IRMIS Universal Component Types

D. A. Dohan
NSLS 2
Brookhaven National Laboratory
ICALEPCS 2007

Universal Component Types

Introduction

In an operating facility, the best (and usually the only) indicator of failed hardware is *software* – an EDM screen, an alarm handler, script, etc.

→ Goal: relate the accelerator software to the hardware ←

- - what do we mean by ‘hardware’?
- - is it possible to have a common definition of ‘hardware’?

Universal Component Types

The IRMIS component model has been successful in capturing the APS control system hardware and infrastructure. This past year has been a period of data entry, validation, consolidation and collecting new ideas for IRMIS. The component database is now complete, and contains:

- > 30,000 components
- ~ 900 component-types
- primary mechanism for trouble shooting control system problems
- rich set of applications that use the component database (AOI, idt, gst, CCMS, ioc,…)

The IRMIS component model contains/provides

- site-neutral component-type definitions
- exhaustive coverage

Universal Component Types

At NSLS2, we want to leverage off this effort, and to extend the component-type definitions to include:

- beam delivery components (magnets, bpms, …) – *support for machine modeling*
- power supplies
- beam line components
- IT
- plant facilities
- . . .

Universal Component Types

What is an IRMIS component-type?

- IRMIS components are common, familiar infrastructure elements (rooms, racks), COTS items (chassis, processors, I/O boards), instruments, …

- derived by successive system partitioning, until the 'unit-replaceable' point is reached. This promotes exhaustive coverage, which is difficult to achieve using a modeling approach.

- site independent component type definitions – everyone builds accelerators using the same set of vendor catalogues

- the concept of component types began with the idea of EPICS supported devices, and has been generalized to include all infrastructure items needed to operate the facility

Universal Component Types

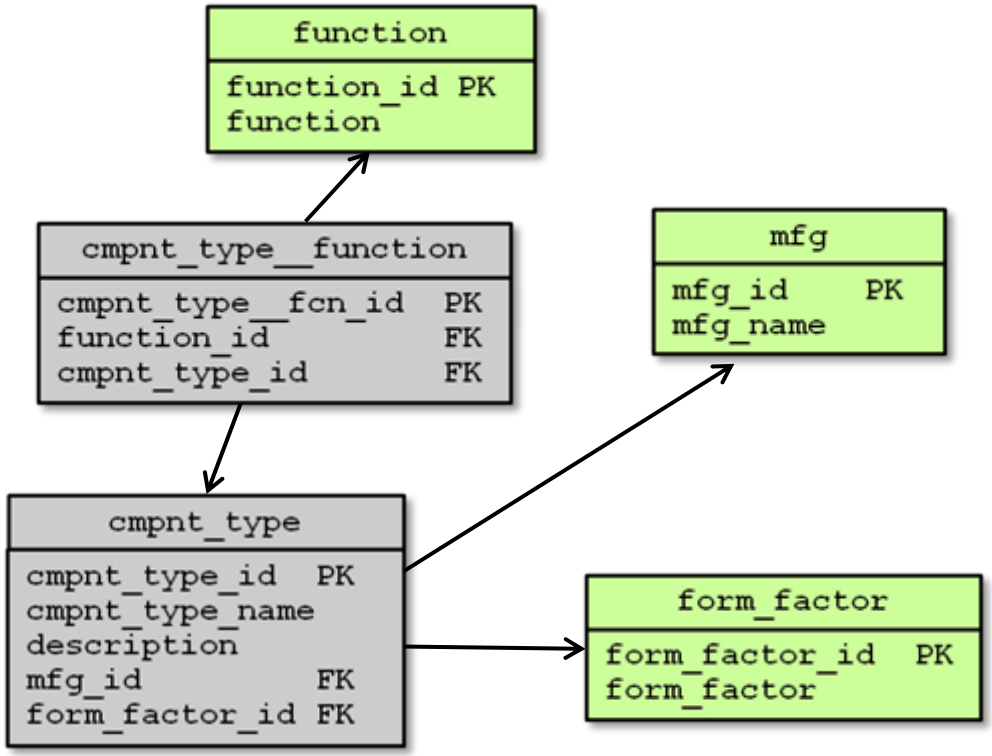
Component are not objects, classes or devices

- no ‘role’ is assigned to components. In IRMIS, a magnet is not treated as something that is a corrector or a bend – it is simply a component whose function it is to convert an electric current into a magnetic field.

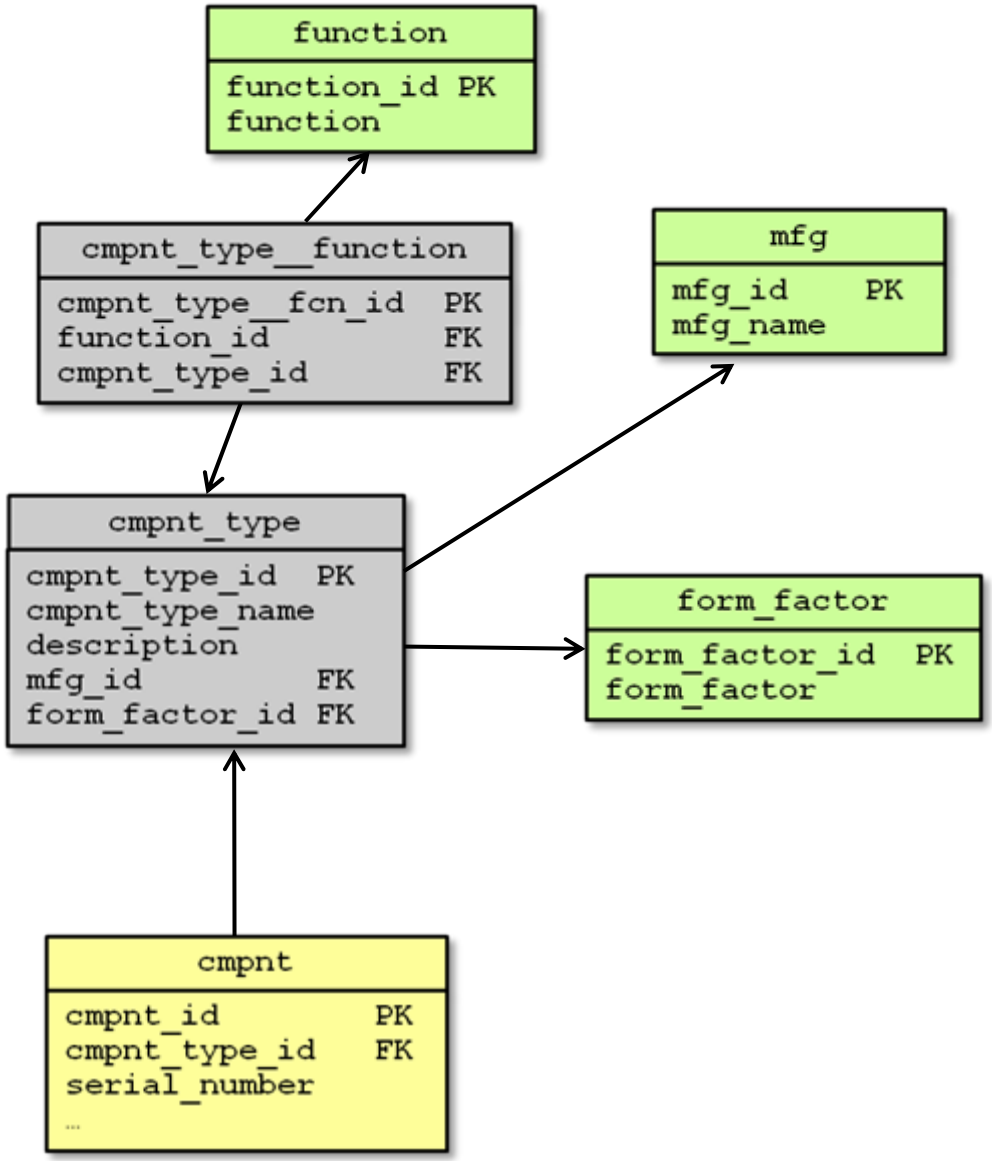
- no role-based table names – e.g. linac-xxx, etc. Again, this would make the RDB site-specific.

