ORACLE

Edition-Based Redefinition

A Key to Online Application Upgrade

Francisco Munoz Alvarez

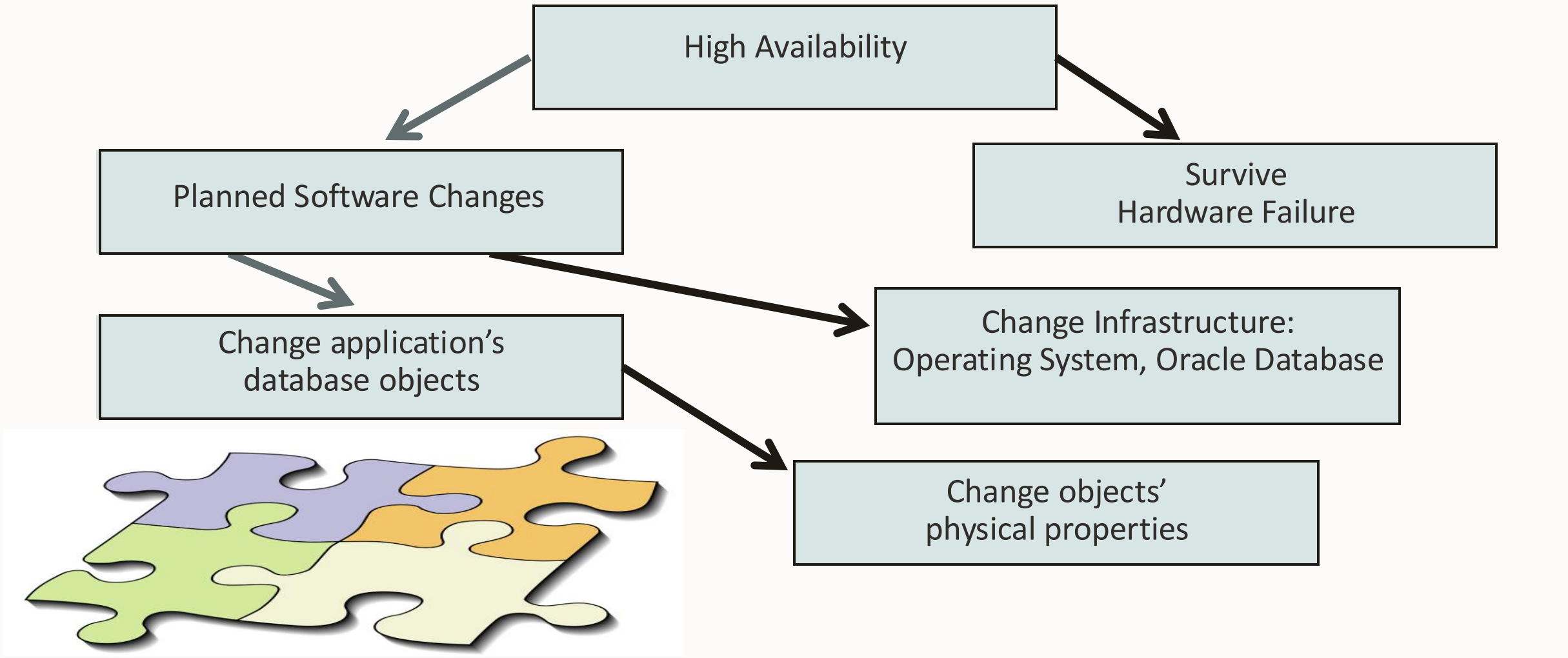
Distinguished Product Manager– Maximum Availability Architecture (MAA), Competitive Intelligence

Goals of Edition-Based Redefinition

- **Allow** arbitrary changes to the set of artifacts implementing application's database of record
- **Use** both pre-upgrade and post-upgrade application at the same time **(hot rollover)**
- **Maintain** uninterrupted availability of the application
- **Ensure** no noticeable negative impact on performance

Online Application Upgrade

The final piece of the HA jigsaw puzzle



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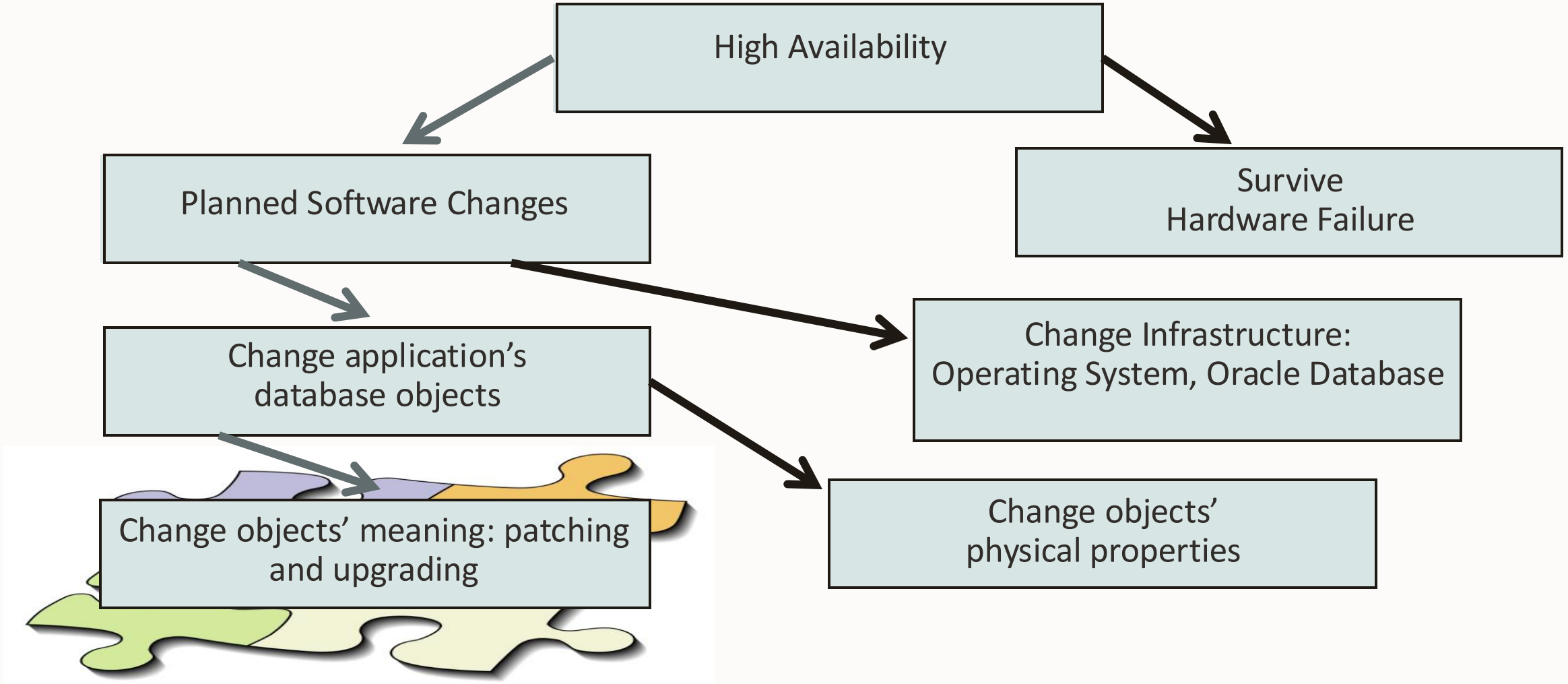

Program agenda

- Implementation of case study as an EBR exercise
- The challenge – and the statement of the solution
- Description of case study
- Explanation of edition, editioning view, and cross-edition trigger
- Preparing an application for EBR

Online Application Upgrade

Supporting online application upgrade requires maintaining uninterrupted availability of the application

End-user sessions can last tens of minutes or longer because –

- Users of the old app don’t want to abandon an ongoing session
- Users wanting to start a session must use the new app, but cannot wait until no-one is using the old app

Thus, there is requirement for using both the pre-upgrade application and the post-upgrade application at the same time – a.k.a. hot rollover

The Challenge

- Upgrading production database without disturbing live users of the pre-upgrade application
- Making changes to database objects in privacy
- Ensuring transactions done by the users of the pre-upgrade application are reflected in the post-upgrade application
- Achieving hot rollover i.e., transactions done by the users of the post-upgrade application are reflected in the pre-upgrade application.

Functional goals of any ZDT solution

- Cloning V[n] database into V[n+1] database
- Making arbitrary changes in V[n+1] database without them showing up in V[n] database
- Syncing data between V[n] and V[n+1] databases when all intended changes are done in the V[n+1] database.
- Ensuring V[n] database is in sync with V[n+1] database, when V[n+1] is opened for use
- Honoring data and business rules in a transactional fashion—in the presence of this mutual bi-directional synchronization

Non-functional goals of any ZDT solution

- Creating V[n+1] as a clone of V[n] instantaneously without taking additional space.
- It must have no noticeable effect on the performance experience of the online users
- This implies that the solution must work its magic by making one single database seem, to connecting clients, as if it’s two separate databases
- This, of course, is how EBR works

Key Features of Edition-Based Redefinition

Edition

- Code changes are installed in the privacy of a new edition
- Data changes are made safely by writing to new columns/tables
- These changes are not seen by the old edition

Editioning View

- Exposes a different projection of a table into each edition
- Allows each user to see just its own columns

Cross-edition Trigger

- Propagates data changes made by the old edition into the new edition's columns
- Also, propagates changes made by new edition into old edition's columns in the case of hot-rollover

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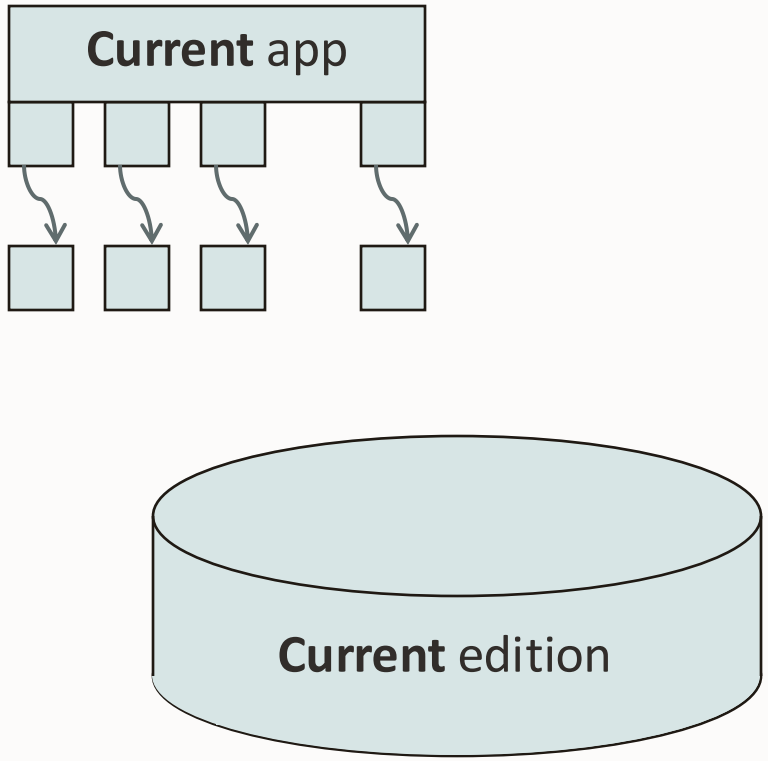
New In 23ai

With Oracle Database 23ai, EBR is now compatible with Oracle GoldenGate and other data integration solutions that require supplemental logging.

Hot rollover across stack - General Upgrade



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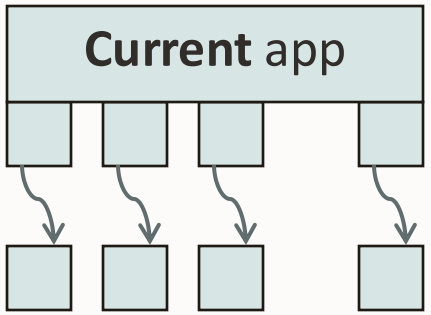

