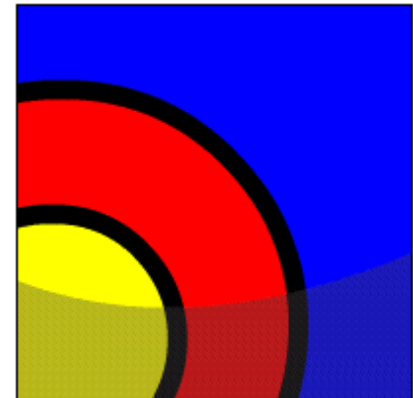


Drawing Conventions for Readability

What Will I Learn?

In this lesson, you will learn to:

- Apply the Oracle drawing conventions to a data-model diagram
- Identify high-volume entities in a data-model diagram and explain their significance to the business
- Redraw a given data-model diagram to increase clarity and readability
- Recognize the usefulness of dividing a complex ERD into a number of functional sub-diagrams



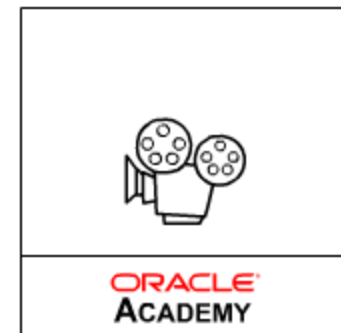
Why Learn It?

What if all shoemakers made up their own sizes?

What if every architect used a different system to draw plans for a building?

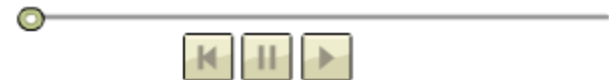
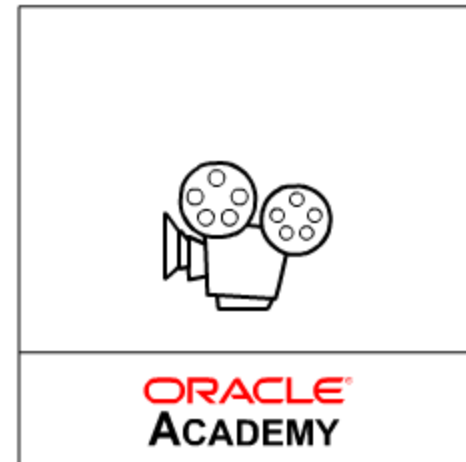
Following the same conventions makes it easier to work as part of a team.

Watch the video clip. How easy is it to understand the ERD at the end?