- no behavior, methods, etc are assigned to components

What is an IRMIS Component-Type?



What is an IRMIS Component-Type?



3-Hierarchy Component Model

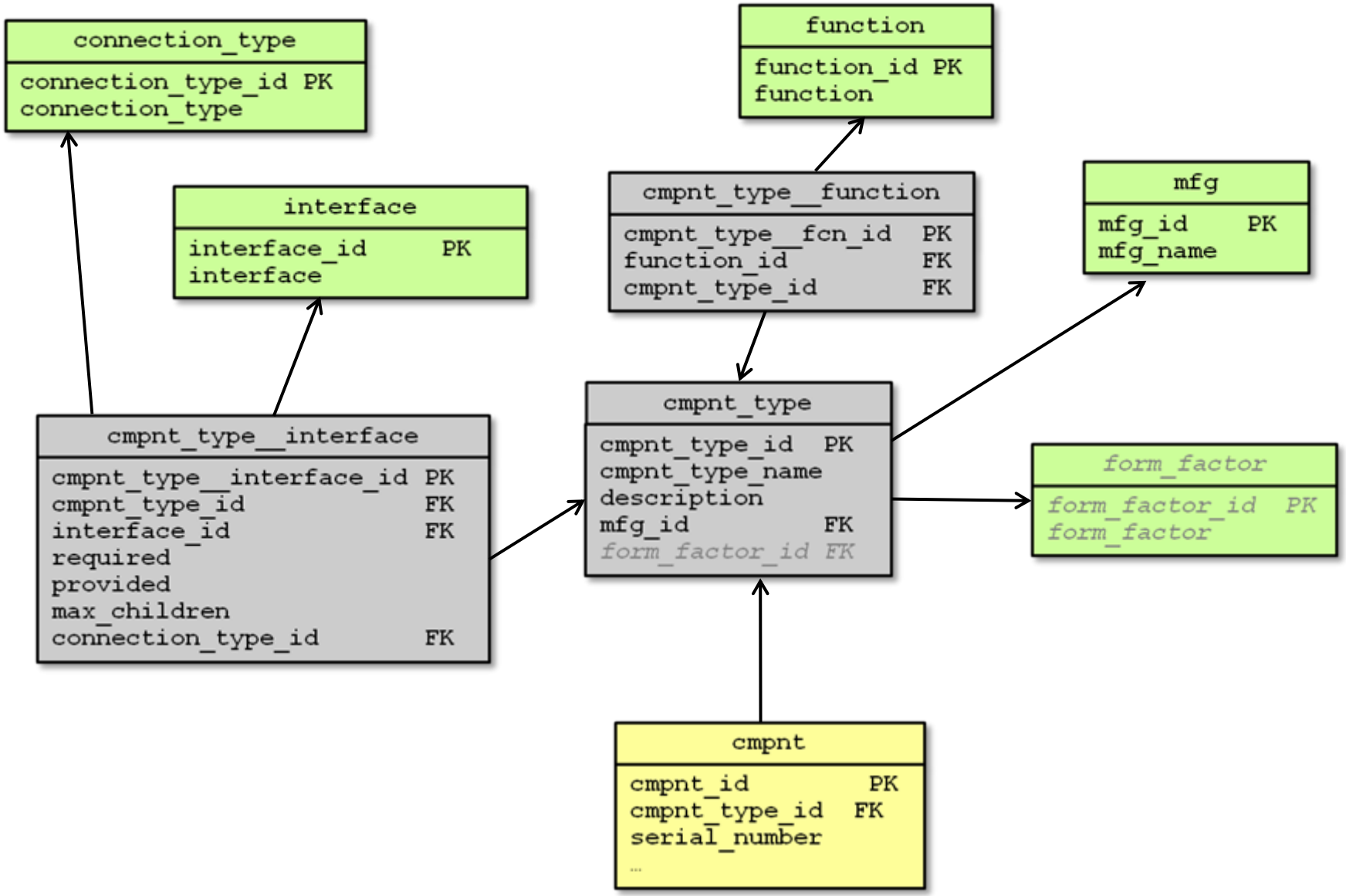
Hierarchical component assembly:

Housing: Every component is a member of the housing hierarchy --> every component is housed somewhere, thus has a unique housing parent (which is another component somewhere in the system)

