

# Reflection and Peer Assessment

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## Reflection

### The most important things I learnt:

Relational database management system skill is one of the most crucial things that I have learned. I was able to study a variety of concepts, including database normalisation, query, transactions, use cases, and indexing. In addition, I believe that the practical application of database to a real-world data management problem is extremely essential for my role in the data industry. As a data analyst, I must be able to deal with this issue on a regular basis, and this unit will assist me a great deal in that aspect. Lastly, I am able to learn how to effectively plan, work, and collaborate with my colleagues using Jira and Confluence. This will also be very useful in my career in the future, where teamwork will be usual.

### The things that helped me most were:

In my opinion, one of the factors that aided me the most was having excellent colleagues with highly effective teamwork and team collaboration. We worked together to address challenging issues, and the diverse perspectives within the team led to innovative solutions. The workshop and tutorial are also very beneficial as they provide the most basic background for our database design and lastly, my tutor also assists us a lot. She gives us a lot of great comments on how to improve the quality of our project work and she also guides us a lot during the initial stage of the project.

### I found the following topics particularly challenging:

Although I have studied database design in a previous unit, database normalisation is still the most challenging topic. In my viewpoint, the idea of normalization is extremely abstract and not straightforward, making it difficult for me to fully understand the normalisation forms and even more difficult to implement in our database. However, after doing extensive research with additional sources, we were able to overcome this obstacle in my individual assessment and in our project.

### I found the following topics particularly interesting:

Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD) is the most intriguing topic to me. Drawing a data representation for a database with multiple entities, attributes, relationships, and cardinality is incredibly stimulating. Moreover, it is extremely satisfying to be able to work on our own field of study (in my case, data science) for our project. I possess the capability to work independently and explore the intricacies of databases. This self-driven approach allows me to delve deeper into the subject matter, gaining a comprehensive understanding of database systems and their functionalities.

### I feel I learnt these topics, concepts, and/or tools really well:

I believe I have a solid understanding of database fundamentals such as ERD and query. This is evidenced by the fact that I studied this topic in my previous unit and devoted a great deal of time and effort to it. I've also made significant contributions to the database design and ERD diagram on the Confluence page.

### I still need to work on the following areas:

Database normalization is an area that I find challenging, and I recognize the need to enhance my understanding and application of this concept in future computing design projects. To address this, I plan to allocate dedicated time and resources to study and practice normalization

techniques. By delving deeper into the principles of normalization and actively working on real-world examples, I aim to strengthen my skills and ensure more effective implementation in future projects. Recognizing the importance of continuous learning, I am committed to overcoming this difficulty and becoming proficient in database normalization.

### **My progress in this unit was ...:**

Despite having to manage four units (including this one) with extremely heavy duties at the same time, my progress for this unit is still very positive and stable because I have acquired and utilised very effective time management and task management skills. Initially, I had some difficulty grasping the project's outline. Nevertheless, with additional analysis and some assistance from the tutor, I was able to surmount these challenges successfully contribute to our team project.

### **This unit will help me in the future:**

As a dedicated data science student, I recognize the immense value of the knowledge acquired in this unit, particularly in the context of my future career. The in-depth understanding of databases obtained here will prove invaluable when tasked with constructing and managing large databases housing millions of records, a common scenario in real-world data projects. Moreover, I firmly believe that project management, team collaboration, and design thinking are vital skills for IT specialists like me. The ability to effectively plan, execute, and monitor projects, collaborate seamlessly with diverse teams, and approach problem-solving with a user-centric design mindset will be instrumental in achieving success and delivering impactful solutions in the dynamic field of data science.

### **If I did this unit again I would do the following things differently:**

If I had the chance to repeat this subject, I would prioritize my efforts on gaining a solid understanding of challenging concepts like database normalization right from the start. I would invest extra time and effort into comprehending the underlying principles and best practices associated with normalization. Moreover, during live online sessions, I would actively engage with the lecturer and capitalize on the opportunity to ask insightful questions, seeking clarification on any areas of confusion. By optimizing my engagement in these sessions, I am confident that I would enhance my understanding of database normalization and greatly improve my overall grasp of the subject matter.

### **How did I enhance my studying process?**

I believe that I have effectively completed the unit's learning journey. In order to accomplish this, I consistently attended all lectures, seminars, and tutorials. I've never missed or bypassed a single one. I also consulted external sources, such as a database website and YouTube recordings, for my research. In addition, sustaining solid connections with my teammates helps me improve my process. Collectively, we can create, fix, and maintain an effective commitment. It is a joy to collaborate with them in this computing project.