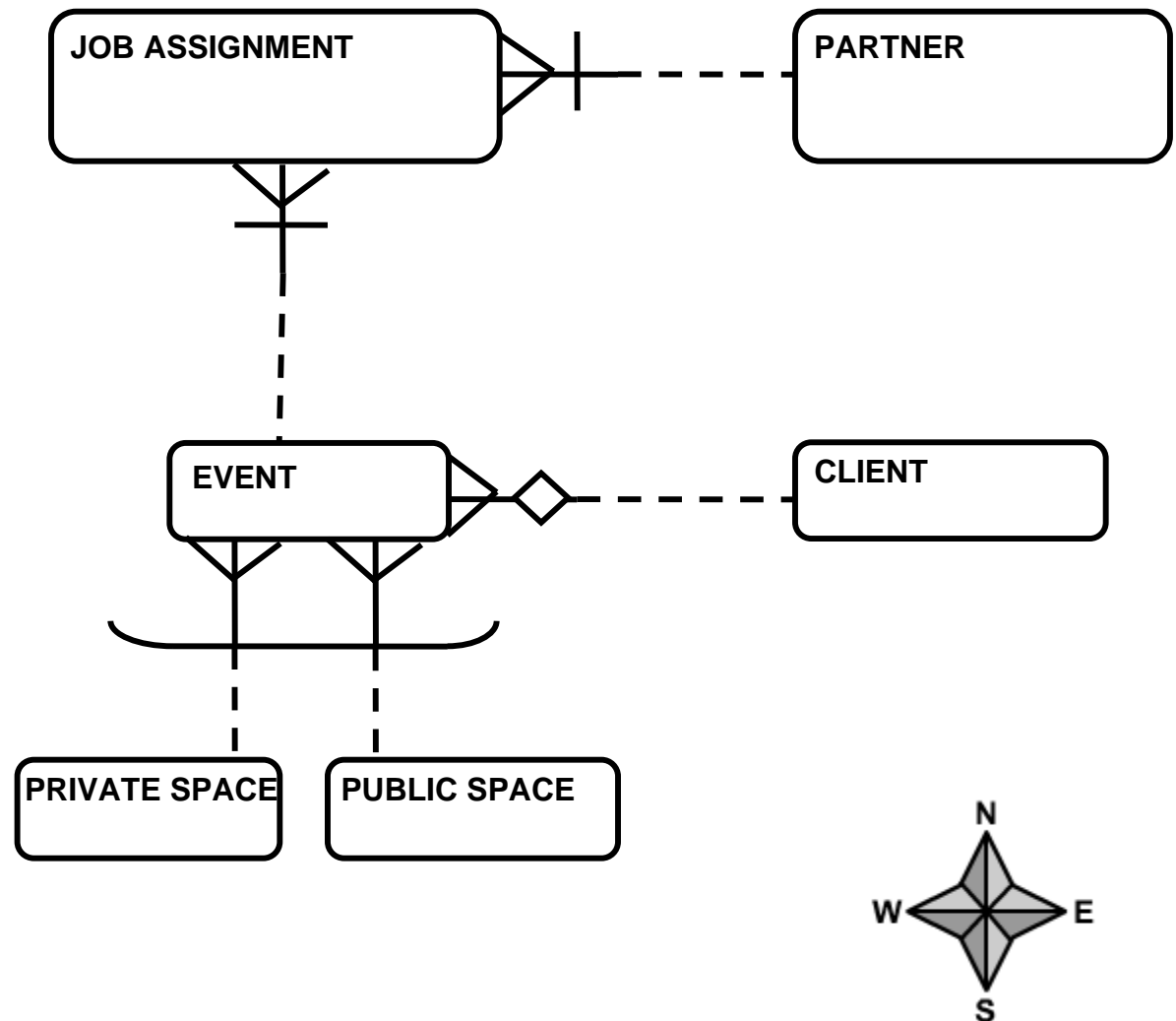
Tell Me / Show Me

As the ERD gets bigger and more complicated, it becomes more challenging to lay it out in a clear and readable format.



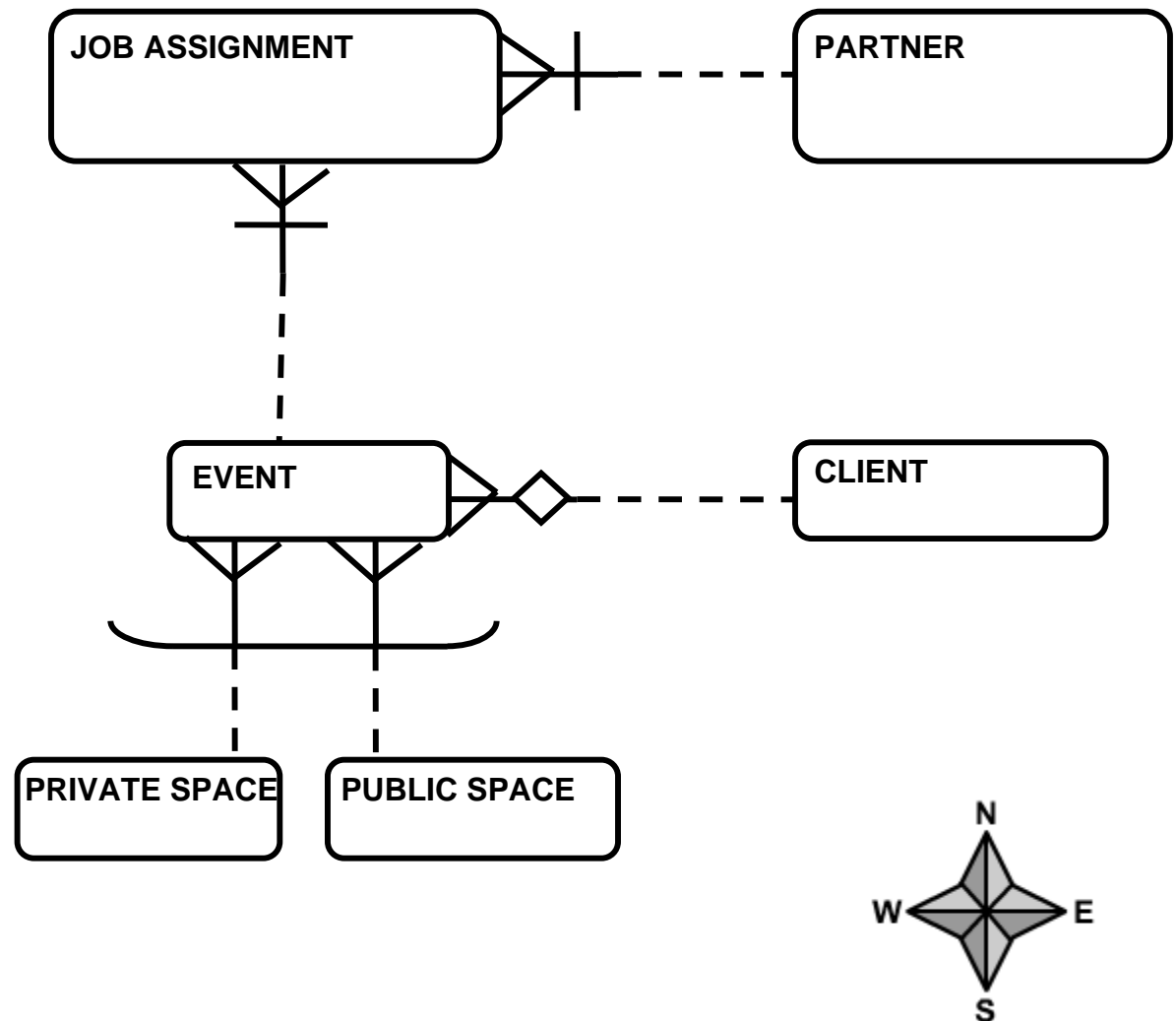
Tell Me / Show Me

Following the conventions of “crows flying south and east” places the high-volume entities on the upper-left portion of the ERD.