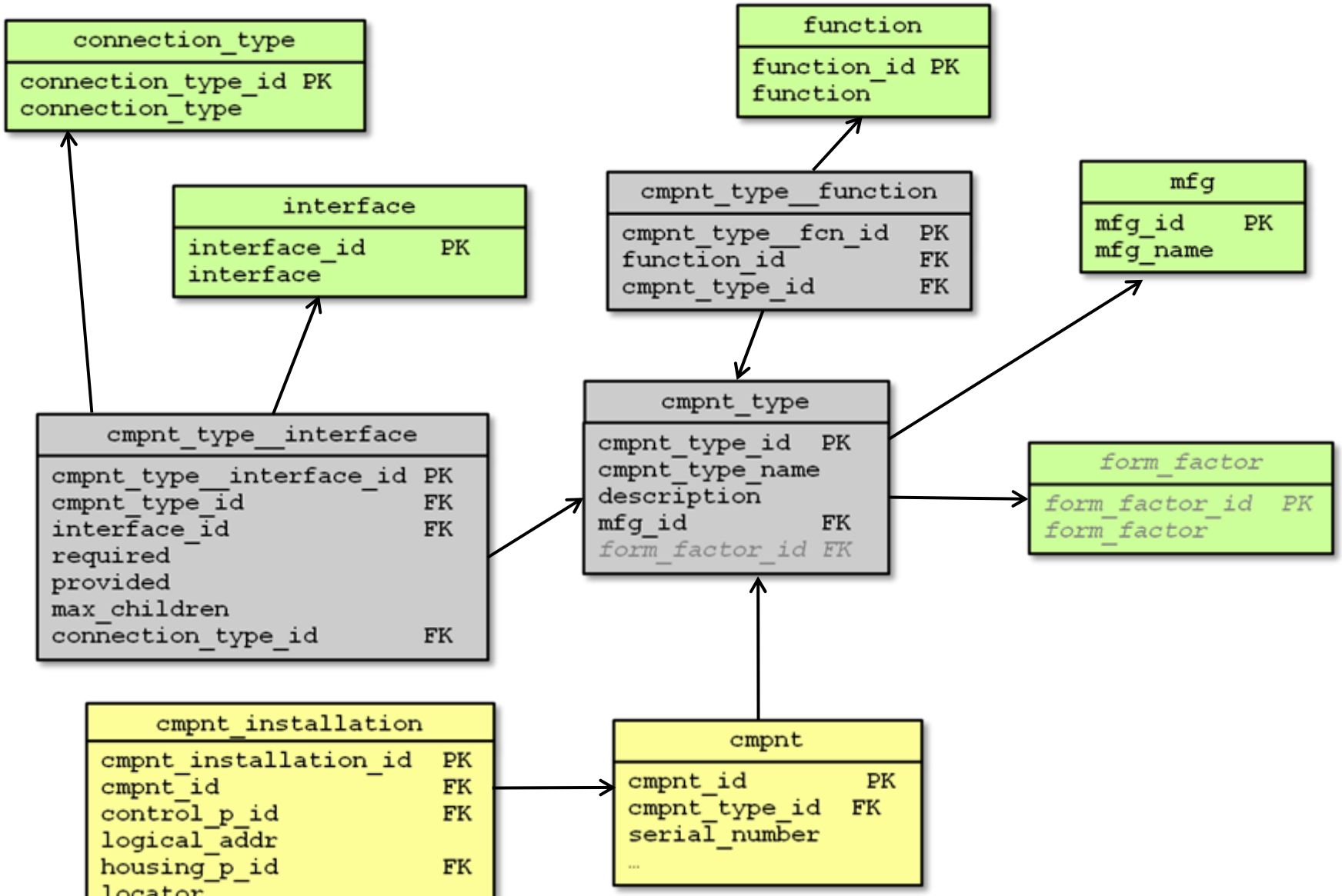
Control: Each controlled component has a unique control parent, implying a hierarchy leading ultimately to the IOC or control 'root' for the component

Power: This hierarchy captures the power distribution grid. This allows the power source for any active component to be traced to the originating switch gear.

What is an IRMIS Component-Type?



What is an IRMIS Component-Type?

