Self-Assessment

Reece Strohm

Throughout our Senior Design project, I felt like I was able to contribute and learn a lot from our solution. One of the main tasks I worked on was building our database in Postgres. I was able to get our database up and running and integrate it with excel so it could easily store all the customer information we needed. I did this by creating tables which stored information on the customer, their address, their boat and any contracts they had. I also had to integrate the queries into our python script, so that when our automation ran, it could automatically add new customers and all their information into our database.

I was able to build on a lot of prior skills that I had learned through my classes, but also develop and learn new skills. I was able to build upon my knowledge of VBA and python programming, and it helped by using libraries that I have never worked with before. I learned a lot of new skills, mainly in the area of constructing databases and integrating applications. One of my biggest challenges was setting up the database correctly so that it stored all the correct data and making sure each table had meaningful primary and foreign keys. It was challenging to automate the process of adding a new customer to the database based on a single excel sheet, but after a lot of work, I was able to successfully accomplish it.

I feel like my partner and I did a lot of good work and we were able to accomplish the goal we set out to. We were able to take a company’s manual process and fully automate it into a usable business process. Previously, the company had to oversee the process at each step, from the customer signing a contract, to entering all the information manually into the applications, and finally the customer receiving their bill. We were able to automate this process so there is no manual work involved. I feel like the size and difficulty of the project that we took on was just right; we were challenged at points and still had to put a lot of work into the project in order to finish it on time.

I have worked with my partner, Daniel Hosford, before in other classes and group work. I think group work is what the weakest team member makes it, so if someone in your group is not giving effort, then the effectiveness and performance of the team drop significantly. This was not the case with our group, as I think we both gave a lot of effort and were committed to delivering a high-quality product. We met as a group (including our advisor) once a week for updates and action items, which I believe was very helpful. We also met outside of that time with just each other to work on the project. Overall, it was a very enjoyable group to be a part of and a great project to work on as well.