Discussion 1.1 Database Diagrams

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This weeks discussion is about Database Diagrams, what are they, why do we use them, what is an ERD or Entity Relationship Diagram, what tools to use to create one and what are the symbols.

First what is database diagrams. Database diagrams are a visual reference of the structure of the table and the relationships between them (Dalvi, 2020). It’s also called an Entity Relationship Diagram (CITE TECH). A database diagram allows us to find the tables in the database and who their relationship is between the other data. It represents the following, keys, primary or foreign, table relationships and the structure of the table and its columns (Dalvi, 2020). Database diagrams are essentially used to keep an organized look of how the data is being stored.

There are many free tools you can use to create a database diagram. Such as Diagrams.net which lets you drag and drop you symbols into the tool without the need of an account (Gaenger, 2021).

Another tool to consider using is dbdiagram, it is another free diagram tool and you can create 10 free diagrams. This one isn’t drag and drop and its code based to create the tables you need (Gaenger, 2021).

There are lots of shapes that are related to the diagram. An entity is a rectangle, which is the subject of the shape. You can determine if a relationship is strong or weak, a weak relationship will have another of the same shape inside of it. There are attributes for entities which are ovals. Key Attributes are underlined.

References:

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