

MIS 2101/2901 EXAM 1
REVIEW SESSION

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EXAM FORMAT

25 Multiple Choice Questions

- ▣ First 5 from assigned readings
- ▣ Next 10 from assigned videos & lectures
- ▣ Next 10 from Mini Case

Topics:

Intro to MIS, Systems Analysis, Swimlane, ERD, Business Rules, Decision Trees, Conceptual Architecture Diagram

Reminder:

Bring a #2 pencil and highlighters!

1.

Introduction to MIS

What is MIS

- ▣ Discipline of professionals who understand, develop, and leverage IT in an organization
- ▣ Use technology to solve day-to-day business problems
- ▣ Ties business functions together & uses technology to make them work



Accounting



Finance



Sales



**Human
Resources**



Production

Information Systems, Computer Science, Information Technology

IS

- Use information that systems provide to define and achieve goals
- Implement and improve business processes using IT
- Bridge between technical and management communities
- Found in business schools

CS

- Ranges from theory, to programming, to new development of solutions
- Design/build new software, design ways to solve computing problems, devise new ways of using computers
- Spawned other majors/career paths such as IT

IT

- Term refers to all computing
- Undergraduate degree: prepares students to meet computer needs of organizations
- Knowledge and hands-on expertise to take care of organization's IT infrastructure



BIG CONCEPT

MIS is **solution-driven!**

it focuses on solving **business** problems
by leveraging **technology**

2.1

Analyzing Organizations
as Systems and
Processes

Systems

- ▣ Mix of people, process, technology
- ▣ Manipulate info to create value
- ▣ MIS professionals create, manage, and implement these “Systems”
- ▣ Can be simple or complex
 - Simple - don't use much technology
 - Complex - use lots of technology



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Systems Analysis

- ▣ Problem solving technique
- ▣ Decomposes a system into component pieces to study how well those parts work & interact to accomplish a business goal
- ▣ Analyze business processes that need to be supported by a given system

Systems Architecture

- ▣ Conceptual model
- ▣ Formal representation of system & components and their interactions
- ▣ Provides a plan form which solutions to business problems can be developed



BIG CONCEPT

Systems Analysis → Systems Architecture:

Once systems analysts **understand** the business problem, they **architect** a solution

2.11

Process Modeling with Swimlane Diagrams

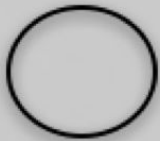
Process Mapping

- ▣ Visual representation of processes
- ▣ Exercise to identify **ALL** steps & decisions in a process
- ▣ Draw **AS IS**, not what we prefer to be
- ▣ Purposes:
 - Get everyone on the same page!
 - Change without full understanding = costly mistakes, further problems
 - Measure efficiency & identify problem areas (bottlenecks, hands off)
- ▣ Basis for developing solutions

Swimlane Diagram

- ▣ Process flow diagram with divisions or “lanes”
 - Horizontal / Vertical
 - Each lane represents an **actor** responsible for processes & decisions described in their lane
 - Actor: individual, department, division, group, machine, entity
- ▣ Sequential
- ▣ Answer questions like:
 - Who does what and when?
 - How?
 - What happens before/after?

Swimlane Diagram



A circle signifies the **starting** and **ending** of an event in the process



A rectangle represents an **activity** in the process.



A diamond represents a **decision** that must be made.

