



# Project 3: Building an Auto Grading System in PrairieLearn.

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## Our Client



- Dr. Ramon Lawrence
  - Computer Science Professor at The University of British Columbia.
  - Focused research on Database Systems.
  - Introduction to Databases Instructor.
  - Plans to be using this project in the upcoming semester.



# The Problem

## Auto ER

- Scalability

The existing system for solving database design questions is currently only able to host ER design questions

- Usability

Cannot view student grades easily. No menu for questions. Strong knowledge of SQL is required to create new questions.

- Accessibility

Login to system is done through creating of user accounts from an excel sheet. Students are given a username and password.

# What is PrairieLearn?

PrairieLearn is a problem-driven learning system for creating homeworks and tests. Questions can be randomized and autograded, thus making it powerful learning tool.

PrairieLearn

Mastery learning meets online assessment

Log in

Are you a student?  
[Enroll course](#)

Are you an instructor?  
[Request course](#) [View docs](#)

EMPOWER STUDENTS TO MASTER CONTENT



Real-time

Students receive immediate feedback about mastery level



Randomized

Students solve randomized question variants until mastery



Repetition

Students are incentivized to repeat questions until mastery

HW1: Homework for UML Testing			
Total points: 0/170		0%	Available credit: 100%
Question	Value	History	Awarded points
HW1.1. Random UML Generation	10		0/10
HW1.2. Autoshop	10		0/10
HW1.3. Banks	10		0/10
HW1.4. Claim	10		0/10
HW1.5. Congress	10		0/10
HW1.6. Drug	10		0/10
HW1.7. Fish_Store	10		0/10
HW1.8. Football	10		0/10
HW1.9. Game_Database	10		0/10
HW1.10. Hospital	10		0/10
HW1.11. Hotel	10		0/10
HW1.12. Inventory	10		0/10
HW1.13. Medical_System	10		0/10
HW1.14. Music_DB	10		0/10
HW1.15. Project	10		0/10
HW1.16. Publisher	10		0/10
HW1.17. Student	10		0/10

# What is our Project?

Goal: Integrate AutoER into PrairieLearn  
and deploy on a live server.

PrairieLearn

UML DEMO, Sum22

Assessments

Gradebook

HW2

Emiel Van

HW2.2. Fish\_Store

🔍

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Manage Relationships

Manage Entities

Construct a database design in UML for a fish store where:

A fish store maintains a number of **aquaria**, each with a **number**, **name**, **volume** and **color**.

Each **tank** contains a number of **fish**, each with an **id**, **name**, **color**, and **weight**.

Each **fish** is of a particular **species**, which has a **id**, **name**, and **preferred food**.

Each individual **fish** has a number of **events** in its life, involving a **date** and a **note** relating to the event.

Tank

number {PK}

name

volume

color

1..1

0..\*

Fish

Homework 2

Assessment overview

Total points: 10.55/20

Score: 52%

Question

Value: 10

History: 10

Awarded points: 10/10

Report an error in this question

Previous question

Next question

Attached files

No attached files



## Target Users

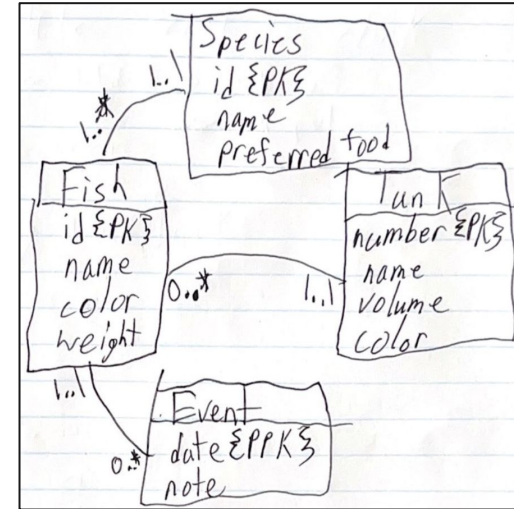
- Academic World
  - Instructors
  - Teaching Assistants
  - Students
- Any User looking to practice ER design questions

You



# Usage Scenario

- Introduction to Databases Course.
  - Requires drawing ER design questions.
  - Very difficult to test and practice these questions as it requires drawing.
- This enables students to practice in an easy format.
- This enables instructors to provide an easy testable environment.
- Easier for grading of these questions as they are not hand drawn.





