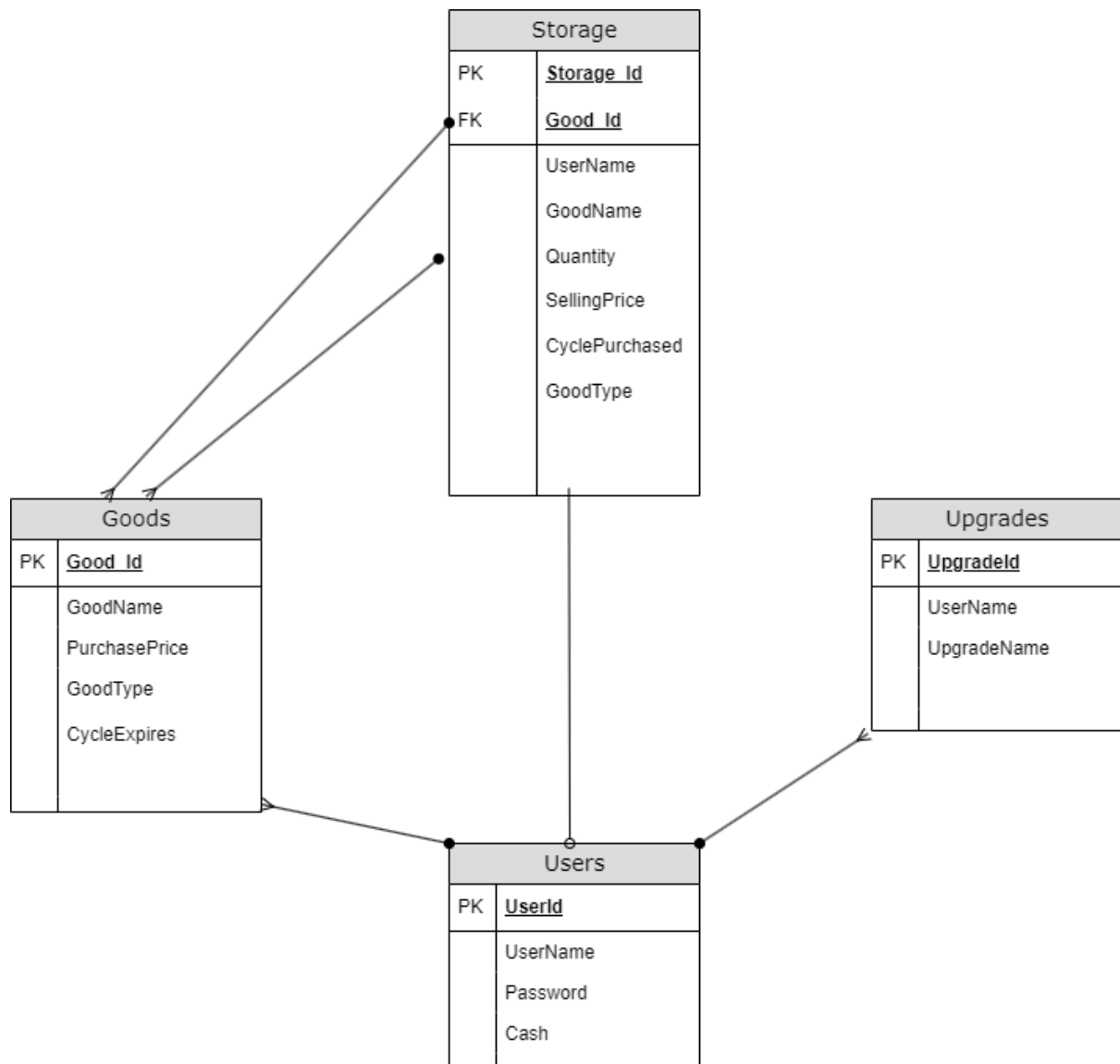
Finance Menu Flowchart:

Flowchart showing the overall flow of how the finance menu operates



Entity relationship diagram:

ERD showing how the tables within my DB relate/interact with each other:



Testing:

Testing of requirements/objectives

Phase	Req. ID	Description	Test Method	Expected Result
PreGame	Pre1	Display the main menu options ("New Game", "Load Game", "Quit")	Start the program	Options "New Game", "Load Game" and "Quit" are shown
PreGame	Pre2	Quit the program from the main menu	Enter "Quit" at the main menu	Program ends with a "Thank you" message
PreGame	Pre3	New-game setup prompts	Enter "New Game" at the main menu	Prompt for username and password
PreGame	Pre4	Save new user credentials	Inspect the SQLite DB (e.g. via DB Browser)	Username and password record present
PreGame	Pre5	Transition into setup phase	Complete new-game signup	User is placed into the setup phase
PreGame	Pre6	Load existing game	Enter "Load Game" at the main menu	Previous user data (cash, goods, upgrades) is loaded
PreGame	Pre7	Verify data loading	Play through a session, then reload	Data is correctly reloaded
PreGame	Pre8	Handle invalid main-menu input	Enter an unrecognized command (e.g. "barry")	Error message displayed
Setup	Set1	Indicate setup phase	Enter any command to trigger setup	"Setup Phase" label appears
Setup	Set2	Display current cash balance	Enter setup phase	Cash amount is shown
Setup	Set3	Reflect purchases in storage	Buy goods, then "View Storage"	Purchased items appear in storage list
Setup	Set4	Present all setup-phase options	Observe setup menu	Options Simulate, Purchase, View, Upgrades, Save, Quit, Finance show
Setup	Set5	Enter simulation phase	Enter "Sim"	User enters the simulation phase
Setup	Set6	Enter purchase phase	Enter "Purchase"	User enters the purchase phase
Setup	Set7	Enter storage-view phase	Enter "View"	User enters the view storage phase
Setup	Set8	Enter upgrades phase	Enter "Upgrades"	User enters the upgrades phase

