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Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD)

An entity-relationship model (or ER model) describes interrelated things of interest in a specific domain of knowledge

Snippet from *Wikipedia*: [Entity-relationship model](#)

An **entity-relationship model** (or **ER model**) describes interrelated things of interest in a specific domain of knowledge. A basic ER model is composed of entity types (which classify the things of interest) and specifies relationships that can exist between entities (instances of those entity types).

In software engineering, an ER model is commonly formed to represent things a business needs to remember in order to perform business processes. Consequently, the ER model becomes an abstract data model, that defines a data or information structure that can be implemented in a database, typically a relational database.

Entity-relationship modeling was developed for database and design by Peter Chen and published in a 1976 paper, with variants of the idea existing previously. Today it is commonly used for teaching students the basics of database structure. Some ER models show super and subtype entities connected by generalization-specialization relationships, and an ER model can also be used to specify domain-specific ontologies.

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