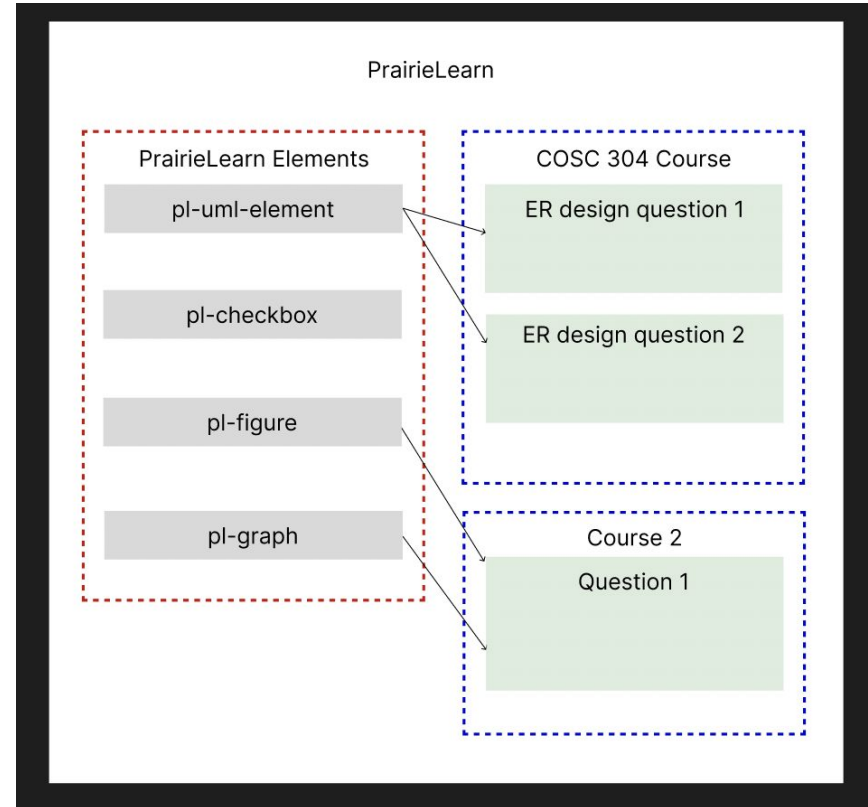
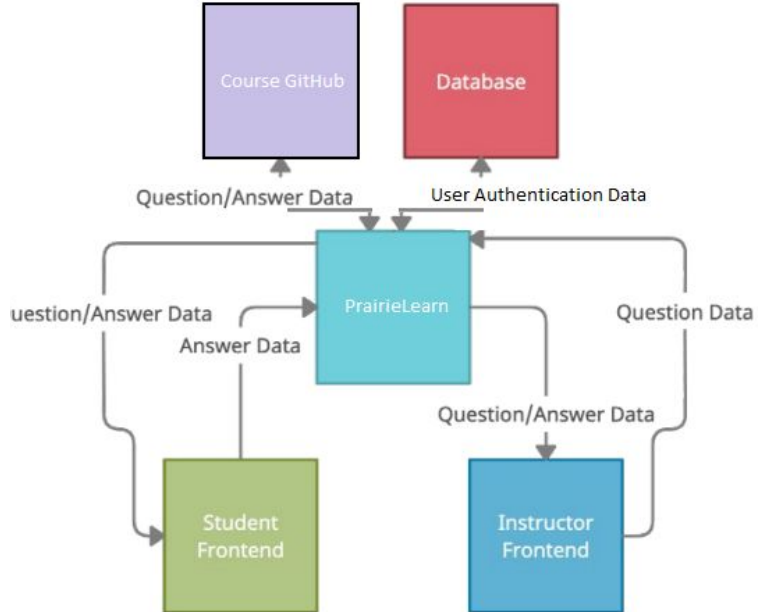
# Requirements

1. Bring ER design question into PrairieLearn.
2. Convert ER question to be a custom PrairieLearn element for easy modification and creation.
3. Dockerize PrairieLearn.
4. Create UBC wide self hosted PrairieLearn server.