Setup	Set9	Save current game	Enter "Save"	Database is updated with current cash, goods, upgrades
Setup	Set10	Quit from setup	Enter "Quit"	Program ends with a "Thank you" message
Setup	Set11	Enter finance menu	Enter "Finance"	Finance menu options appear
Sim	Sim1	Indicate simulation phase	Enter a simulation cycle	"Simulation Phase" label appears
Sim	Sim2	Report units sold	Buy 10 units of milk at £12, sell at £15 each	Console shows how many units sold
Sim	Sim3	Report selling price	As above	Console shows the selling price of each unit sold
Sim	Sim4	Report revenue	As above	Console shows total revenue from the sale
Sim	Sim5	Update cash balance	Complete a sale cycle	Cash balance reflects post-sale amount
Sim	Sim6	Track remaining inventory	Buy goods in each category, then simulate	Remaining units in each storage are shown
Sim	Sim7	Expiry notification	Hold perishable goods past their expiry cycle	Notification of expired goods and quantities
Sim	Sim8	Prompt for next cycle	Finish a simulation	Prompt "Press any key to begin next cycle"
Sim	Sim9	Monthly bills deduction	Run four consecutive cycles	£500 bill is automatically deducted
Sim	Sim10	Handle insufficient funds for bills	Ensure cash < £500 at bill time	Game ends with "cannot afford bills" message
Sim	Sim11	No sales / game over	Set selling prices too high	No units sold, then bill time → game over
Sim	Sim12	Confirm game-over condition	As above	Game terminates
Sim	Sim13	Dynamic price updates	After a simulation cycle	Market prices differ from their initial values
Sim	Sim14	Show weekly finance summary	Enter finance menu post-simulation	Current P/L sheet displays revenues and expenditures
Purchase	Pur1	Indicate purchase phase	From setup menu enter "Purchase"	"Purchase Phase" heading is displayed
Purchase	Pur2	Prompt for storage type	In purchase phase observe first prompt	Prompt "Enter storage type to purchase"

				(Fresh/Chilled/Frozen/Regular) or Back"
Purchase	Pur3	List available storage categories	In purchase phase	Fresh, Chilled, Frozen and Regular are listed
Purchase	Pur4	Show option to go back	In purchase menu	"Back" option is displayed
Purchase	Pur5	Back returns to setup	Enter "Back"	User is returned to the setup-phase menu
Purchase	Pur6	Invalid storage input → error + reprompt	Enter "Foo" as storage type	Error "Invalid option, try again" and re-prompt storage type
Purchase	Pur7	Valid storage input lists that category's goods	Enter "Frozen"	All frozen products (names) are displayed
Purchase	Pur8	Entering valid storage moves into that sub-menu	Enter "Frozen"	Subsequent prompts relate to Frozen category
Purchase	Pur9	Display product names in chosen storage	In Frozen sub-menu	List shows each product's name
Purchase	Pur10	Display current market prices	In product list	Each product shows its current purchase price
Purchase	Pur11	With elasticity upgrade, show elasticity info	First buy "Experienced Entrepreneur" upgrade, then re-enter Purchase	Each product line shows "Elastic" or "Inelastic"
Purchase	Pur12	Prompt to enter product name	After listing products	Prompt "Enter product name or Back"
Purchase	Pur13	Invalid product name → error + reprompt	Enter "NoSuchGood"	Error "Product not found, please try again" and re-prompt
Purchase	Pur14	Valid product name → prompt for quantity	Enter a listed product name	Prompt "Enter quantity to buy"
Purchase	Pur15	Invalid quantity → error + reprompt	Enter "abc" or negative	Error "Invalid quantity, please enter a positive integer" and re-prompt
Purchase	Pur16	Valid quantity → success message	Enter a valid integer within storage capacity	Message "You have selected X units"

