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Week 2 Blog and learning

For this week, I learned about the other databases under the umbrella of NoSQL which are used to store large data across various locations. This is as a result of the large number of data we have on blogs, on Facebook and other social media. Also, the emergence of cloud computing is making the storing of data easier. I also learned that we have a personal and client database. The personal database is often created for just one user and used because they can improve personal productivity. One characteristic of a good database is that it does not evolve. I also learned about the ER model. This model shows the data entities with associated data attributes and the major relationships they have with the data attribute. It is how data is represented for an organization or a business. In the ER diagram, we see how customers are related to companies, to shipments and to orders. There was a story I read in the book about how a client created a database for a customer, and the meticulous way he asked questions, created ER diagrams and the story gives an overview of steps in creating a database especially in a client customer relationship. It shows one to one relationships, and even identifies ID such as ‘order number’ that uniquely identifies each attribute. Relational databases have values that relate to entities.

I also got to learn about business rules and how they affect databases and how they are named. I also learned about data modeling and how it is read in addition to business rules about databases. For instance if there is a statement like “every student in Berea College Must have a B number” it forces a sort of identification number in the database (which can be the B-number) to each student in the college. As a database analyst, I have to understand this data with the rules that govern them so I can represent them appropriately. Business rules also have characteristics to be consistent and clear. They have to be precise, declarative, in addition to other characteristics. There are also guides to having business names, and these are some of the things I should know as an analyst.

This week, I also worked on my programming skills with algoexpert. I answered the question on how to check if a string is a palindrome. The first algorithm I came up with was to loop through the string and to break it into equal halves. Then I can compare the first string in the first half with the last string in the second half and keep coming in till both strings are met at the middle. However, I realized that this would take more space and time complexity. To get a better algorithm, I decided to reverse the string and compare, and this was what I had solved for the code. I am happy to say my programming skills and algorithm get better as I practice with algo-expert and leetcode. I realized that this growth has also come with the constant practice, and the constant studying. Since I began studying leetcode, algoexpert and also read the book “cracking the code interview” I have gotten much better than I used to be. This week, I also realized that the more one does interviews, the better they become at it.

A lot of the things I learned in class, in projects and in personal studies have helped me become better.