

GROUP PROJECTS

CASE 16: A WEB-BASED CLASSIFIED SYSTEM

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With the emergence of the Internet as a worldwide standard for communicating information, *Gabby's Gazetteer*, a medium-size community newspaper in central Colorado, is looking to enter the electronic commerce market.

In the listing of classified ads, advertisers place a small ad that lists items they wish to sell and provide a means (e.g., telephone number) by which prospective buyers can contact them.

The nature of a sale via a newspaper classified system goes as follows:

- During the course of the sale, the information flows in different directions at different stages.
- First, there is a downstream flow of information (from seller to buyer)—the listing in print on the newspaper. (Thus, the classified ad listing is just a way of bringing a buyer and seller together.)
- When a potential purchaser's interest has been raised, then that interest must be relayed upstream, usually by telephone or in person.
- Finally, a meeting should result that uses face-to-face negotiation to finalize the sale—if the sale can be agreed upon.

By putting the entire system on the Internet, the upstream and downstream communications are accomplished using a Web browser. The sale becomes more of an auction, because many potential buyers, all with equal status, can bid for the same item. So it's fairer for all purchasers and gets a better deal for the seller.

Any user who is trying to buy an item can:

- View items for sale
- Bid on an item they wish to purchase

Any user who is trying to sell an item can:

- Place a new item for sale
- Browse a list of the items that he or she is trying to sell, and examine the bids that have been made on each of those items
- Accept a bid on an item that he or she is selling

Figure GP.2

Gabby's Gazetteer Classified Registration System

Gabby's Gazetteer Classified Section
New User Registration

In order to bid on existing "for-sale" items, or sell your own items on these pages, you need to register with our system. Once you have done that, you will have full access to the system.

E-Mail Address:
 First Name:
 Last Name:
 Address:
 City:
 State:
 Postal Code:
 Country:
 Password:
 Verify Password:

* This is a demo screen shot for the database development of Gabby's Gazetteer Classified project.

This system should also allow users to do some very basic administrative tasks, such as:

- Browse the listings to see what is for sale
- Register with the system (users can browse without registering; but they must register if they want to sell an item or bid for an item)
- Log on to the system
- Change their registration details

Your job will be to complete the following:

1. Develop and describe the entity-relationship diagram for the database that will support the above activities.
2. Use normalization to ensure the correctness of the tables.
3. Create the database using a personal DBMS package.

Some Particulars You Should Know

1. Use Figure GP.2 as a baseline for your database design.
2. File: Not applicable.