35 MASTER-DETAIL SCREENS
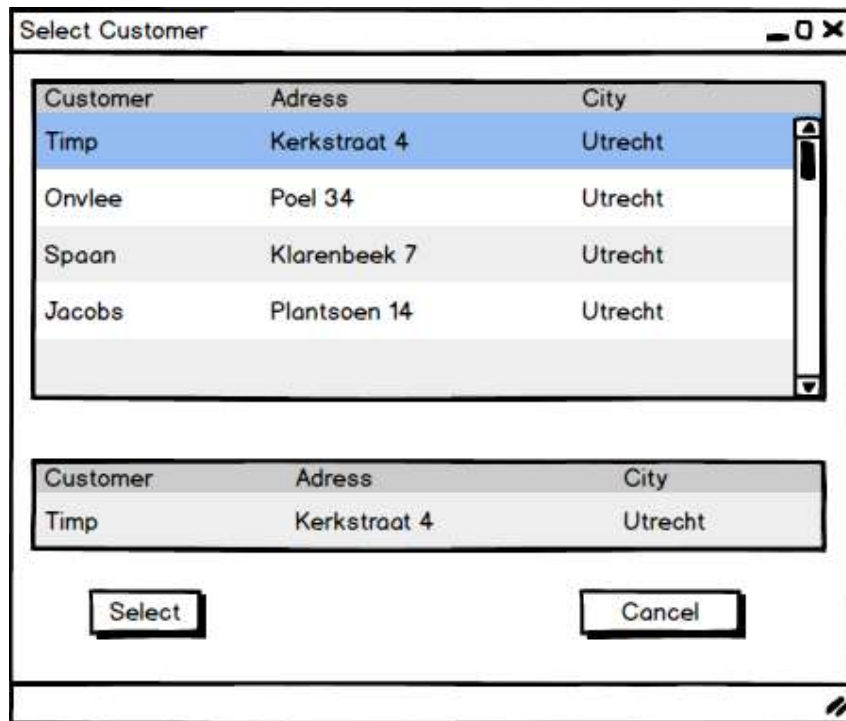
Problem description

Many applications contain so-called master-detail screens. Screens where in the top (the master section), a window is displayed, in which the main identifying data of occurrences of particular data are displayed and where one can select a single occurrence. At the bottom of these screens (the detail section) the attributes of the selected occurrence are displayed.

Function Point Analysis hereby recognizes two transactional function types (maintenance options are ignored in this example):

- a function for displaying the identifying data of all occurrences for the purpose of making a selection (an external output)
- a function for displaying the details of the selected occurrence (an external inquiry)

Within a given application there are master-detail screens where in the detail section exactly the same attributes are displayed for an occurrence as in the master section.

Is one EO and one EQ counted, or only one EO?

Discussion

The discussion is whether you must recognize for this particular case, in addition to an external output for the master section also an external inquiry for the detail section or not.

In terms of information to the user the detail section adds nothing, but the screen is described in detail in the design and the user has requested this detail section with the same attributes.

The master section is an EO, because multiple occurrences are displayed in order to make a further selection from there.

The detail screen is an EQ, in spite of the fact that the master section and the detail screen display exactly the same DET's. This is because the design explicitly asked for this and the format (selection data) differs from the 'master section EO.

Solution

Count one external output and one external inquiry.

References to the standard

8.1 and 9.1