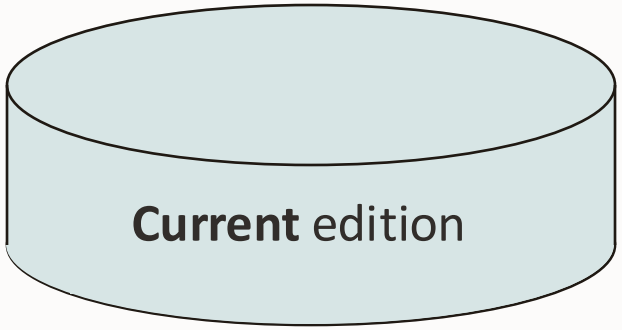

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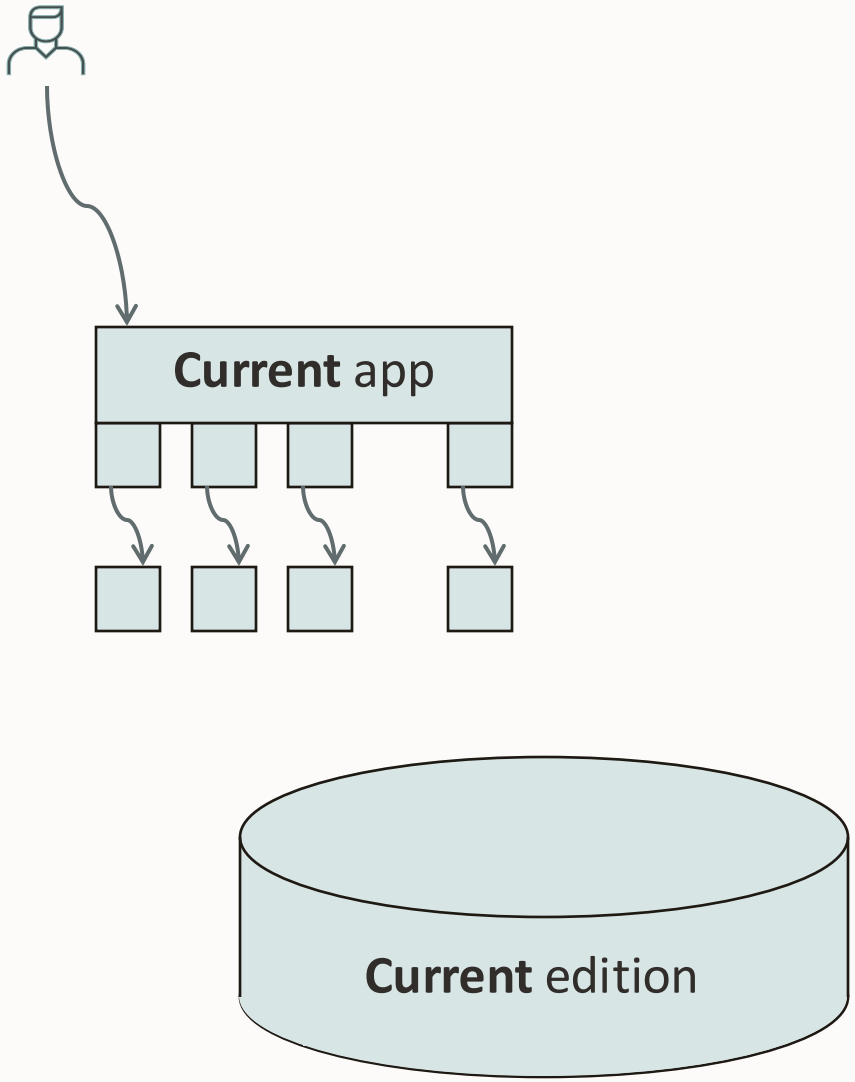
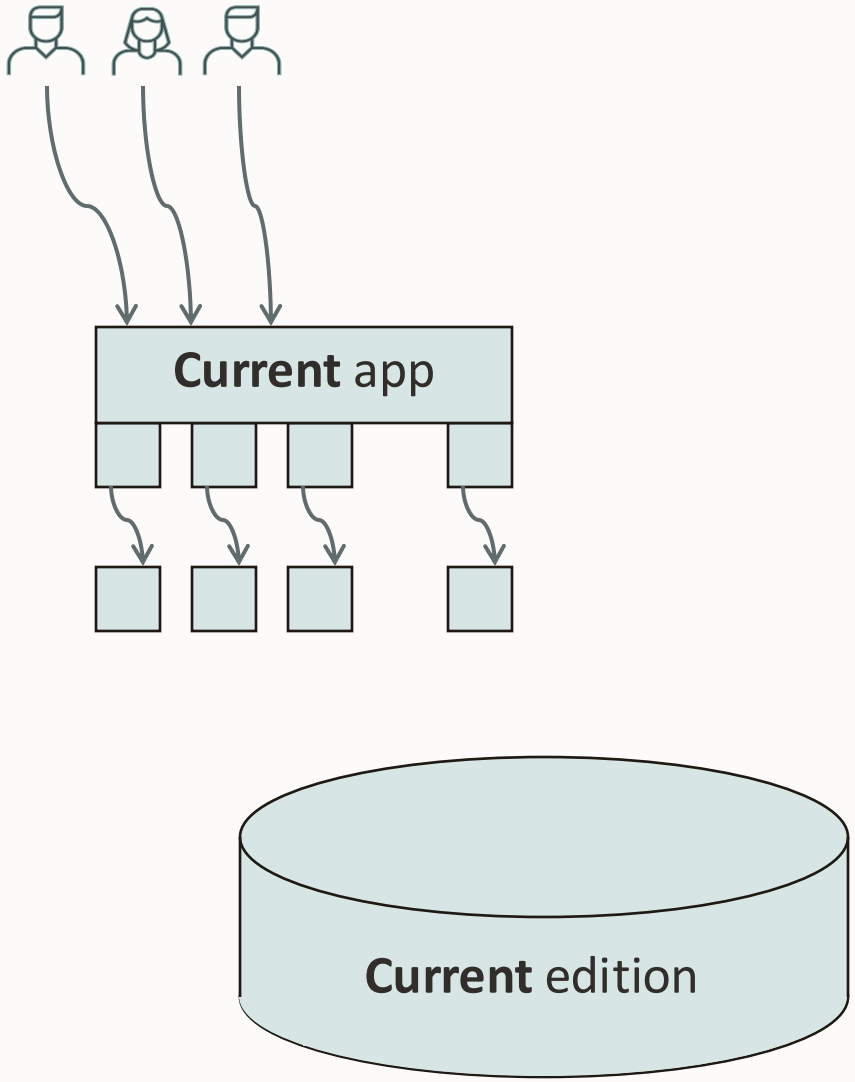
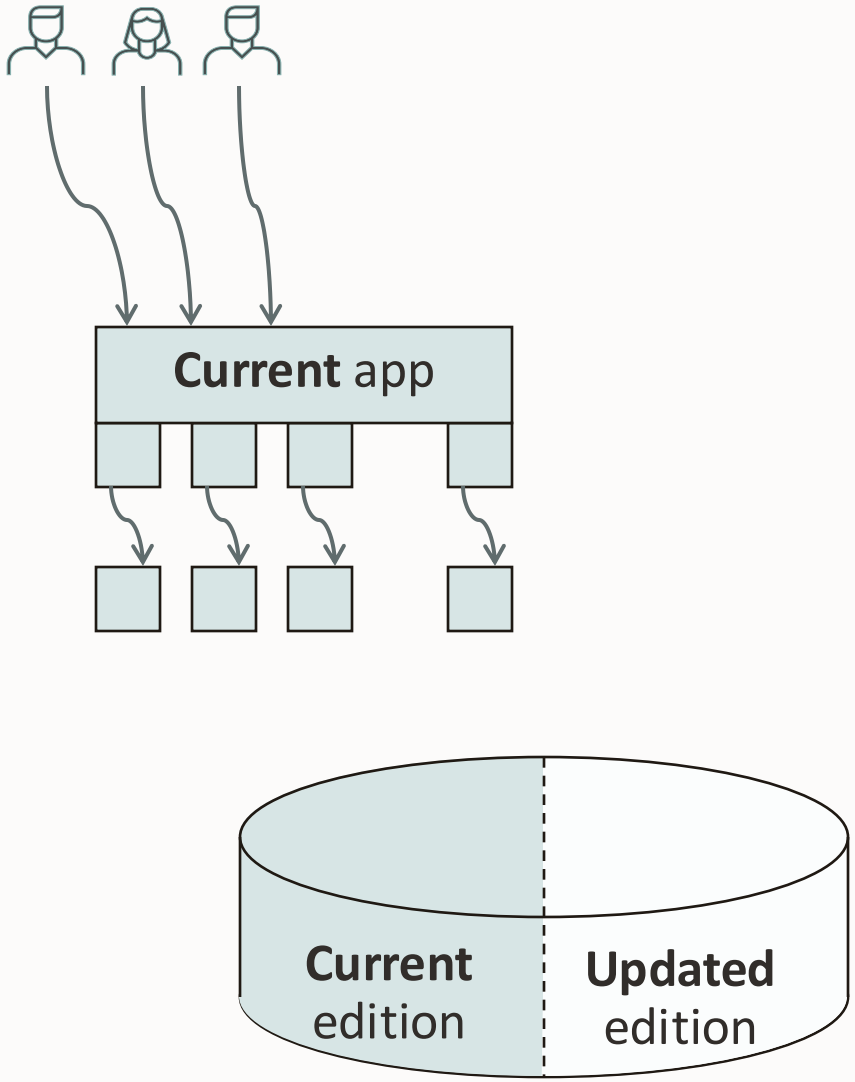


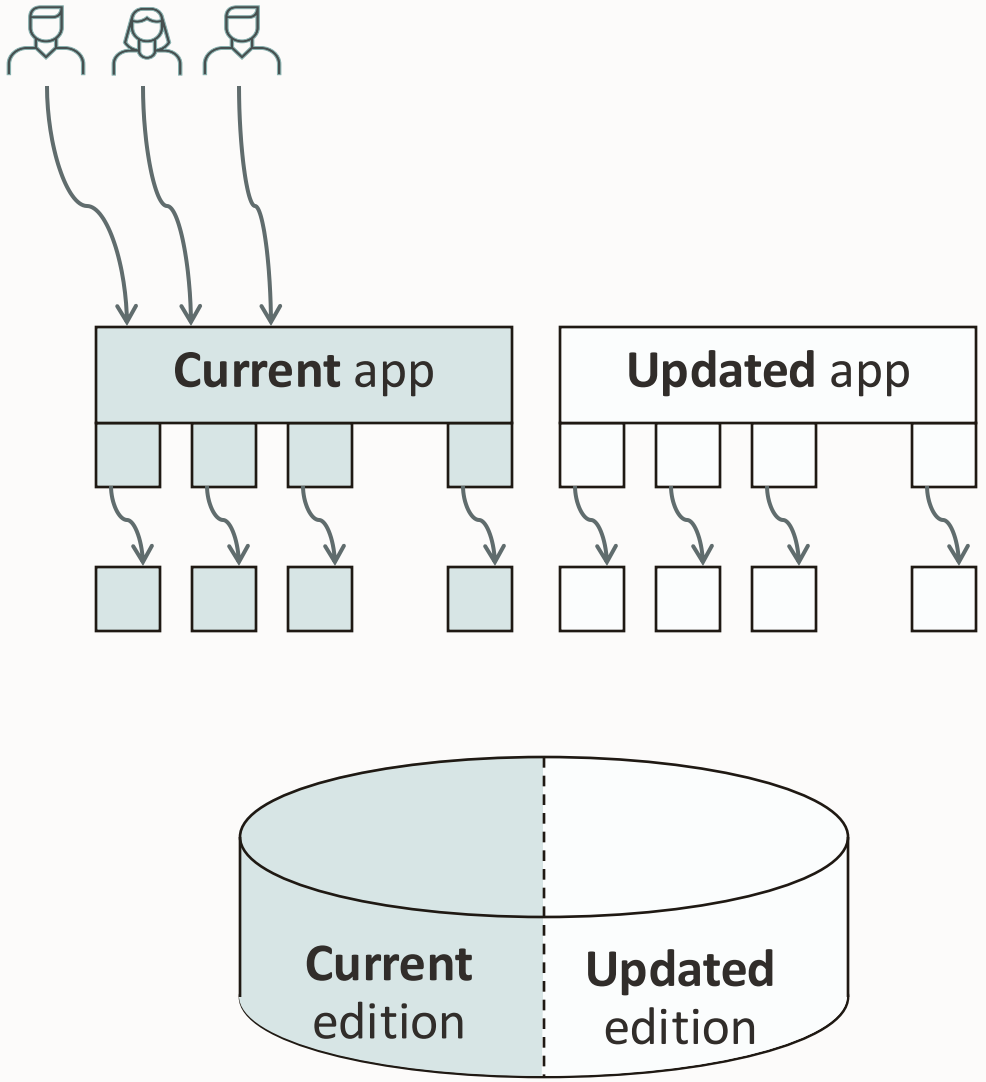
Hot rollover across the stack – Normal use (pre-upgrade)



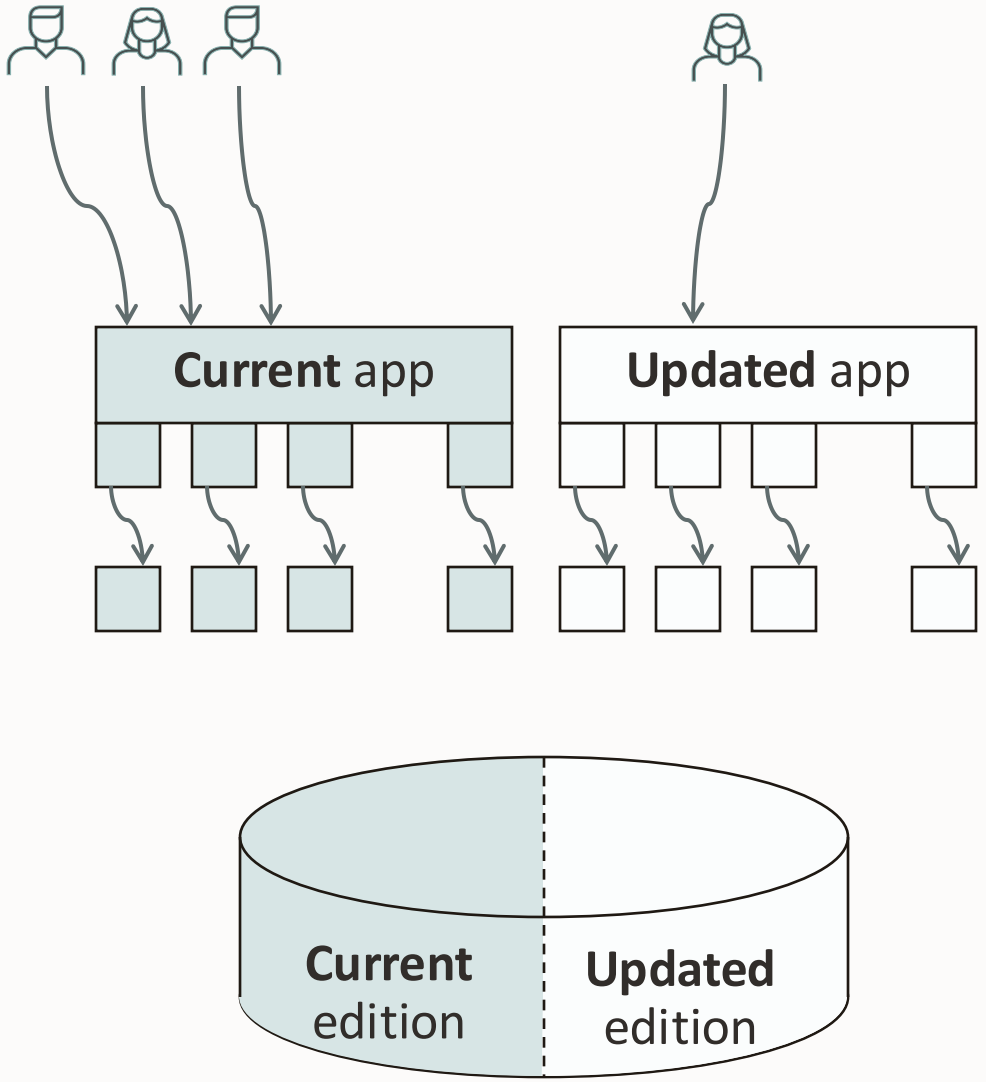
Hot rollover across the stack – Upgrade begins



Hot rollover across the stack – Upgrade complete



Hot rollover across the stack – Hot rollover begins!



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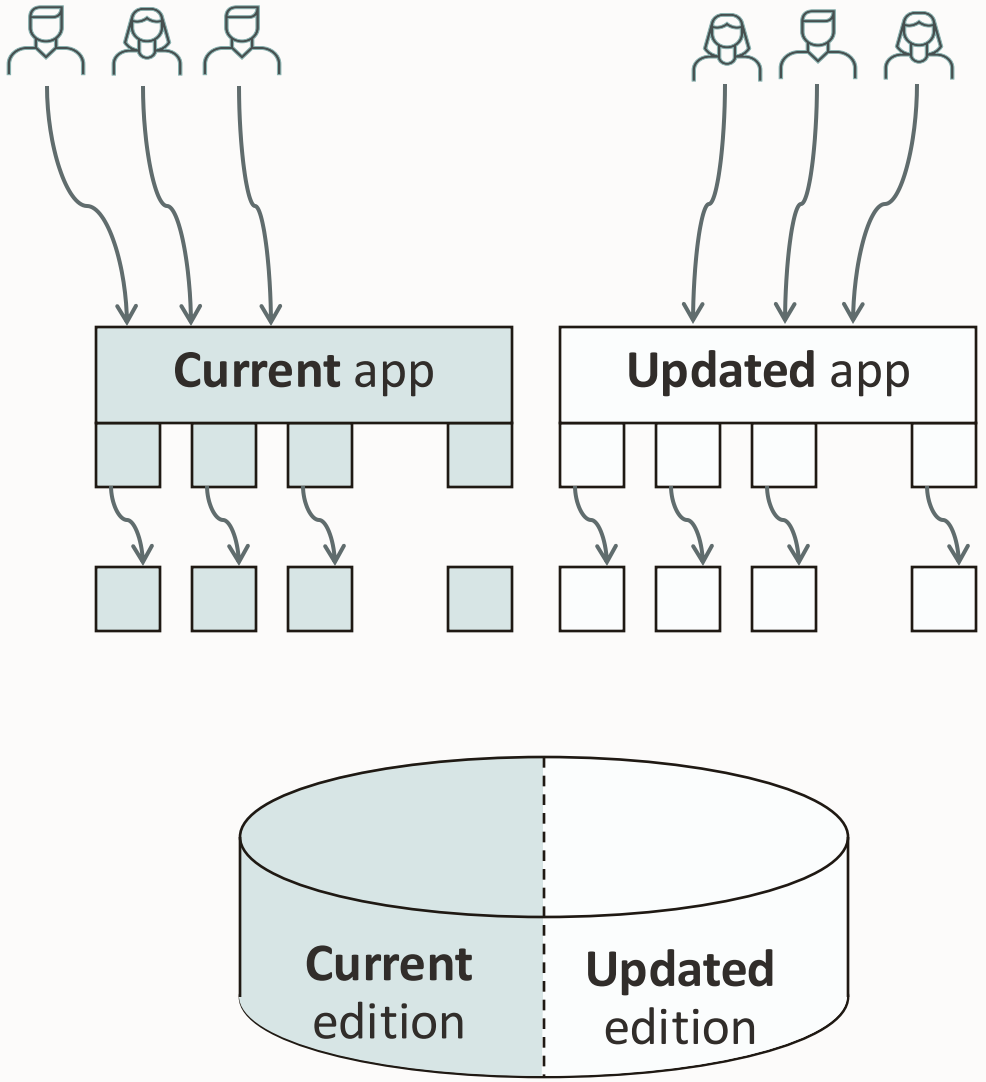

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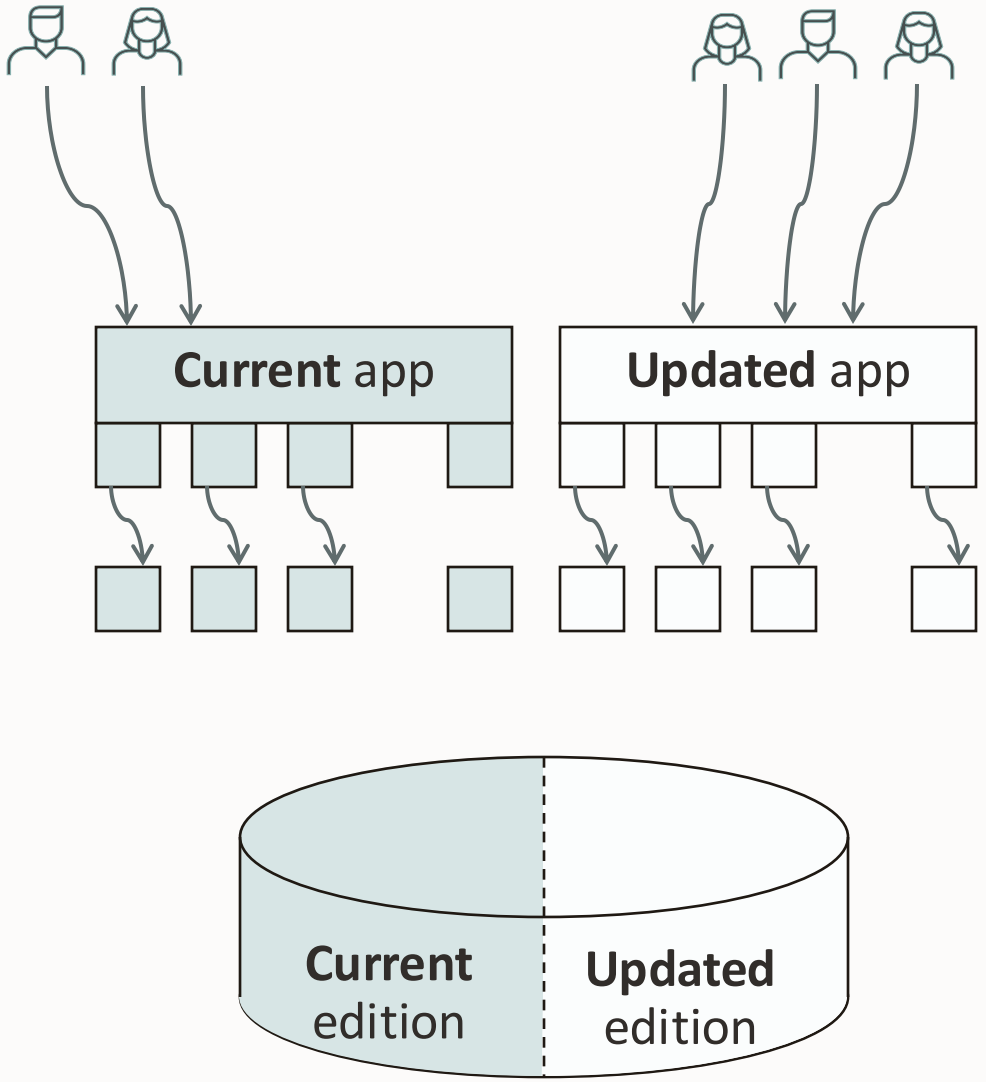

