Discussion

CS 325 - Fall 2024

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Group members
Julia Calkins
McKenna Kindle
Kiko Barr

The database we created can be used in various ways to manage the non-profit business of a cat cafe and bookstore. At its core, the database serves as a robust record-keeping system that captures and organizes critical information about the business. When the database is combined with an application, then it can be used to gain business insights as well as support day-to-day tasks.

The database plays a crucial role in ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal regulations. For instance, food safety regulations require tracking allergen and ingredient information. Because the cafe has paid employees, then records about salary and SSN must be kept for tax reporting. Business revenue tracking is also essential for precise tax reporting and financial transparency. To comply with animal welfare regulations, the cafe uses the database to store adoption records.

The database could form the foundation for other applications to be built on top of it and contribute data. A cafe that sells pastries, drinks, and books, would need a Point of Sale (POS) system to manage transactions. The POS built on top of the database would log purchases, track inventory, and generate sales reports. The cafe would also want to make use of a Customer Relationship Management tool to track information about its loyal patrons and volunteers which are actively involved in the cafe's community. The CRM would help the cafe manage contact information for email and mail-based marketing campaigns and analyze customer behavior. Finally, the database can provide data-driven insights through a data visualization like Tableau. The graphs and charts developed in Tableau could help answer important business questions about where profits are coming from, identify trends, and support making informed decisions about what business strategies are working. By leveraging the power of this database, the cat cafe and bookstore can enhance its operations, improve customer satisfaction, and achieve its mission of finding loving homes for cats.