Team: Zach, Caleb, Jessica

Course: Advanced Vb.Net

Assignment: Final Group Project

Blockbuster Inventory & Invoice Management Software

To begin our project, we first selected a company to write the software for. We decided on Blockbuster, because their inventory management system perfectly matches the criteria for the project: records of all invoices, customers, and rentals are stored in a database. From there we began formulating ways to search from existing customers, add new customers, add invoices, add rentals, and remove rentals. After internal debate, we decided Blockbuster would work.

Our next goal was to tackle the problem of version control on a multi-team project – luckily, Git was a perfect solution for this. We initialized an empty repository on GitHub, added some base code, created a fork for each team member, and then we were off.

The project was then split into different workloads: the database and tables, the forms for the starting view, adding a new customer, searching from existing customers, and updating inventory. We delegated the work between our team, and began working independently from one another on GitHub.

What came next was a series of small problems we all ran into while working independently – Zach had issues properly selecting the customer id from the list of existing customers, Caleb had issues interfacing the inventory form with the database, and Jessica had issues properly filling the list of rentals that appears on the main form. We held meetings among our team twice a week, and came together to help resolve each other’s problems.

By the time all of us had working forms, we merged all of the branches to master, and began debugging. We had a mostly functional application at that point – it was time to make design revisions, and polish up all of the forms.

In our struggle to fix those issues and polish up the project, we found out there were certain things we already knew without realizing – for instance, on the form for updating inventory, we couldn’t get the default controls for the DataSet to appear. Instead of getting the DataSet to show its controls, we realized that we could add our own button, and update the code to handle that button click instead of the DataSet button that wasn’t showing. Through studying and additional research, we were able to overcome any issues that we were having with the project, and uploaded the final project.