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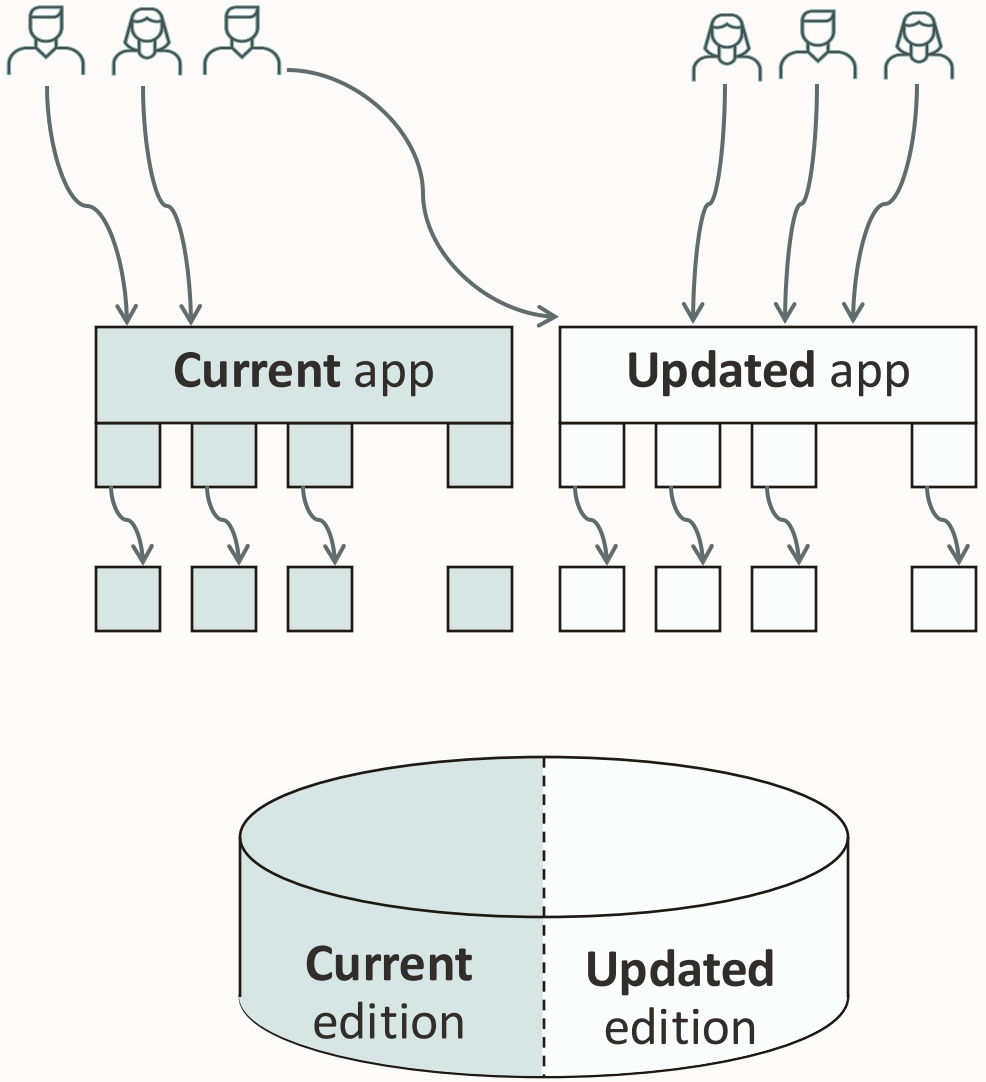

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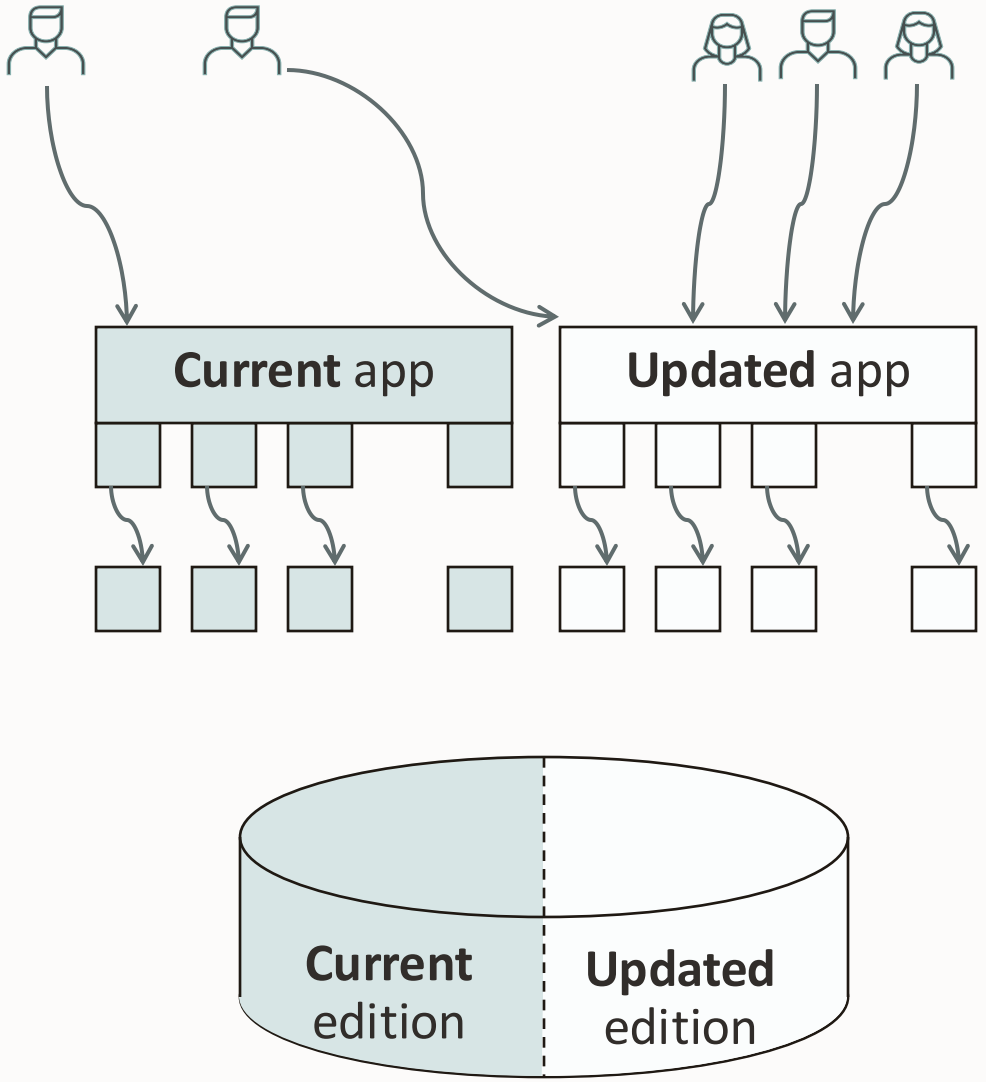

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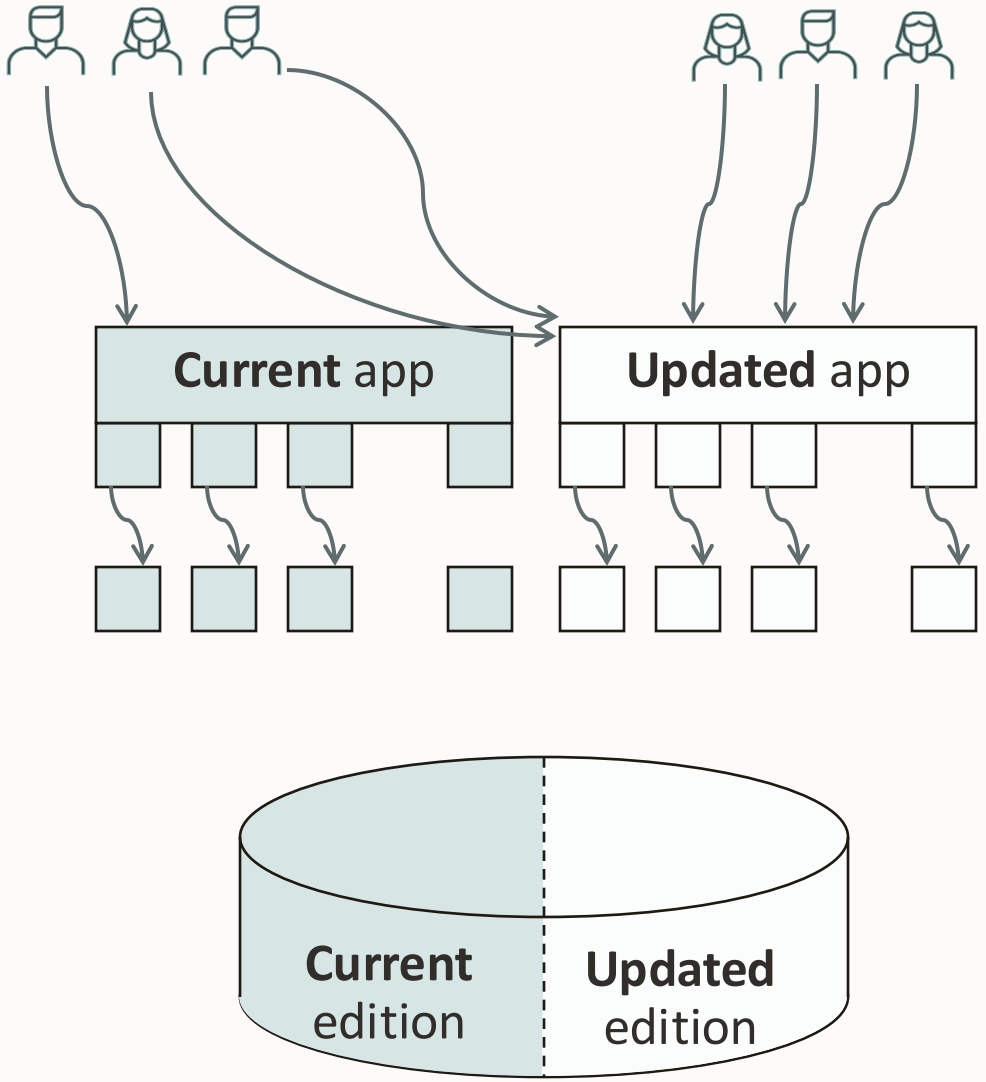
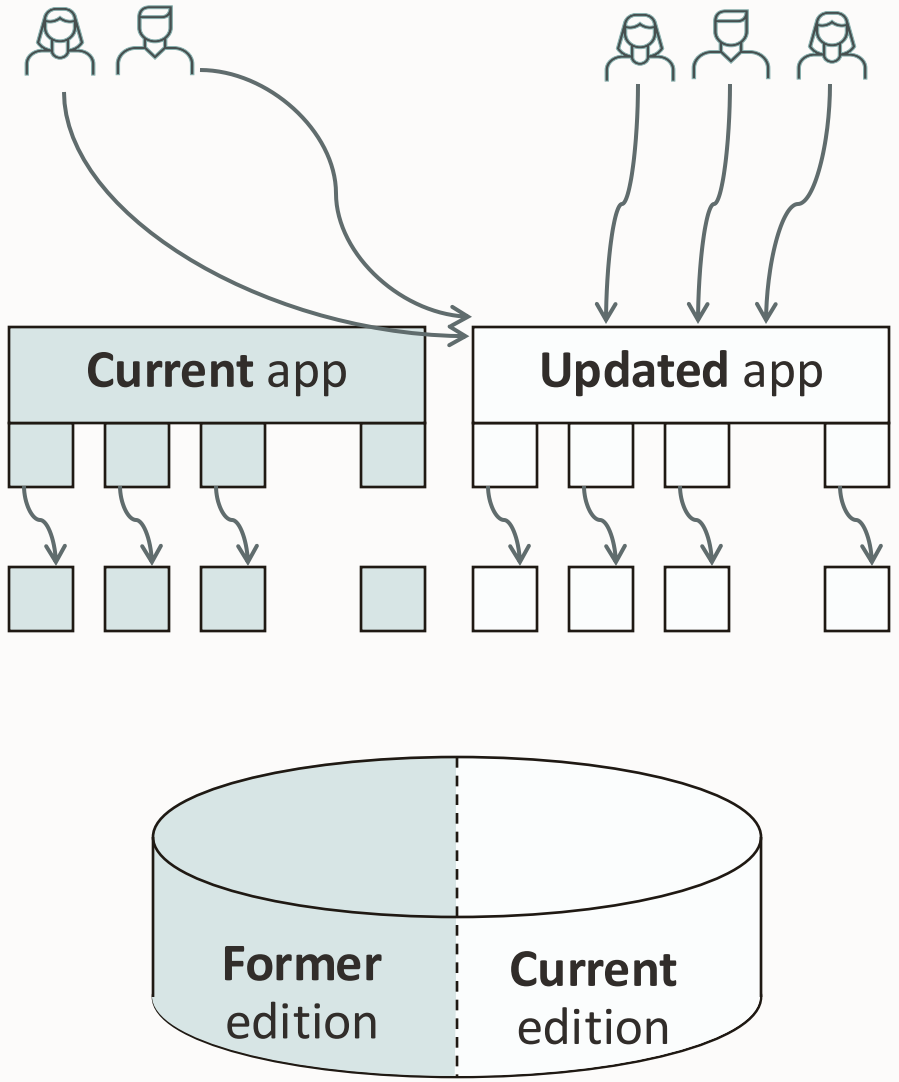
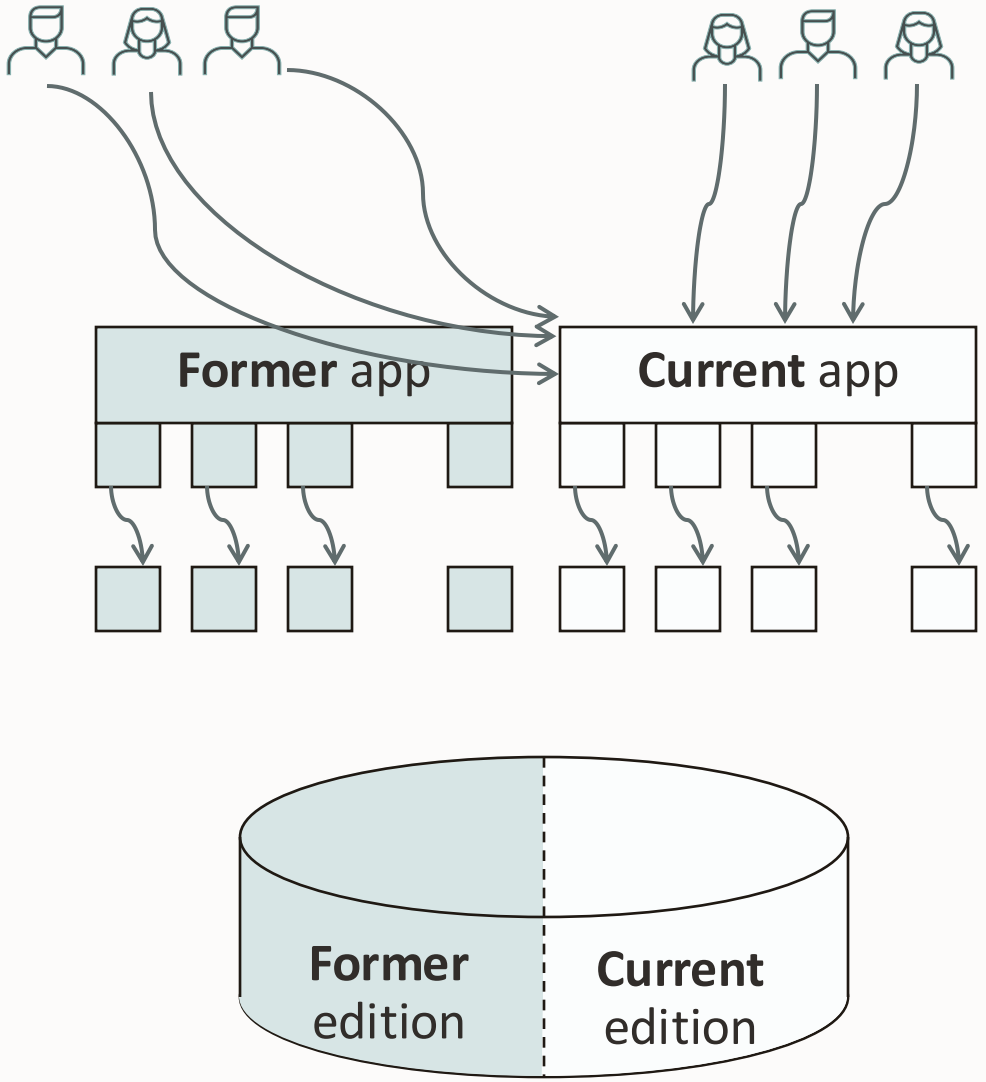


