Joshua Rex

Database Design and Development 2235-DD

7/21/2023

Module 12.3 Assignment

For this case study, I worked with Taylor Nairn and Benjamin Andrew, who I worked with for my last project as well. I looked ahead at the coursework and when I realized that we had a group project, I tried to find a team early. I messaged Benjamin and Taylor because they submitted good quality work in a timely manner, and because both had bothered to update profile images in blackboard. Finding good partners ahead of time has made these group projects fulfilling. Not just so, it has actually been some of my favorite work in the course. Finding a good team is important to getting a job done well.

Every person in our team has strengths that I feel we utilized well. Taylor does great design work, something we learned from the prototypes he built in our app development class, so we had him make a mockup of our ERD. Benjamin is very organized and helped greatly by dividing everything into tables based on our discussion. I had ideas on how to best display the information so it would be helpful to the customer. When coding, Taylor was a champ in the debugging process by suggesting refinements that made our code stronger.

Besides the importance of having a strong team, this experience was helpful in learning about designing a database in general. The part I struggle with most is the initial ERD design. What information is essential? How is it best organized? Have I met the requirements of the three forms? Practicing this has helped me grow more confident in tackling these questions. I still feel I need more practice to dial in my skills in this area for the future. Not so much because I do not understand, but because I feel that the process itself is not yet streamlined for me. I also now know the basics of writing code for databases, but still need to consistently look up the keywords to allow me to do what I want to do. I think that will also come with time. Yet, in areas where I see myself growing stronger, I can be productive by working with others already strong in those areas. This helps me grow while maintaining a good quality of work.

My favorite thing about our program for this case study is the “Trip Variance” output we came up with. Some other groups simply displayed all the booked trips, but I felt this was somewhat tedious to figure out the answer to the initial question from a user's perspective. The consumer needed to know if more people booked a trip to a certain area, or if sales for that trip were declining. Doing it as a simple list would mean that the user would have to go through and count manually and then compare. So, we organized everything by trip, then date, and then calculated the percentage difference in the number of people attending as it went up and down. I think that data is super useful for deciding if the travel company trips to a certain area need guides to be reassigned or added. Doing it this way is also quite scalable, as that percentage data will be useful if they maintain a small business or grow much larger.

Overall, I am happy with the results of this project. I have grown closer to members of my cohorts, learned skills working with a team, and have grown as a programmer in an area I was totally unfamiliar with eight weeks ago. I hope to continue to have experiences like this one as I continue my education at Bellevue.