## Self-Assessment

### Contributing to the Team's Work

I believe that all team members have performed admirably on this project, and I have also made a substantial contribution. I always completed tasks on time, and the work that I provided is of excellent quality, as a great deal of time had to be spent on them to ensure that I contributed the greatest effort to the project. I also completed a base ERD diagram for the database as a first basic outline of the database's layout, which assisted in guiding the database design in the correct direction. I additionally support my team leader in repairing the database's primary key and foreign key. I would therefore rate my proficiency in the area as High.

### Interacting with Teammates

I always maintained a positive and considerate attitude toward my teammates and their contributions to the project. I attended the majority of workshops and meetings with my teammates, but I sometimes must complete other essential deadlines, so I notified them the meetings that I could not attend. I also regularly comment on the work of my teammates and listen to their advice on how to enhance performance. Nevertheless, there were occasions in which I could have listened to them more attentively. I consider myself to be Medium in this area.

### Keeping the Team on Track

I took a proactive approach to task planning and management, carefully organizing and overseeing our team's activities. I regularly evaluated our progress against the established plan, seeking opportunities for improvement. Moreover, I actively monitored the contributions of my teammates, ensuring that everyone was actively engaged in their assigned responsibilities. However, upon reflection, I acknowledge that I could have been more proactive in anticipating potential obstacles and devising contingency plans. To enhance my skills in this area, I aim to prioritize proactive problem-solving and develop a more comprehensive understanding of potential challenges. Overall, I would rate myself as at a medium level in this aspect.

### Expecting Quality

I consistently emphasized the importance of delivering work of the highest quality. My meticulous attention to detail played a significant role in ensuring the overall excellence of our project deliverables. I took great care to review and refine our work, ensuring that it met the highest standards. Furthermore, I have full confidence in the exceptional quality of the project completed by our team, warranting a rating of High Distinction. The collective efforts and dedication of each team member undoubtedly contributed to this outstanding outcome. I am proud to have been part of a team that consistently pursued excellence and delivered work of the utmost quality. I would therefore rate myself as High in this area.

### Having related knowledge, skills and abilities

I believe I brought a strong foundation of knowledge and skills to the team, particularly in project management, database design. If required, I may function as a backup web developer for the database. In addition, I strive daily to enhance my performance and abilities. When it came to more complicated technical aspects, such as database normalisation, I also had to spend a lot of time and effort learning and adapting. So, I would rate myself as High in this area.

### **Did you participate in a process of performance improvement of a teammate?**

While our team consisted of highly capable individuals, it is worth noting that certain teammates occasionally encountered challenges with specific tasks. To address this, we dedicated time in the workshop to provide assistance and support. Through collaborative efforts and patient guidance, we ensured that struggling team members gained a clear understanding of the tasks at hand. As a result, they were able to overcome their difficulties and complete the assigned tasks efficiently. This collective effort demonstrated our commitment to fostering a supportive environment and ensuring that every team member had the opportunity to contribute effectively.

## **Assessment of teammate [Ben Wierenga]**

### **Contributing to the Team's Work**

Ben is the team leader of our group. He contributed significantly to the project's accomplishment. He assisted with the initial configuration of the Confluence page, database, and Jira tasks. Furthermore, he always completed his tasks and was always willing to lend a hand to his teammates, such as assisting the software teams in creating the user interface for the database. I would give him a High rating in this field.

### **Interacting with Teammates**

Ben was very respectful and encouraging in all interactions. He listened attentively and provided constructive feedback when needed. He was the guy who ensure the effective communication among team members. He always create a very enthusiastic environment for the team members to work toward finishing the project. Therefore, I would rate him as High in this area.

### **Keeping the Team on Track**

As a team leader, Ben has done it really well. He consistently kept the group focused on our objectives and deadlines, ensuring that we remained on track. He proactively provided valuable suggestions and recommendations to enhance the quality of our work, constantly striving for improvement. His constructive feedback and insightful input played a vital role in refining our project deliverables. Overall, his commitment to both our objectives and the quality of our work significantly contributed to the success of our team. I would give Ben a High rating in this regard.

### **Expecting Quality**

Ben consistently emphasised the significance of quality work. He paid close attention to the smallest of details and frequently suggested ways to enhance the quality of our deliverables. He was also concerned with the performance of the other teammate. I would rate him as High in this area.

### **Having related knowledge, skills and abilities**

Ben demonstrated a solid understanding of the technical aspects of the project. He was particularly strong in areas like cybersecurity. He could also do database design and user interface development. Not only that, but he also had a very deep understanding of doing project work and was very willing to share his knowledge to the other teammates. I would rate him as High in this area.

## **Assessment of teammate [Yap Zhe Wei]**

### **Contributing to the Team's Work**

He was the project manager of our team and a very important asset of our team. Wei consistently worked hard and completed their tasks on time. He was willing to make corrections when necessary and never shied away from extra work, demonstrating his commitment to the team's success. I would rate him as High in this area.