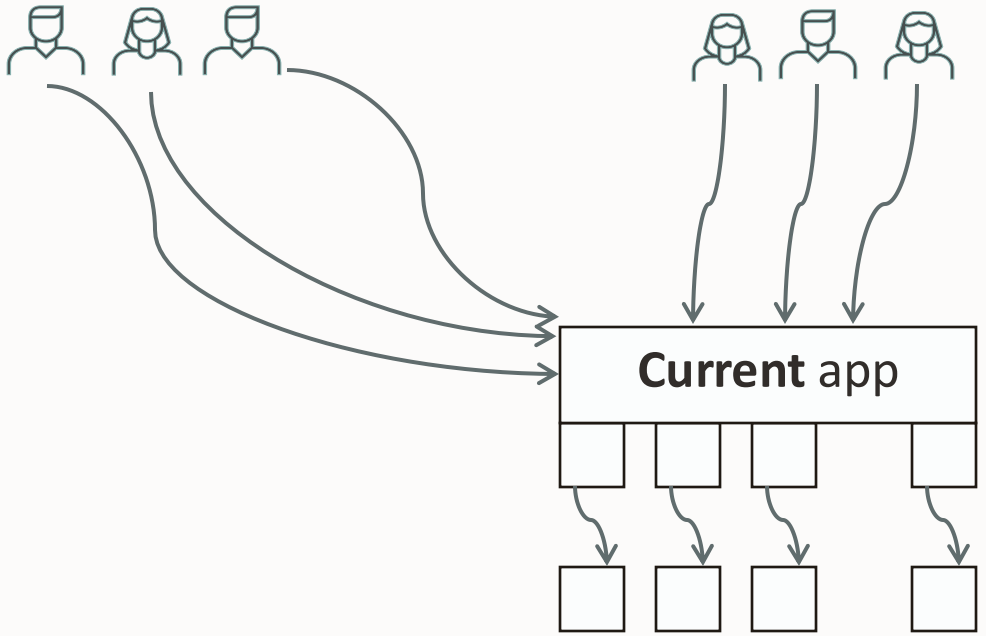
Hot rollover across the stack – hot rollover ends!

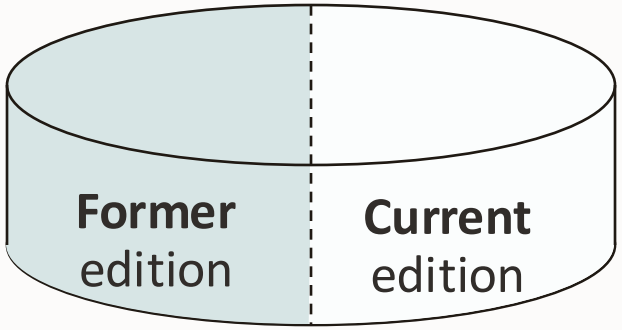


Hot rollover across the stack – normal use (post-upgrade)



Hot rollover across the stack – cleanup





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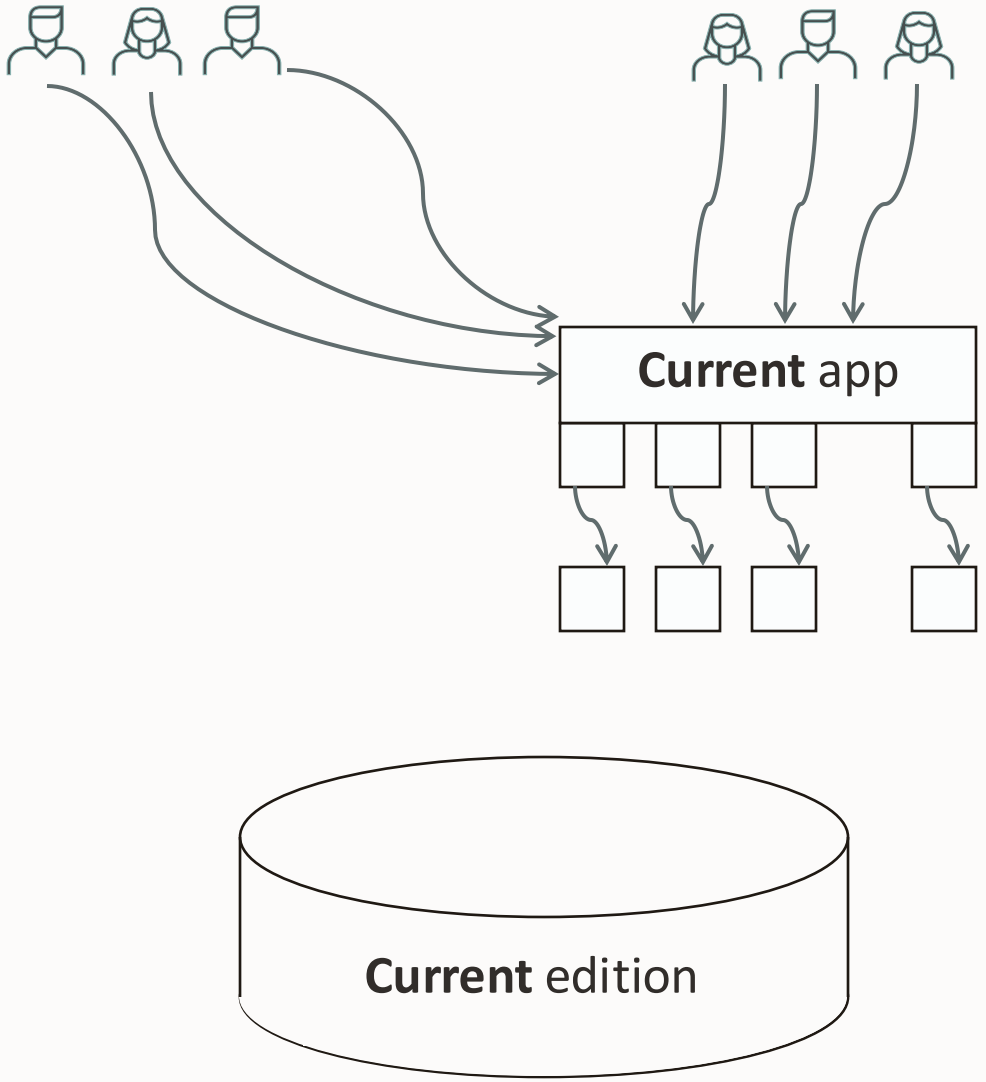

Case Study

1_Show_20_Rows_Repeat_Pre_Upgrade

```
First Name        Last Name         Phone
---------------   ---------------   --------------------
Steven            King              011.32.242.647.4719
Neena             Kochhar           708.108.8233
Lex               De Haan           205.621.9819
Alexander         Hunold            011.38.209.317.1291
Bruce             Ernst             431.800.6569
David             Austin            20
Valli             Pataballa         01
Diana             Lorentz           01
Nancy             Greenberg         43
Daniel            Faviet            66
John              Chen              18
Ismael            Sciarra           23
```

2_Show_20_Rows_Repeat_Post_Upgrade

```
First Name        Last Name         Cntry #
---------------   ---------------   -----  ------------
Steven            King                +32  242-647-4719
Neena             Kochhar              +1  708-108-8233
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Valli             Pataballa           +45  662-851-6340
Diana             Lorentz             +47  951-260-7204
Nancy             Greenberg            +1  434-531-4024
Daniel            Faviet               +1  665-985-7057
John              Chen                 +1  189-665-7741
Ismael            Sciarra              +1  235-670-4647
```
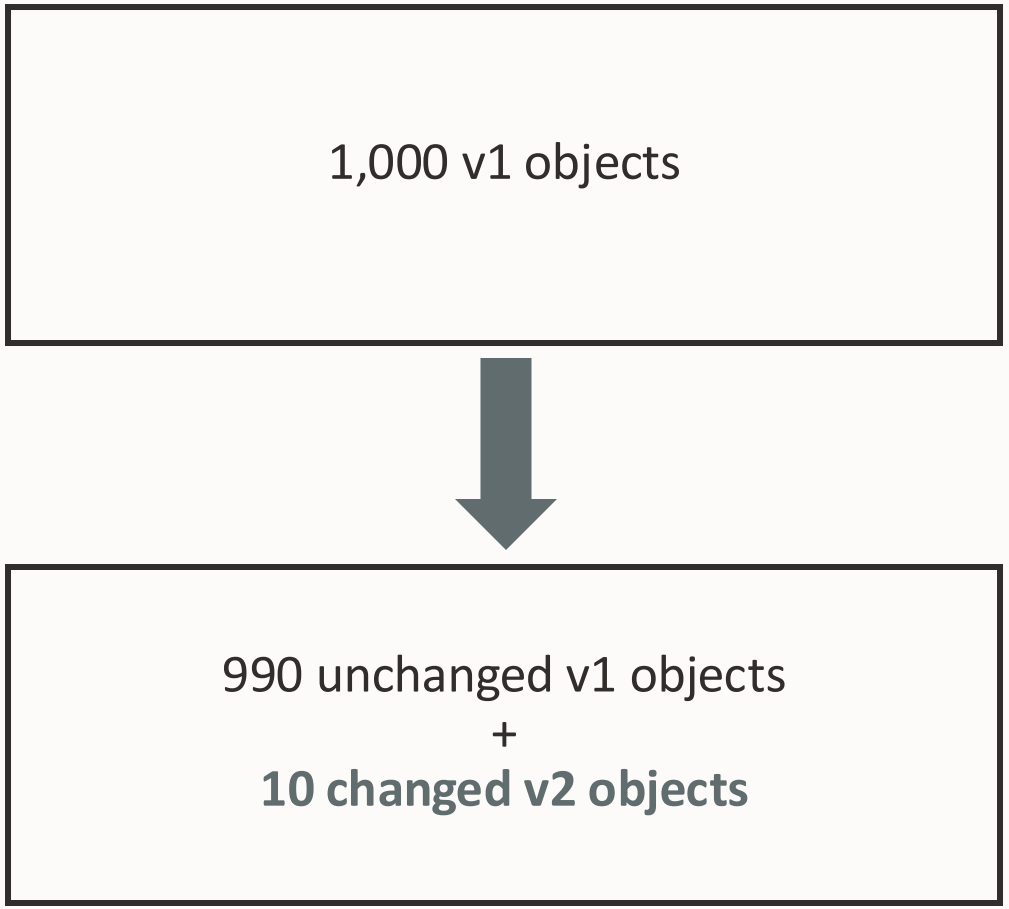

The edition – setting the stage

Scenario – for now think only about synonyms, views, and PL/SQL

- The application has 1,000 mutually dependent code objects
- In general, there's more than one schema
- They refer to each other by name – in general, by schema- qualified name
- The upgrade needs to change 10 of these

The edition – *setting the stage*



The edition – setting the stage

- You can’t change the 10 objects in place as it would change the pre-upgrade app
- An old and a new occurrence of the “same” object cannot co-exist
- Before EBR, the only dimensions that determine which object you mean, when one object refers to another, are its name and its owner
- In short, the naming mechanisms, historically, were not rich enough to support online application upgrade

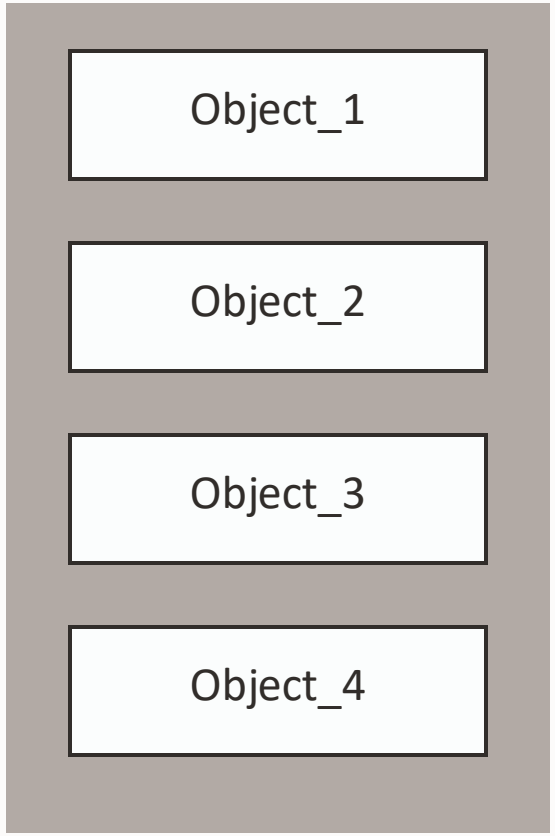
The edition extends the naming mechanism

- EBR introduces the new nonschema object type, edition – each edition can have its own private occurrence of “the same” object
- A database must have at least one edition
- You create a new edition as the child of an existing edition – and an edition can’t have more than one child
- A database session specifies which edition to use (of course, the database has a default edition)
- An object is identified by its name and its owner
- An editioned object is identified by its name, its owner, and the edition where it was created

The semantic model for “create edition”

When you create a new edition, every editioned object in the parent edition is copied into the new edition

The mental model of the implementation



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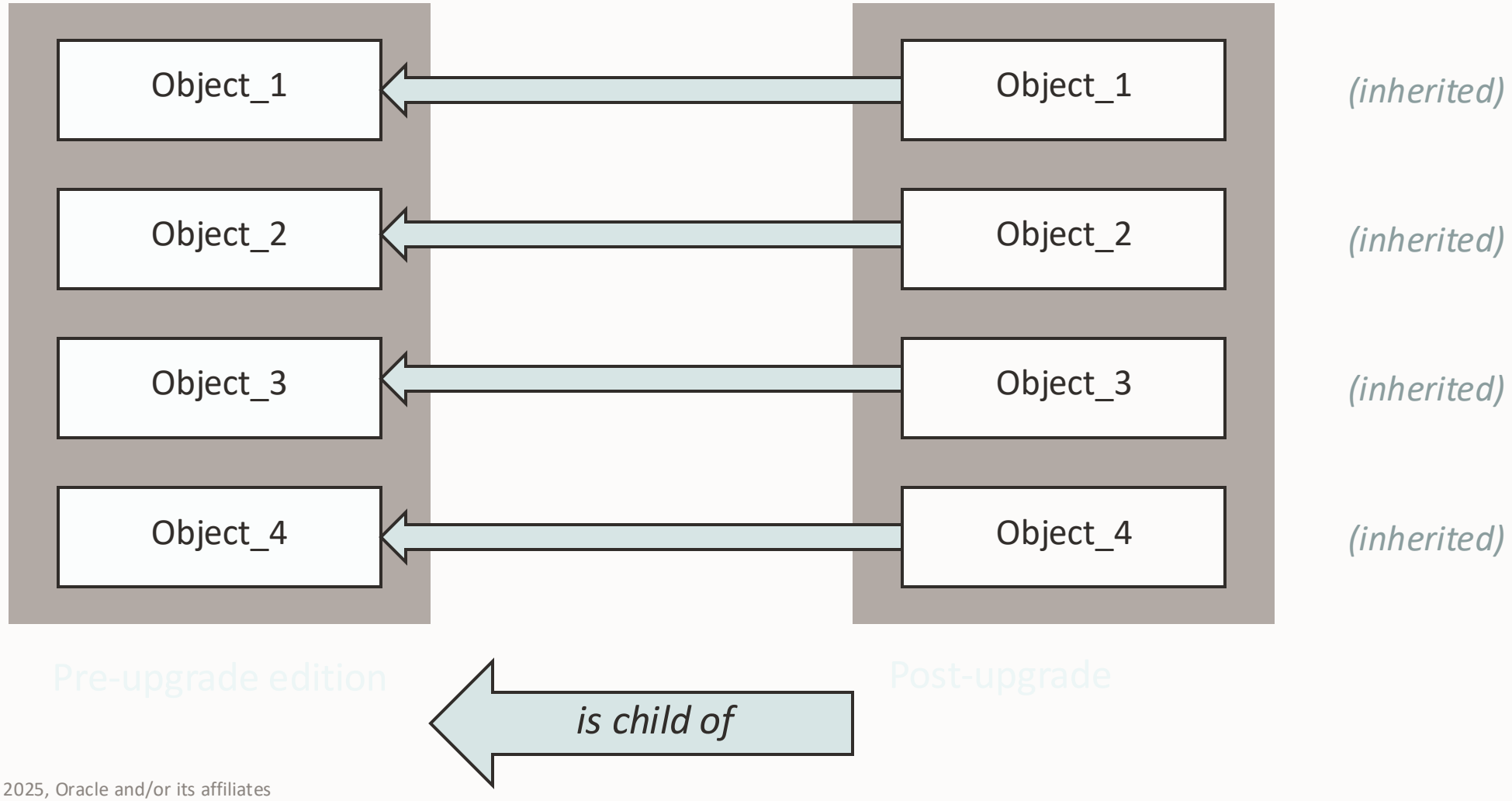