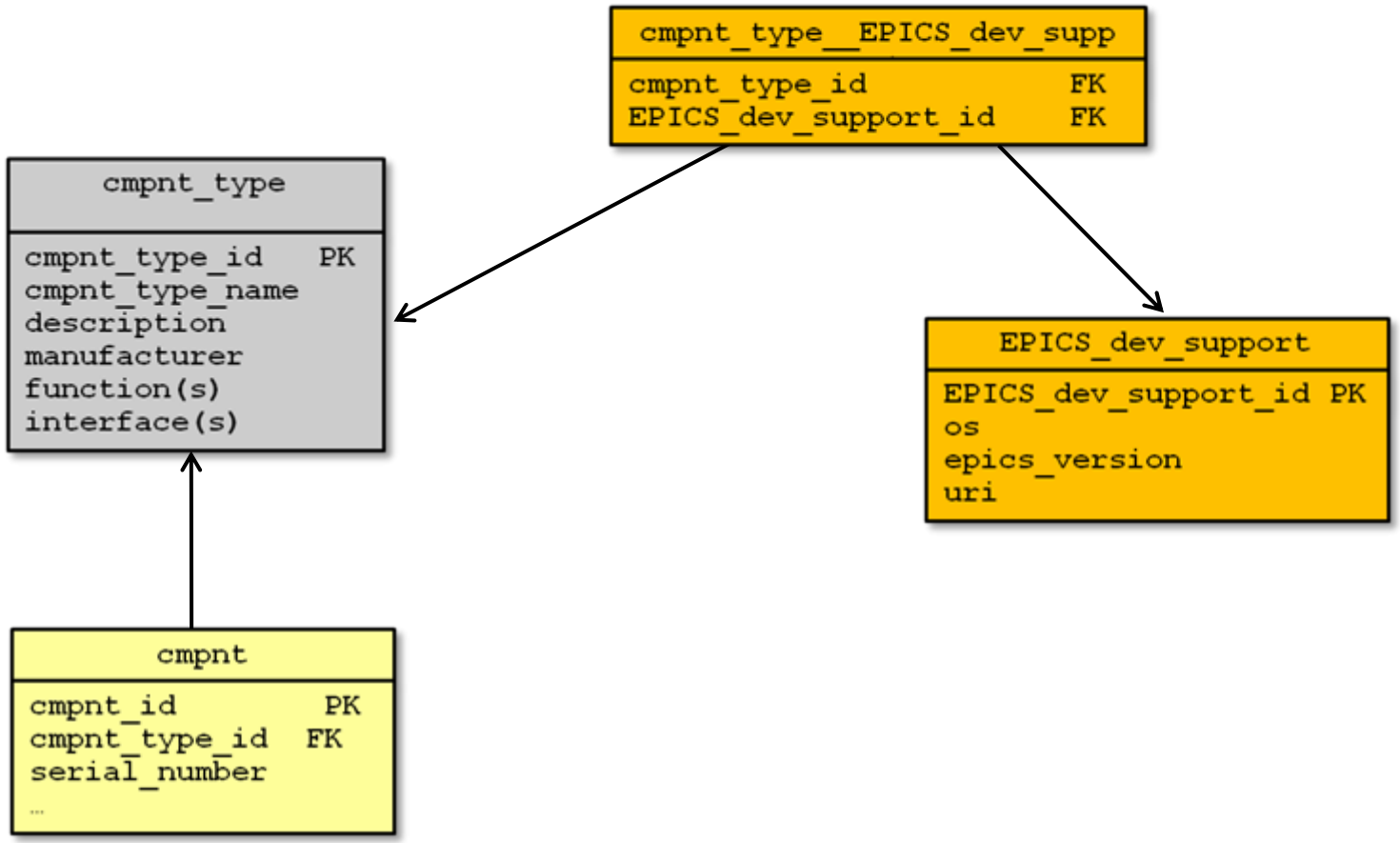


Finding existing software

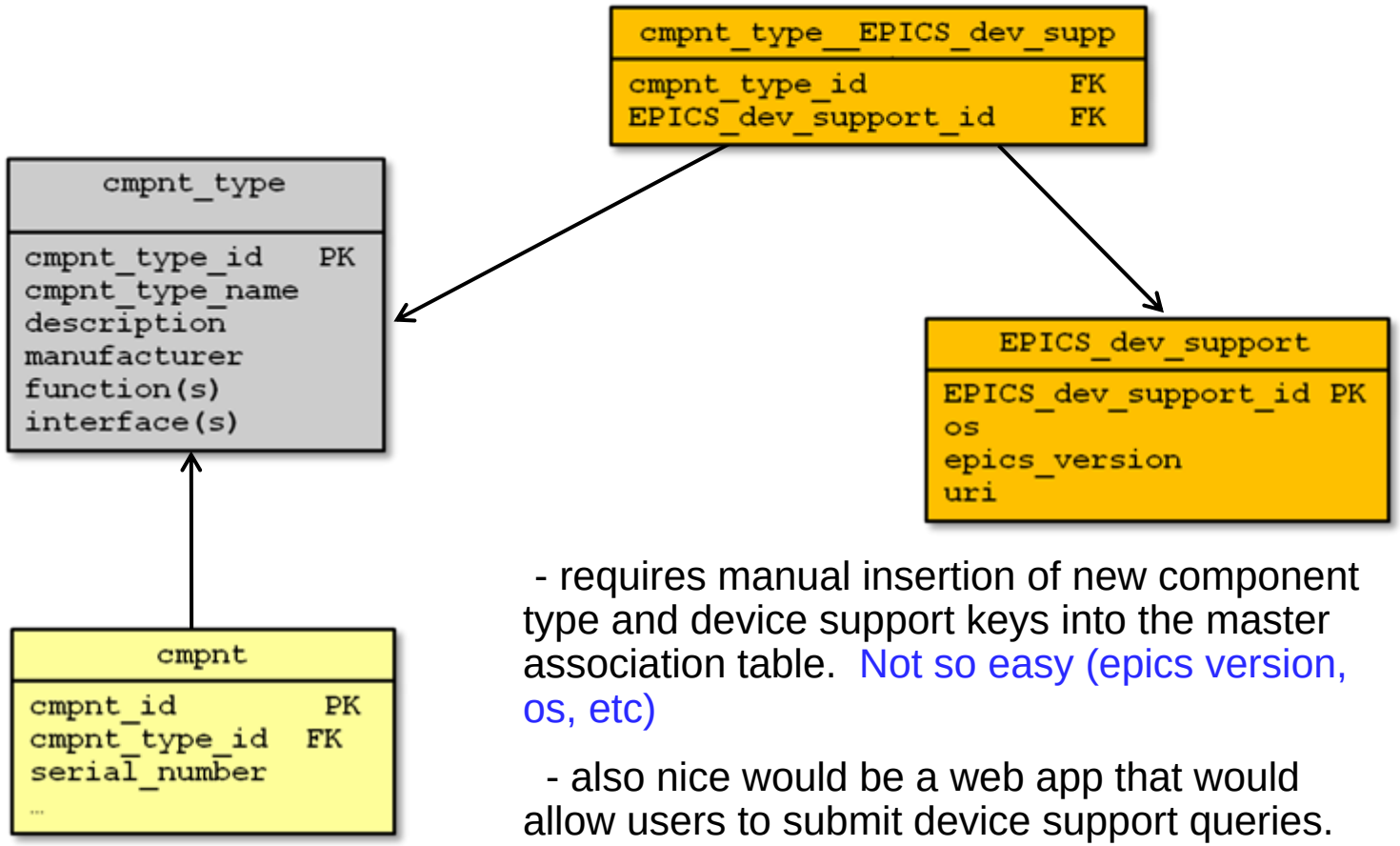
- **Supported Hardware database on EPICS website**
- **EPICS Collaboration meetings**
- **Tech-talk mailing list**
  - Search the archives before asking
- **Google Search**

- **Most existing support software is for R3.13.x on vxWorks**
- **Porting to R3.14 is relatively easy**
- **Porting to RTEMS is slightly harder**
  - Should be straight-forward if the software uses devLib
- **Porting to Linux is inadvisable for VME or PCI-based hardware**
  - Linux Kernel drivers are hard to write and debug
- **Serial or network-based support can be made as portable as Base**
  - The Asyn framework simplifies this process

Component Types – Wish List



Component Types – Wish List



- requires manual insertion of new component type and device support keys into the master association table. Not so easy (epics version, os, etc)

- also nice would be a web app that would allow users to submit device support queries.

Sharing Component Types

Sharing Component Type Definitions

- to model an installed system using the IRMIS component model, you really want to leverage off the APS investment in developing and refining the rich component-type relational schema.

- implies a central repository (does not need to be a shareable relational database - can be a flat, csv file from which the local site could generate local RDB)

- a mechanism is needed whereby the component-type RDB table can be extended from any site (including the APS)

  – to prevent a divergence in the component type definitions

Component Types - Extended

The IRMIS PV schema is populated by a non-invasive crawler. It provides a global view of the installed EPICS real-time software, inter-IOC/inter-record links, and EPICS client application references to PVs. Widely adopted schema, used in multiple laboratories

Attempts to mine the EPICS PV database (dbhcr reports, DTYPS, etc) for hardware information have had limited success. This heuristic approach was used to populate the original APS component database, but only for the controls hierarchy. Housing and power hierarchies were populated with another set of heuristics, also error prone. The rest was done by hand.

With the component database in hand --

Component Types - Extended

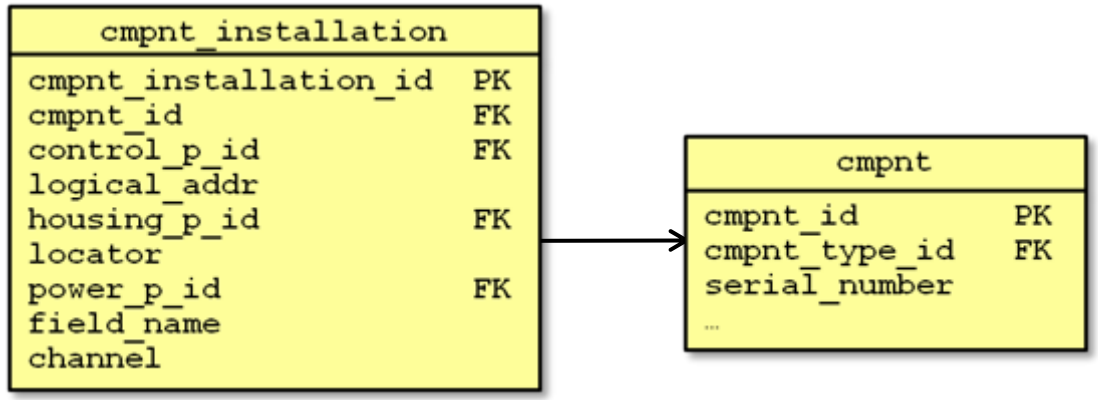
The IRMIS PV schema is populated by a non-invasive crawler. It provides a global view of the installed EPICS real-time software, inter-IOC/inter-record links, and EPICS client application references to PVs. Widely adopted schema, used in multiple laboratories

Attempts to mine the EPICS PV database (dbhcr reports, DTYPS, etc) for hardware information have had limited success. This heuristic approach was used to populate the original APS component database, but only for the controls hierarchy. Housing and power hierarchies were populated with another set of heuristics, also error prone. The rest was done by hand.