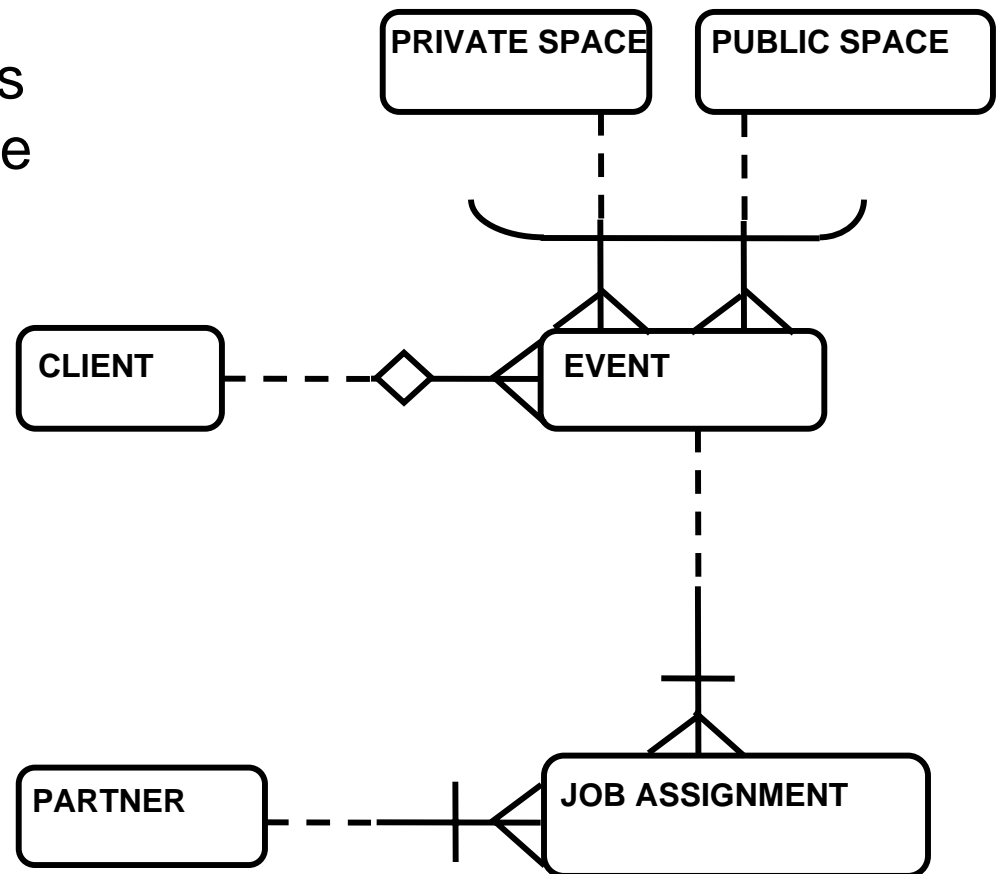
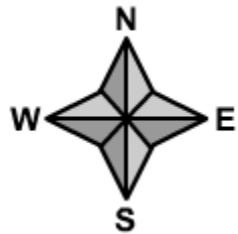
Tell Me / Show Me

High-volume entities are those that would have the most number of instances, compared to other entities.



