Assignment 12.3

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Our consensus for the case study project was that there were many positives, although there are a few areas of improvement that could be accounted for next time. In terms of positives, having a scheduled Microsoft Teams meeting seemed to work best to get all parties to gather for going over the objectives for the week, showcasing the work thus done far, and assigning out tasks to wrap up before the assignment was due. The team worked well to provide the assignments on time and with enough time for feedback. Often, it was just easier to just get on a meeting and talk through ideas or assignments as opposed to the inherent delays with emails.

In terms of the database and Python scripting, having a good volume of data in the database made it easier for verifying the queries were working as intended. The detailed ERD helped in being a good reference point to consult if we needed to check table structure or relationships for the reports.

In terms of opportunities for improvement, perhaps our biggest challenge was initial communication. The team forum didn’t send out emails to the team as a whole and student email accounts might not be checked as often, so we had to determine everyone’s preferred method of communication. Once we learned the team member’s preferred methods, getting responses and communicating progress became much easier.

With the Fourth of July falling during the week the project started and many people taking time off around then, it might have been a bit more advantageous to have the introductions piece done the week prior. This would have allowed a better idea of everyone’s time off in the first week and to make sure scheduling of meetings would work best for everyone’s time.

In terms of the technical side of the project, in hindsight, it might have been more efficient to partner the person creating the database initialization script with the report writers, as it might have helped eliminate some initial confusion around the data. Another Teams meeting to go over the script, the tables and the fields within would have been a better plan of action.

                We agree the case study exercise was an enjoyable activity. We feel it was a good preview of the workplace experience, as there were set deadlines for the team as a whole, assigned tasks to individuals, and the need to meet to make sure everyone was on the same page. We grew in our communication skills and were not afraid to ask questions or provide feedback, which would be a common task for a software developer. Overall, we would be open to another group project in another course.