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**COMP40725 – Intro to RD & SQLProgramming**

Nicolas Di Costanzo – 21209060

*nicolas.dicostanzo@ucdconnect.ie*

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# 1. Introduction

This project will try to describe, at the data level, what a visual content database could be for different kind of target audience. With this database design, I will try to capture all relevant information for a visual content application. A website and/or a mobile application that has two main objectives:

- to provide content to the user, movies, series, shows etc...

- to provide information about this content.

The first point is not described in the database. Indeed, it is not a data modelling problem. However, each entity that represents a content would be linked to an audio-visual content present on a server. But the existence of this audio-visual content is not captured by the database design itself although it should be understood that each entity in the CONTENT table represents, in addition to the information recorded by the database, the corresponding audio-visual file.

The second point concerns the information contained by the application. This is where the work on the database modelling can make the application relevant (or not). Relevant modelling can not only lead users to find the content they are looking for if they have a specific idea in mind, but also to make relevant suggestions based on the content they have previously consumed. Also, the addition of relatively unusual information, such as quotes and information about the private lives of people related to a piece of content, can help to engage the user and make them more active in the content they are consuming.

There are two main audiences targeted by this application. “Movie nuts” (pro-users) and casual viewers (standard-users). The base must contain information that are relevant for both. All data relevant to standard-users will be relevant to pro-users but all data relevant to pro-users will not necessarily be relevant to standard-users. However, the database must contain both set of data. The difference will be managed in the way the information appears to users. And this information and the way it is displayed will depend on the status of the user (standard or pro user). The database design does not make any difference between pieces of information that are specifics to a certain type of user: this will be managed on the application itself. However, in this report (in the *Database Views* section) I will show which kind of information will be available to which kind of user.

This database will be used for a public application (pro-users are also part of the public) so it does not need to store very specific information that would only be useful for professionals, for example highly technical data such as standards related to cinematography.

I would like to propose a database which, in addition to giving the classical and necessary information on a video content (date, name, actors etc...) would give information on the ethics of the people involved in its production. For example, if one of the actors has been accused of sexual or physical assault or embezzlement. How far these accusations have gone: whether there were only rumors, or whether there was a trial or conviction. These additional pieces of information about a content or a person would not only be available to pro-user. Indeed, we can easily imagine that standard users and people who are not “movie-nuts” per say could also be interested in this type of since it is not a characteristic directly linked to the world of cinema, but of ethics, detached from any cinematographic interest. Any type of consumer can be interested in this information and choose to watch or not a content on these criteria.

More and more people are interested in this aspect of industrial and cultural production. We can see this with the development of organic and fair-trade labels on food products for example. In the world of culture, the numerous controversies that take place each time a work by Roman Polanski is released are good examples of this tendency. The director was convicted in 1977 by the American justice system for the rape of a 13-year-old girl and is still considered a fugitive by the USA. As a result, many people boycott his productions and protest when he receives awards.

More recently, the Weinstein affair has had an international impact. It has brought to light practices of intimidation, abuse of power and sexual assault in the film industry. As a result, some moviegoers have decided to boycott Weinstein productions and even more broadly Hollywood productions, as Hollywood is seen as a central player in the trivialization of these practices.

Of course, ethics encompasses many different parameters such as the inclusion of people from minorities, who are gender fluid, disabled etc... But in this work, I will not take these aspects into account, I will only focus on rumors, accusations, and convictions of crimes as it is sufficient to showcase the idea's potential.

The difference between standard and pro-users is that standard users will only have access to data explicitly given by the application: contents’ name, year, persons working on it etc… While pro-users will be able to fetch pieces of information, they will want to access to, through SQL queries. On their account page, pro-users will have a "Do my own searches" section that will give them access to a text field in which to write SQL queries. If they make a valid query, the information given by that query will then be displayed at the bottom of the text field. If they make an error in their request, they will see the error messages that any SQL-user sees.

# 2. Database Plan: A Schematic View

Diagram

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Figure : Database design (only primary keys are shown)

Here are the main tables and their attributes’ description:

Graphical user interface, application

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Figure 2: Content table

Table which stores a visual content (movie or series instance for example).

