Hi Professor Lightfoot and the TAs of CSCE 315,

My name is Anh Nguyen, and I’m one of the students in the class. I’m writing this email to update the project status, and anything related to it. My role is implementation, and so far, I mainly contributed my feedbacks to the team and assisting the coding process.

The project is building a database for a restaurant in the Memorial Student Center, and we got tasked to do it with Revs. This project is for us to learn how to design a database and how to take into accounts of all the features of a point-of-sale system, including manager and employee access, inventory tracking, order tracking, and so on. So far, our team 4 has finalized our design and structures; we also populated the database with appropriate data and tested with 15 different SQL commands. I think what we had so far

Personally, I have contributed to design the initial idea for the inventory system. The initial inventory system consisted of a SQL schema to store the ingredients, the menu items, and the order itself. The relationship is described as having a menu item you will be able to figure which ingredients are in it, and the order is related to the menu item as one-to-many relationships. However, this initial design met with a lot of challenges. One of the challenges was it wouldn’t work well when we introduced the concept of combo, as a combo can only be made up from some specific items. We thought we could handle this in the frontend, but having this in the database will be more transparent for us to work with in the future. The second challenges was about add-ons. When we introduce the concepts of adds on, these adds on cannot be treated as a menu item itself alone, but have to go with some menu item. We don’t have this validate in the backend so it was become more and more confusing when the menu expanded. Besides this, I also contributed to import the csv and populate the database. I was having difficulties of importing a CSV file with a column defined as an array of string. As this is difficult to represent in the CSV, I have to create a Python to populate the database. I also came up with the initial 15 SQL commands to test that the database works as expected.

The biggest challenge was Lucas, a member of our team, found out a big flaw in our database, and he, himself, the man, the goat had to update it late last night. He was able to pull everything off and make sure the old SQL commands updated to be compatible with the new SQL tables and design.

In the future, we have to link the Java GUI with this which I think can be challenging, but we think we got it under control.

About the team, I like working with everyone, as we are able to constructively give feedbacks and listen to each other opinions.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Anh Nguyen