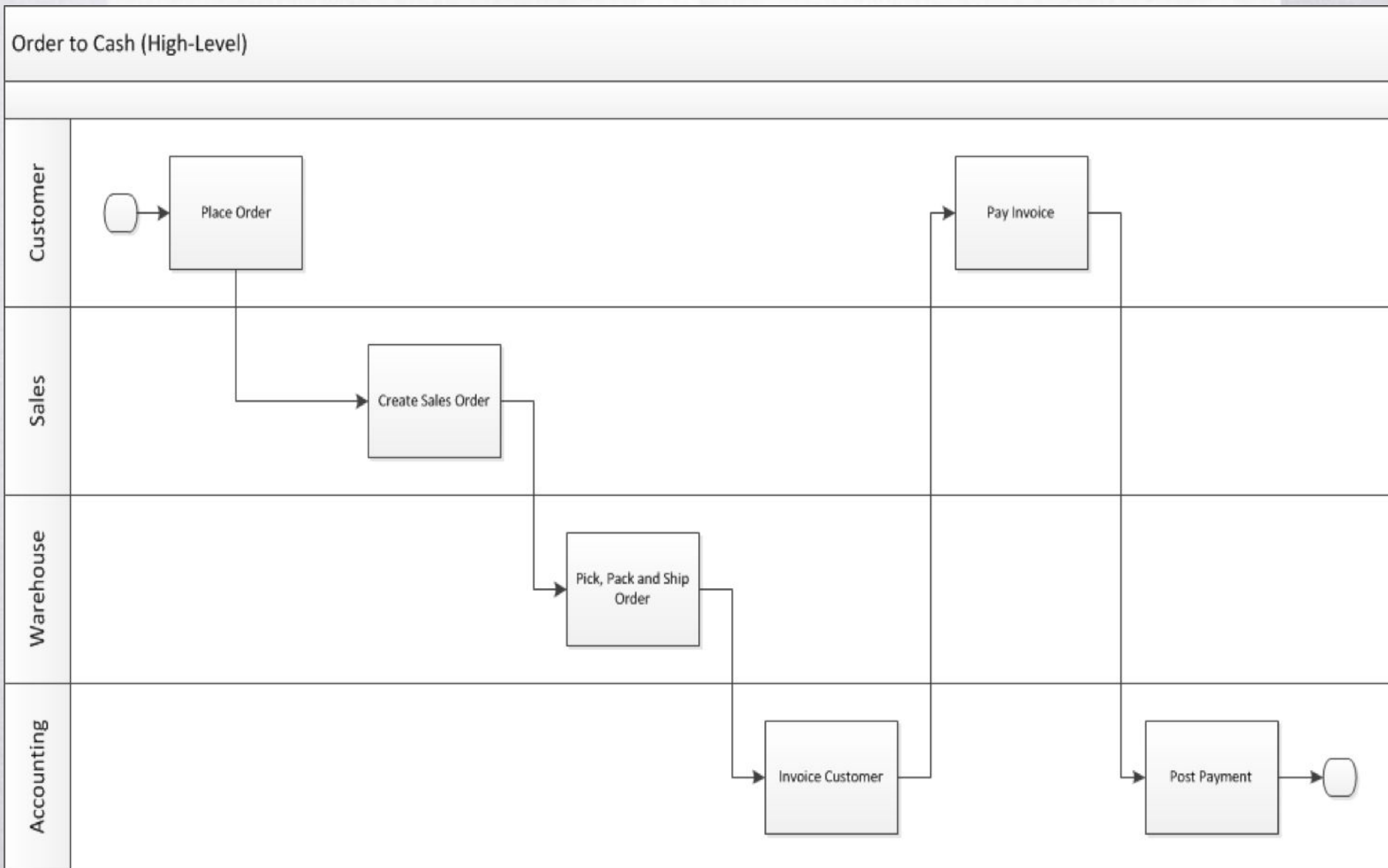
Arrows indicate the **flow** of the process.



A cylinder represents **stored data**.