* synopsis: content synopsis
* id\_studio: studio’s ID which produced the content
* id\_content\_category: content category’s ID (if it is comedy, action, horror…)
* name\_content: content’s name
* year\_content: released year

Graphical user interface, application

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Figure 3: Peron table

Table which stores each person present in the database. A person can be an actor, a director, a writer or have several roles at the same time. This is the reason why it is not an *actor* table for example.

* birth\_date: date of birth
* id\_nationality: nationality’s ID
* gender: gender (is 0 for a male, 1 for a woman)
* person\_name: person’s full name

A screenshot of a computer

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Figure 4: works table

Table which stores the relationship between the *content* and *person* tables. *works* table will captures all relevant information about someone's work on a piece of content. Since a person can have several roles on a same content, it has to be a separate table from the *person*’s table.

* id\_person: ID of the person’s instance about whom this work is about
* id\_content: content’s ID on which the person has worked
* id\_role\_type: role type’s ID (actor, director, voice actor etc…)
* id\_character\_category: if it is an acting job, which type of character have been player? Spy, detective, villain etc…
* salary: salary perceived for this work
* character\_name: character’s name if there is one.
* is\_guest: if this person worked as a guest on this content.

Graphical user interface, text, application

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Figure 5: award table

Table which stores relevant information about an award. This table is a relationship table between *works* and *prize* table.

* id\_works: work related to that award
* id\_prize: prize’s id
* prize\_won: is 1 if the prize has been won, is 0 if it has just been a nomination.
* year\_award: nomination year

Graphical user interface

Description automatically generated

Figure 6: relationship between a work and a prize

An award is linked to a person’s work and not directly to the person. Also, a person can receive several prizes and/or nominations for a same work as well as a prize can concerned different nominations. That is why a relationship table is required to link *prize* and *works* table and why this relationship table has references to the person and prize’s ID.

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

Figure 7: event table

The *event* table is a link between a person instance and an event. An even is a condemnation, a rumor, an acquittal… for a crime.

* id\_person: person’s ID linked to that event
* id\_status: event status. If it is a rumor, if the person has been condemned, acquitted, if charges has been dropped etc…
* id\_crime: type of crime’s ID
* year\_event: when the event occurred

Diagram

Description automatically generated

Figure 8: Modelling of the relationship between a crime and a person

A person instance can have several events associated with, so we need a relationship table between a person and a crime type. This relationship table has to store the type of crime, the “status” of the event and the person. At first, the primary key of this table was a concatenation of these three foreign keys. However, I realized that a same person can be linked the same way to a same type of crime. Therefore, this relationship table needs a dedicated primary key.

Graphical user interface, application

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Figure 9: rating table

A content can be rated several times and a user can rates several contents. However, a user is only able to rate each content once. So, we need a relationship table between a content and a user.

The *rating* table is the table which describes the relationship between a content and a user. In this database design, this is the only link which exists between these two tables. A user will be able to rate a content and each note has to capture three pieces of information:

* id\_user: user who rates
* id\_content: content rated
* note: note (on 10) given by the user to the content

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Figure 10: Modelling of the relationship between a content and a user

Another important piece of information to capture in the database is the relationship between persons. A relationship can be a love, family, friendship, or professional relationship between two persons. So, we need a relationship table between two persons instances. That is why there are two foreign keys from the *person* table. Also, information is needed on the nature of the relationship, that is what relationship\_type\_id does by referencing the ID of the relationship table in the relationship\_type table. Lastly, we would like to know when the relationship has started and, if it is not an actual relationship, when it ended.

Text

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Figure : social\_relationship table

* id\_person1: First reference to the *person* table
* id\_person2: Second reference to the *person* table
* relationship\_type\_id: Reference to the *relationship\_type* table
* starting\_year: relationship starting year
* ending\_year: relationship ending year (can be NULL if the relationship has not yet ended or cannot end)

Graphical user interface

Description automatically generated

Figure 12: Relationship modelling between two persons and the status of their relationship

# 3. Database Structure: A Normalized View

## 1NF

For a database to be in first normal form, it has to follow these four rules:

* Each column has to store only one value.
* All the values in a column have to be of the same type.
* Each column’s name has to be unique.
* Every column has to relate to the key.

Let’s look at our main tables to check how they respect these rules.