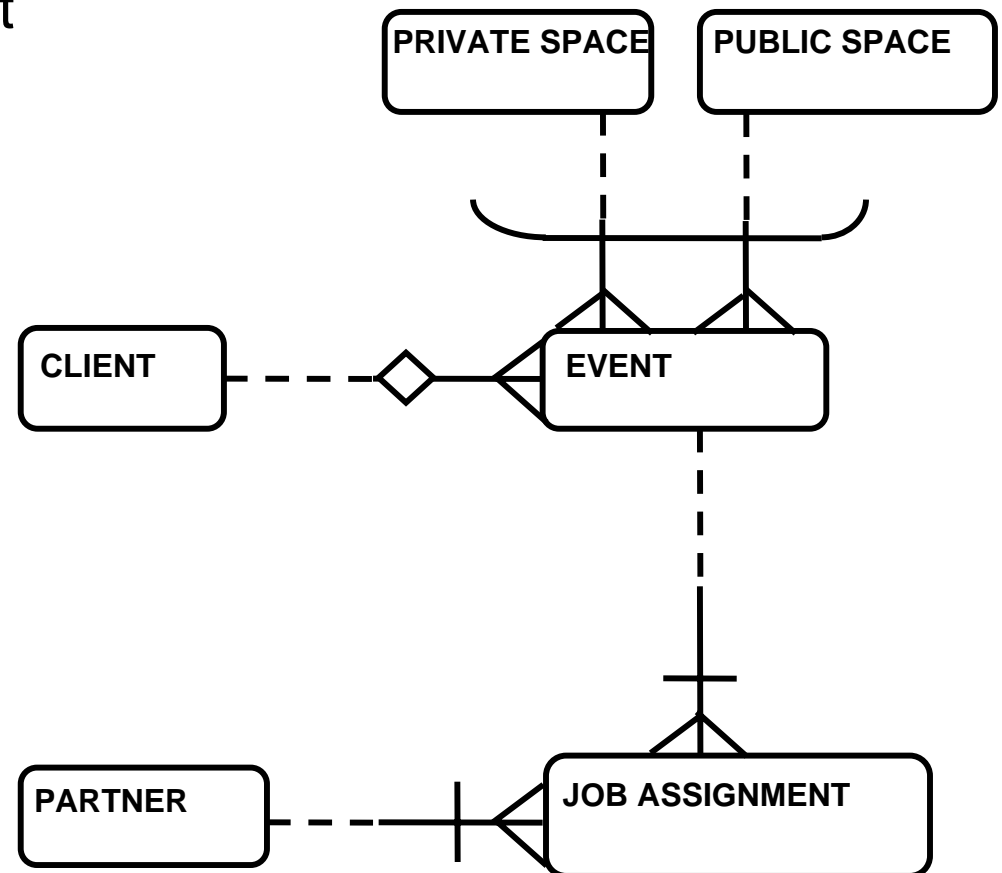
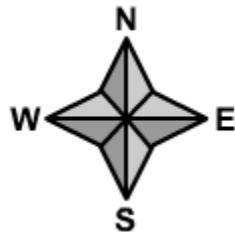
Tell Me / Show Me

Following the conventions of “crows flying north and west” places the high-volume entities on the lower-right portion of the ERD.



Tell Me / Show Me

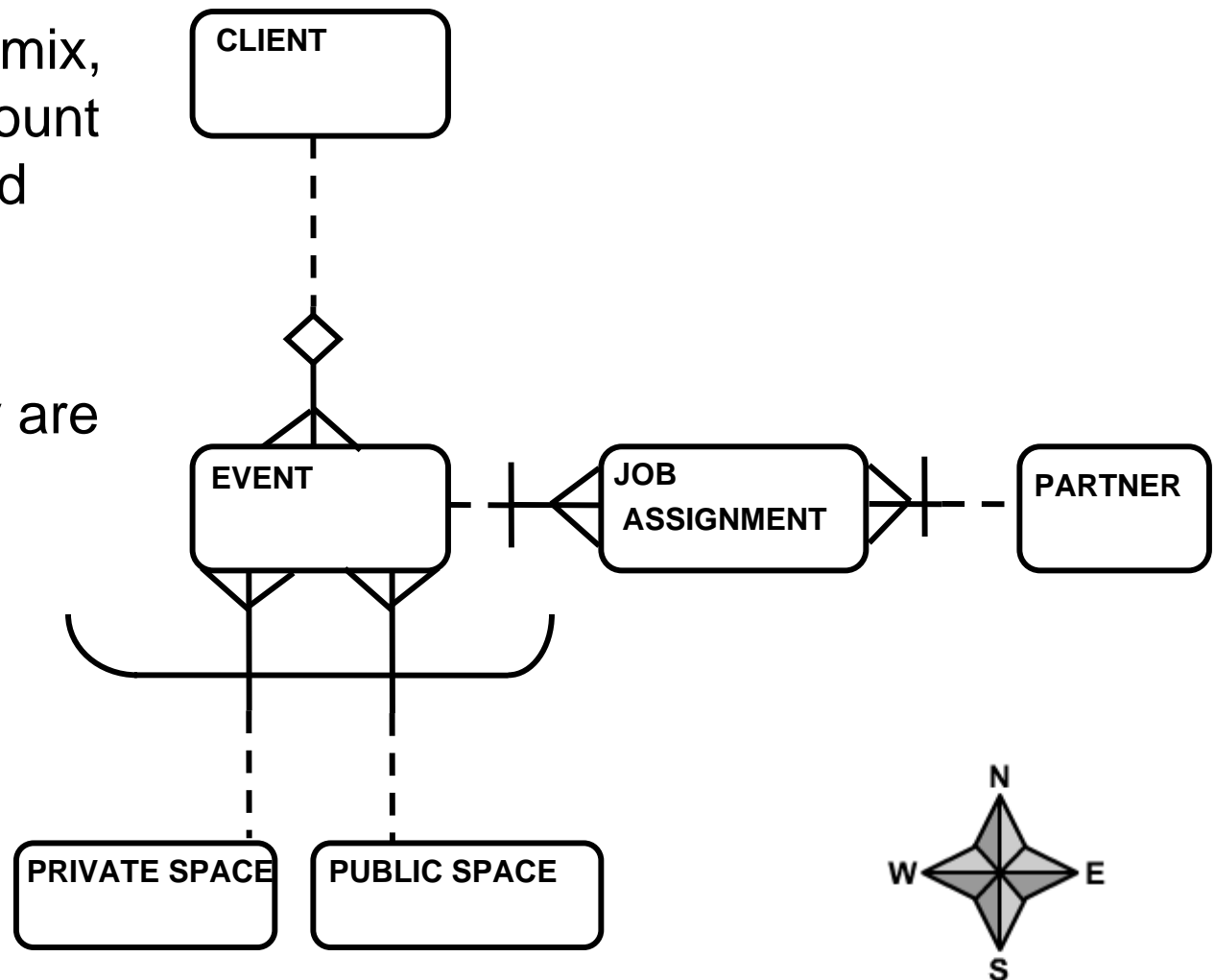
High-volume entities are often the “central” or more important entities in an ERD. They will have the highest number of relationships to other entities, and most of the business functions will affect the data stored in this entity.