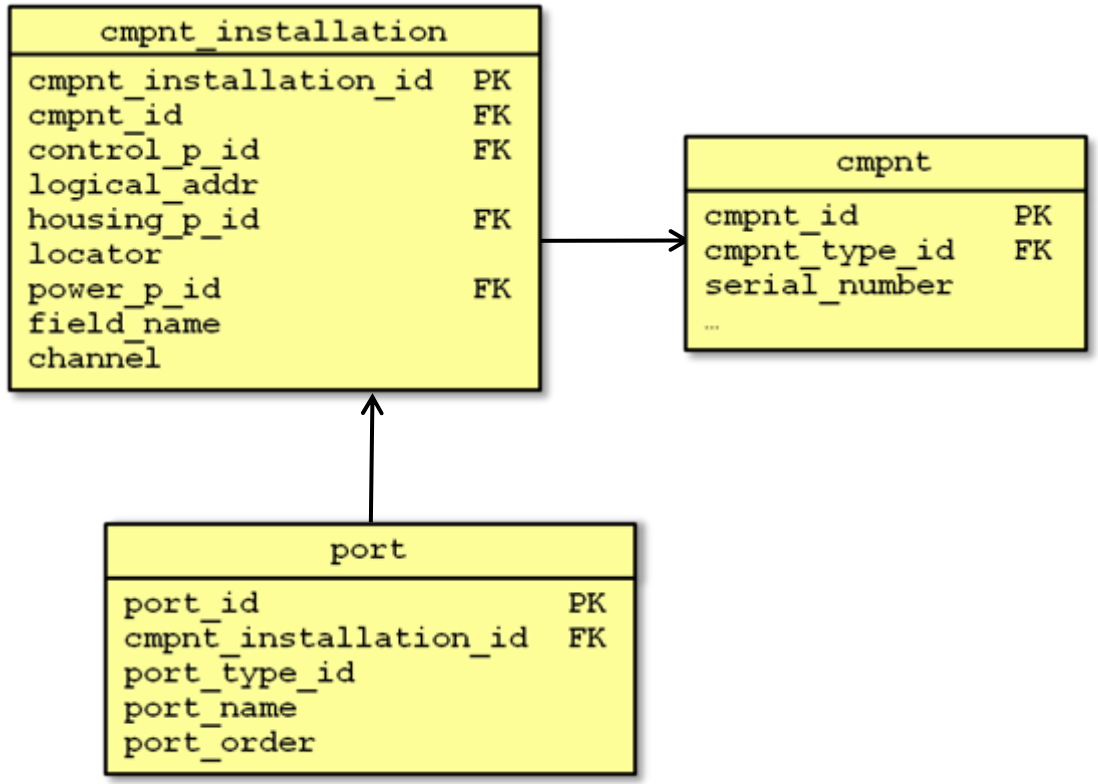
With the component database in hand --

→ how do we relate the accelerator software to the hardware? ←

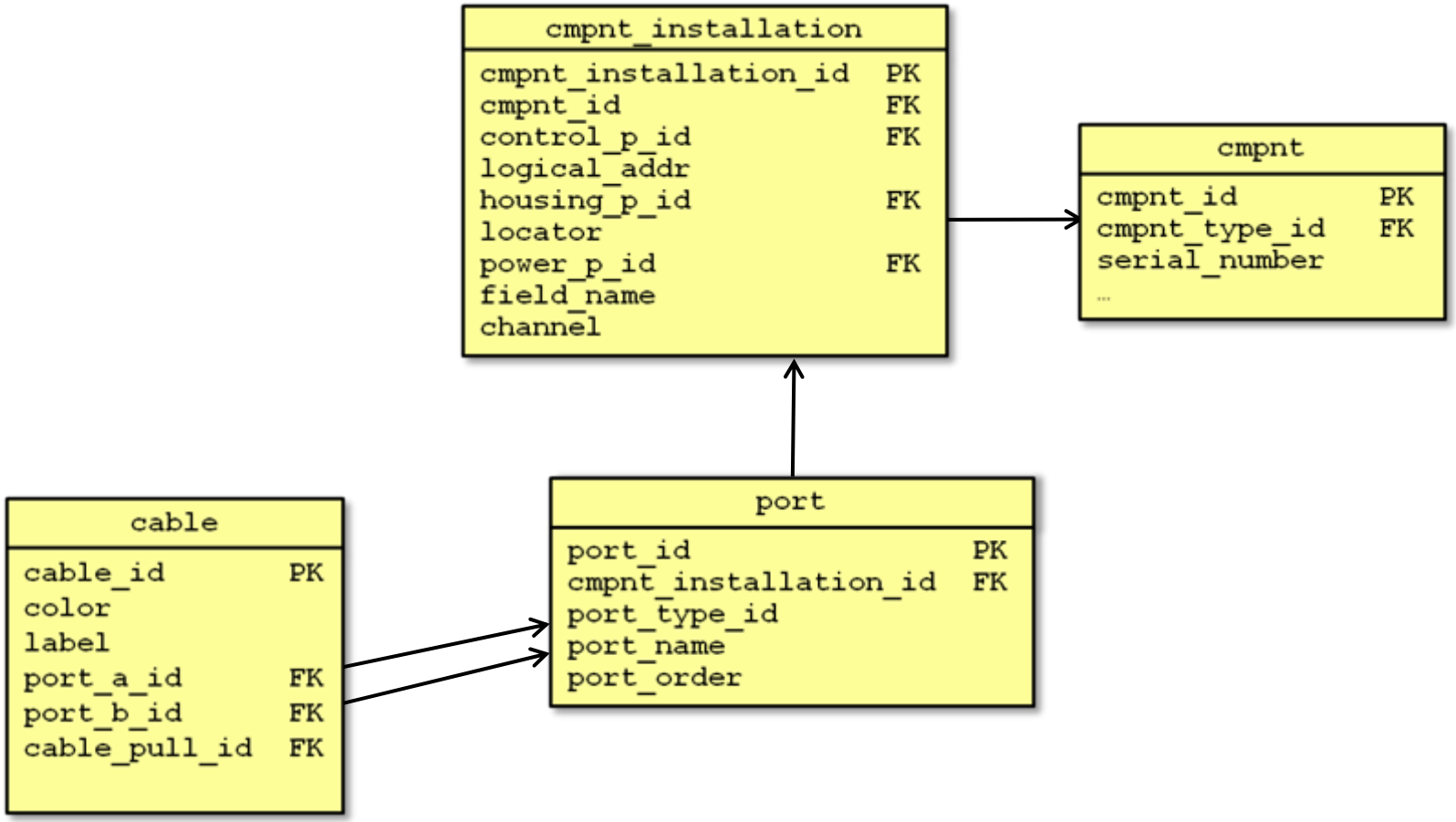
Component Types - Extended



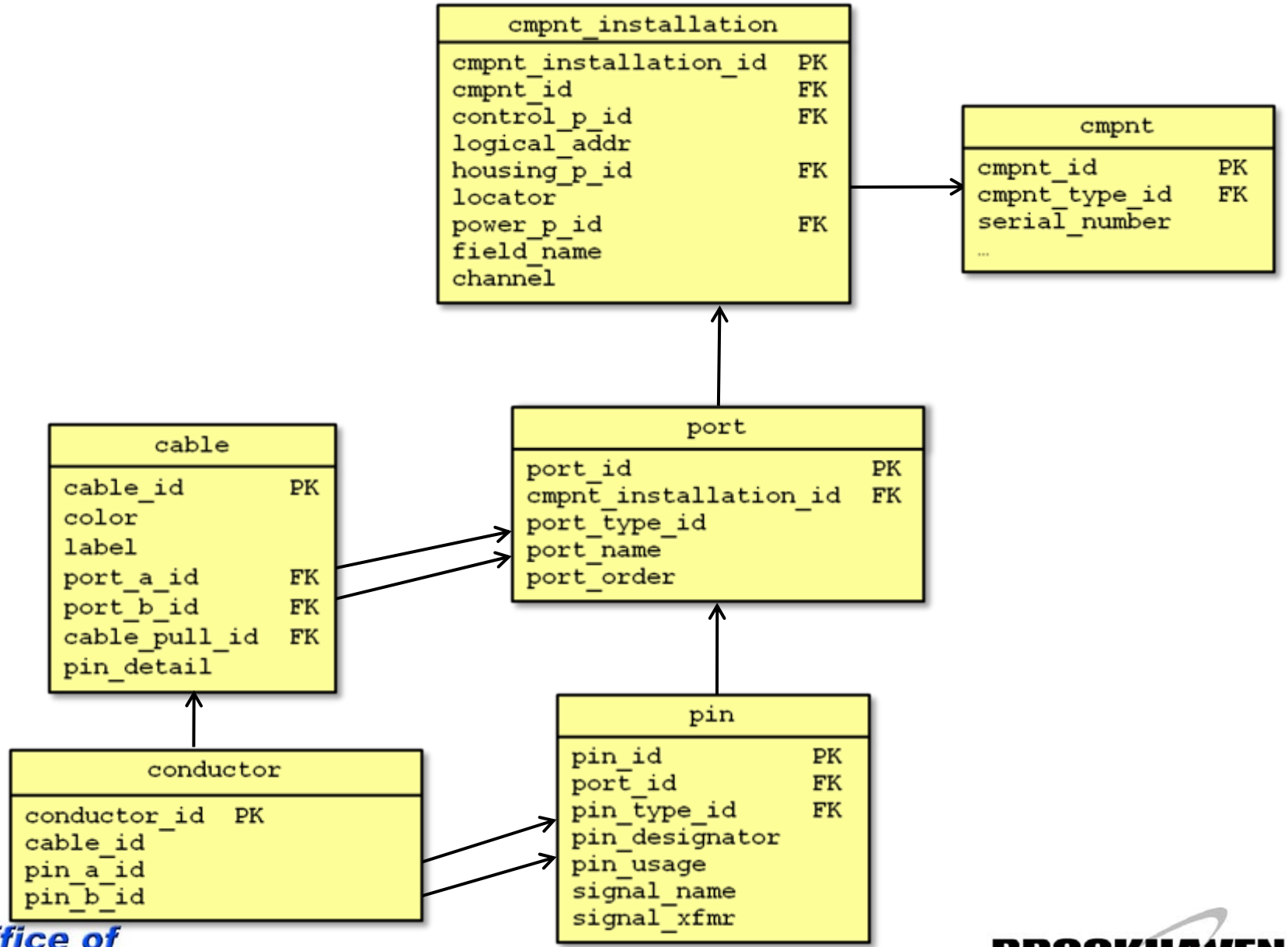
Component Types - Extended



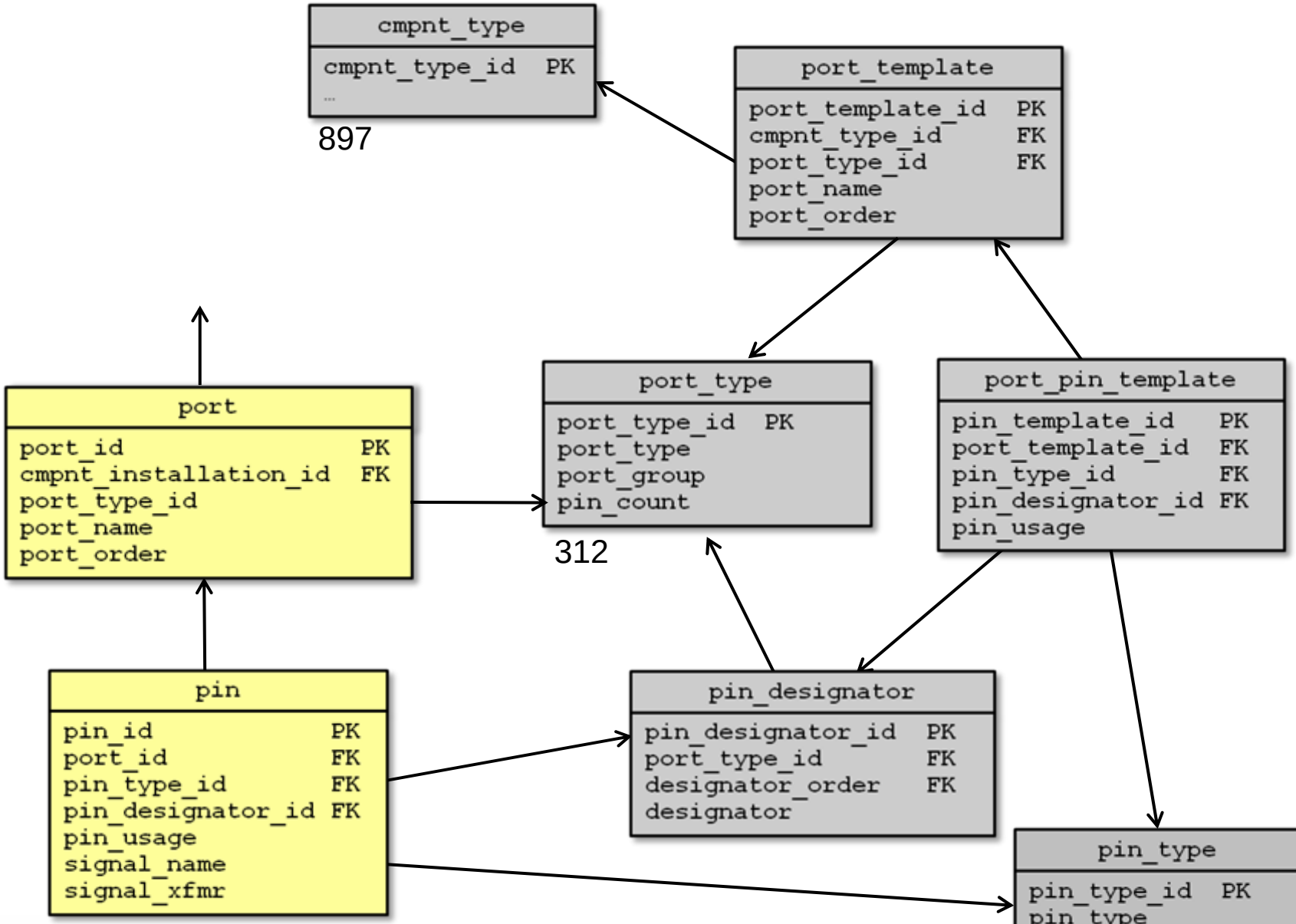
Component Types - Extended



Component Types - Extended

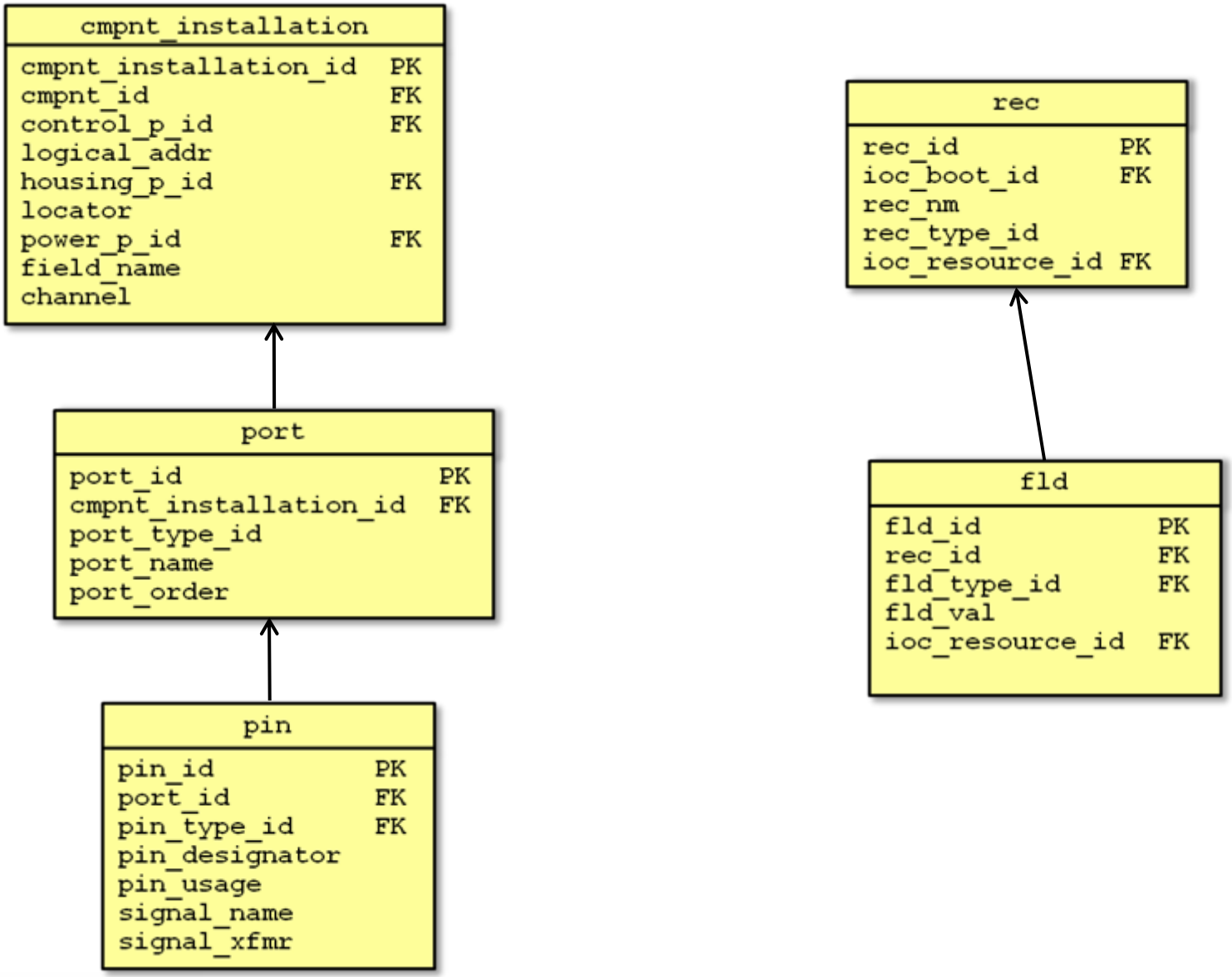


Component Types - Extended

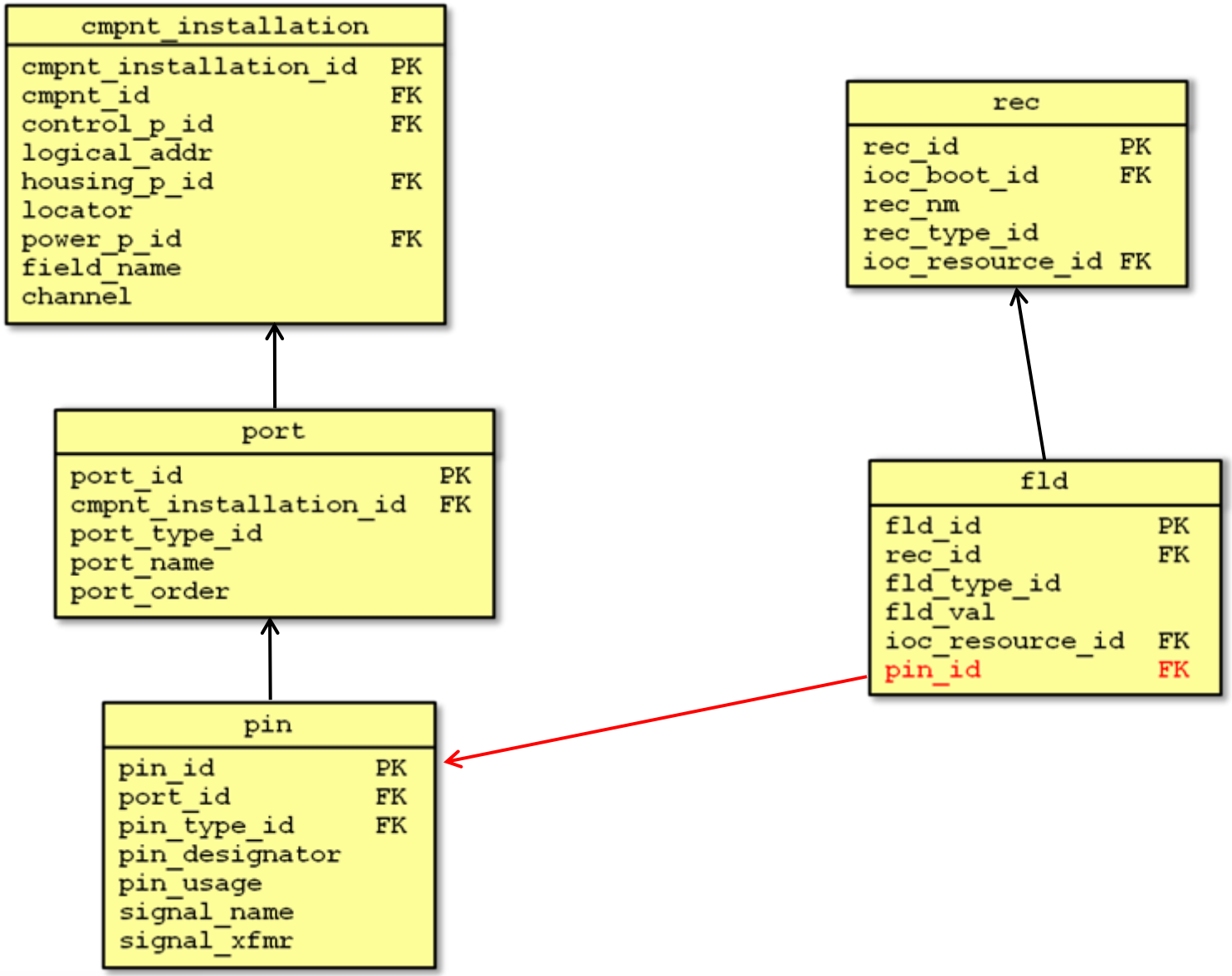


→ how do we relate the accelerator software to the hardware? ←