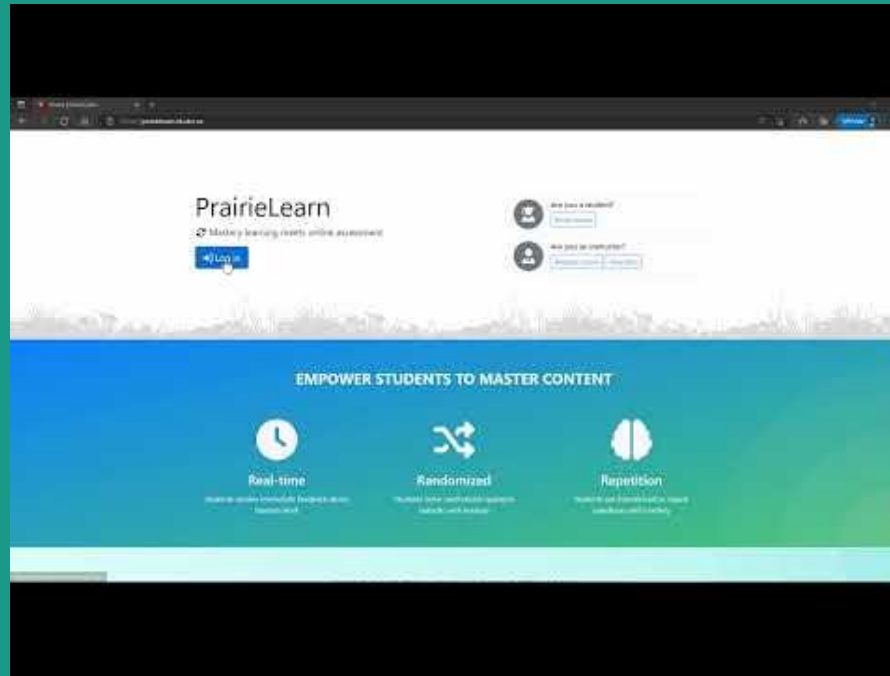


# System Architecture



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# Video Demonstration





# The Solution

Moving to PrairieLearn from the original system has brought many benefits both teacher and students users in regards to the following:

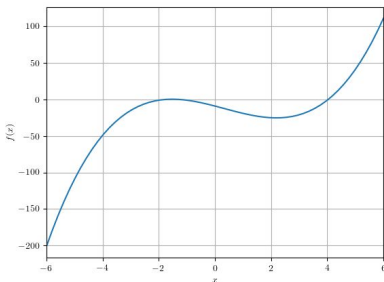
- Scalability
- Usability
- Accessibility

# Key Feature

Compared to the old system (AutoEd), PrairieLearn supports multiple question types.

Select the appropriate points (with dynamic figure)

The function  $f(x) = x^3 - x^2 - 10x - 9$  is illustrated below. Select the values of  $x$  corresponding to negative function values.

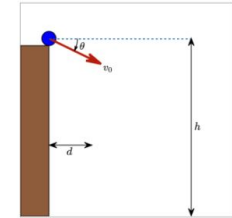


☐  $x = 6$   
☐  $x = 4$   
☐  $x = -6$   
☐  $x = 0$

Select all possible options that apply. 0

Simple multiple-choice question

A cannon ball with mass  $m = 1.8 \text{ kg}$  is fired downward from a cliff at a height  $h = 2.67 \text{ m}$ , at an angle  $\theta = 31^\circ$  with respect to the horizontal, and an initial velocity  $v_0 = 20 \text{ m/s}$ , as illustrated in the figure below.



