CGS2545C: Database Proposal

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Database for SteinArtStudio Photography

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My project is for a photography studio in the Orlando area. It is my wife’s family business and I am going to create a database for them in order to manage the many, many photos they take and have to store for clients. One of the main reasons I am doing this is because they accumulate a lot of photos and in order to store these they use many different cloud options and portable drives and laptops to do so. This creates a poorly managed and clustered database that is spread out and not uniformed, but also they rely solely on portable storage such as SD cards that tend to break eventually from constant use. It has happened more than once that an SD card becomes corrupted and images are lost because there is not only no backup, but no organization or plan for storage of the data outside of the medium that is being used at the current time.

This database will have two main users: my wife and mother-in-law. They are the co-owners of the business and this will greatly improve their ability to organize themselves and their client’s photos while not having to risk any potential data lose and reshoots. I think this is a good plan because this is something that affects me personally but also is a great sandbox to start with due not only to the nature of being a part of the business, but as well as being able to not have pressure to get everything absolutely right because there is no pre-existing thing I am replacing; I am creating a database essentially from scratch.

This project will most likely contain three tables: Clients, Galleries, and Pictures. The clients will own the galleries that will contained pictures and they are able to view ones that the have purchased, while we will be able to view all of the regardless but the purchased ones will have a notation or boolean value assigned to them.

The main thing to be organizing and compiling obviously are the photos, but there is some nuance to it as well. There are both photos for clients that have not purchased them yet, and galleries for clients who have purchased them. This way they always have on file the photos that have been purchased in case the client loses them or wants to purchase additional products. One benefit of creating a central storage and database is the prospect of being able to keep photos that clients did not purchase for a period of time in case they back wanting to buy them then they are still there to be bought. Currently, the pictures that clients do not choose are deleted after a small amount of time and this can vary based on storage needs since there is no organization to it this time frame could be the next day, week, month, etc. Creating a database that organizes all of this will solve not only the underlying problems, but in turn it will also be able to provide further benefits.