Report for Database Systems Final Project

The submitted project is completed using the following tools and tech stack:
PHP, CSS, Bootstrap, MySQL, HTML
My contribution to the project has been on the HTML and CSS part of it.

I have not done much work in the field of web development before, therefore. Web Development has been challenging for me. In the initial discussions regarding the project we came up to the conclusion of incorporating web development into this project for a number of reasons; One, my teammate works in this domain and was very interested in incorporating this into our project. Second, I, not being very good at Web Development, wanted to hone my skills, which is why I agreed upon going with this approach. I knew that I would have to work a lot on my skills in order to successfully complete this project and I was willing to put in that effort.

I had to spend a considerable amount of time honing my skills in HTML, CSS and bootstrap. In order for me to be able to complete this project I took an online course on Web Development using HTML, CSS and JavaScript. This was a course from Shaw Academy. This course was specifically targeted to understand the fundamentals of Web Development, which in turn would enable you to develop your own website. I did get stuck sometimes on a few concepts within the course, but my teammate has been a great support in helping me understand the concepts and take the advantage of the course. So this is something that I learned while working on this project. Another reason why I was so keen on learning web development is because I want to create an online portfolio, since I will be graduating soon and getting into the job market and I feel having a digital portfolio may help me stand out as a job candidate.

Considering from the database perspective, this course has been a great help for me to curate complex queries, envision system architecture using ER model and fetch data from the database. I was particularly not able to understand the process of connecting MySQL to different programming languages, however, I watched the lectures available on blackboard multiple times and did some research online to be able to understand the process of establishing that connection. I also tried to connect MySQL with Python, as Python is the language that I am most comfortable using.

I feel that once we had a web interface and also the backend side ready, we as a team did struggle a bit in connecting the backend and frontend. We had to look up some examples online to really figure that out and I feel we as a team spent a few days figuring it out.

There were certainly times when we got stuck at the complex queries and processes involved which were not anticipated when the project was proposed, however, we tried to figure out our way around it in order to successfully complete this project. For instance, we struggled a bit deciding which language would be the best for implementing the frontend. A couple of options that were open to us were Python(Since I am comfortable working on that), JavaScript and PHP. Upon a group discussion it was decided that PHP would be the right way to go as it would enable us to connect the backend and frontend with ease alongside giving our project a good visual appeal.

Some of the resources that were helpful:
https://www.shawacademy.com/app/en
https://www.cloudways.com/blog/connect-mysql-with-php/
https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-easiest-way-to-connect-a-database-to-a-website
https://www.w3schools.com/python/python_mysql_getstarted.asp

Submitted by,
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