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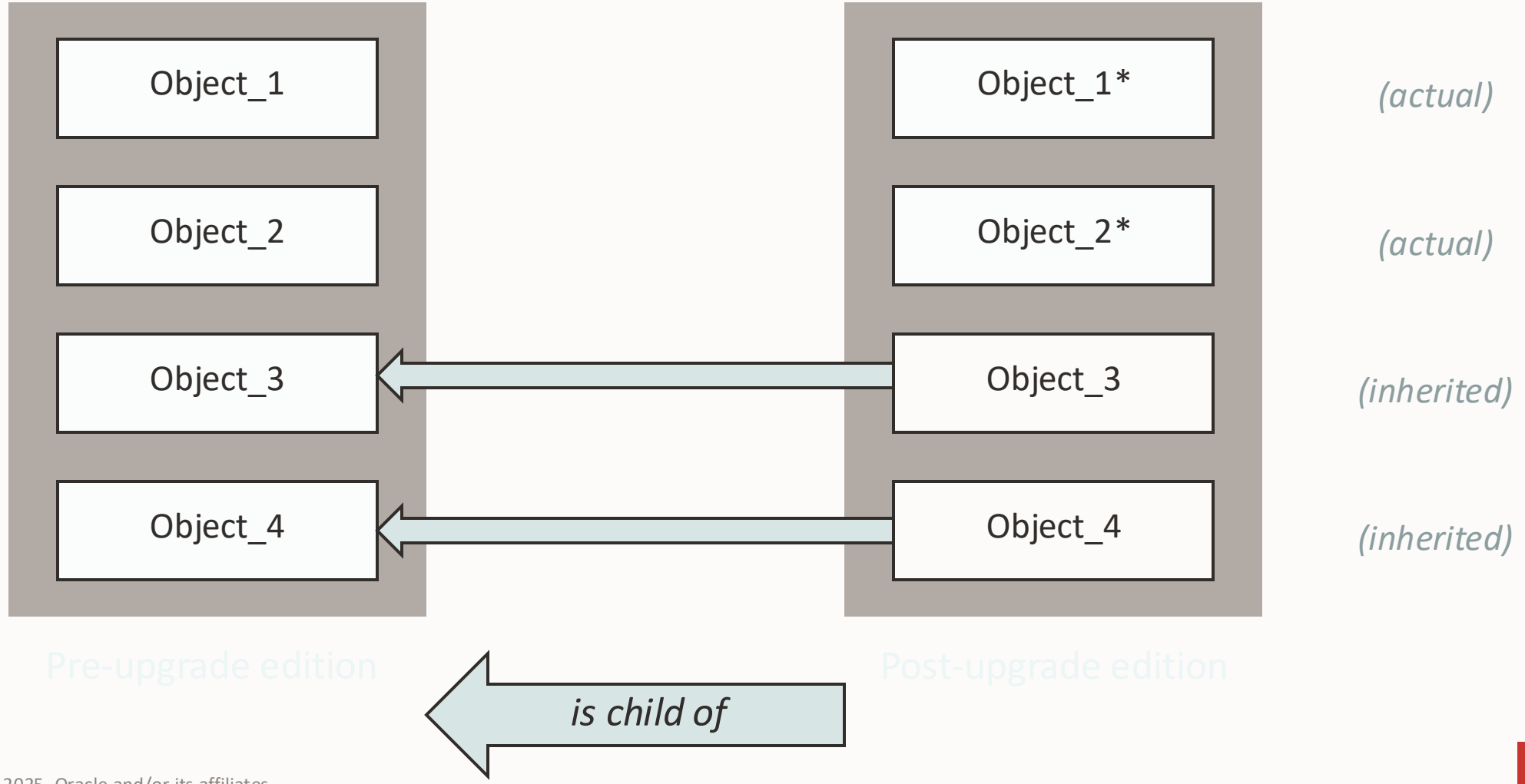

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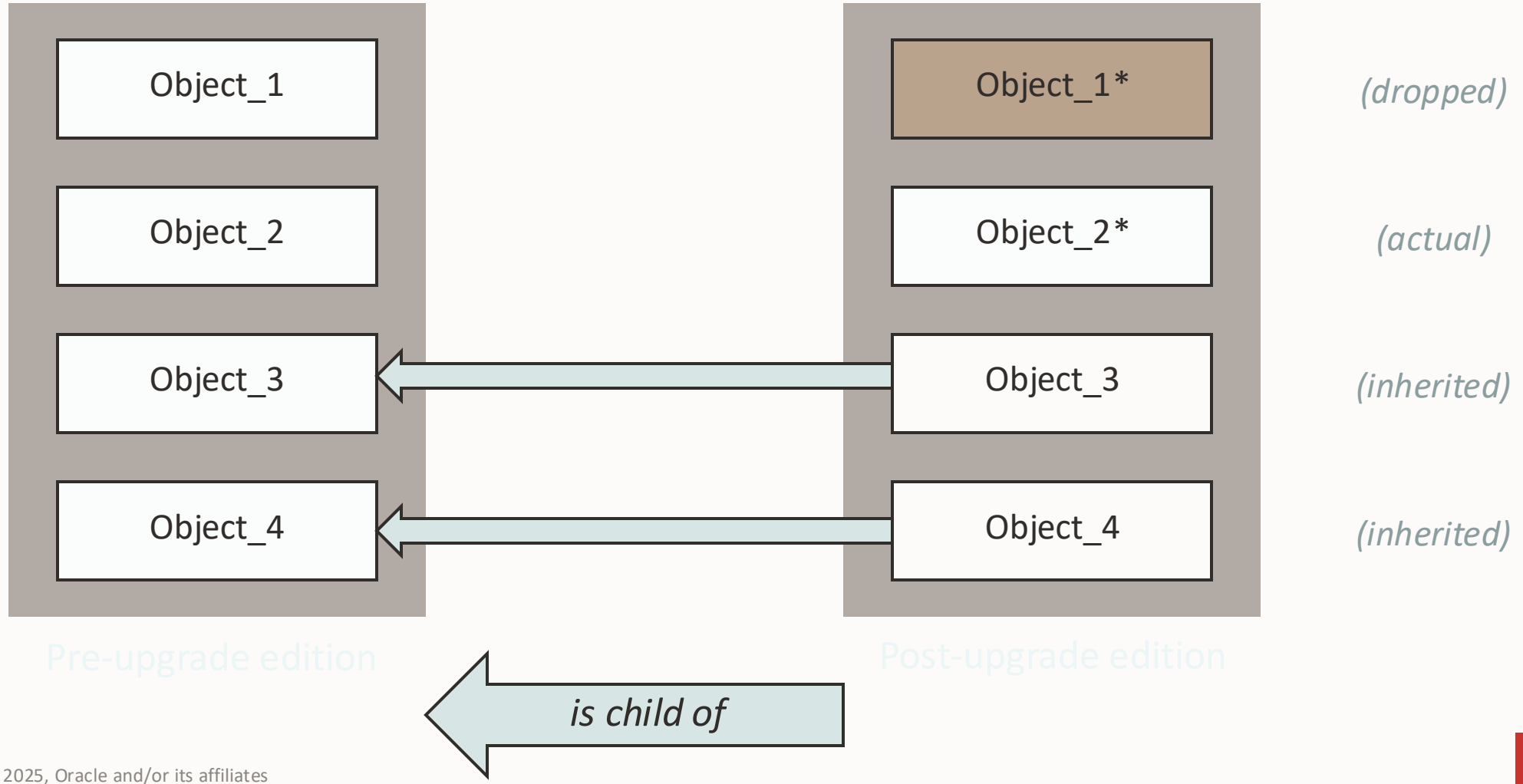

Editions

- If your upgrade needs only to change synonyms, views, or PL/SQL units, you now have all the tools you need
- Simply run the scripts that you, anyway, have written using a new edition while the application stays online
- Then change the default edition and let new session start in the new edition
- No “package state discarded” errors ever again!

Editionable and noneditionable object types

1. Not all object types are editionable
   - Synonyms, views, and PL/SQL units of all kinds (including, therefore, triggers and libraries), and are editionable
   - Objects of all other object types – for example tables – are noneditionable

2. You need to version the structure of a table manually
   - Instead of changing a column, you add a replacement column
   - Then you rely on the fact that a view is editionable

Editioning views

- An editioning view (EV) may only project and rename columns
- You can’t have more than one editioning view for a table in a particular edition
- The EV must be owned by the table’s owner
- Application code should refer only to the logical world
- You can create table-style triggers (before or after statement or each row) on an editioning view using the “logical” column names
- A SQL optimizer hint can request an index on the physical table by specifying the “logical” column names
- Like all views, an editioning view can be read-only

Editioning views – performance

- Any SQL statement that refers to one, or several, EVs will get the same execution plan as the statement you'd get if you replaced each of those references, by hand, with a reference to the table that the EV covers
- So, using an EV in front of every table brings no performance consequences
- Tests have proved this

Materialized views and indexes on virtual columns

These objects have metadata that is explicitly set by the create and alter statements

- The evaluation edition explicitly specifies the name of the edition in which the resolution of editioned names will be done
  - within the closure of the object's static dependency parents (at compile time)
  - and for those objects that are identified dynamically during SQL execution (at run time)

- The usable edition range explicitly specifies the set of adjacent editions within which the optimizer will consider the object, for query re-write, when computing the execution plan

Public synonyms

- A public synonym is just a synonym that happens to be owned by the Oracle-maintained user called “public”
- “public” user is editions enabled, but all existing public synonyms are non-editioned at the per-object level
- As of version 12.1+, you can make your own public synonyms editioned at the per-object level

The crossedition trigger

- Of course, DML does not stop during online application upgrade
- If the upgrade needs to change the structure that stores transactional data – like the orders customers make using an online shopping site – then the installation of values into the replacement columns must keep pace with these changes
- Triggers have the ideal properties to do this safely
- Each trigger must fire appropriately to propagate changes made to pre-upgrade columns into the post- upgrade columns – and vice versa

The crossedition trigger

- Crossedition triggers directly access the table
- They have special firing rules
- You create crossedition triggers in the Post_Upgrade edition
  - The paradigm is: don’t do any DDLs in the Pre_Upgrade edition
- The firing rules rules assume that
  - Pre-upgrade columns are changed only by sessions using the Pre_Upgrade edition
  - Post-upgrade columns are changed only by sessions using the Post_Upgrade edition

The crossedition trigger

- A forward crossedition trigger is fired by application DML issued by sessions using the Pre_Upgrade edition
- A reverse crossedition trigger is fired by application DML issued by sessions using the Post_Upgrade edition

Readying the application for editions

Put an editioning view in front of every table

- The EV and the table it covers can’t have the same name
- Rename each table to an obscure but related name (e.g. append an underscore, or lowercase the name)
- Create an editioning view for each table that has the same name that the table originally had

NOTE:

- If a schema has an object, whose type is noneditionable, that depends on an object whose type is editionable, then the adoption plan must accommodate this by controlling the editioned state of objects whose type is editionable, at the granularity of the individual object
- Else, the editioned state can be conveniently set for the whole schema

Readying the application for editions

- Revoke privileges from the tables and grant them to the editioning views
- Move VPD policies to the editioning views
- “Move” triggers to the editioning views
  - Just drop the trigger and re-run the original (or mechanically edited) create trigger statement to recreate it on the editioning view
- Of course
  - All indexes on the original Employees table remain valid but User_Ind_Columns now shows the new values for Table_Name and Column_Name
  - All constraints (foreign key and so on) on the original Employees remain in force for Employees_
- This readying work must be done by the developers of the application that adopts EBR

