

You cannot create a new Master-Detail relationship on an existing custom object if records already exist

You cannot create a new Master-Detail relationship on an existing custom object if records already exist

While Creating [Master Detail relationship](#) between two object an error will be displayed like “*You cannot create a new Master-Detail relationship on an existing custom object if records already exist. You must first create a [Lookup relationship](#), populate the lookup field with data in all records, and then change the relationship type to Master-Detail*”

When we try to create Master Detail relationship usually the above error will not be displayed before creating any records in Child Object. After creating records in Child objects then only Master Detail [relationships](#) can not be established between parent Object and Child Object.

In Master Detail relationship, parent object does not allow orphaned child records which means every record in the child object must be associated to parent Object.

Example :- Creating Master Detail Relationship Between Hospital (Parent Object) and Invoice Object (Child Object).

Here we have already created some records in Invoice Object. Now we have to create Lookup relationship between master object and detail object. we can lookup relationship because it is loose bond relationship and it does not require every child record need not be associated to a parent.

1. *Create Lookup Relationship between Hospital and Invoice Object.*
2. *Edit all Invoice records and enter Hospital object (Parent Object field).*
3. *Now Change lookup relationship to Master Detail relationship.*

Here we have already created some records in Child Object let us try to create Master Detail relationship between Invoice Object and Hospital Object.

- [Learn how to create Master Detail Relationship in Salesforce.](#)

Go to **Setup | Build | Create | Object | Select Child Object (Invoice) | Fields and Relationships | New**

Step 1. Choose the field type

Specify the type of information that the customer

Data Type

None Selected

Lookup Relationship

Master-Detail Relationship

Click on **Master Detail relationship** and click on **next button**.

Invoice

New Relationship

Step 2. Choose the related object

Select the other object to which this object is related.

Related To | Hospital

Enter Related object as **Hospital**. Click on **Next button**.

Cannot Create Master-Detail Relationship

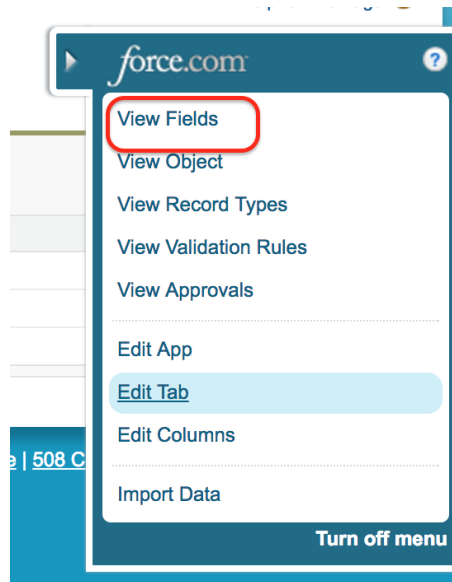
You cannot create a new Master-Detail relationship on an existing custom object if records already exist. You must first create a Lookup relationship, populate the lookup field with data in all records, and then change the relationship type to Master-Detail.

As shown above, we can not You cannot create a new Master-Detail relationship on an existing custom object if records already exist. We must create Lookup relationship between the two object.

- [Learn how to create Lookup relationship in Salesforce.](#)

Creating Lookup Relationship in Salesforce.

- Click on view field and create new lookup relationship field.

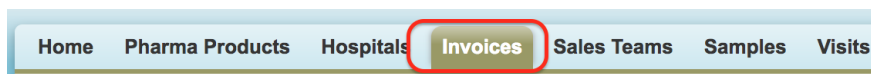


We have successfully created Lookup relationship field in Invoice Object.

Custom Fields & Relationships					
New Field Dependencies					
Action	Field Label	API Name	Data Type	Indexed	Contr
Edit Del	<u>Amount</u>	Amount__c	Currency(18, 0)		
Edit Del	<u>Comment</u>	Comment__c	Text(255)		
Edit Del	<u>Doctor Incharge</u>	Doctor_Incharge__c	Text(255)		
Edit Del	Final amount	Final_amount__c	Formula (Currency)		
Edit Del	<u>Hospital</u>	Hospital__c	Lookup(Hospital)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Edit Del	<u>Hospital Email</u>	Hospital_Email__c	Formula (Text)		

We have created Lookup relationship field in Invoice Object.

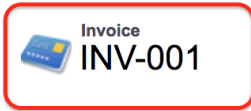
- Now go to **Invoice Object**



- Click on Invoices as shown above.

