

Prairie View A&M University ROY G. PERRY COLLEGE OF ENGENEERING

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

CAR DEALERSHIP DATABASE

COMP 3395-P01 - Database Management

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Introduction

Having a company, such as a car dealership, that deals with too much unique data can sometimes be stressful and confusing. Especially without a database to store and manage all this data. Moreover, security is another crucial point because we must ensure access limitations to specific information. Company employees should only have access to their information and certain data according to their roles in the company.

With this problem in mind, we decided to create the Car Dealership Database. Our database will help any car dealership company to store, manage, secure and retrieve their data efficiently, as is stated in the following purpose statement.

This database was created with the purpose of helping car dealership companies keep track of the employees that are a part of the organization and the movements that are made within the organization itself. Additionally, to keep track of the activities, purchases, and sales of vehicles by monitoring the flow of all the transactions.

In a car dealership company, we have to deal with three sources of data. The first one is the company employee information, in which we have the personal data of each employee contributing to the purchase and sale of the cars. Secondly, there are providers from whom we are buying the vehicles. Finally, we have the customers, which are the people who are buying the product. We need to organize all this data in order to analyze and make a variety of conclusions. For example, figuring out which providers present the best offers, how we can give better service to our customers, and lastly, keeping track of how the company employees are performing. That will let us know which employees are producing more income for the company, which should be promoted or have a salary increase, or who should be fired, in the case of making the company spend more but without enough income.

The database will be a very helpful tool for any car dealership looking to optimize their profit, offer higher quality service to their customers, and promote workplace productivity.

1. Overview of the System

The database will help car dealership companies organize and control their data better. The database system will work in such a way that the data can be stored, managed, and retrieved efficiently. The data in the database include IDs, passwords, names, salaries, emails, card information, addresses, phone numbers, car models, VIN, prices, years, etc.

The database has five tables: transactions, provider, customers, employee, and car inventory. Each of those tables has a primary key, such as the ProvID in the provider table, the EmployeeID in the Employee table, the CustomerID in the customer table, the VIN in the carinventory table, and the TransactionID in the transaction table.

The system of the database is made so that the company can save all the transactions done, either when buying or when selling the vehicles. All of those transactions are saved in the transaction table. This table contains four foreign keys: CustomerID, ProvID, Employee, and VIN. Those foreign keys get the information from other tables to ensure that data is not lost.

2. Architecture & ER diagram

Figure 2 shows the architecture of the Car Dealership Database, and Figure 3 shows the ER diagram. Both illustrate how the database is structured, the variables that make each of the tables, and the datatypes of each of them. The figures also show how the primary and foreign keys of the tables are connected.