Case study

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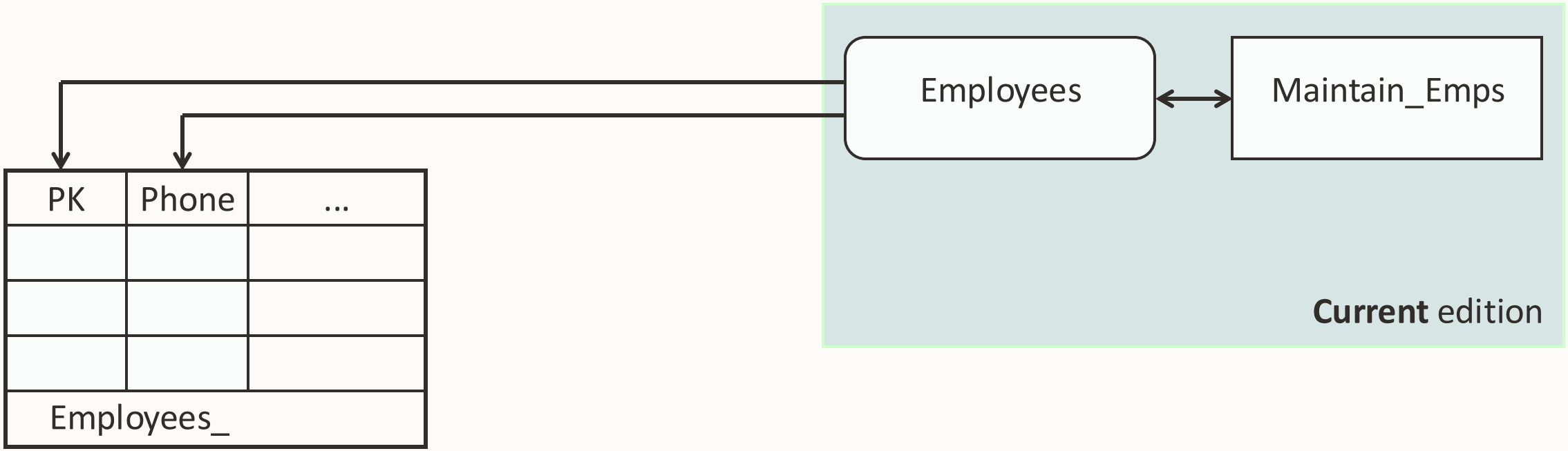
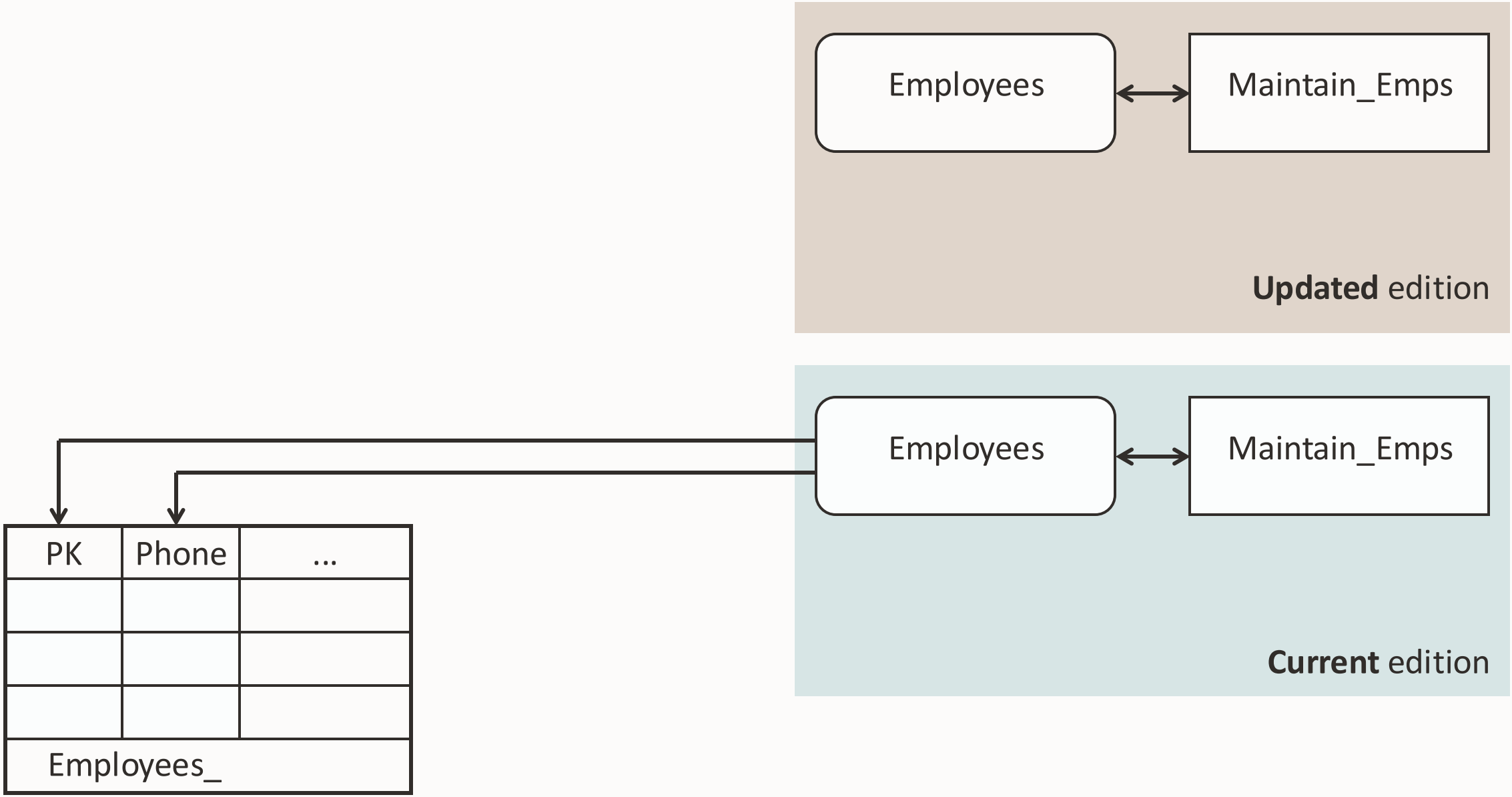
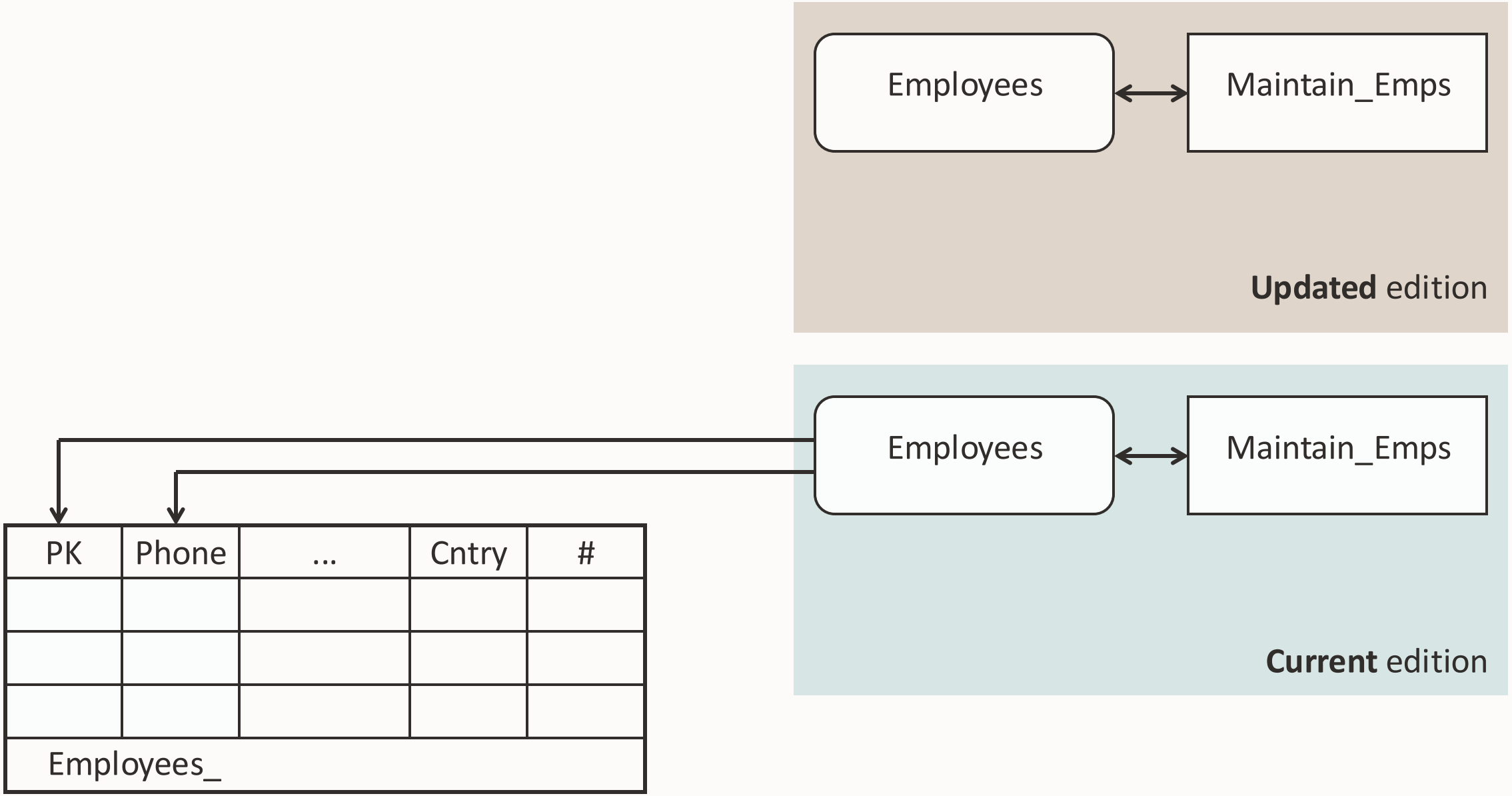
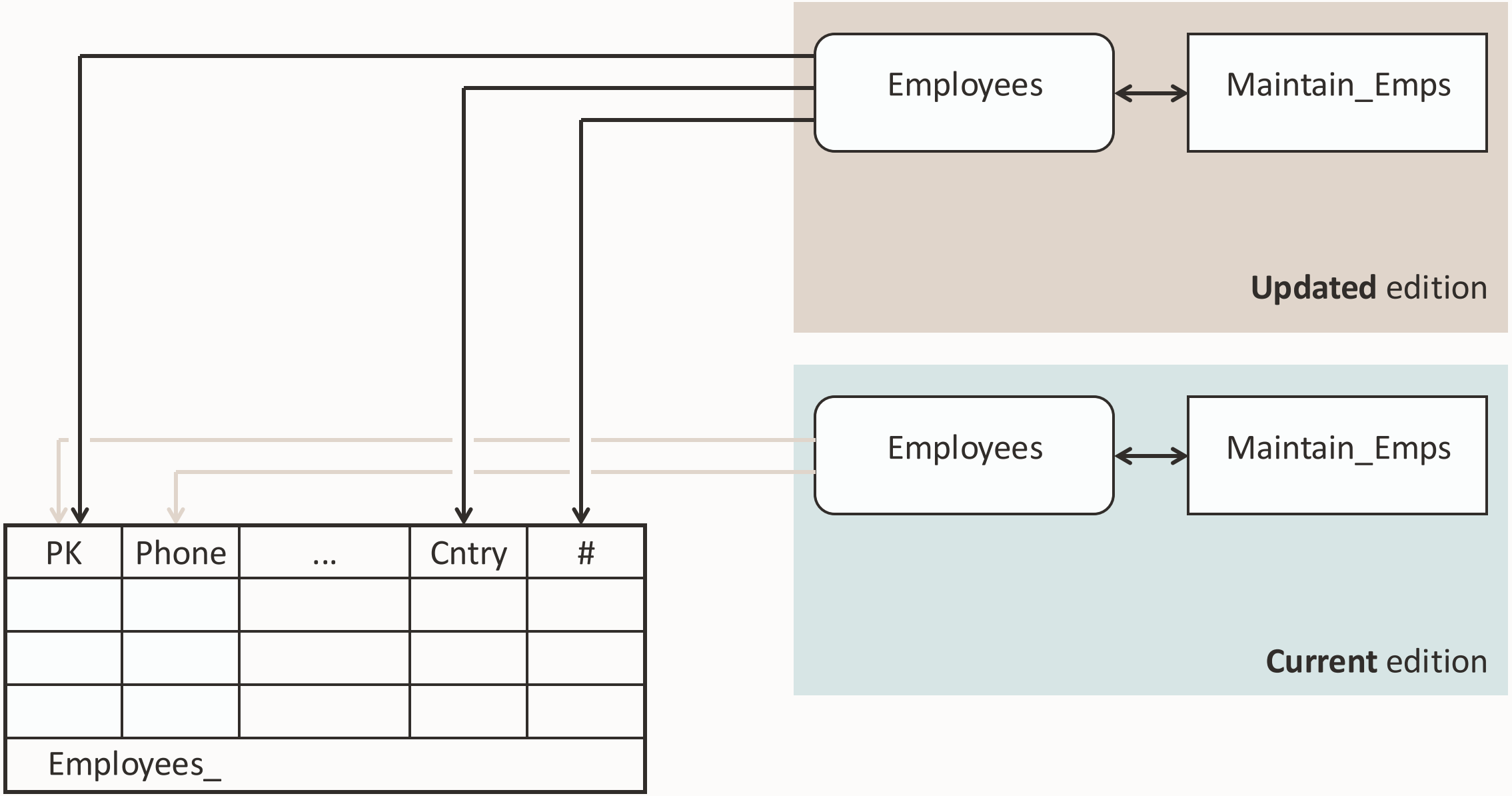
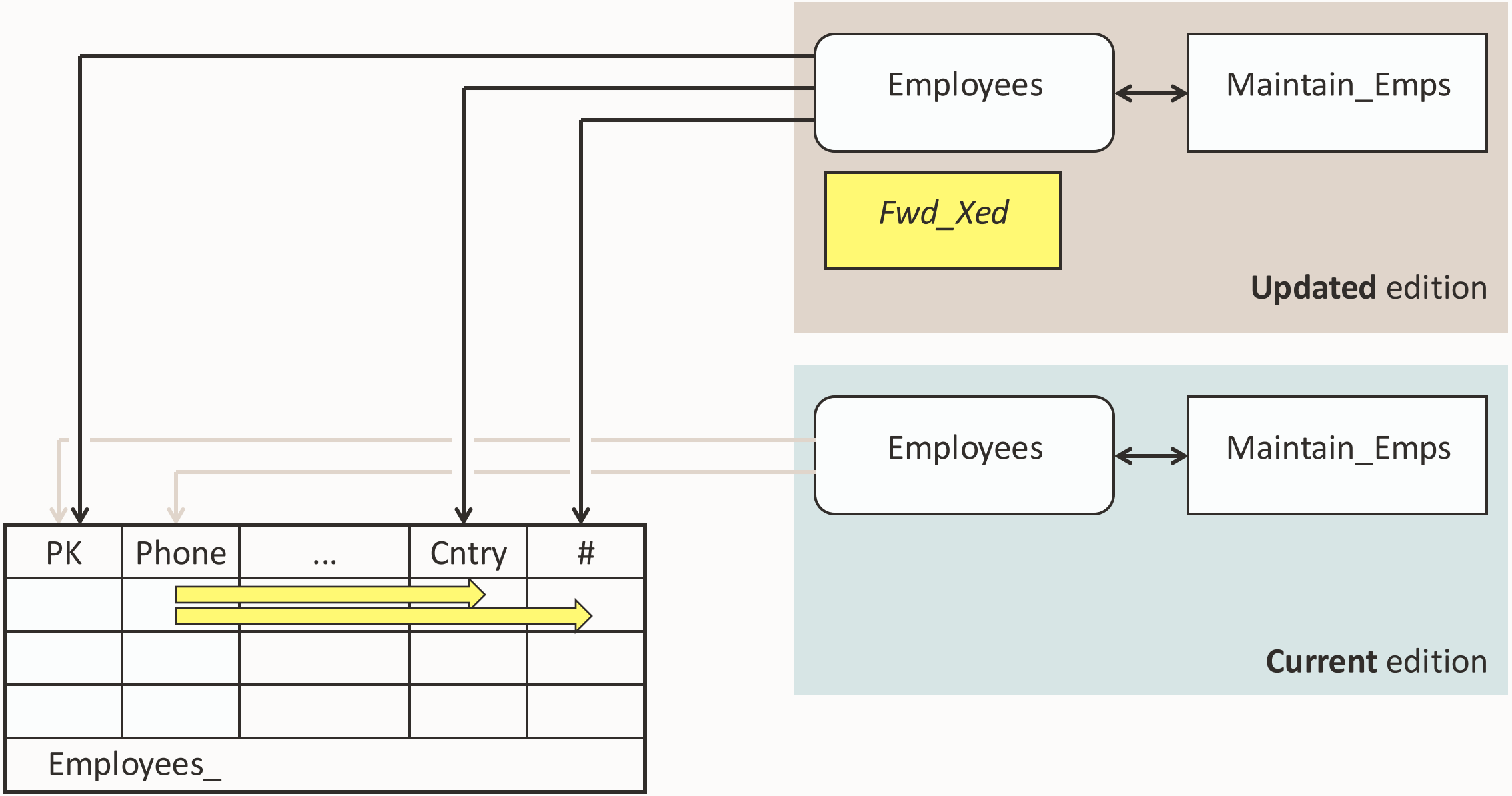
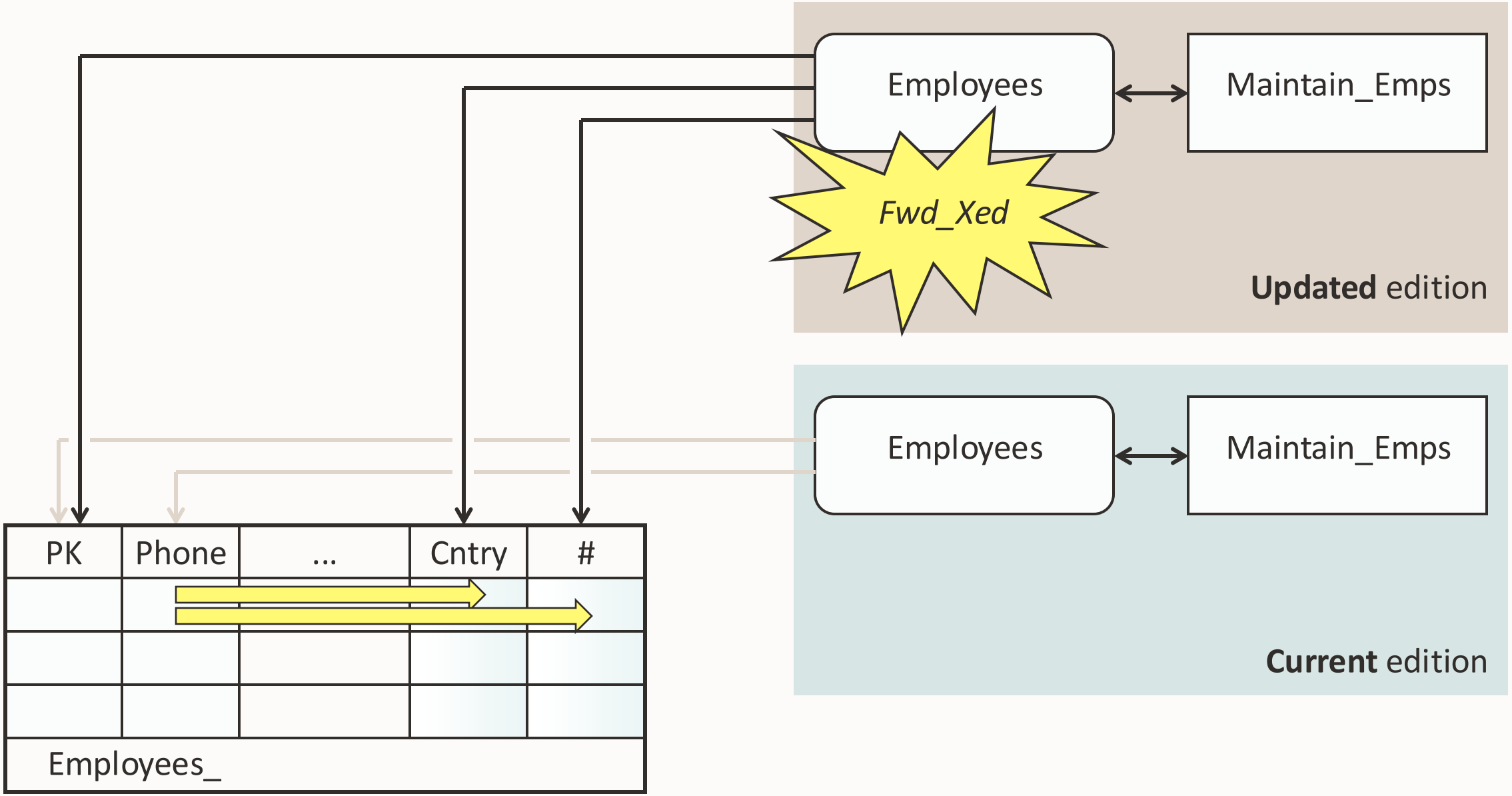