Recent Invoices	
Invoice Name	
<u>INV-014</u>	
<u>INV-001</u>	Previously Created Records
<u>INV-003</u>	
<u>INV-002</u>	

- Now the list of records that are present in Invoice Object will be displayed. Now click on any record and edit the record as shown below.



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[Pharma Product Invoices \[1\]](#)

Invoice Detail

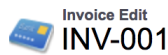
[Edit](#) [Delete](#) [Clone](#)

Invoice Name	INV-001
Invoice ID	1
Invoice date	1/2/2017
Amount	\$5,000
Invoice Reg Number	
Final amount	\$4,000.00
Hospital Email	
Hospital	
Created By	Prasanth Kumar, 1/2/2017 9:21 PM

[Edit](#) [Delete](#) [Clone](#)

We have created Lookup relationship field in Invoice object but in Invoice record the master object field is empty. Now we have to populate all child records with a valid lookup field to the parent.

- Now double click on the Hospital field as shown below.



Invoice Edit

[Save](#) [Save & New](#) [Cancel](#)

Information


Invoice Name: INV-001

Invoice ID:

Invoice date: [2/7/2017]

Amount:

Invoice Reg Number:

Hospital: 

[Save](#) [Save & New](#) [Cancel](#)

- Click on Lookup button and select Hospital as shown below.

Lookup

[Go!](#)

You can use "*" as a wildcard next to other characters to improve

Recently Viewed Hospitals

Hospital Name
Multi Speciality Hospital
Malleshwari Hospital

- Like wise Edit all Child record and populate all the records with lookup value.

Invoice Edit
INV-001

Invoice Edit Save Save & New Cancel

Information

Invoice Name INV-001
 Invoice ID 1
 Invoice date 1/2/2017 [2/7/2017]
 Amount 5,000
 Invoice Reg Number
 Hospital Multi Speciality Hospital

Save Save & New Cancel

- Now click on Save button.

Invoice INV-001

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Invoice Detail Edit Delete Clone

Invoice Name INV-001
 Invoice ID 1
 Invoice date 1/2/2017
 Amount \$5,000
 Invoice Reg Number
 Final amount \$4,000.00
 Hospital Email
 Hospital Multi Speciality Hospital
 Created By Prasanth Kumar, 1/2/2017 9:21 PM

Edit Delete Clone

- As shown above we have successfully populated value for INVOICE – 001.

Changing Lookup Relationship to Master Detail Relationship.

Go to **Setup | Build | Create | Object | Child Object (Invoice) | Hospital | Edit.**

Custom Fields & Relationships New Field Dependencies

Action	Field Label	API Name	Data Type	Indexed	Contr
Edit Del	<u>Amount</u>	Amount__c	Currency(18, 0)		
Edit Del	<u>Comment</u>	Comment__c	Text(255)		
Edit Del	<u>Doctor Incharge</u>	Doctor_Incharge__c	Text(255)		
Edit Del	<u>Final amount</u>	Final_amount__c	Formula (Currency)		
Edit Del	<u>Hospital</u>	Hospital__c	Lookup(Hospital)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Edit Del	<u>Hospital Email</u>	Hospital_Email__c	Formula (Text)		

- Now click on Change Field Type button as shown below.

Custom Field Definition Edit Change Field Type Save Cancel

Field Information

Field Label | Hospital

Field Name | Hospital

- Select data type as Master Detail Relationship as shown below.

Data Type

None Selected

Auto Number

Formula

Roll-Up Summary

Lookup Relationship

Master-Detail Relationship

- And Finally Click on Save button as shown below.

Invoice Help for this Page

New Relationship

Step 6. Add custom related lists Step 6 of 6

Previous Save & New Save Cancel

Field Label	Hospital
Data Type	Master-Detail

Successfully we have created Master-Detail relationship in Salesforce as shown below.

Edit Del	Final_amount	Final_amount__c	Formula (Currency)
Edit Del	Hospital	Hospital__c	Master-Detail(Hospital) ✓
Edit Del	Hospital_Email	Hospital_Email__c	Formula (Text) ↕
Edit Del	Hospital_Name	Hospital_Name__c	Text(255)

Conclusion

We have practically learnt how to create Master detail Relationship between two objects when an error like ***“You cannot create a new Master-Detail relationship on an existing custom object if records already exist. You must first create a Lookup relationship, populate the lookup field with data in all records, and then change the relationship type to Master-Detail”*** occurs.

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