



Ensure Records are Complete

Relational Database Design

Session Outline

- Another advantage of relational databases: ensuring records are complete

Complete Records

- When setting up and designing tables, you specify what you want to store
- What objects to store information about
- What attributes of each of those objects
- Depends on the scope of your work or your database

Required and Optional

- You also specify what information is **required** and what information is **optional**
- Sometimes, not every field is required
- Based on real life data, some data is optional
- You *could* just put all fields as required and put a “none” or “n/a” value in those that are missing, but that isn’t the best design

Example

- An example of optional data: a person's name
- First name? Required
- Last name? Required
- Middle name? Optional

Example

- Another example: phone numbers
- Home phone? Optional
- Business phone? Optional
- Mobile phone? Required

Summary

- Relational databases allow you to specify what data is required and optional
- This allows for more complete and correct records

What's Next?

- A further look at some of the advantages of relational databases