Artifact Two Narrative

The artifact I used for this milestone was an access database called Sections. It was created last year and it holds sections of a grocery store by store number, department number and the section number and description. There is a main form that lets the user pick a store and display the sections within a department that can be broken down into subdepartments. There’s also a form to input new sections as well as change the old sections if needed. I decided to use it for this milestone because I thought I would be able to add some algorithms to sort through the data and present it to the user. I designed a multidimensional array to hold the different records and a few columns from a table, inserted into it by a loop. Then I passed that array to a function which would then tally up the number of sections for a store that the user picked to have displayed. The original plan was to design the function to tally up each store at the same time and display the totals for all the stores at once, although the way it turned out it displays them one at a time.

I included this as an artifact as it shows more of my abilities in software design as well as using algorithms to perform tasks. This is shown through the passing the data by arrays to then perform calculations on them. This artifact also got part of the same enhancement as artifact one with the functions to send the reports out through an Outlook email. This was put in to show a through line between the artifacts in that the enhancements I made would be able to be carried over into other projects and still function in the same way. I learned to write the functions so that they could be applied to other projects. The biggest thing I learned from this artifact is working with multidimensional arrays and how to pass them as parameters in functions. I also learned that sometimes you can set your expectations to high as the finished enhancements didn’t completely fulfill what I set out to achieve.