Methodology and Reflection report

Intro:

I started this project to test my skills and how I can apply my knowledge to get an idea of how a job in Business Analytics would feel like. I’m fully aware it’s nowhere close to the real-world experience where I’d be dealing with clients, deadlines, complications and relationships with team members but I feel it still gave me a taste with all the challenges I experienced doing it alone.

1st Step

My first step in creating this project I searched for data that would be suitable in creating a small project. I used multiple sources data and ended up using <https://data.world/> because of extensive amount of free data. I found raw data and struggled cleaning the data and creating relevant data to create informative sales dashboard. I ended up using Power BI sample data, I found it simple and uncomplicated to create this project.

Weaknesses:

* I struggled to clean up the data well enough in Excel. I found that pivot table helps but created inelegant results, I discovered that VBA (Visual Basic for Application) can help a lot but still very much unfamiliar with it.

Silver-Lining:

* I’m starting to learn VBA which will help me a lot with data handling in the future.

2nd Step

My second step was using Power Bi sample data to create a sales dashboard. Was pretty much smooth sailing in transforming the data and preparing it for use. Although I struggled with creating certain charts until I learned how to create my own measurements using the DAX (Data Analysis Expressions). I also had to experiment with configurations and charts to produce the desired outcome.

3rd Step

After creating my dashboard I started creating a preliminary report to simulate a situation where I’d meet with the customer to give them an idea of their business figures and possible solutions we can implement to produce the desired result required by the customer.

Weaknesses:

* My lack of experience with writing business reports really affected the quality of my work. I have no idea whether my report is good, adequate or horrible.

Silver-lining:

* I have an idea of how the outline should be and what kinds of questions I should ask myself in order to produce a report. Although I’m not entirely sure.

4th Step

My final step was creating a DB(database) using Microsoft Access. I preferred to use this software in order to design my DB first, the advantage of this programme is after designing it translates my design into DB tables. Making much better use of time and reducing the complexity of having to use query language to structure it all. It also allows for designing of forms to store data instead of having to use programming language.

Conclusion

Before I began this project, I researched extensively on the duties and job description of a Business Analyst to have an idea of how to start and progress through this project. I know this project is only a fraction of the job, but it has allowed me to use my skills and learn new skills I will possibly need in my career.

I had a good time doing this project, encountered challenges that left me searching for solutions for hours on end leaving me frustrated at each dead end. But each dead end gave me a new perspective on how to differently approach the problem, leading me to eventually find a solution. Although it wasn’t the desired solution, I learned on how to be persistent and not to give up easily. I know if I had the experience I would have definitely produced an elegant and desired outcome.

Above all, I really enjoyed the whole project.