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PeopleSoft Database Organization

Concept

Imagine having all of the information your company uses stored on pieces of paper in boxes. It would take a very long time to locate and access exactly what you needed.

Relational databases are used to organize and store data efficiently. Huge volumes of information can be easily located and retrieved in a very short time, which is one of the reasons relational databases have become an industry standard.

Procedure

PeopleSoft Terms	Equivalent Terms
Table	File, Set
Column	Field, Item, Data, Element, Attribute
Row	Record, Occurrence, Entry

Step	Action
1.	PeopleSoft uses relational databases for organizing data efficiently. Relational databases are used in a variety of contexts. As a result, relational database terminology includes multiple expressions describing the same element or concept. These terms are used when referring to the listed elements in PeopleSoft.

Pet Table				
Pet Name	Pet Type	Owner Name	Size	Comments
Duke	Labrador Retriever	Watkins, Melissa	Large	Tends to run away
Muffin	Scottie	Jones, Donald	Medium	Snaps and bites
Cujo	Bijon Freize	Taylor, Nancy	Small	Super thick fur, grows

Step	Action
2.	Relational databases store data in tables. Tables are composed of rows and columns. Here is an example of a table of data for pets that visit Shear Style, a pet grooming business.

Pet Table

Pet Name	Pet Type	Owner Name	Size	Comments
Duke	Labrador Retriever	Watkins, Melissa	Large	Tends to run away
Muffin	Scottie	Jones, Donald	Medium	Snaps and bites
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Step	Action
3.	Each row provides information for a single entity, in this case, pets. In the first row, you can see the pet's name is Duke, a Labrador Retriever owned by Melissa Watkins. Duke is a large dog who tends to run away.

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Step	Action
4.	Each column details a particular characteristic of each pet. For example, the first column indicates the Pet's Name, while the third column indicates the Owner's Name.


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Cujo	Bijon Freize	Taylor, Nancy	Small	Super thick fur, growls

Customer Table			
Owner Name	Address	Phone	Pet Name
Watkins, Melissa	1379 First Street, Livermore	925-838-2367	Duke
Jones, Donald	48 Juniper Court, San Ramon	925-583-9074	Muffin
Taylor, Nancy	96 Sprint Street, Pleasanton	925-893-0621	Cujo

Appointment Information Table						
Appt. Date	Pet Name	Owner Name	Shampoo	Cut Type	Perfume	Fleas
5/12/01	Duke	Watkins, Melissa	Coat and Tail	Trim	No	No
3/30/01	Muffin	Jones, Donald	Henna Marvel	Classic	Yes	No
4/16/01	Cujo	Taylor, Nancy	Shiny Coat	Trim	Yes	No

Step	Action
5.	<p>Shear Styles uses two additional tables in its database containing information related to the Pet Table. These are the Customer Table and the Appointment Information Table.</p> <p>You can easily retrieve information from different tables in a relational database, in the combination of your choice, using key fields.</p>

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Step	Action
6.	<p>A key is a column or combination of columns that identifies a row of data as unique in a relational database table. Business rules can impact the assignment of table keys.</p> <p>For example, because Shear Style has no customers with the same exact name, the key field for the Customer Table is Owner Name. However, if this were not the case, the combination of Owner Name and Phone may be needed to uniquely identify a row of data in the Customer Table.</p>

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4/16/01	Cujo	Taylor, Nancy	Shiny Coat	Trim	Yes	No

Step	Action
7.	Key fields are important identifiers in relational databases. They enable the user to extract specific and exclusive information from the database. Although some database systems may use terms such as "primary key" and "foreign key," these terms are not used with PeopleSoft Enterprise applications.

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4/16/01	Cujo	Taylor, Nancy	Shiny Coat	Trim	Yes	No

Step	Action
8.	As the owner of Shear Style, you want to get the appropriate information you need to mail each customer a reminder of his or her pet's next grooming appointment. You want to include the client's name and address, the pet's name and breed, and the appointment date. This information resides in three separate tables, but you can select the data you want to see from each one.

Appointment Reminder Information

Owner Name	Address	Pet Name	Pet Type	Appt. Date
Watkins, Melissa	1379 First Street, Livermore	Duke	Labrador retriever	5/12/01
Jones, Donald	48 Juniper Court, San Ramon	Muffin	Scottie	3/30/01
Taylor, Nancy	96 Sprint Street, Pleasanton	Cujo	Bijon Freize	4/16/01

Step	Action
9.	Here is the information you requested from Shear Style's database.
10.	In summary, you have seen how data is structured in a relational database and how it is easy to identify the information you want to retrieve. End of Procedure.