



What Is A Database?

Relational Database Design

Session Outline

- Find out what a database is and what it is used for
- Explain some common terms for databases

What Is A Database?

- A database is something that is used to store data on a computer
- Stores it in a certain way so that it can be searched and retrieved later

Where Are Databases Used?

- Used in almost all applications that need to store information
- Web sites
- Phone apps
- Desktop applications

Tables

- Databases contain things called “tables”
- Tables store the data inside the database

Rows and Columns

- Think of a table being a bit like a spreadsheet
- Tables have rows and columns
- Each table has a name
- Row – across the page
- Column – down the page

	A	B	
1	First Name	Last Name	
2	John	Smith	
3	Peter	Pan	
4	Susan	Jones	
5			
6			

Multiple Tables

- Number of tables depends on the complexity and size of the application using it
- Some databases could be just **one** table
- Others could be **several** tables
- Some could be **several hundred** tables
- It can get messy
- This is where good database design comes in

Alternatives

- An alternative to a database is a “flat file”
- Basic text files which are used for storing data
- May be easy to search
- Not as easy to update
- Complicated if a lot of things need to be stored

What's Next?

- What is a relational database?
- A look at different kinds of databases