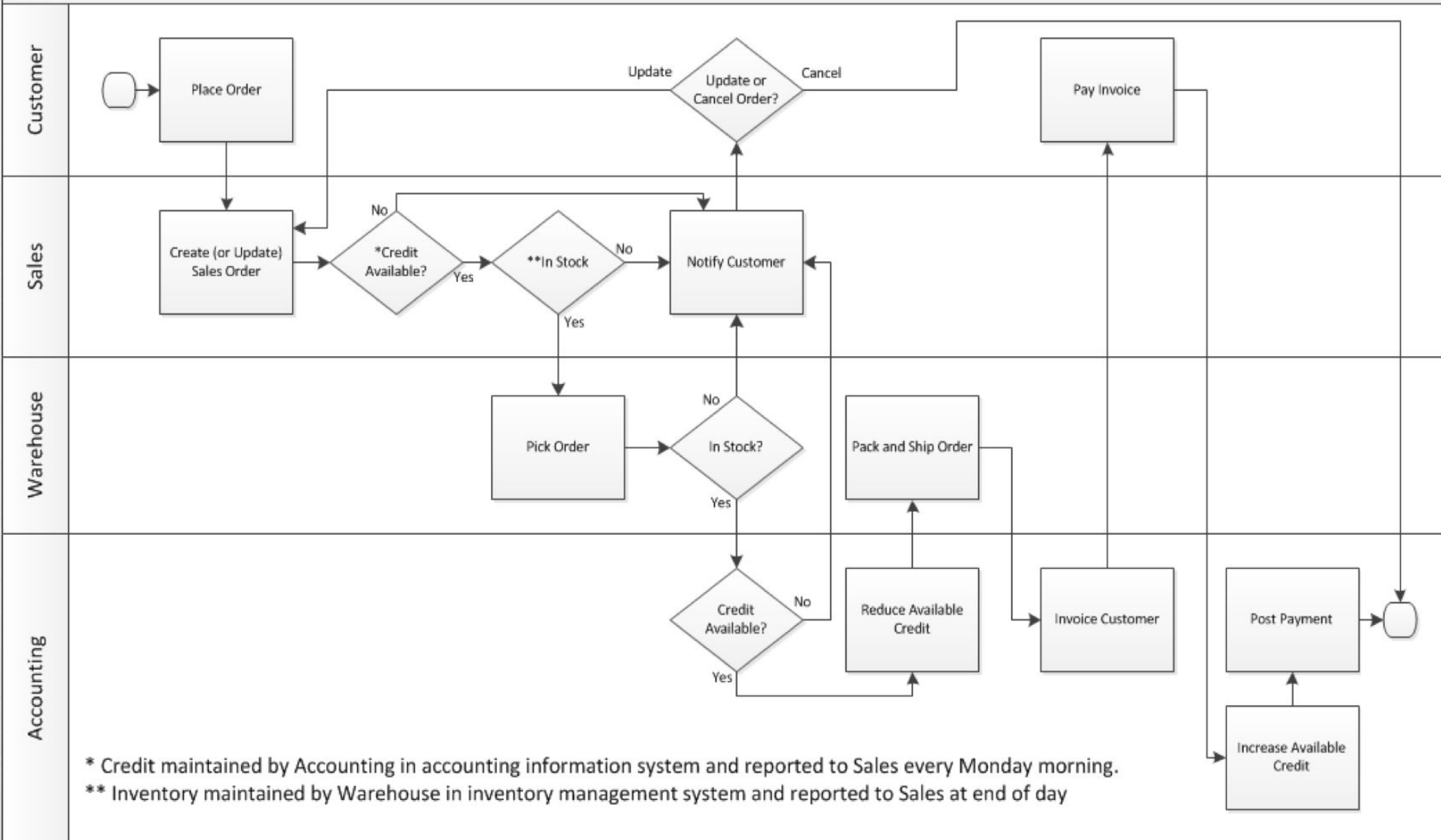


Who does what and when?



LOW-LEVEL Diagram

Order to Cash (Legacy Systems Low-Level)





BIG CONCEPT

Swimlane Diagram is a **communication** tool to improve systems by modeling **current processes**

2.1.2

Data Modeling with ERD

Entity Relationship Diagrams

- ▣ Visual representation of different **data** and describing how these data relate to each other
- ▣ Supplement swimlane diagram
 - Business processes require information to perform them!