Tell Me / Show Me

Often you will have a mix, depending on the amount of space you have and your own preference.

Clarity and readability are the main criteria.



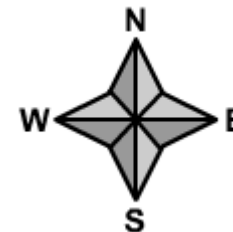
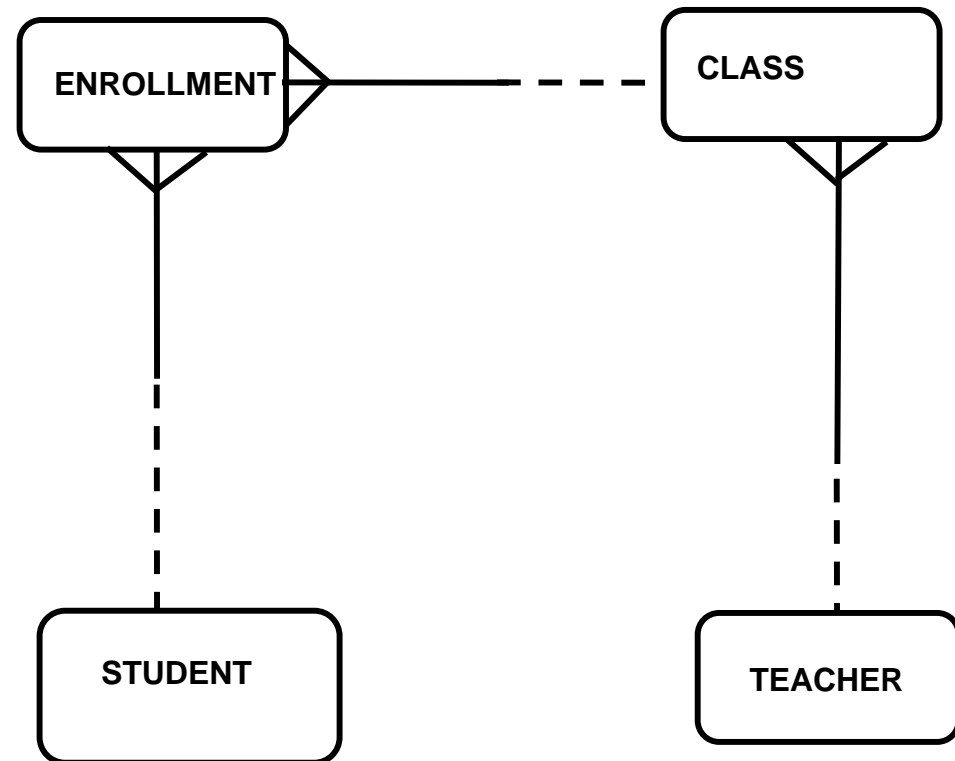
Tell Me / Show Me

The high-volume entities are not always the most important.

Which of these entities would have the highest volume?

