A doc file describing the details about the contributions of each of the group members together with a description of the major challenges and programming practices.

Megan Mackay and I (Ya Chutiraka) started off by dividing the work into half. For example each of us created half of the total tables used in the myOnlineStore database project, and half of initial data to insert into the tables. We helped each other revise each other’s work and exchange comments.

During the first and second check point, things were quite conceptual. We both have quite a good background of the course material, so we were doing fine. But things started to get really difficult and challenging when we started the stage 3 of the project. I have very limited experience with front end development, not to mention languages that are recommended for using with database project. We did not reach the final decision on which framework and which language to use until really late. We first decided to use python with Django framework. But the setting up part was extremely tedious and there were errors that are beyond our ability to fix. After spending extensive amount of time on trying to make the select option of technology work, we realized that we could have been spending all that time trying to find a relatively easier technology that will actually work so we can start working on the project with the short period of time we have left. We eventually ended up with using PHP to create a simple webpage and connection with MySQL, which we run it locally.

Megan has limited PHP knowledge and I had never used PHP before. So we both had to start learning PHP in a relatively short amount of time compared to how long we have been spending on SQL. Syntaxes were confusing at first (and in fact they are still confusing even now). But we work really hard to get as many functionalities done as we can. The due date extension saved our lives very much because we spent so much time on trying to configure the originally picked environment to work initially.

Once one of us got the working environment set up, it was relatively easier to guide the other person and tell her all errors that are to be expected to happen and how to fix them.

If this project were a big/long homework, conceptually would probably still learn the same amount. But that fact that it is a project makes it more challenging because it about something that works, not just something abstract.

We both work really hard and we hope to be able to deliver a quality project here.