Primary ERD Symbols

CHEN's Database Notation



- ▣ Entity = Noun
 - ex. shopper, item



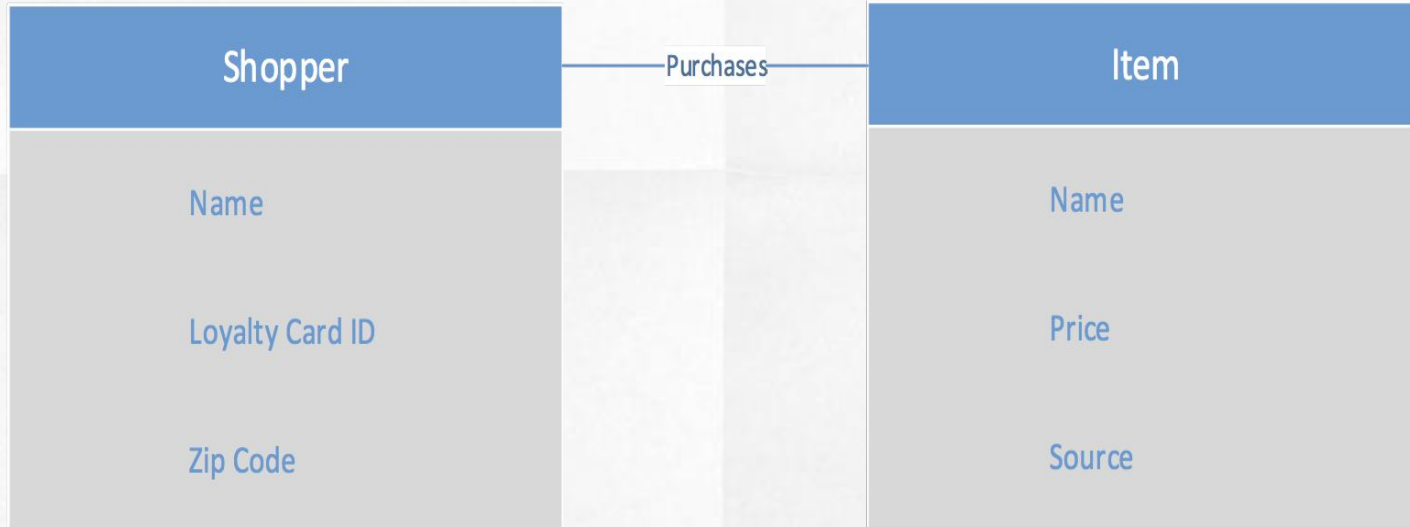
- ▣ Attribute = Characteristic
 - ex. Item price