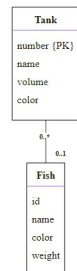
Suppose the ball hits the ground a distance  $d = 4 \text{ m}$  from the base of the cliff. How long is the ball in the air? Assume the acceleration due to gravity is  $g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$ .

☐ (a)  $t = 0.2 \text{ s}$   
☐ (b)  $t = 0.738 \text{ s}$   
☐ (c)  $t = 0.388 \text{ s}$   
☐ (d)  $t = 0.259 \text{ s}$   
☐ (e) None of the above

Fish\_Store

Construct a database design in UML for a fish store where:

- A fish store maintains a number of **aquaria**, each with a **number**, **name**, **volume** and **color**.
- Each **tank** contains a number of **fish**, each with an **id**, **name**, **color**, and **weight**.
- Each **fish** is of a particular **species**, which has a **id**, **name**, and **preferred food**.
- Each individual **fish** has a number of **events** in its life, involving a **date** and a **note** relating to the event.



```
classDiagram
    class Tank {
        number PK
        name
        volume
        color
    }
    class Fish {
        id
        name
        color
        weight
    }
    Tank "1" -- "*" Fish
```


# Key Feature


Students can sign in using Google or with CWL (coming soon)

**PrairieLearn**

An online system for problem-driven learning

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 **Sign in with Google**

 **THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

## CWL Authentication

Login Name:

Password:

**Login**

**Recover your CWL login or Reset your CWL password via Email**

If you have a non-UBC email address associated with your CWL account you can either:

- ☒ [Recover your CWL Login Name](#)
- ☒ [Reset your CWL Password](#)

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**Protect Your CWL account!**

- ☒ Watch out for sites or emails that pretend to be legitimate and ask for your CWL login name and password.
- ☒ Please report any suspicious requests for your CWL login name and password.
- ☒ [Learn more](#) about how to protect your devices.

[Learn about the CWL Terms of Use »](#)



## What is an element?

- Professors can create questions simply through the use of elements.
- PrairieLearn comes equipped with many useful elements out of the box such as multiple choice elements.
- PrairieLearn is open source and has a large active community, it is only natural to see many new elements emerge as time passes.



## Our Element

Our group was tasked with creating an element, which would allow a professor to easily create an ER question through the use of basic html and markdown, which would then be auto formatted into the ER question.