### **Interacting with Teammates**

Wei demonstrated good interpersonal skills. He communicated effectively and listened attentively during discussions. He also valued the opinions of others and offered constructive feedback when necessary. He was respectful in all their interactions and helped maintain a positive team dynamic. I would rate him as High in this category.

### **Keeping the Team on Track**

Wei demonstrated exceptional initiative and leadership in keeping the team on track. They frequently reminded the staff of coming deadlines and assisted us in successfully prioritising our responsibilities. His efforts ensured that we remained focused and made consistent progress towards our objectives. In this aspect, I would grade him as High.

### **Expecting Quality**

Wei was really concerned with quality. He was careful and focused on detail in his work, frequently going above and beyond to assure the quality of our deliverables. He also encouraged the rest of the team to maintain the same level of quality, establishing high expectations and driving us to meet them. His dedication to excellence aided us in improving the overall quality of our project. I would rate him as High in terms of quality expectations.

### **Having related knowledge, skills and abilities**

Wei contributed a wealth of technical knowledge to our team. He had a deep understanding of the technical aspects of the project. He was always willing to share his knowledge and expertise, helping us learn and grow as a team. Despite his strong skillset, he was very humble and open to learning from others. I would rate him as High in this area.

## **Assessment of teammate [Lohan Thilakarathna]**

### **Contributing to the Team's Work**

Lohan was the database specialist of the team. Lohan worked continuously hard and accomplished his jobs on time. However, there were certain occasions where he could have increased the quality of their work by paying more attention to detail. While Lohan showed great potential, there were several areas that he might improve, so I'd give him a Medium score in this aspect.

### **Interacting with Teammates**

Lohan was always open to discussion and fostered an environment of open communication within the team. He actively listened to the suggestions and feedback provided by other team members, demonstrating a genuine willingness to consider different perspectives. Lohan's receptive attitude and approachability created a safe space where everyone felt comfortable expressing their ideas for the improvement of our project. For these reasons, I would rate them as High for interacting with teammates.

### **Keeping the Team on Track**

Lohan made a valuable contribution to keeping the team on track. He participated in planning sessions and helped set realistic timelines for tasks. However, he could improve in taking more initiative in checking the team's progress and making sure everyone is on the same page. For these reasons, I would rate Lohan as Medium in this area.

### **Expecting Quality**

Lohan showed a good understanding of the importance of quality. However, he sometimes rushed his own work and left everything until the last minute, leading to mistakes that could have been avoided. Despite this, his commitment to quality was clear and had a positive impact on the team. I would rate him as Medium for expecting quality.

### **Having related knowledge, skills and abilities**

Lohan had a strong understanding of the project's data section as he is a Data Science student. He contributed a lot to the data and the layout of the database. He was also always willing to learn new things and adapt to the needs of the team. I would rate them as High in this area.



## **Assessment of teammate [Tashahud Ahmed]**

### **Contributing to the Team's Work**

Tash is the quality manager of our team. He always ensured that his work was done to the best of his ability, adding significant value to the team. His dedication to the tasks was evident in their high-quality outputs. However, he occasionally needed assistance with more complex tasks, such as doing a website interface for the database. Thus, I would assess him as Medium in this area.

### **Interacting with Teammates**

Tash was a truly supportive and positive influence within our team. He was very enthusiastic in the team activity and the shared workload. By actively seeking and considering the advice of his teammates, he displayed a strong commitment to collaboration and collective growth. Lohan's ability to truly listen and appreciate the contributions of others greatly enhanced our team's ability to make informed decisions and achieve successful outcomes. Therefore, I would rate him as High in this area.

### **Keeping the Team on Track**

When it came to keeping the team on track, Tash performed reasonably well. He regularly attended meetings and participated actively in project planning and progress checks. However, he was unwilling to take the lead and push the team ahead during difficult times. Therefore, I would rate them as Medium in this area.

### **Expecting Quality**

Tash was also committed to quality. He consistently produced high-quality work by devoting considerable time to researching external resources. He always double-checked his work several times after completing it to ensure that he was on the correct track. However, he occasionally did not care about the work of others and focused all of his attention on his own. So, I would rate him a Medium in this section.

### **Having related knowledge, skills and abilities**

Tash had a strong understanding of the software development, which is very valuable in our project. He demonstrated a solid knowledge base and quickly picked up new skills as required. For example, he only required one hour to comprehend the database query, which was previously an unfamiliar concept to him. However, when he moved on to more complicated database aspects, he struggled greatly and required assistance from the rest of the team. As a result, I would rate him as Medium in this section.