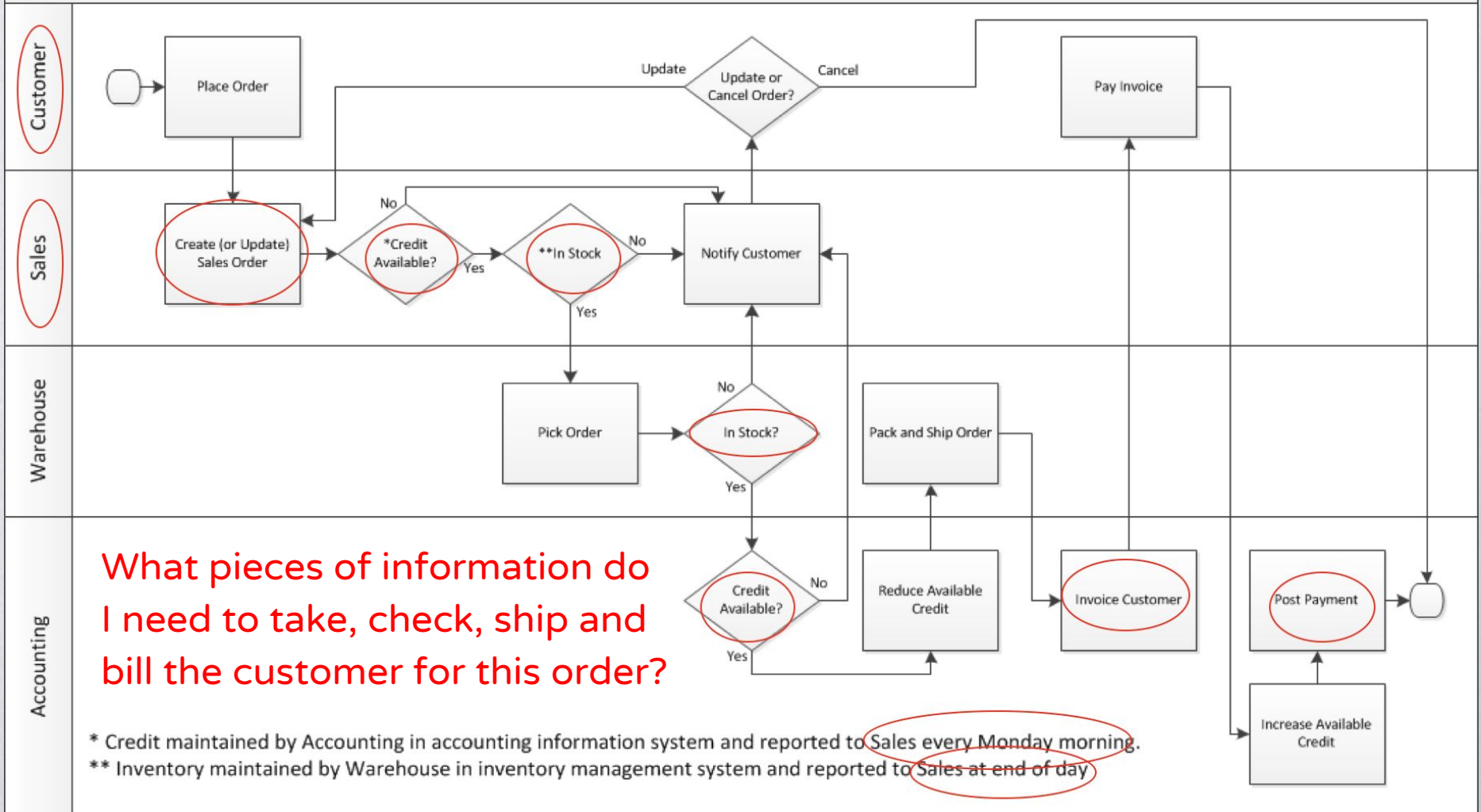
- ▣ Relationship = Verb
 - ex. buys

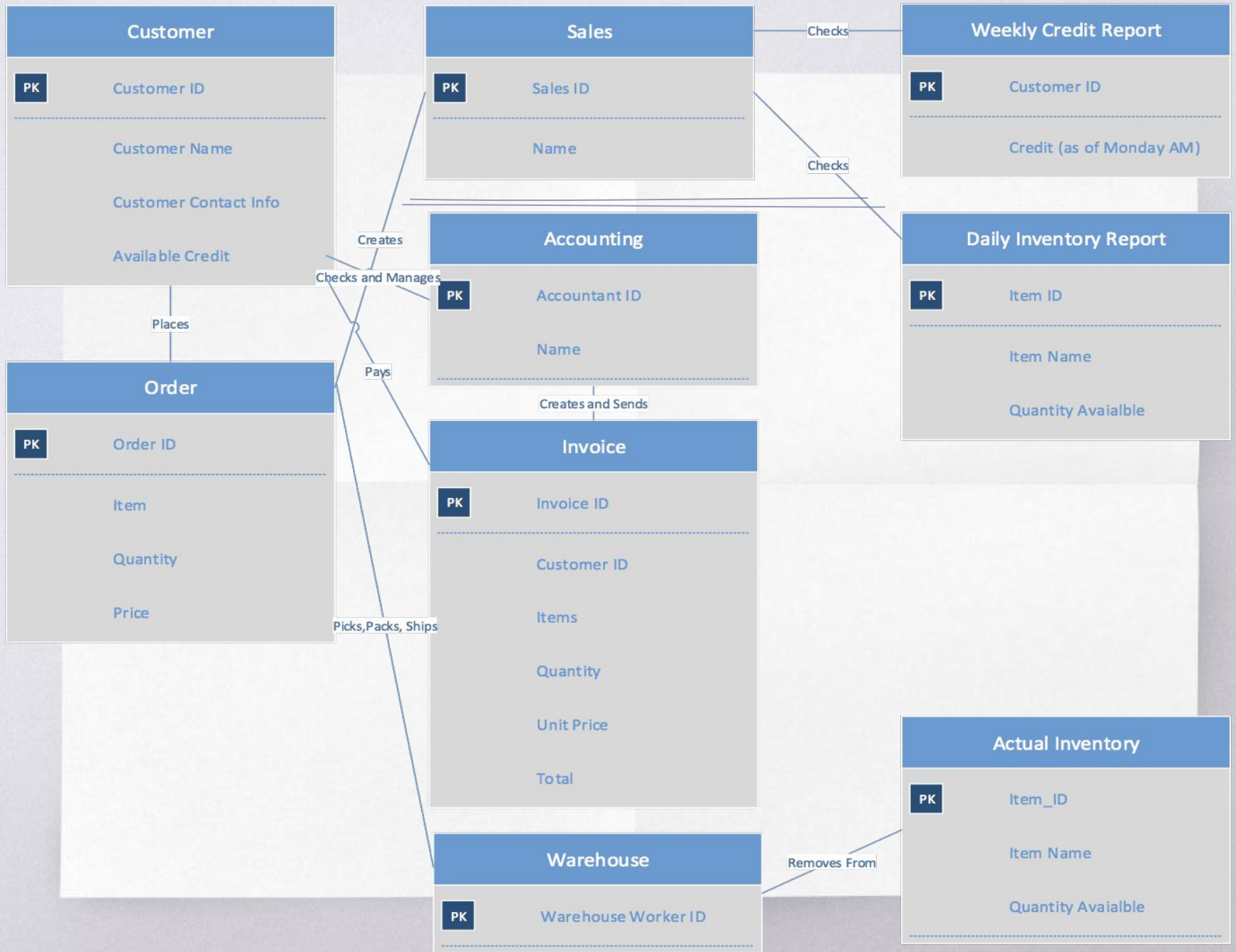
Primary ERD Symbols

CROW'S FOOT Database Notation
(aka what we use in this class!)