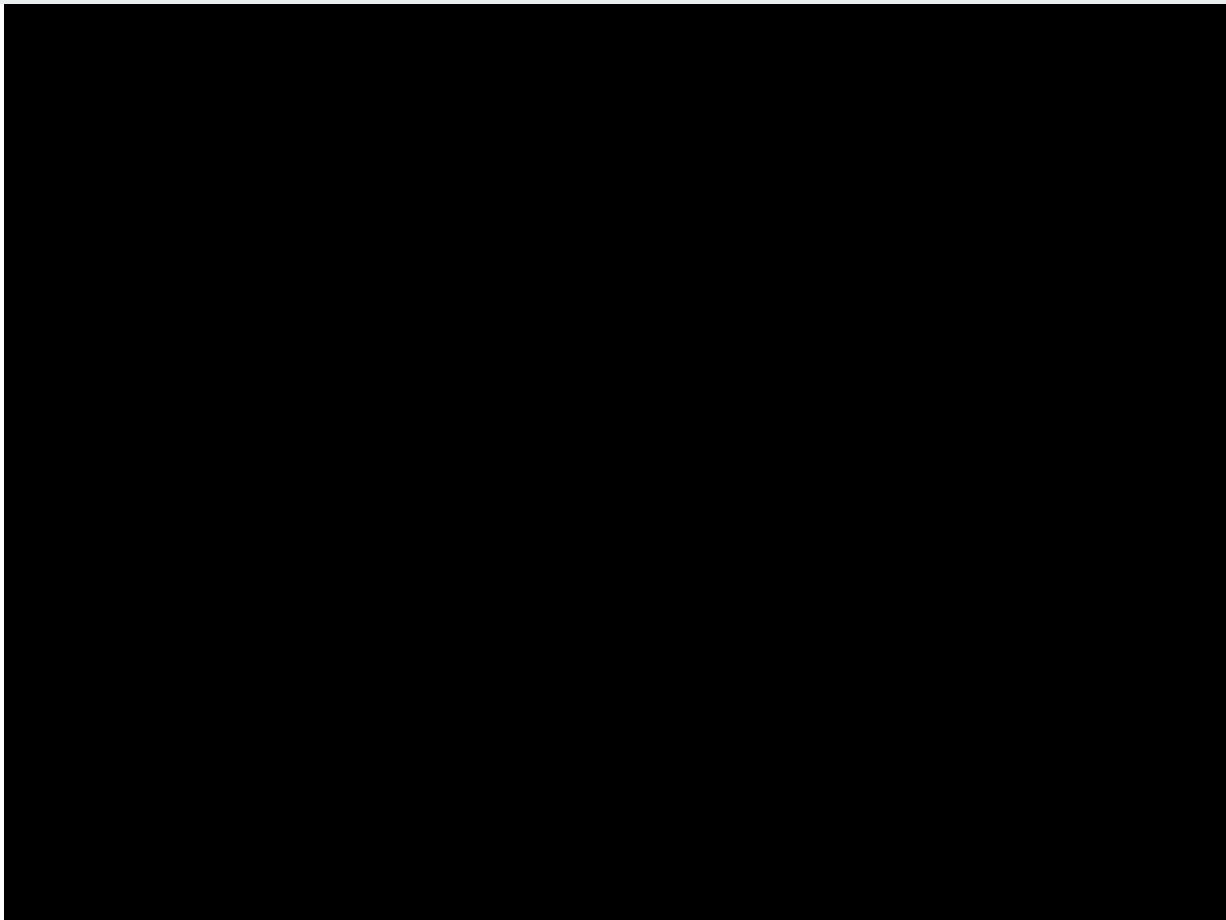
For example, to create a randomized question is as simple as:

```
<pl-uml-element random = True max-grade= "10" marker-feedback = True>  
</pl-uml-element>
```



## Our Element

Things get a bit more interesting when we want to create a set question:





# Key Feature

?

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Manage RelationshipsManage Entities

Construct a database design in UML for a fish store where:

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Each individual **fish** has a number of **events** in its life, involving a **date** and a **note** relating to the event.

Tank

number {PK}

name

volume

color

1..1

0..\*

Fish

id {PK}

name

color

weight

1..\*

1..1

UML Diagram To String Representation:

```
[Tanknumber {PK};name;volume;color]
[Fishid {PK};name;color;weight]
[Speciesid {PK};name;preferredFood]
[Eventdate {PPK};note]
[Tank]1..1 - 0..*[Fish]
[Fish]1..* - 1..1[Species]
[Fish]1..1 - 0..*[Event]
```

Copy Text

Assessment overview

Total points: 10.55/20

Score: 52%

Question

Value: 10

History: 10

Awarded points: 10/10

Report an error in this question

Previous question

Next question

Attached files

attached files

Attach a file

Attach text



## Major Challenge

- PrairieLearn was designed to run natively, and was not dockerized for production.
- The team spent a large amount of time reworking the docker files and writing documentation for running the system in production on docker.





# Dockerized PrairieLearn Code and Documentation Merged Into Codebase!!!



## RUNNING IN PRODUCTION

Setup

Using Docker Compose

User Authentication

Admin User



# Testing

- 8.6k+ total tests implemented in PrairieLearn
- 66 total tests written for our custom ER element
  - **randomgrader.py**: 87% line coverage (33 tests)
  - **randomgeneration.py**: 95% line coverage (33 tests)

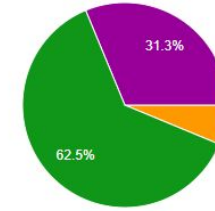
```
randomgeneration_integration_test.py ..... [ 27%]  
randomgeneration_unit_test.py ..... [ 50%]  
randomgrader_integration_test.py ..... [ 57%]  
randomgrader_unit_test.py ..... [100%]  
  
===== 66 passed in 0.49s =====
```

# User Testing Results

- System Usability Scale (SUS) was used.
- Majority of the UI Problems are with PrairieLearn itself:
  - Tabs made it cluttered.
  - Submit button location.
  - Difficulty with navigation.