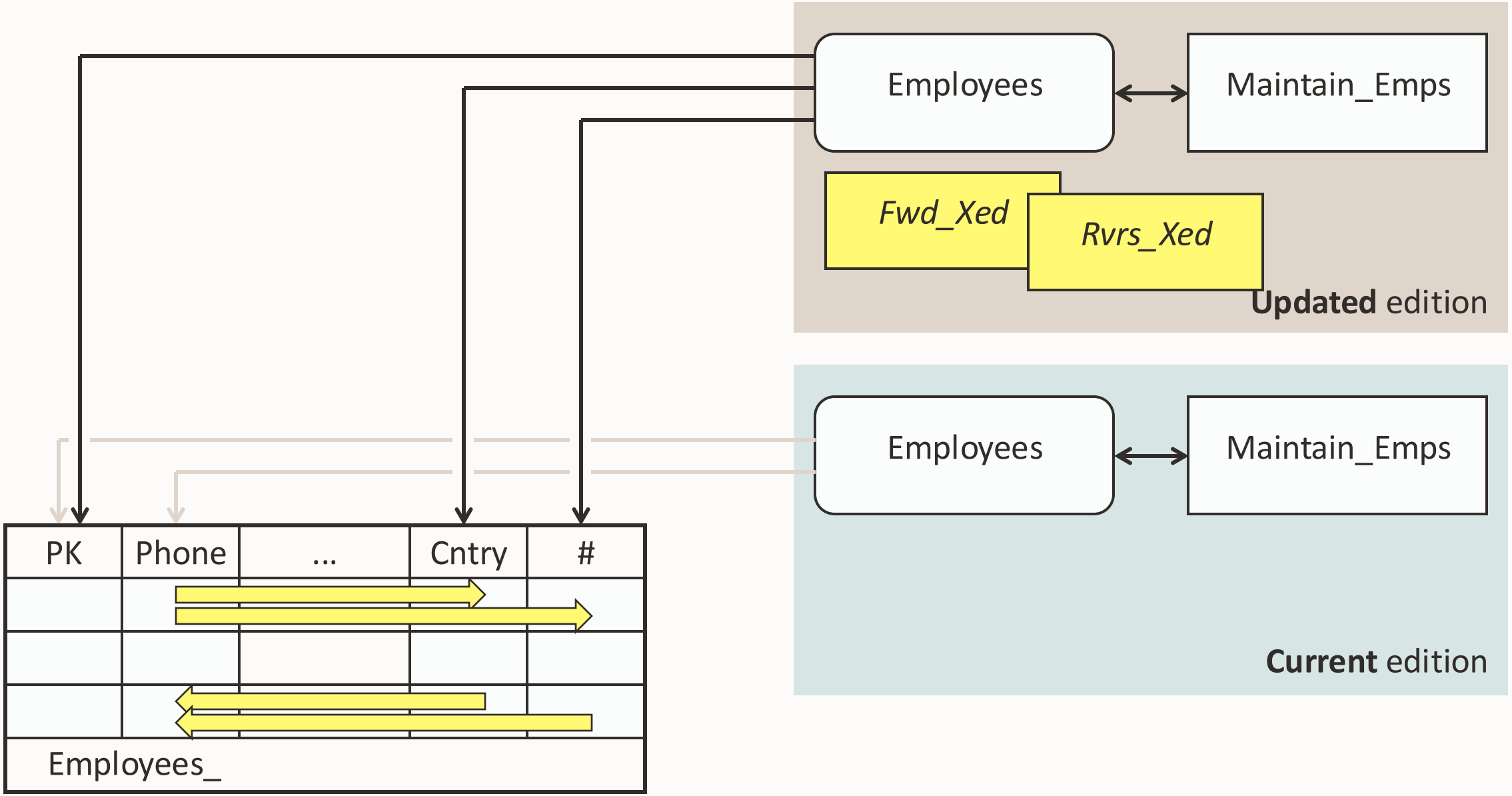


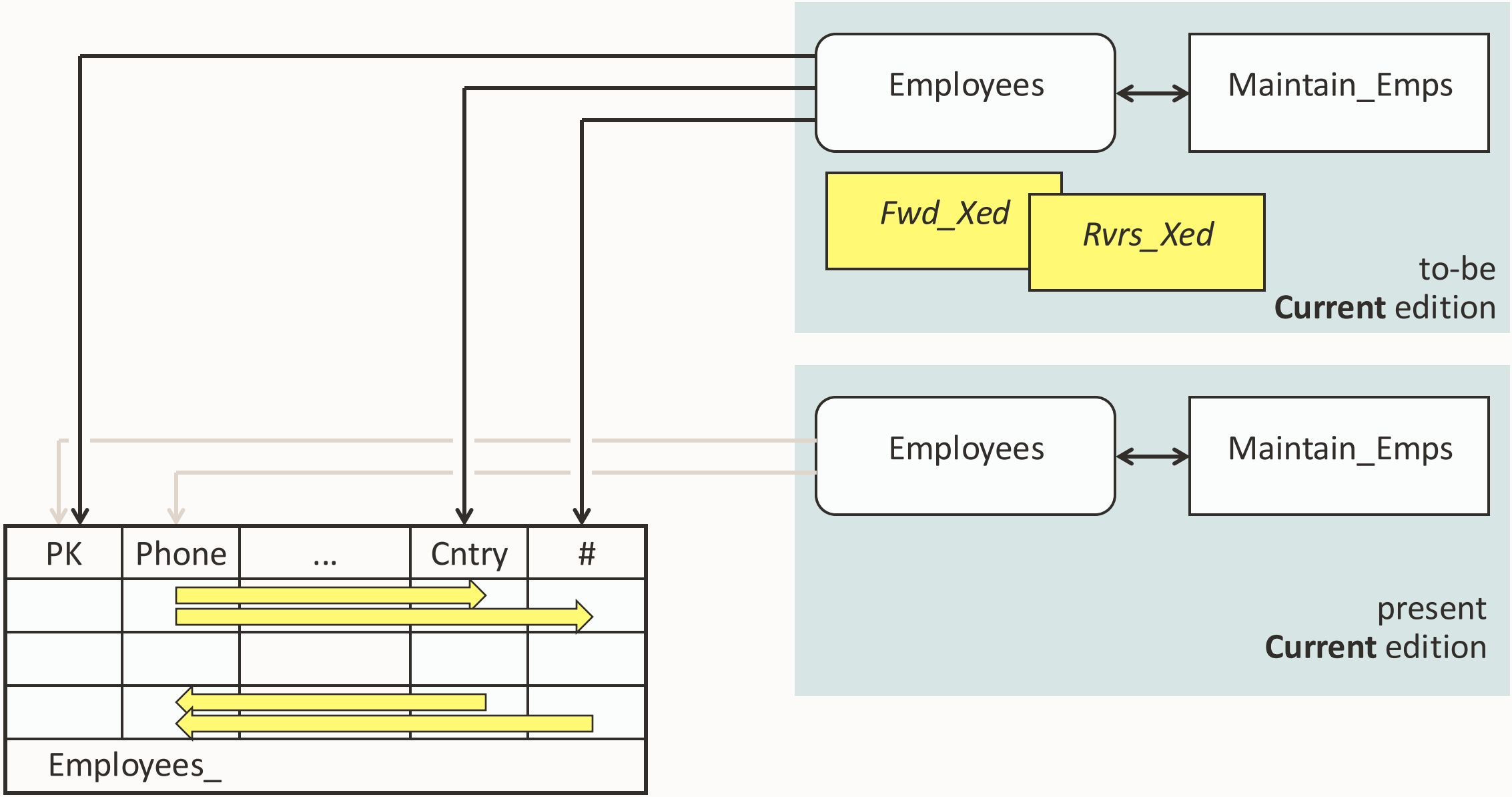


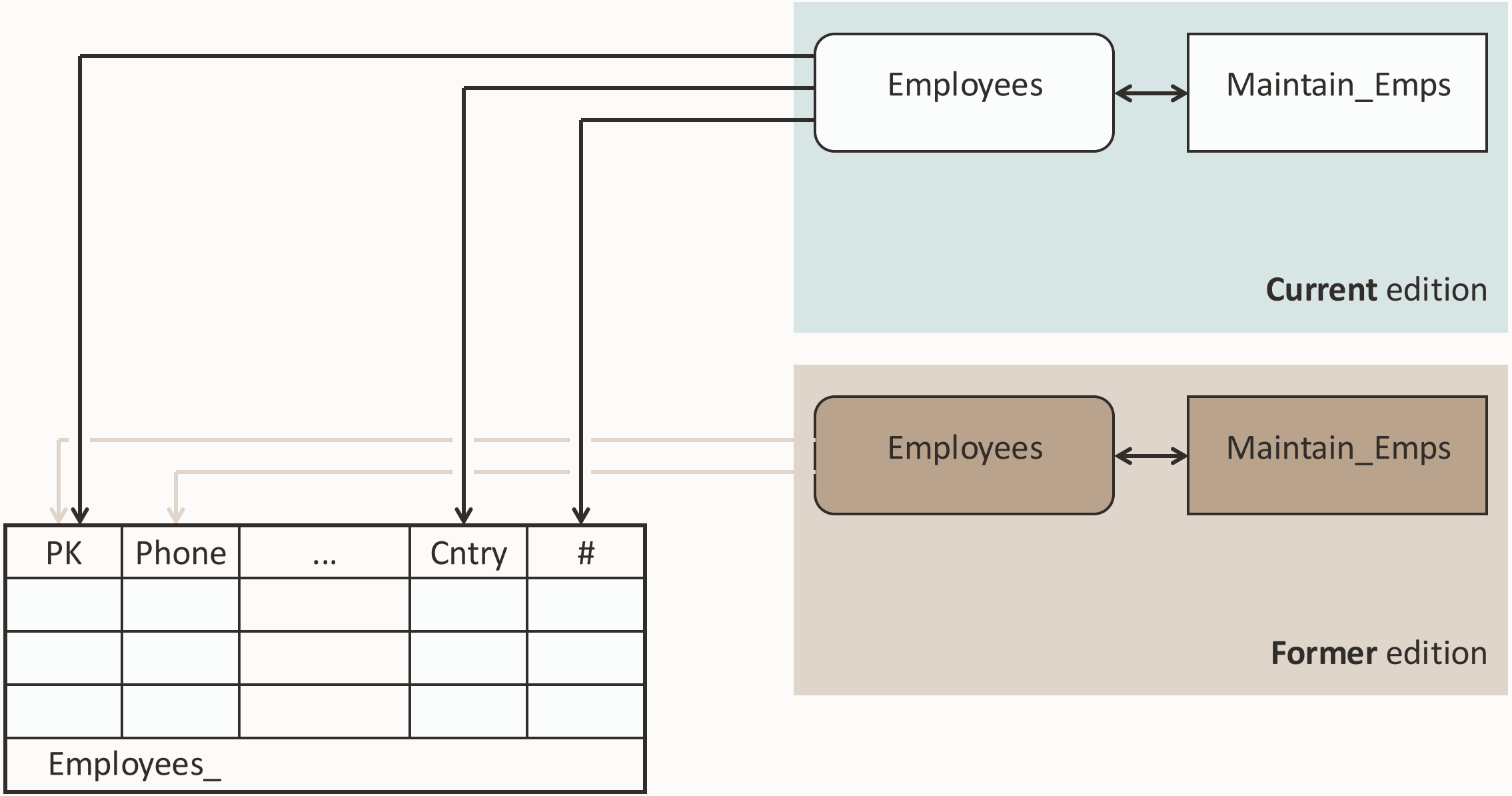


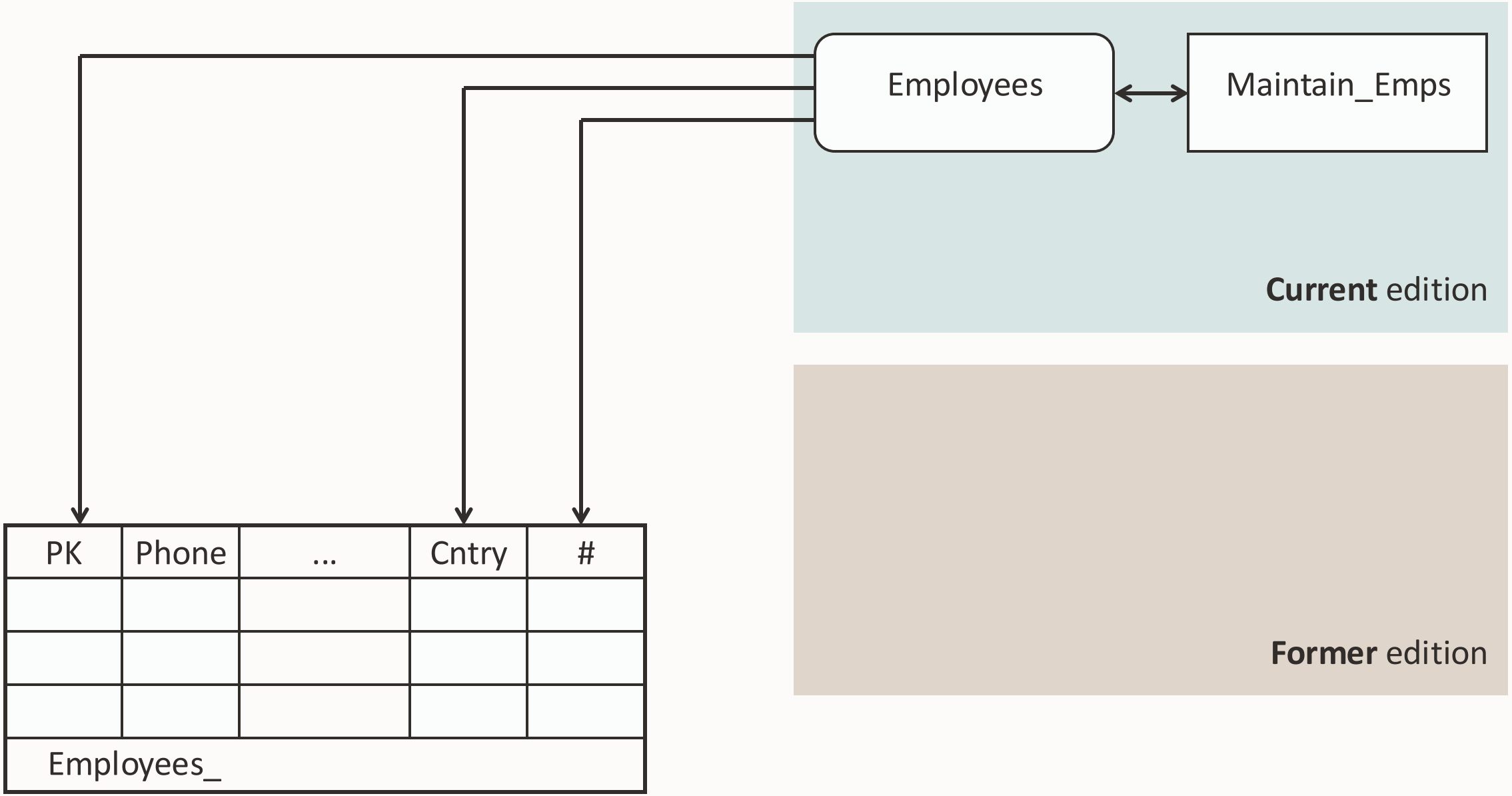


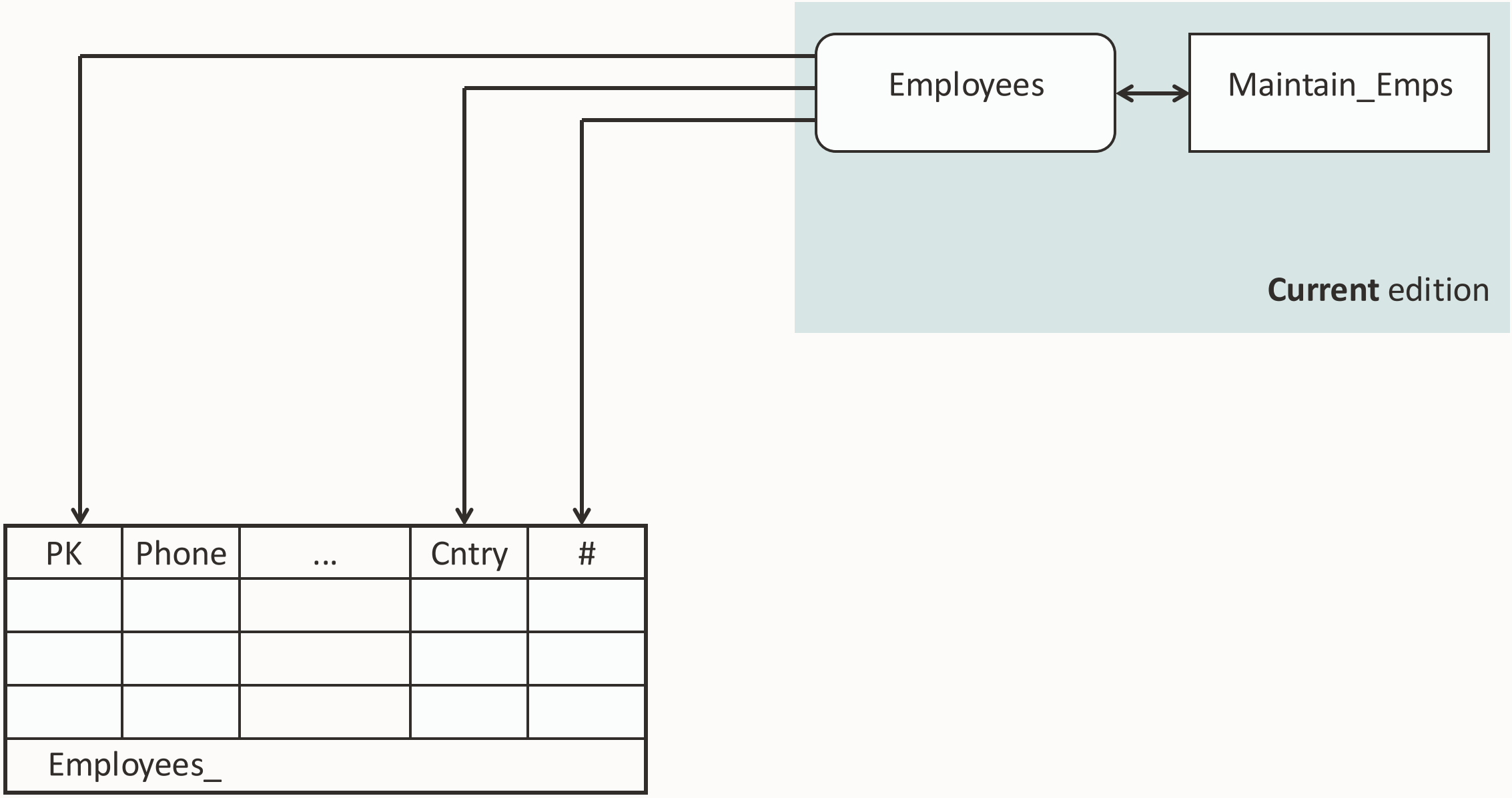


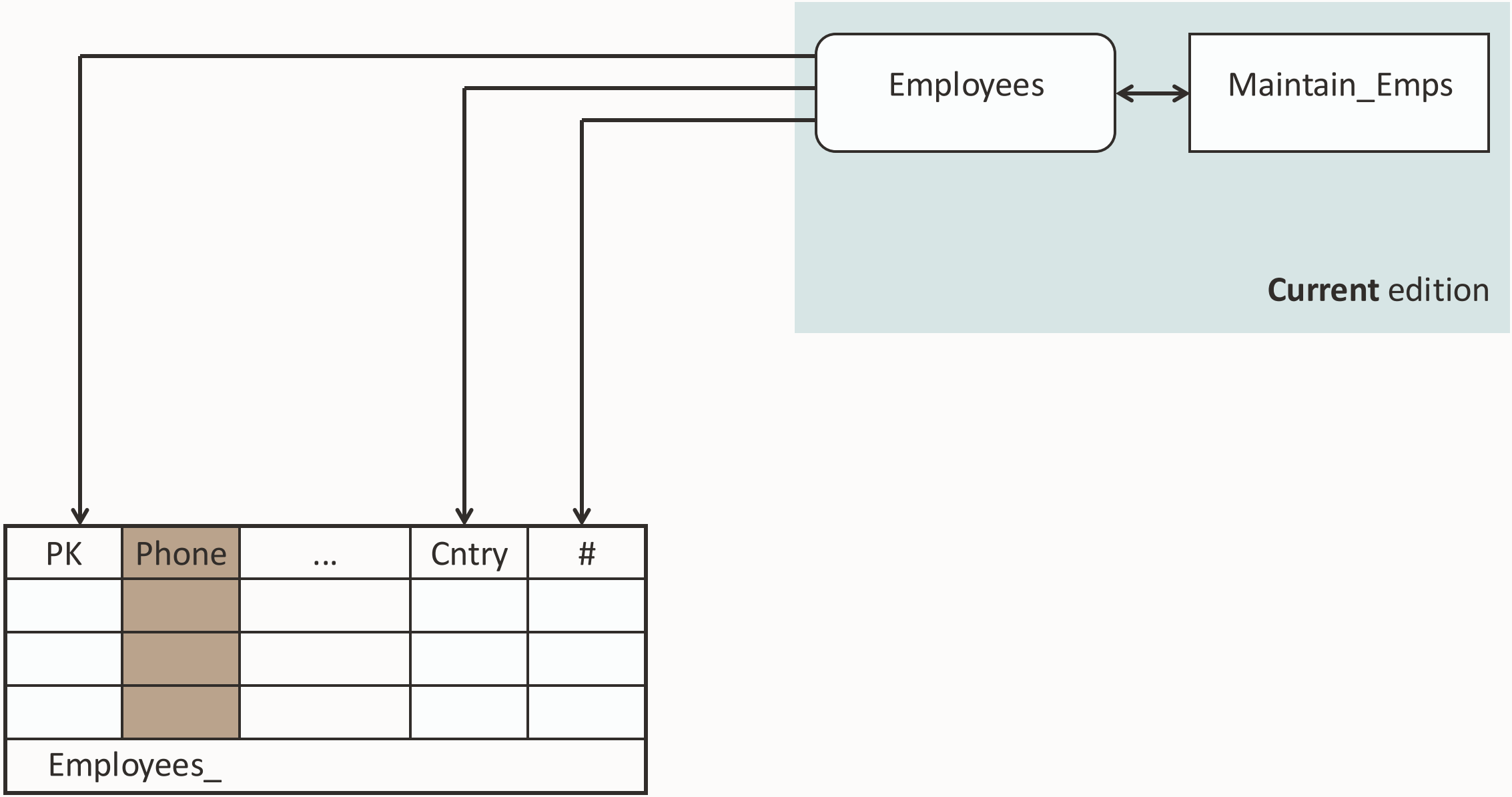








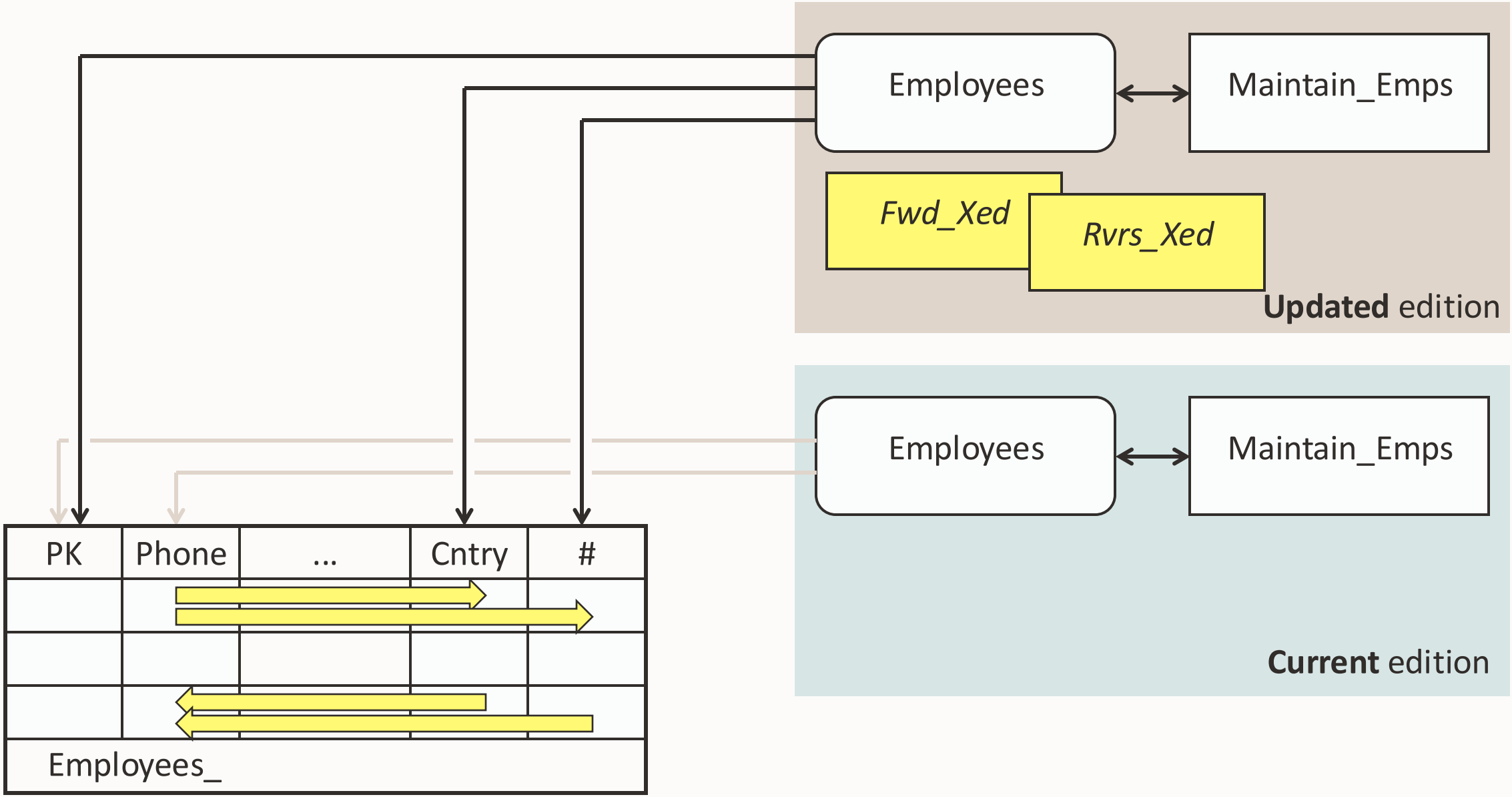


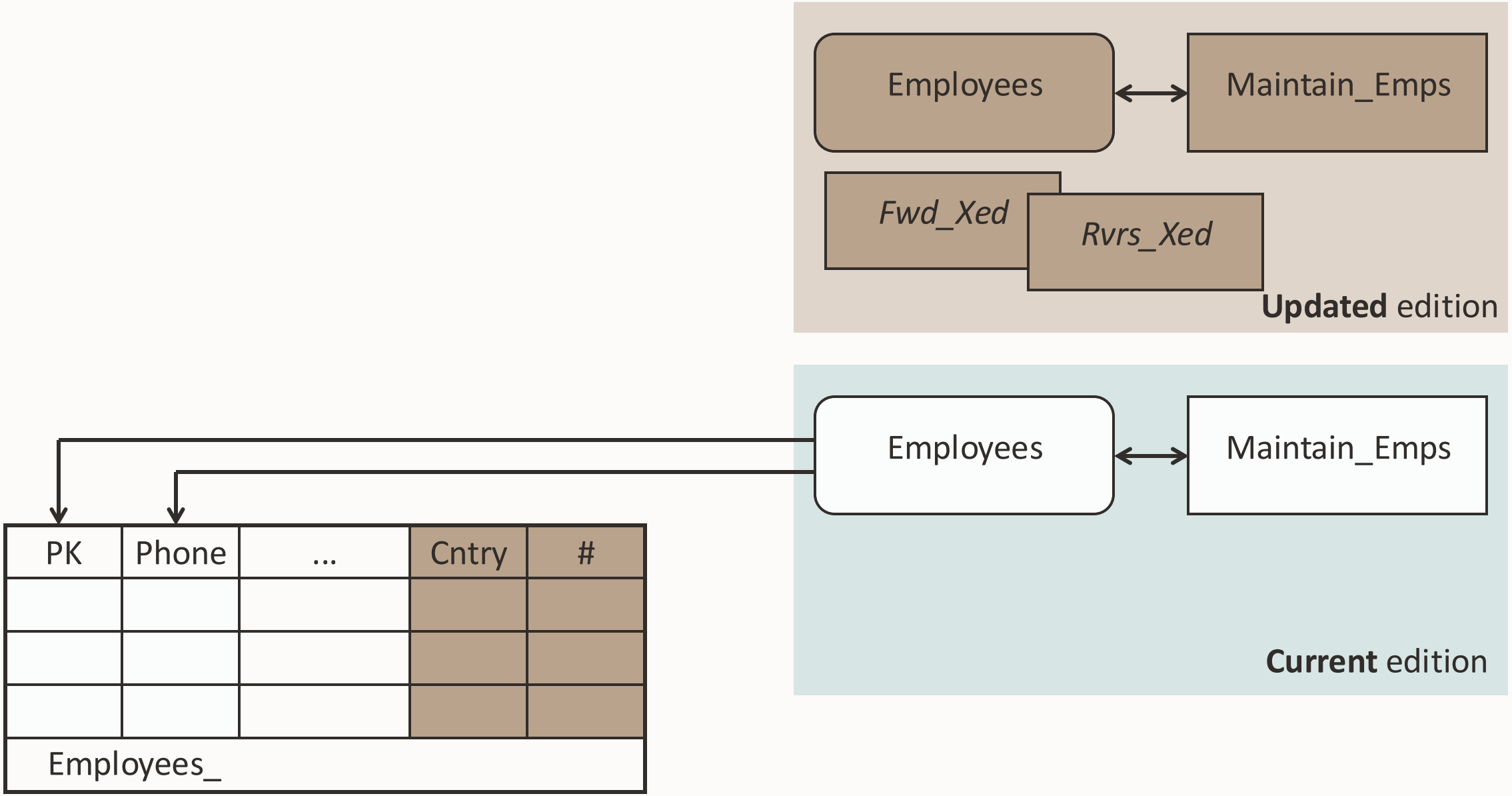


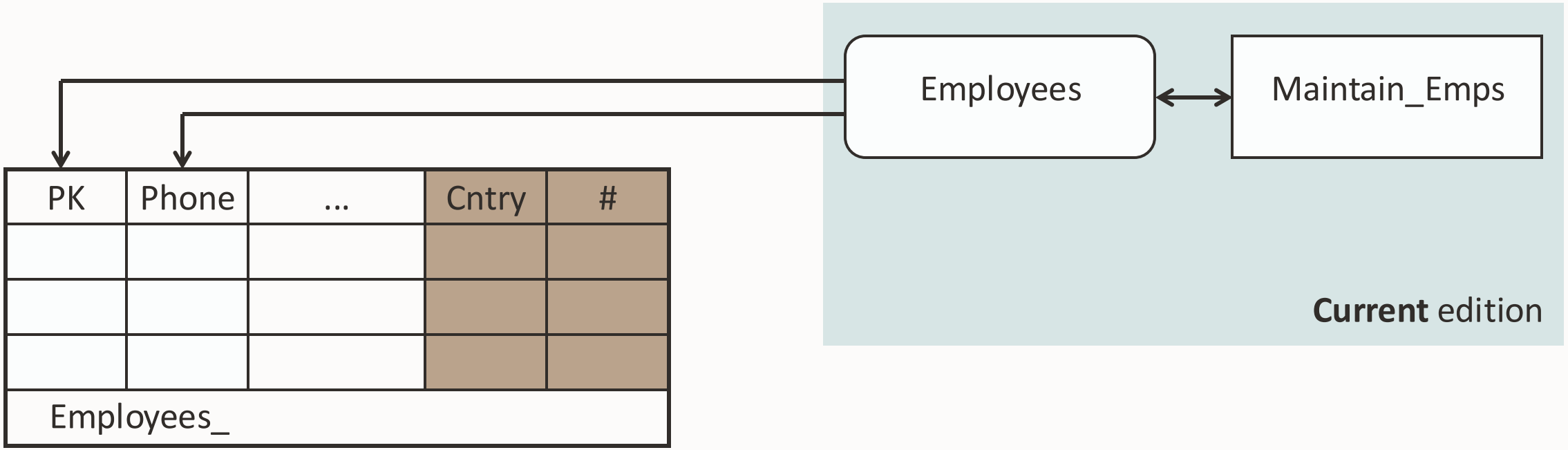
Automated retiring of unused editions

- “Drop edition” is re-implemented to formalize retiring an edition
- You can always drop the root edition, even when it contains actual editioned objects that are inherited by a descendent edition
- It remains in place, but it is marked “unusable” so that you can never use it again
- An editioned object in an unusable edition that is not visible in a usable edition is dropped safely and automatically by a background process
- When an unusable edition contains no actual editioned objects, it is dropped safely and automatically by a background process

Rolling back a failed EBR exercise







Edition-Based Redefinition

EBR brings the edition, the editioning view, and the crossedition trigger

- Code changes are installed in the privacy of a new edition
- Data changes are made safely by writing only to new columns or new tables not seen by the old edition
- An editioning view exposes a different projection of a table into each edition to allow each to see just its own columns
- A crossedition trigger propagates data changes made by the old edition into the new edition's columns, or (in hot- rollover) vice-versa

Next steps

Read the edition-based redefinition chapter in the Oracle Database Development Guide

Read EBR whitepaper, published on oracle.com/ebr