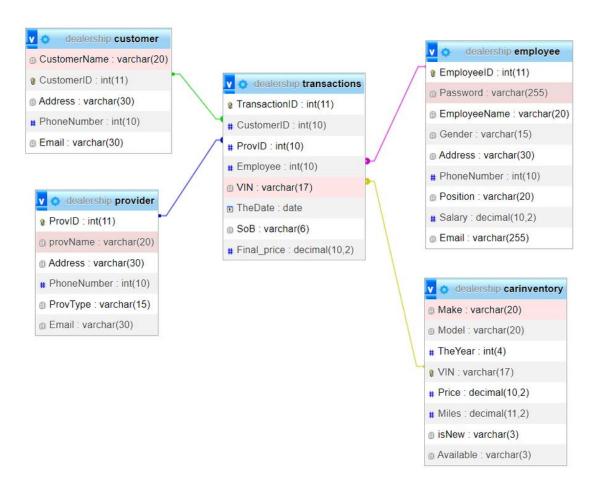


Figure 1. Layout of the Database

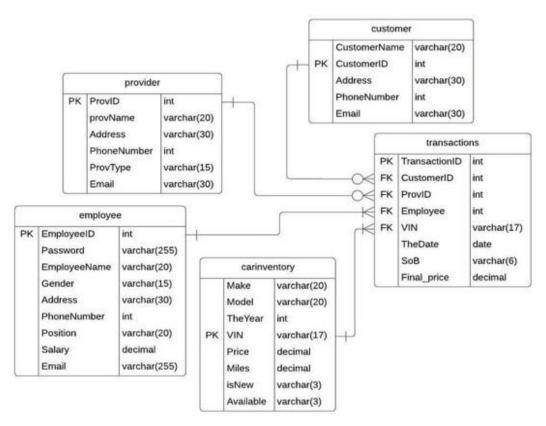


Figure 2. ER Diagram of the Database

3. Implementation Methods

The Car Dealership Database was created using multiple tools provided by XAMPP, namely mySQL and phpMyAdmin. In our prototype phase, we implemented the basic tables using the mySQL command console. Once we had the general structure decided, we used phpMyAdmin to clean up some of the data types and constraints used for the columns as well as adding in records for testing purposes, which you can see below (Figure 3). As a tool, phpMyAdmin proved to be very useful in helping us fine tune our database in a quick and responsive manner, allowing our team to do some minor restructuring as we went. We also used the interface to create a bundle of procedures, functions, and triggers that were implemented in our web interface. Finally, we used CSS and HTML to create a user interface to help employees browse and handle their data in the database.

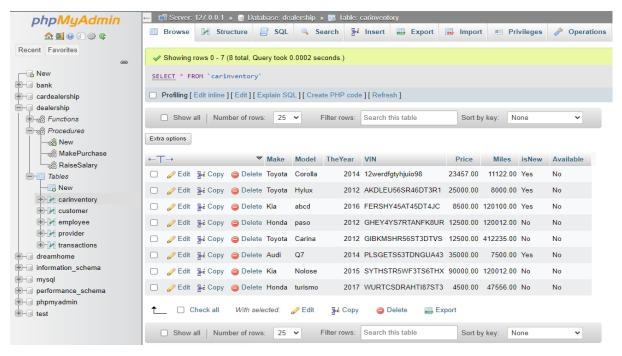


Figure 3: A snapshot of our CarInventory table and its test records.

3.1. Database Website

For the creation of the car dealership website, we have used HTML, CSS Styles, and PHP files that contain some functions to perform in the database, which are connected to the PHPMyAdmin server, where the functions to be executed are stored.

The web page has a log in page, where users will have to enter their credentials to access the page which are the Employee ID and password. Next, it will take the user to the main page, where depending on his position in the organization, the user will have a set of actions they could perform since the level of access will vary depending on whether the user is the CEO, a Manager, Salesman, or Assistant. The web page is quite responsive and easy to navigate and the functions to be executed are distributed in icons that are easy to identify and access.

Regarding the hierarchy when executing an action by the user, the conditions are following:

CEO: Has access to all the functions of the dealership and can access them through the website.

Manager: Has access to all the functions of the dealership and can access them through the website

Salesman: Has access to View the list of Employees, make sales and purchases, and view the list of customers. But does not have access to add a new employee to the organization.

Assistant: Has the same level of access as the salesman on the website, except to make purchases and sales.

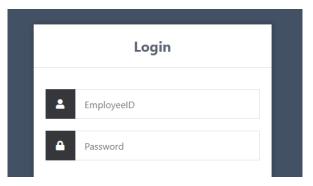


Figure 4. Database login portal

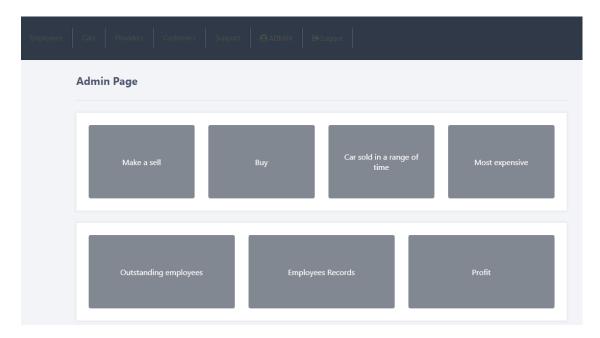


Figure 5. User interface

Select Month:





Figure 6. January Transactions

4. Example Queries/Executions

The following figures shows examples of some of the common and queries (answer to business questions) in the Car DealershipDB.