I think I would like to use this system for my assignments.

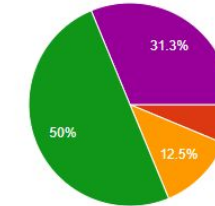
16 responses



● Strongly Disagree  
● Disagree  
● Neutral  
● Agree  
● Strongly Agree

I thought the system was easy to use.

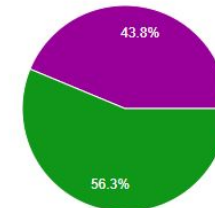
16 responses



● Strongly Disagree  
● Disagree  
● Neutral  
● Agree  
● Strongly Agree

Overall I find this system useful

16 responses



● Strongly Disagree  
● Disagree  
● Neutral  
● Agree  
● Strongly Agree

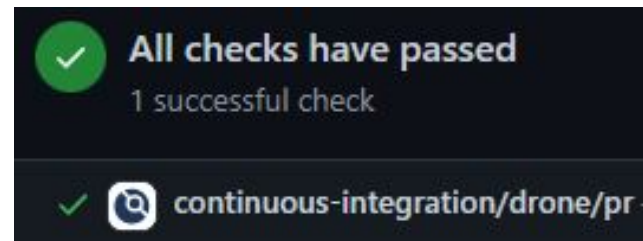
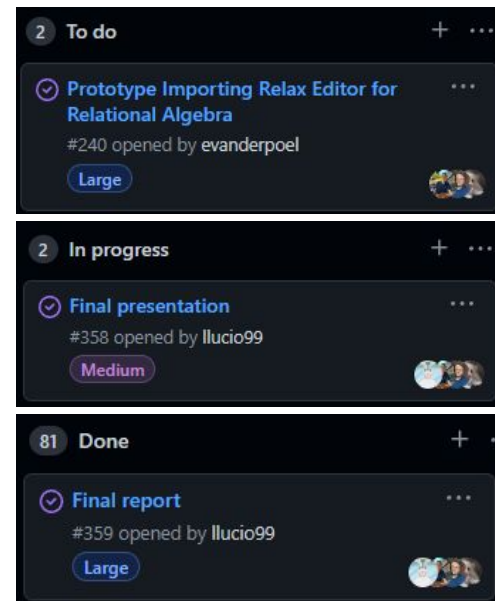
# User Testing Results

- Bugs found:
  - Info Button Crashing applications (FIXED).
  - Font of PrairieLearn changed with question (FIXED).
- Suggestions For ER Design Question:
  - Add text field to auto generate ER from string form.
  - Disable clicking on add attribute to stop menu closures.
  - Font Style.



# Workflow/Deployment

- Languages
  - Python
  - Javascript
- Project Management
  - Github Projects
- Code Spaces
  - Pycharm
- Deployment
  - Docker
  - Linux Server
- CI/CD
  - Drone IO