Order to Cash (Legacy Systems Low-Level)







BIG CONCEPT

After mapping a process using swimlane, we use ERD to model the **data** required to perform it

2.1.3

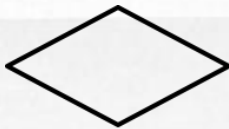
Modeling Business Rules
with Decision Trees

Business Rules

- ▣ Rules organization follows when operating a business
- ▣ Defines or constraints some aspects of business operations
- ▣ Implemented within business processes

Decision Trees

- ▣ Model business rules
- ▣ Help with complex/detailed logic in process flows
- ▣ Help see necessary level of detail
- ▣ Trees help recognize if branch is missing



Condition (decision point)



Possible values



Actions (outcomes)



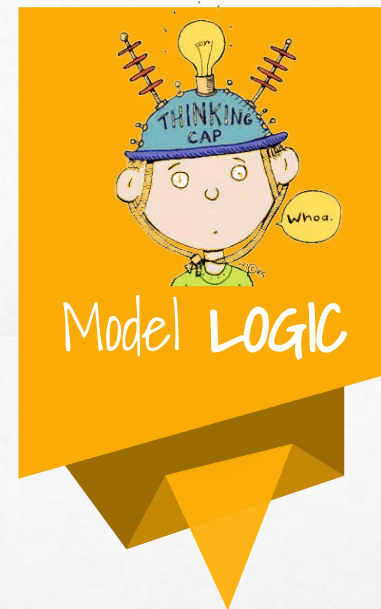
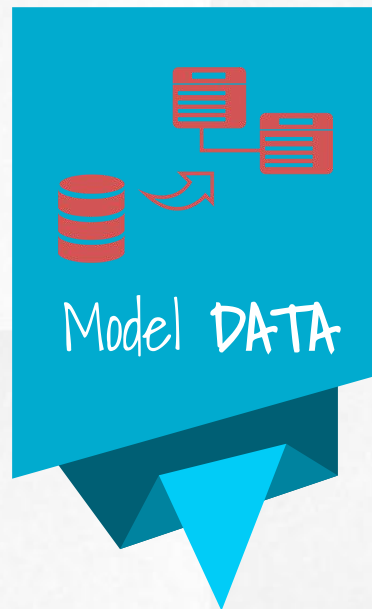
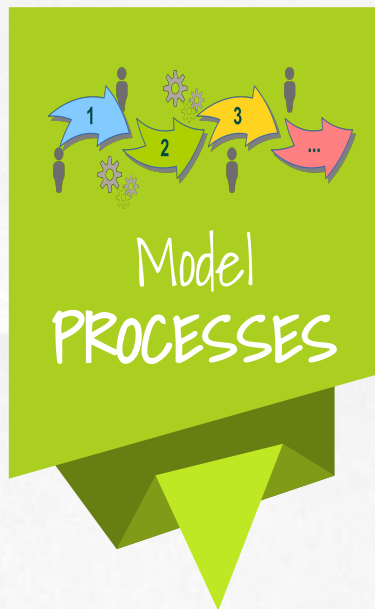
BIG CONCEPT

Decision trees are **logical**:
they model complex logic in process flows



Bringing all of
them together..