Figure 7. Display the created view of the best provider

Figure 8: Display a created view of the sources where we got the most cards

Figure 9: Displaying the a created view of the best Customers

```
ariaDB [dealership]> select EmployeeName, EmployeeID, CustomerName, customer.CustomerID from employee, customer, transactions where transactions.emplo
ee = EmployeeID AND transactions.CustomerID = customer.CustomerID;
EmployeeName | EmployeeID | CustomerName
                                             CustomerID
ADMIN
                 2220000 | Taylor Johnson
                                                3330001
                 2220000 | Taylor Johnson
ADMIN
                                                  3330001
                 2220000 | Caleb Solem
ADMIN
                                                  3330002
                 2220000 | Samantha Jeferson
                                                  3330003
                  2220000
                         Maria Brown
ADMTN
                  2220000 | Maria Brown
```

Figure 10: Displaying the customer information with the employee that served him

ransactionID	CustomerID	ProvID	Employee	VIN	TheDate	SoB	Final_price
4440001	NULL	1110001	2220000	+ NFTERAFDRRT45TDRE	2022-11-01	H Bought	45000.00
4440002	NULL	1110001	2220000	MBYHT6ETS43FRT56	2022-11-02	Bought	21000.00
4440003	NULL	1110001	2220000	MG85YDHRT45AD3EW4	2022-11-02	Bought	18000.00
4440004	NULL	1110002	2220000	MKVGTHYD65TSE34RA	2022-11-03	Bought	12000.00
4440005	NULL	1110003	2220000	MRTYHBFT46STER34A	2022-11-11	Bought	6000.00
4440006	NULL	1110004	2220000	MFHTY6STE5TDFT7DH	2022-11-12	Bought	8500.00
4440007	3330001	NULL	2220000	NFTERAFDRRT45TDRE	2022-11-13	Sold	48000.00
4440008	3330001	NULL	2220000	MG85YDHRT45AD3EW4	2022-11-13	Sold	20500.00
4440009	3330002	NULL	2220000	MFHTY6STE5TDFT7DH	2022-11-25	Sold	11000.00
4440010	3330003	NULL	2220000	MKVGTHYD65TSE34RA	2022-11-17	Sold	80000.00
4440011	3330004	NULL	2220000	MBYHT6ETS43FRT56	2022-11-15	Sold	62000.00
4440012	NULL	1110005	2220000	GUNSTHEYTHINCR3TS	2022-11-11	Bought	62000.00
4440013	3330004	NULL	2220000	MRTYHBFT46STER34A	2022-11-16	Sold	8500.00

Figure 11: Displaying all he transaction made in a the 11th moth (November)

TransactionID	CustomerID	ProvID	Employee	VIN	TheDate	SoB	Final_price
4440007	3330001	NULL	2220000	NFTERAFDRRT45TDRE	2022-11-13	Sold	48000.00
4440008	3330001	NULL	2220000	MG85YDHRT45AD3EW4	2022-11-13	Sold	20500.00
4440009	3330002	NULL	2220000	MFHTY6STE5TDFT7DH	2022-11-25	Sold	11000.00
4440010	3330003	NULL	2220000	MKVGTHYD65TSE34RA	2022-11-17	Sold	80000.00
4440011	3330004	NULL	2220000	MBYHT6ETS43FRT56	2022-11-15	Sold	62000.00
4440013	3330004	NULL	2220000	MRTYHBFT46STER34A	2022-11-16	Sold	8500.00