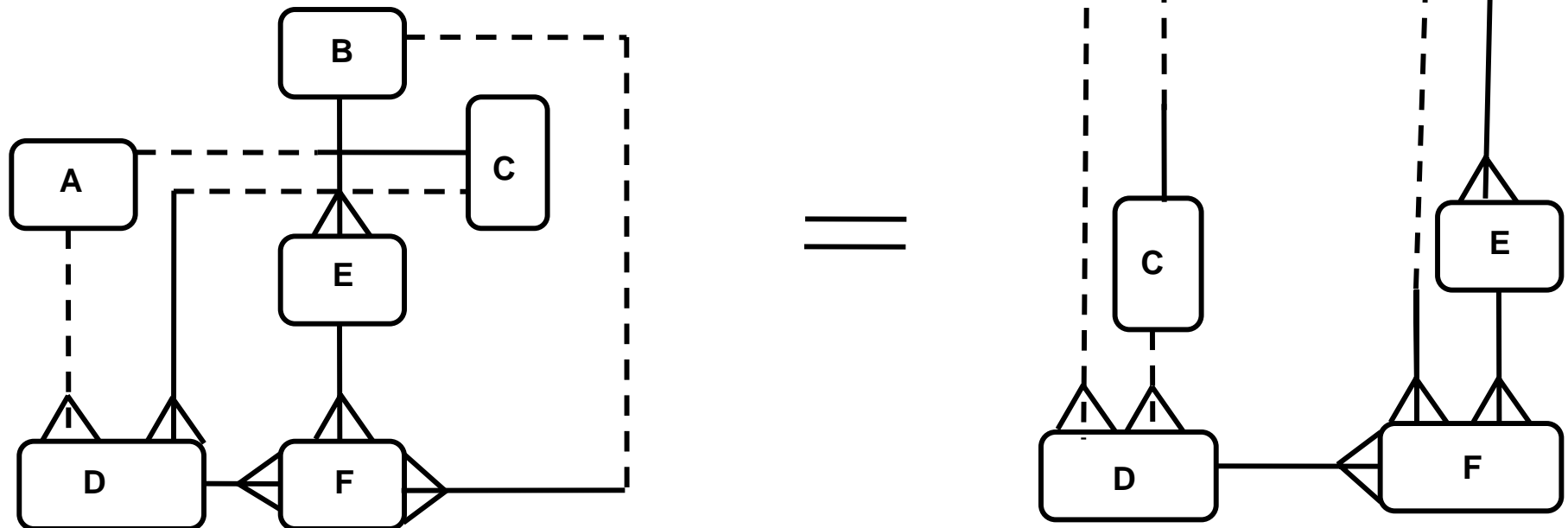
Which entity is the most important?

Again, clarity and readability are the main criteria.



Tell Me / Show Me

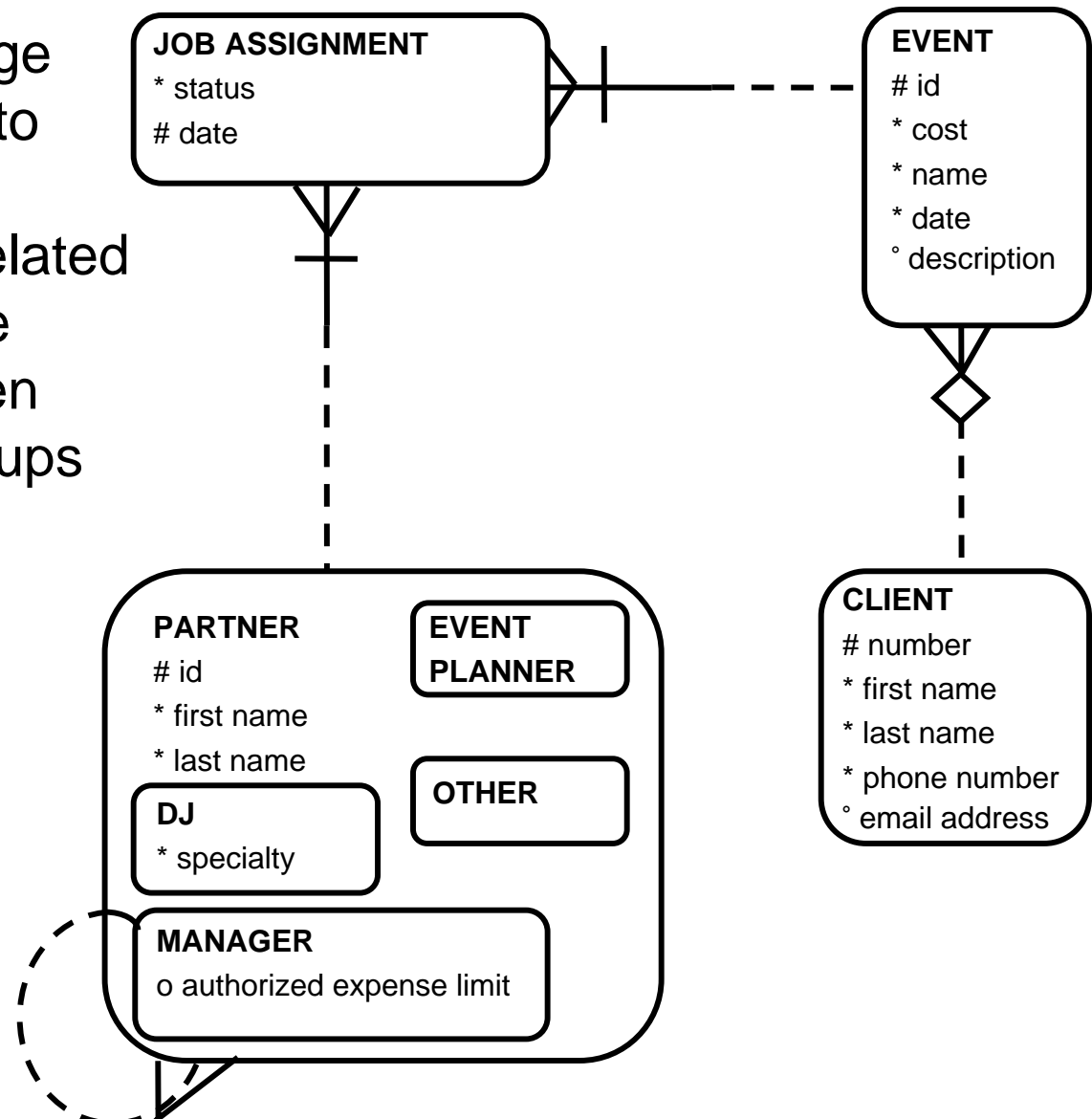
Readability takes space and is subject to taste. The use of white space helps clarify an ERD.