Swimlane, ERD, Decision Trees



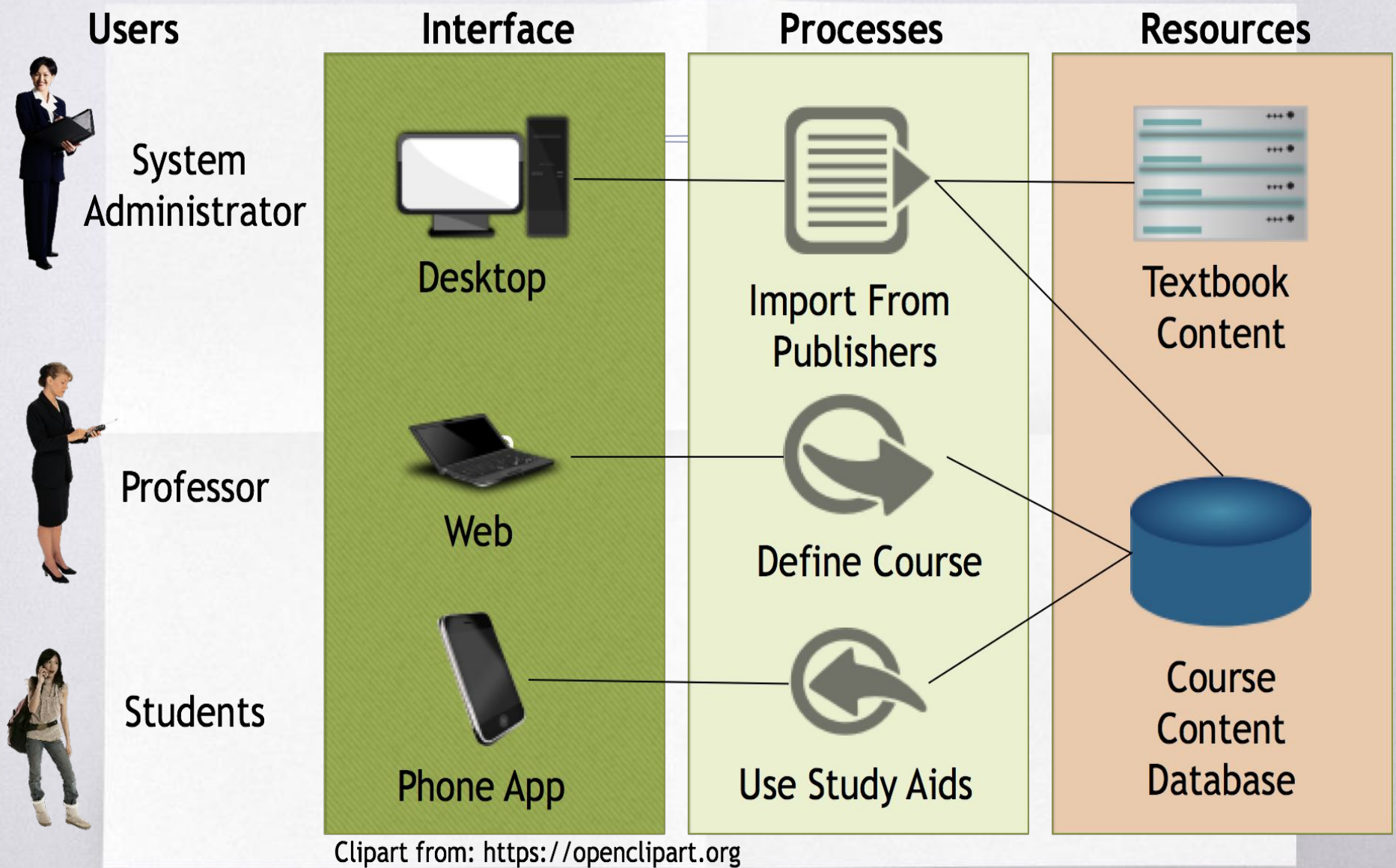
They are all **COMMUNICATION** tools utilized by MIS professionals to **MODEL** a system

2.1.4

Conceptual Architecture Diagramming

Conceptual Architecture Diagrams

- ▣ A **high-level diagram** communicating how a system works
- ▣ Flexible, marketable, all stakeholders
 - Marketing view - attention-grabbing
 - Lightweight - quickly draft to introduce design to stakeholders
 - Formal enough to guide architect in designing
- ▣ Guidelines:
 - Assume audience knows nothing
 - Big picture accuracy
 - Target to need





BIG CONCEPT

Conceptual Diagramming is a process of **reducing a lot of text to images.**

We learn better with images!

Moving on..

**MINI CASE
PRACTICE**

Any Questions?

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Office Hours:

- ❑ Monday 3:00-4:00pm
- ❑ Friday 9:00-10:00am
- ❑ Alter 602