Figure 12. Display all the sales made in November

TransactionID	CustomerID	+	Employee		TheDate	+ SoB	2-11-13' AND SoB = 'Boug + Final_price
4440001 4440002 4440003 4440004 4440005 4440006 4440012	NULL NULL NULL NULL NULL NULL	1110001 1110001 1110001 1110002 1110003 1110004 1110005	2220000 2220000 2220000 2220000 2220000 2220000 2220000	NFTERAFDRRT4STDRE MBYHT6ETS43FRT56 MG85YDHRT45AD3EW4 MKVGTHYD65TSE34RA MRTYHBFT46STER34A MFHTY6STESTDFT7DH GUNSTHEYTHINCR3TS	2022-11-01 2022-11-02 2022-11-02 2022-11-03 2022-11-11 2022-11-12 2022-11-12	Bought Bought Bought Bought Bought Bought Bought Bought Bought	45000.00 21000.00 18000.00 12000.00 6000.00 8500.00

Figure 13. Display the bought transactions made between Oct and Nov 13, 2022

5. Example of Triggers

The following are some trigger examples implemented in the database

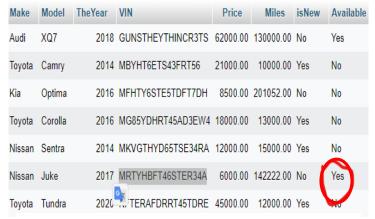


Figure 14. Displaying Car inventory table to show that a car is available before selling it.



Figure 16. Displaying the table employee to show the initial salary of an employee before the bonus.

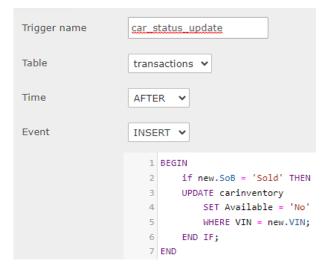


Figure 18. Code for the previous trigger that shows if a car still available for sale or not

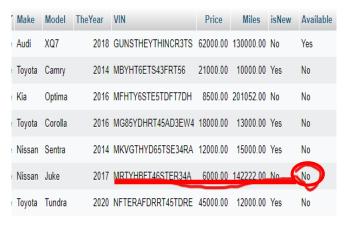


Figure 15. Displaying Car inventory table to show that that the car is not available anymore after selling it.



Figure 17. Displaying the table employee to show the final salary of the employee after applying the bonus.



Figure 19. Code for the previous trigger that shows the bonus applied to an employee

6. Discussion & Conclusion

In conclusion, the Car DealershipDB is a very helpful tool for car dealership companies. It will not just help them store their information but also secure it. Security is very important when dealing with sensitive data, such as card information, addresses, phone numbers, etc. The overall idea of this database is to keep track of all the transactions that the company performs. This would include either buying cars from individuals, from other companies and auctions, or selling them to any individual that would like to buy them.

During the project, we faced several challenges, including time conflicts, given that sometimes it took an effort to find the right time that worked for everyone. However, we did the project within the established timeline and finished it promptly. Another main challenge we faced was figuring out the code. For example, the makeSale function was not returning any value because the syntax was incorrect. To solve this problem and overcome other challenges, we looked for information from different sources, including the course book and some websites that helped us greatly.

Finally, we needed to create an interface where the users would interact with the database. We decided to create a website to help them do it quickly and efficiently.

Overall, creating the database was a great, informative experience because we learned a lot, and it helped us improve our coding and teamwork skills.

7. Group Statement

Francisco Ekang Mofuman created the web interface that the database can be accessed and modified from. He also played a big role in structuring the database and making sure that everything was up to par.

Francisco Ndong Nengono was Francisco Ekang's right-hand man in creating the web interface. He not only assisted with the HTML, but also created some of the php files used. Francisco Ndong also took the lead on creating triggers that facilitate the process of rewarding exceptional employees.

Joaquin Owono Afugu Ntoo took charge of compiling all the work our group has done into a comprehensive report that includes screenshots and extensive explanations of our database. He also transformed our list of business queries into usable views and view tables that are utilized in our web interface.

Marcus Rockwell focused more on the backend, creating various functions and procedures that were then integrated into the web interface. He also assisted the other group members with debugging and syntax problems as well as proofreading for the report.

References

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