

Schema Design Activity - Wednesday October 2

Your Task: Design a schema for holding Facebook's data

Scenario: Let's suppose, probably realistically, that the data model choices and database designs for storing Facebook's user-facing data were made over time in a somewhat ad-hoc fashion. As more and more information and features were added (and some removed or altered), the database design was extended and patched accordingly.

Suppose you are tasked to redesign, from scratch, the data management scheme for the information Facebook currently shows its users.

Task 1: Design a relational schema for the information appearing in a user's *About* page. The set of relations should be intuitive, convenient for querying, and should capture relationships without introducing too much redundancy.

Task 2: Design a schema for a typical post appearing in a timeline or news feed. Are relations still suitable? Might XML or JSON be more useful? Continue to aim for a design that's intuitive, convenient for querying, and nonredundant.

Task 3: Find three other types of information on Facebook: one that's best represented in relations, one that's best represented in XML, and one that's best represented in JSON.

*There is no correct answer to this problem,
but some answers are better than others.*