Gathering Requirements of the Database

Relational Database Design

Session Outline

- Learn how to gather the requirements of a database, depending on who the database is for

- Find out what needs to be stored and what can be ignored

Requirements

- This part is all about finding out what are the needs of the database
- What needs to be stored in the database?
- Great – how do you find out what needs to be stored?
- Other than systems, people can also tell you
- Systems can't tell you everything
- We need to speak to other people

Who Can Tell You?

- Depends on the reason you're making the database
- Personal project – this would be you
- Database for a store – store manager, owner
- Work project – business representatives, other team members
- Generally people who know the business or the problem and would like it solved

What to Store

- Speaking to people will determine **what needs to be stored**
- Not everything may need to be stored
  - A shop may only want to store products, customers, and orders. Promotions may be left out
  - A school may only want to store teachers, students, and classes. Teacher attendance and leave may be left out
- Speak to other people to determine what they want to store
- Also find out what they don't want to store – this is just as important
- Make it clear what is included and excluded

Stored For Each Object

- Some data is valuable for an object, and some isn't
- This can be determined by speaking to people and looking at existing systems
- People probably won't be able to tell you field names
- They should be able to tell you what they need to store to run their business, application, or other system that uses the database

Auditing

- Sometimes auditing is needed
- Need to be able to tell what has changed, by who, and when
- This is done by keeping extra information for a table
- What records have changed
- When they have changed (date and time)
- Who changed them (person or a system)
- What changed them
  - Application
  - Script
  - Query

Summary

- Speaking to people can help you find out what needs to be stored
- This is the best way of gathering requirements of the database
- You can find out what needs to be stored by doing this

Action

1. For your database, determine who you need to speak to
2. Find out:
   1. What pieces of information needs to be stored
   2. If a history of changes need to be stored

What's Next?

- Learning how to find exceptions to the rules