### *“Each column has to store only one value”* rule

The database has obviously a “content” table which registers the main information about a content. Its name and its released year for example. Another interesting piece of information about content is the identity and role of the people working on it. However, this is not a relevant information to store in a column. If I had to store this information in a column named “actors” for example, I would have to put every actor’s name in it and separate them with commas. But it would violate one of the 1NF rule since only one value has to be stored in a column. To solve this problem, I have a "person" and a "works" tables that link the content with every single person that worked on it. Each instance of the person table stores information about only one person, and each works’ table instance stores information about the nature of the functions that the person had on this content.

A screenshot of a video game

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Figure 13: content, works and person table relationship

### *“All the values in a column have to be of the same type”* rule

Let’s take the content table as an example again. The two most important information about a content is its name and its released year since it is thanks to these two properties that we manage to uniquely identify a content. But these two pieces of information have a different type since one if a number and the other one is one or several words. So, we cannot store them in the same column. That is why there is one column of type *varchar* to store the name and one of the type *integer* to store its released year.

### “Each column’s name has to be unique.” Rule

Some columns have the same meaning within a table. It is the case for the *year* property which appears in several different entities. To differentiate them, I simply add the table column after the property name such as follow:

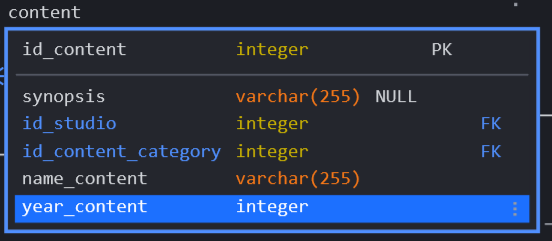


Figure 14: content table (1)

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Figure 15: award table

### “Every column has to relate to the key” rule



Figure 16: instance of the "content” table

As we can see in this instance of the *content* table there is a reference to the IDs of the studio and the content’s category. I could have directly stored these two pieces of information as *varchar* but then these columns would not have been connected to a key since several instances of the "content" table can share a same value for these properties. Instances sharing the same value for this property would not have been connected to each other in the database. This is the case if we reference the IDs of the instances of these values.

## 2NF

For a database to be in second normal form, it should not contain any partial dependency. Partial dependency happens when a non-prime attribute only depends on part of a prime key and not on the whole prime key. To remove Partial dependency, we can divide a table, remove the attribute, which is causing partial dependency, and move it to some other table where it fits in well.

A picture containing graphical user interface

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Figure 17: relationship between a user and a content

The relationship between these tables gives an example on how I manage the second normal form. If I had recorded the note as a property (and not as a foreign key) of the *user* table, it would not have relevant since it is not a sufficient information to know what the rating is. Indeed, a rating is dependent on the user ID AND on the content ID. So, we need to store these two pieces of information in a dedicated table.

## 3NF

For a table to be in third normal form it needs to be in second normal form, and it should not have transitive dependency. Transitive dependency happens when an attribute depends on some non-prime attribute and not on the prime attribute. Let’s take again the example above. When I added the *note* property, I could have added it to the *content* table. But *note* does not dependent on the content ID solely. It also depends on the user ID. If I had done that, we would have an instance of each content for each note given. Since *note* property is an attribute in the *rating* table, each content has only one instance in the *content* table and several ratings can be associated to each of these content instances.

## BCNF

For a table to be in Boyce-Codd Normal Form (BCNF) it must be in the third normal form and for any dependency *A*->*B*, *A* should be a super key. This database is not in BCNF, let’s look at the content table to understand why it is not:

Graphical user interface, application

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Figure 13: content table (2)

The content table’s primary key is *id\_content*. However, it is possible to find any value of this table using the *synopsis* property since each synopsis is unique to each content. For example, it would be possible to guess the value of *name\_content* only by knowing the *synopsis*’s value without knowing the value of *id\_content*.

Nonetheless, the *synopsis* row’s value is not relevant to use as a part of the primary key since it is very lengthy and since it can be null.

# 4. Database Views

## unethical\_score view

Graphical user interface, text, application

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Figure 14: Unethical score view

This view gives main information about each of the content in the database. However, it adds something the *content* table does not have: the “unethical score” for each content. This score is “calculated” by counting the number of times a content is linked to a person which is linked to the *event\_table* table. For example, if an actor of the movie A is or has been involved in 1 trial, and another actor of the same movie is or has been involved in 3 rumors, the “unethical score” of the movie A will be 4. So, the bigger the score, the less ethical the content. A user will then be able to watch a content or not accordingly.

