

numeric information is entered. The Amount field is the only field that possibly could be used in a future calculation. Therefore, all other fields can remain in text format. The Amount field would need to be converted to integer format before passing the information to the business rules tier. The Special Needs field would be a larger field that can accept alphanumeric characters. The database does not currently exist, so you would determine field sizes from company policy and/or current paper forms used. Once reviewed, it has been determined that the customer and sales agent numbers are eight characters. The order number and item numbers are currently six characters.

After gathering this information, you can now design the top view of the interface tier, as shown in Figure 2-16.



Figure 2-16. Atomic Fish Hatchery Inc. sales and order application interface

Fields with + may be used more than once to enter in all information by the sales agent. When the actual datasets and data tables are created, multiple columns must be available for these entries.

An additional form (not pictured) would also exist to display the results of the order. This form would display a summary of the items purchased and the total cost. All information could be entered by the sales agent, submitted, and held in the interface tier (a cookie?), until the sales agent indicated that the order is complete. Then the information could be transferred to the business rules tier for processing. The business rules tier could then return the information to be displayed in the second form. The second form could include an “approved” (or cancel) button. Once “approved,” the information could then be passed to the data tier for storage.