Purchase	Pur17	Prompt for selling price	After valid quantity	Prompt "Enter your desired selling price per unit"
Purchase	Pur18	Invalid price → error + reprompt	Enter "-5" or "xyz"	Error "Invalid price, please enter a positive number" and re-prompt
Purchase	Pur19	Valid price → final confirmation	Enter a valid decimal price	Message "Purchased X units at £Y each. Added to storage."
Purchase	Pur20	Insufficient cash or storage → error + reprompt	Try buying more than cash allows or over capacity	Error "Cannot afford that purchase" or "Not enough storage space" and re-prompt
Purchase	Pur21	Option to cancel purchase	At product-name or quantity prompt enter "Back"	Returns to storage-type selection prompt
Purchase	Pur22	"Back" at any stage returns to Purchase start	Enter "Back" at selling-price prompt	Returns to the initial Purchase menu (storage-type prompt)
Storage	Sto1	Indicate view-storage phase	From setup menu enter "View"	"View Storage Phase" heading is displayed
Storage	Sto2	List all storage types	In view-storage menu	Shows "Fresh, Chilled, Frozen, Regular" with unit capacity labels
Storage	Sto3	Show current units in each storage	In view menu	E.g. "Fresh: 12/100 units, Chilled: 5/50 units, ..."
Storage	Sto4	Prompt to choose a storage to inspect	After listing storages	Prompt "Enter storage type to view or Back"
Storage	Sto5	Option to go back	In view-storage menu	"Back" option is displayed
Storage	Sto6	Back returns to setup	Enter "Back"	User is returned to the setup menu
Storage	Sto7	Valid storage input lists its contents	Enter "Fresh"	Lists each Fresh product in inventory
Storage	Sto8	Display product name, quantity held, and selling price	In storage contents display	Table or lines showing Name
Storage	Sto9	Prompt to continue after viewing	After listing contents	"Press any key to return to setup phase"

Storage	Sto10	Enforce max capacity	Fill storage to capacity, then view	Display shows no more than max capacity and correct count
Upgrades	Upg1	Indicate upgrades phase	From the setup menu enter "Upgrades"	"Upgrades Phase" heading is displayed
Upgrades	Upg2	Display the names of available upgrades	In the upgrades menu	A list of all upgrade names is shown
Upgrades	Upg3	Display the price of each upgrade	In the upgrades menu	Each upgrade name has its cost shown next to it
Upgrades	Upg4	Display a brief description of what each upgrade does	In the upgrades menu	A descriptive blurb appears under or beside each upgrade
Upgrades	Upg5	Provide a way to select and purchase an upgrade	Choose an upgrade number or code and confirm purchase	Upgrade is bought, cash is deducted, and upgrade added to inventory
Upgrades	Upg6	Offer a "Back" option to return to setup	In the upgrades menu enter "Back"	Returns to the main setup-phase menu
Upgrades	Upg7	Display confirmation message once an upgrade is purchased	After completing an upgrade purchase	Message "Upgrade 'X' purchased!" appears
Upgrades	Upg8	Prevent purchasing an upgrade already owned	Attempt to buy the same upgrade twice	Purchase is blocked; no cash deducted
Upgrades	Upg9	Display message if user tries to buy an owned upgrade again	Select an owned upgrade and confirm	Message "You already own this upgrade" appears
Upgrades	Upg10	Apply the upgrade's effect successfully	Buy an upgrade (e.g. "Experienced Entrepreneur"), then trigger its effect	The corresponding feature appears in-game (e.g. elasticity info)
Finance	Fin1	Display finance options: Current, Previous, Total, Back	Enter "Finance" from setup	All 4 options shown

Finance	Fin2	Allow user to go back from finance menu	Enter "B" or "Back"	Returns to setup
Finance	Fin3	Show no data message on week 1 current sheet	Start new game → Finance → "C"	Message "No current P/L data"
Finance	Fin4	Show current P/L sheet after at least one week	Complete a week then enter Finance → "C"	Displays current week's P/L summary
Finance	Fin5	Sheet includes week number	Any sheet view	Line "Week: X" is visible
Finance	Fin6	Show sales revenue	View any P/L	Line "Sales Revenue: £X" is present
Finance	Fin7	Show expenditures (bills, goods, upgrades)	View any P/L	Separate lines for bills, purchases, and upgrade costs
Finance	Fin8	Show net income	View any P/L	"Net Income: £X" is calculated
Finance	Fin9	Indicate profit or loss	View any P/L	Message "You made a profit" or "You incurred a loss"
Finance	Fin10	Compare current week to previous	View current sheet	Shows change in income vs previous week
Finance	Fin11	Show error for "Previous" on week 1	Start game → Finance → "P"	Message "No previous data"
Finance	Fin12	Show correct sheet for "Previous" from week 2+	Week 2+, then Finance → "P"	Shows week 1's summary
Finance	Fin13	Error message if "Total" selected on week 1	Week 1 → Finance → "T"	"No P/L history available yet."
Finance	Fin14	Display total revenue after multiple weeks	Finance → "T"	"Total Revenue: £X" shown
Finance	Fin15	Display total expenditures (bills + goods + upgrades)	Finance → "T"	Lists total of each category

Finance	Fin16	Show total net income	Finance → "T"	"Net Income Overall: £X" shown
Finance	Fin17	Show profitability assessment	Finance → "T"	Message "Business has been profitable" or "Loss of £X"
Finance	Fin18	Return to setup after viewing any finance sheet	After viewing a sheet, press Enter	Returns to setup menu