

How to Build Business Data Models

Instructor-Led, Web-Delivered Duration 2 Sessions

Overview

Business data represents the atomic level of information systems. It forms the basis upon which everything else depends. In a very real sense if you get the business data right, the rest will follow. If you get the business data wrong, the system may never recover. In order to get the majority of the business data right, it is essential to have a picture of the data in form of a business data model. As the old proverb states, a picture is worth a thousand words.

There are two complimentary methods for modeling business data — top–down and bottom–up. This workshop focuses on the top–down method which identifies data entities and attributes "intuitively" based on your or your subject matter expert’s knowledge of the business area.

Note: *This instructor-led course delivered in two virtual sessions via the Internet covers the same content as the first day of our 2-day course, “How to Model, Analyze, and Improve Business Data” which can be delivered live at your site.*

Target Audience

Business Analysts	System Analysts
Business Process Owners	Test Engineers
Data Administrators	Anyone charged with managing, understanding and/or improving information use.
Data Analysts	
Requirements Definition Specialists	

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this seminar, you will . . .

- Draw business data models
- Compare the pros and cons of data modeling
- Draw data model (entity relationship) diagrams
- Create a data model from requirements
- Morph an existing data model into a future data model
- Build a data model based on existing system documentation
- Assign attributes to the appropriate entity on the diagram
- Analyze data attribute’s characteristics (metadata)

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1 Introduction to Data Modeling

Of People and Data

- On Human Communication
- Things to Talk About . . .
- The Data Foundation
- Data, Information and Knowledge

2 Defining Business Data

Creating Data Models Intuitively

- Data Model Diagrams
 - Data Model Diagrams Alternative Graphic
 - Conventions
 - Data Model Diagrams Additional Information
- Exercise: Data Model Diagram for Project Resources
- Data Model Evolution
 - Levels of Data Models
- Defining Entities
 - Exercise: Definitions for Education Department Data For Your Answer
 - Exercise: Data Modeling from Descriptions
 - Exercise: Identifying and Placing Attributes
- Simple Document for Invoicing System
 - Exercise: Data Model from a Form
 - Identifying Entities

- Exercise: New System Data Model from Scratch

Creating Data Models from User Views

- Normalization – a Bottom Up Approach
- The Order Document for the Invoicing System
 - Normalized Order
 - Normalization – Step 2
 - Normalization – Step 3
- Normalization Helpful Hints
 - On Merging Data Models
- Exercise: Combining Two Data Models
- Exercise: Normalize an Invoice
- Exercise: Attributes of All Invoicing System Forms
- Exercise: Complete Invoicing System Data Model
- Data Modeling - Two Approaches

Defining Data Model Attributes

- Attributes: Inside an Entity
- Attribute Definition

Overview of UML Class Symbols

- E/R (Entity-Relationship) Diagrams: A Summary

3 Overview of UML Class Symbols

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