Tell Me / Show Me

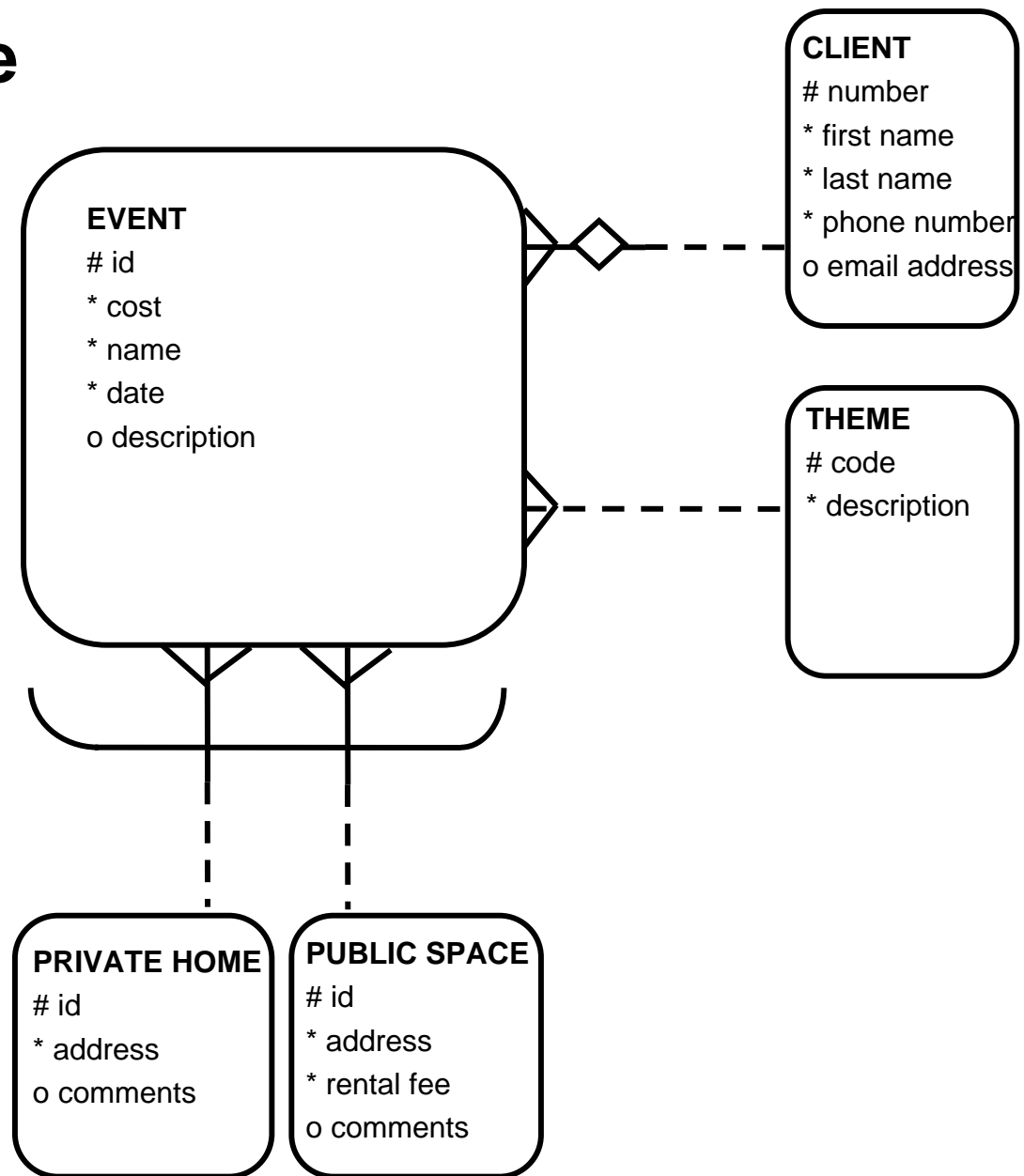
When you have a very large diagram, it may also help to break it up into smaller diagrams of functionally related entities. You could use the smaller sub-diagrams when presenting to different groups within the customer's company.

This is what the project manager would mainly be interested in.



