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***Lessons Learned***

Over the course of our case study group project, my teammates and I experienced some challenges - most of which we expected and some of which we were surprised by. However, I do think we managed to create a presentation that was satisfying to all of us.

One of the struggles we had while creating our database was balancing two different tasks: creating enough information for us to be able to answer the questions of the case study, and avoiding adding unnecessary information that wouldn’t be useful for this project. We understood that a real database would have a lot of information that wouldn’t be relevant at times, but we all decided that accurately mimicking such a thing would be too confusing and create a lot of unnecessary work. This meant we had to take a lot of time to consider what information was too vital to leave out and what information was necessary to complete the questions. We did this fairly well since most of the questions were straightforward, but we did hit a snag where we had to deeply consider how to use the information we already had on our hands. While this was definitely a problem and an oversight, in some ways it also resembles how such a problem could come up in a real professional setting.

Another challenge we faced was a lack of leadership and communication. Our team was fairly hands-off about the whole process and allowed the various tasks to be picked up by whoever was interested in completing them. For example, I volunteered myself to do most of the MySQL and Python code for my group. This led to a lack of leadership for our group, which led to us being somewhat late with the work we did. I stepped up as a leader at a few points to make sure work was being done and to check on what was complete, but I also wanted my teammates to be able to take leadership roles as well and I didn’t want to start commanding them. So I decided to not give as many instructions as I could’ve - or perhaps should’ve. In addition, some of us had different ideas about what was expected from us for this assignment, which lead to some miscommunication about how to proceed in a few points. While I’m still satisfied with how our project turned out, I do think it could’ve been done better with some greater leadership and direction.

If there was something I learned from this group project, it would be how to do this kind of case study project while working with a group. I would try my best to avoid the problems I listed above, such as goals that are more clearly stated and poor communication.