



'Just For You' Consulting Services, Inc.
1941 Lake Ave.
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
Ph: (908) 233-4447 Fax: (908) 233-8033

Helpful web sites: www.elementkjournals.com
www.techrepublic.com
www.developershandbook.com

What is the purpose of a relational database?

Eliminate redundancy by storing data in multiple normalized tables.

What is a relationship?

A relationship is an association between 2 tables. They are needed to pull the data together once the data is normalized (pulled apart).

Matching foreign & primary keys joins data. It becomes a parent to child relationship. The parent table holds the primary key and the child table hold the foreign key.

There are 3 types of relationships: one to one, one to many, many to many.

One to One = Each parent record relates to only one child record
(Supertype/subtype)

One to Many = Each parent record can have many children records.

Many to Many = Should create a third table that links the two tables
(associative)

Business rules will determine the tables (entities) and relationships necessary.

There are three types of relationship joins: Inner, Left outer, Right outer.

Inner = returns only those recors from both tables where the key values match.

Left Outer = returns all records in the parent table, even if there's no matching foreign key value in the child table.

Right Outer = returns all the records from the child tables and any matching records from the parent table.

Permanent relationships are created in the relationship window. A permanent relationship affects any query involving two related tables.

There are two types of integrity; referential and entity.

Entity – each row of a table must be uniquely identified

Referential – foreign key value in a child table must match a primary key value in a parent table.



'Just For You' Consulting Services, Inc.
1941 Lake Ave.
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
Ph: (908) 233-4447 Fax: (908) 233-8033

Turning on referential integrity prevents the following:

1. Entering a new foreign key value in a child table before the primary key value exists in the related parent table.
2. Deleting a primary key value in a parent table if there's a matching foreign key value in a related child table.
3. Modifying a primary key value in a parent table if a matching foreign key value exists in a related child table.

Cascade Update – updates all foreign key values (children) when you modify the matching primary key (parent)

Cascade Delete – When a parent record is deleted, all matching children records will be deleted.

Temporary Relationships – created between two tables in the query design window. These relationships are automatically created when both tables contain a field with the same name, both fields are the same data type and one field is a primary key.

To stop the creation of temporary relationships do the following:

Choose Options from the tools menu.

Click the tables/Queries tab in the options dialog box.

Clear the enable autojoin check box in the query design section.

Click apply, and then click OK to close the Options dialog box.