## unethical\_prize view

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

Figure 15: Unethical prizes

This view informs the user on the all the awards won by persons who have been awarded AFTER being convicted of a crime.

This data would not be available for standard-users as it would not be store in the database nor be shown anywhere on the application but would need to be fetched via a SQL query, functionality which is only available to pro-users.

## unethical\_persons\_unrelevant view

Graphical user interface, text, application, chat or text message

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Figure 16: unethical\_persons (unrelevant version)

This view shows, for each person in the database, how many times he or she has been involved in a crime, in any way. That is to say that there are no differences made between the status of the prosecution: it does not take into account if a person has been convicted for a crime or acquitted or if it was just rumors. This kind of information would only be available to pro-users since it would need to be fetched for the database via queries. Indeed, this is an irrelevant information to show since it mixes everything up and does not take into account the status of the accusation. In the next view, we will take a look at a more meaningful version of this data.

## unethical\_persons\_relevant view

Graphical user interface, text, application, chat or text message

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Figure 17: unethical\_persons (relevant version)

As mentioned, this view shows a more relevant version of the last view. Indeed, it does not take into account events where the person has been acquitted or where there were only rumors or where charges has been dropped. However, for the last case, we know that charges are sometimes dropped not because the accused was not guilty but because there has been a settlement between the two parties. So this view may not be the best one. However, this piece of information would not be displayed in the application but only be available to pro-users per say. This one is just another example of what kind of information can be fetched from the database. It is up to the pro-users to manipulate the information in the way they see fit.

## crime\_by\_role view

Graphical user interface, application

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Figure 19: crime\_by\_role

This view shows how many times a role type has been convicted for each type of crime. That is to say, how many times an actor has been convicted for white collar crime, or how many times a director has been convicted for sexual abuse etc… This view does not make any difference between the persons, only between the roles. However, it can be misleading since a person can be represented several times if it has different types of roles. In this example, Ruggero Deodato is represented as a director AND as an actor convicted for animal cruelty. Indeed, Deodato has directed Cannibal Holocaust and acted in Hostel: Part II. So he appears twice in this view but has been convicted only once. I think this view is still relevant since we cannot make any difference between between Deodata the director and Deodato the actor: they are the same person and the person is responsible for a crime, not the director or the actor. It is meaningful because this view tries to show what kind of work people involved in what kind of crime are doing.

# 

# 5. Procedural Elements

# 6. Example Queries: Your Database in Action

## Query 1: Number of times a person has been involved in a crime

Graphical user interface, text, application, chat or text message

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Figure : Number of times a person has been involved in a crime

[SELECT](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/select.html) person\_name, [COUNT](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/group-by-functions.html#function_count)(\*) AS nb

FROM event\_table E, status\_table S, person P

WHERE E.id\_person = P.id\_person

[AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) E.id\_status = S.id\_status

[AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) (S.status != "rumour" [OR](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_or) S.status != "acquitted")

GROUP BY person\_name

ORDER BY nb DESC;

This query counts the number of times a person has been involved in a crime. He or she has been to court or is currently the target of a police investigation. This piece of information is the basis of the application. Indeed, the strong idea of this design is to add information about the ethics of people involved in the film industry and this query, although basic, is the heart of what the database wants to provide to users.

Here, we only need to use three different tables:

* *person* table which stores all information about a person. We need it to display the name of the person concerned as well as make a link between the person’s ID as well as the event.
* *event\_table* is needed because it is the relationship table between a person and a crime accusation’s status. So, we need to join person table and *event\_table* to make a connection between a person and each of his “crime”
* *status\_table* is only needed to give explicit information about the status. I could have not used that table and doing the query below and get the same result:

[SELECT](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/select.html) person\_name, [COUNT](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/group-by-functions.html#function_count)(\*) AS nb

FROM event\_table E, person P

WHERE E.id\_person = P.id\_person

[AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) (E.id\_status != 2 [OR](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_or) E.id\_status != 3)

GROUP BY person\_name

ORDER BY nb DESC;

However, for clarity, it is a better practice to use explicit names when it is possible, instead of IDs which can be confusing.