Component – PV relationships



Component – PV relationships (proposal)



Component – PV relationships
(proposal)

Proposal: **pv <> pin** link entered as .db comment *(similar to vdct graphical positioning comment entry)*

Work flow (new facility):

- user 'installs' the component into IRMIS. RDB assigns each pin a primary key

- EPICS database edit – user must be provided with the ability to drill down to the component pin-out. This primary key is then inserted into .db file.

> This could be a plug-in/extension to vdct, or companion gui with cut and paste. (needed only for I/O records)

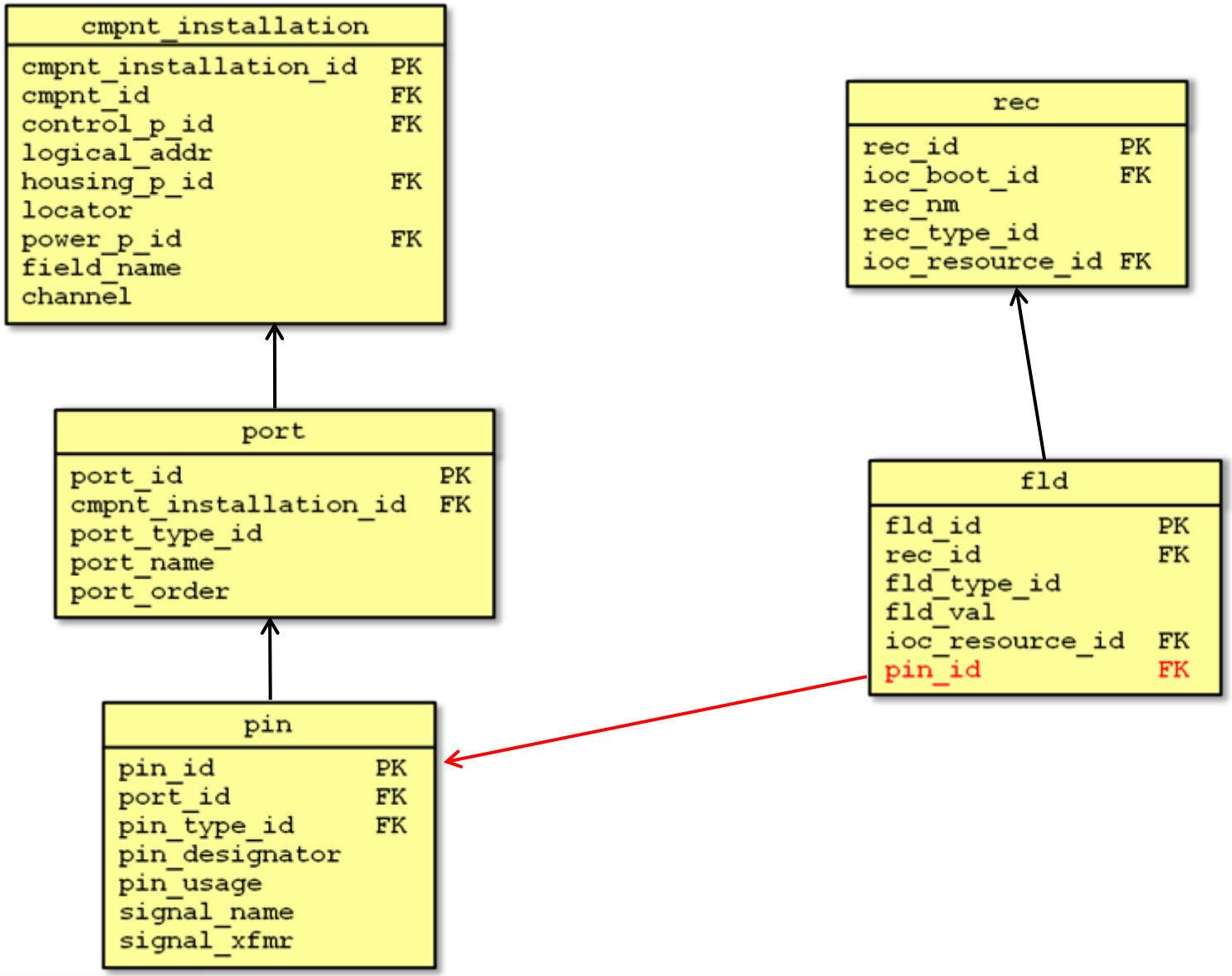
Component – PV relationships
(proposal)

Legacy site (assuming the component database has been populated)

- IRMIS has access to the both the .db file that contains the PV fields and the component ports. Spawn an edit process that updates the .db file. This process could be automated, using existing heuristics, to minimize manual effort

- the PV crawler would have to be modified to recognize the component-pin comment field and populate the IRMIS PV database. The correct pv<>pin foreign key relationship would be retained over ioc reboots, where the pv is assigned a new primary key.

Component – PV relationships (proposal)



Summary

The IRMIS component/type schema provides an exhaustive description of the accelerator hardware. The schema has been designed to be site neutral – adoption/extension at NSLS2 will be straightforward

A mechanism is required whereby new component-types defined at BNL can be merged into a centralized repository.

A trivial schema change (which will not break existing IRMIS applications) will provide the bidirectional relationships between EPICS PVs and component hardware.