# Project Statistics (Toggl Time Report)



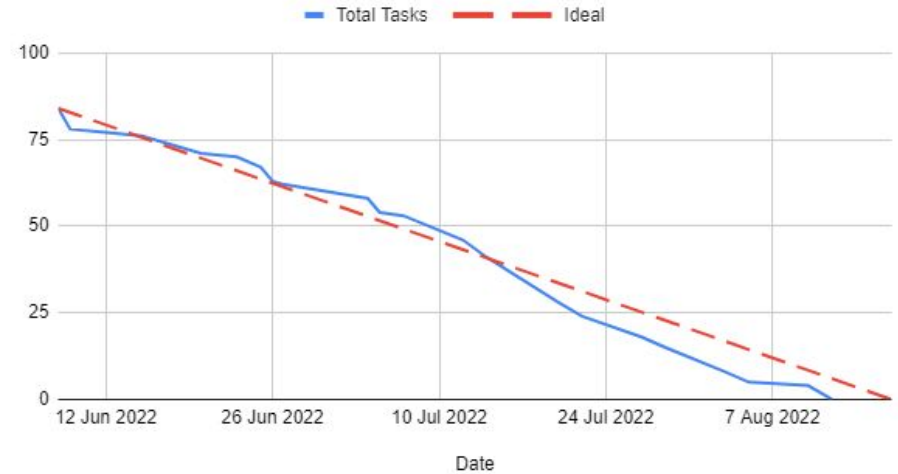


# Project Statistics (Burn up/Burn down)

Burn-up Chart



Burn-down Chart

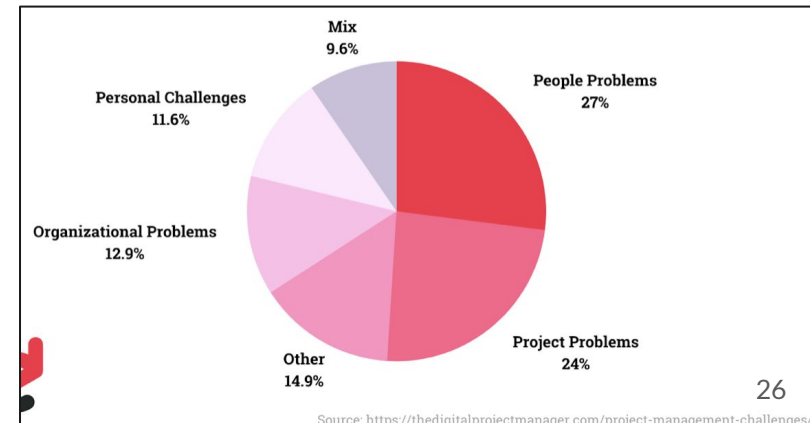


## What have we Learned?

- No matter the difficulty of the task don't underestimate how much work it may take.
- Always expect the unexpected.
- Working with Legacy Software is difficult and takes time to understand the codebase.

## What would we do differently?

- Put a large focus on docker early on.
- Evaluate prototypes on a deeper scale.






# Summary

- As project is deployed, handoff will be seamless.
- Project documentation can be found on project repository.

## Documentaion Links

- [PrairieLearn Documentation](#)
- [Docker Deployment Information](#)
- [Dockerized Production Deployment Information](#)
- [Authentication Information](#)
- [UML Question Creation](#)
- [Testing Information](#)

- CWL Integration
- Importing Relax Editor for relational Algebra questions



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# CWL Authentication

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Password:

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Recover your CWL login or Reset your CWL password via Email

If you have a non-UBC email address associated with your CWL account you can either:

✓

[Recover your CWL Login Name](#)

✓

[Reset your CWL Password](#)

Protect Your CWL account!

✓

Watch out for sites or emails that pretend to be legitimate and ask for your CWL login name and password.

✓

Please report any suspicious requests for your CWL login name and password.

✓

Learn more about how to protect your devices.

[Learn about the CWL Terms of Use »](#)

RelaxX
Calculator
Language ▾
Feedback
Help
Imprint

Select DB (UIBK - R, S... ▾

Relational Algebra

SQL

Group Editor

R
 

a number
 b string
 c string

S
 

b string
 d number

T
 

b string
 d number

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x k x ▷ = -- /\* {} ☒ 🗑️ ✎

```

1 your query goes here ...

keyboard shortcuts:
execute statement: [CTRL]+[RETURN]
execute selection: [CTRL]+[SHIFT]+[RETURN]
autocomplete:      [CTRL]+[SPACE]
```

▶ execute query
Download
🕒 history

# Thank You!

# Questions?

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