

Business Challenge #1

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Business Challenge #1: Project New Business Simulation - BCH-7810 - FMBAN1

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This business challenge helped me reflect on the managerial skills needed to lead a team since I found it hard to motivate and get contributions for the analytical insights from two of our team members. I first realized this when we started to explore the database and two of our teammates couldn't get their Workbench's to properly work and even though we managed to project mine on a bigger screen, it was evident they were not very curious to understand the requirement of the challenge thus didn't know what information to pull nor how to pull it. I latter found out SQL is challenging form them so it was hard for them to contribute to the development of our team's code.

Throughout our work sessions, I came to appreciate Eji's efforts to integrate everybody into the assignment since he was able to delegate tasks to each member and even though I felt pressured by the time and like that would us drag us down, after seeing my teammates efforts to deliver each task and thinking of what happens in professional settings, I realized I had to open up and help them understand our approach to the analysis, especially if we were chosen to present our work in front of the class. So, we were able to come together when the time came to work on the presentation.

Nathania was in charge of putting the information together after Eji and me sent her the charts and guided her through what slides to include and/or delete. Working on the presentation together also helped us to identify what we were lacking in our analysis so Eji and me had to constantly go back to the code in order to tweak and add new lines.

This was my first developing a code from scratch, so I was feeling extremely nervous and anxious, but it was relieving to find a great collaborator in Eji who has a better notion of how to write in SQL. Once he started to develop it and to explain to us the outputs he was getting and what was his aim, it was easy for me to identify the areas where I could contribute. We had some differences along the way because I sometimes found it hard to continue in the same line of analysis but after making quick recaps, he helped me see what and why we had done so far. Finally, Akoh helped us record the video and Nathania submitted the files for the team.

My unique contribution to the team was the code where we were able to see the aggrupation of tickers by major assets classification, the risk adjusted return, sigma and mu. To get there I created a view as taught in class and to me this was one of the biggest learnings since I found it easier and highly logical to call data from a previous query that generated half of the output needed. Throughout this challenge I was able to reinforce the use of aggregated functions and by repetition, learn how they must be written in order for them to work. I also practiced what can be included in the where clause and how. Any time I had to rewrite something until it worked was a huge victory for me and that only encouraged me to continue practicing the language.

If I had to do this challenge all over again and assuming I would have the same classes since the beginning, I would take notes about key concepts around investment. I admit that if I had been more careful on that regard, it would've been easier for me to start the code and explain to my teammates what the challenge is about and how their help is needed. I would also take a deep dive into the database and spot patterns in investments like other teams did. I think that by doing that, I would've been able to write different codes and further our analytical thinking.

On that note, my key learning is the importance of managerial skills because I think that the richness of an analysis comes from the possibility of tapping into different points of view and that's given by working as a team. I learned that by delegating, not only you can focus on other tasks but also see them differently because of the possibility of bouncing from one task to another. I also had the opportunity to discuss ideas with other teams and that helped freshen up my ideas and became enthusiastic about working in analytics.