## Query 2: People married to a real-life villain

Graphical user interface

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Figure : People who are married to someone who has been convicted for a crime

[SELECT](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/select.html) P1.person\_name AS "Married to a real life villain"

FROM person P1, person P2, social\_relationship SR, relationship\_type R, event\_table E, status\_table S WHERE P1.id\_person = SR.id\_person\_1 [AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) P2.id\_person = SR.id\_person\_2

[AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) SR.relationship\_type\_id = R.relationship\_type\_id

[AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) P2.id\_person = E.id\_person

[AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) E.id\_status = S.id\_status

[AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) S.status = "convicted"

UNION

[SELECT](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/select.html) P2.person\_name AS "Married to a real life villain"

FROM person P1, person P2, social\_relationship SR, relationship\_type R, event\_table E, status\_table S

WHERE P2.id\_person = SR.id\_person\_2

[AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) P1.id\_person = SR.id\_person\_1

[AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) SR.relationship\_type\_id = R.relationship\_type\_id

[AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) P1.id\_person = E.id\_person

[AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) E.id\_status = S.id\_status

[AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) S.status = "convicted";

The query above shows all people who are married to someone who has been convicted for a crime (people “married to a real-life villain”). To get this information from the database we need to use the relationship-related tables (*social\_relationship* and *social\_relationship\_type* tables), the event-related tables (*event\_table* and *status\_table*) as well as the the *person* table twice.

The relationship-related tables are needed to get all marriages between two persons. That is why we need two *person* tables, to get a reference to the two people involved in the relationship. The event-related tables are used to link the bride and the groom to a crime (if this link exists) thanks to the property *id\_person* which is common to the *person* table and the *event\_table* table. The *status\_table* is required to filter the results and only get people who has been convicted of a crime, which is the only information we are interested in.

Finally, since we do not know if the person, we are looking for is in the *social\_relationship* under the property *id\_person\_1* or *id\_person\_2*, a UNION is used to get both set of results.

## Query 3: Most popular crime by studio

Table

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Figure : Most popular crime by studio

[DROP](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/drop-view.html) [VIEW](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/drop-view.html) [IF](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/control-flow-functions.html#function_if) EXISTS tempview;

[CREATE](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/create-view.html) [VIEW](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/create-view.html) tempView AS

([SELECT](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/select.html) S.studio\_name, CT.crime\_type, [COUNT](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/group-by-functions.html#function_count)(\*) AS nb

FROM studio S, content C, works W, person P, event\_table E, crime\_type CT

WHERE S.id\_studio = C.id\_studio

[AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) C.id\_content = W.id\_content

[AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) W.id\_person = P.id\_person

[AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) P.id\_person = E.id\_person

[AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) E.id\_crime = CT.id\_crime

GROUP BY S.id\_studio, CT.id\_crime

ORDER BY S.id\_studio);

[SELECT](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/select.html) t1.\*

FROM tempview t1

INNER JOIN

([SELECT](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/select.html) studio\_name, [MAX](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/group-by-functions.html#function_max)(nb) AS max\_nb

FROM tempview

GROUP BY studio\_name) AS t2

ON t1.studio\_name = t2.studio\_name

[AND](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/logical-operators.html#operator_and) t1.nb = t2.max\_nb;[[1]](#footnote-1)

[DROP](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/drop-view.html) [VIEW](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/url.php?url=https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/drop-view.html) tempview;

This query gives information about the “most popular” crime by studio. It associates each studio with a crime. This crime is the one which has been the most committed by people who worked for the studio. If one or several crimes has been committed the same number of times, all of them are shown.

A studio is linked to a content since each content is released by a studio, a content is linked by a person through the *works* table. And the *person* table is related to a crime thanks to the *event\_table* table. To make this query I use a temporary view (*tempview*) to make things easier:

Table

Description automatically generated

Figure : tempview

Once this view is created, we need to compare two instances: *t1* which is the view as it is, and *t2* which gives the maximum value for the *nb* property for each studio. If the value given by the *t1.nb* is the same as the maximum value for the *nb* property given by *t2*, then it is the *crime\_type* value we want to show to the user.

This piece of information is specific so it would not be available to standard users. However, it could be an information directly linked to each studio but only available to pro-users. But pro-users would not need to request it since it would be shown on each studio’s page.

# 7. Conclusions

# Acknowledgements

# References

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