Tell Me / Show Me

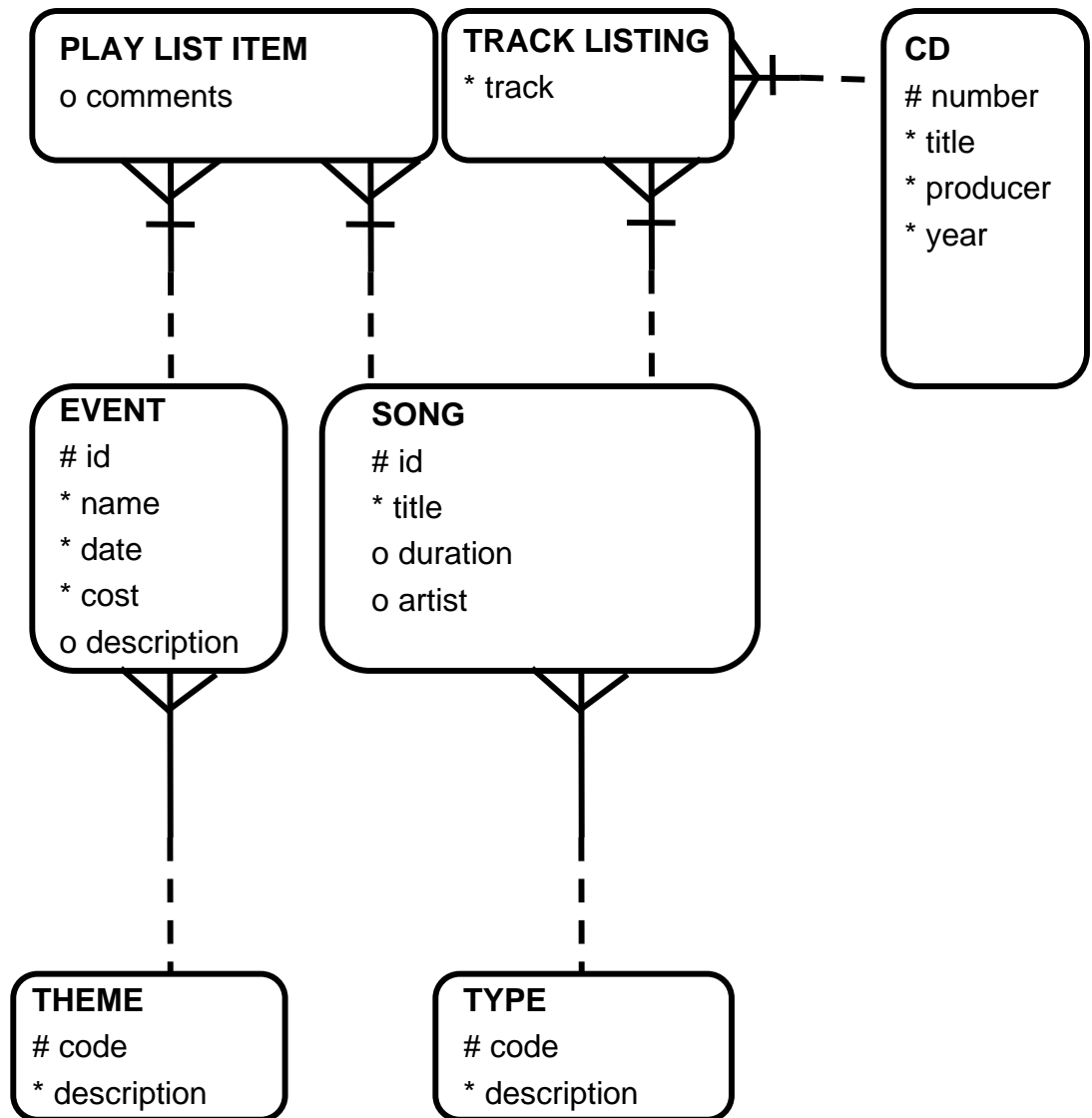
These entities are what the event manager would be most concerned with.



Tell Me / Show Me

Often multiple developers build the applications that access a single database. Each application developer could use a smaller diagram that contains the entities that he or she will build screens, forms, and reports for.

These are the entities that one of greatest interest to the DJ, or someone building an application for the DJ.



Tell Me / Show Me

Terminology

Key terms used in this lesson include:

High- volume entity

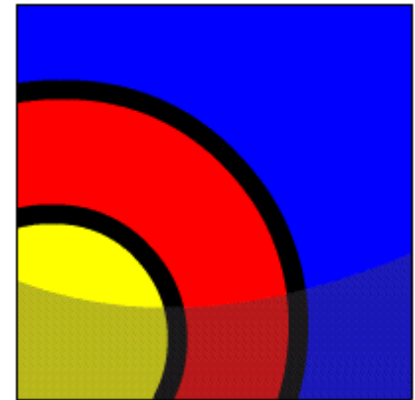
White space



Summary

In this lesson you have learned to:

- Apply the Oracle drawing conventions to a data-model diagram
- Identify high-volume entities in a data-model diagram and explain their significance to the business
- Redraw a given data-model diagram to increase clarity and readability
- Recognize the usefulness of dividing a complex ERD into a number of functional sub-diagrams



Summary

Practice Guide

The link for the lesson practice guide can be found in the course outline.

