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INFO 340

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One Page Report – What We’ve Learned in INFO 340

We began by learning about what makes up a database and the different structures a database could have. This included material regarding differences between hierarchical and relational databases. This was a key point as it taught us how to think about databases and how databases have progressed through the years. The first week also included key basics such as the different relationships between data (one-to-one, one-to-many, many-to-many) which led into the significance of a normalized database. From here, we quickly dove into coding in SQL, learning how to create tables, views, and procedures in order to create and utilize databases. We spent the following weeks practicing these coding skills while building upon them as we learned about error handling and transaction processing. The midterm assignment as a major stepping stone as, though it’s focus was not on the actual coding, it forced as to look at the bigger picture and think about how we would create a database for a specific set of data and how we see our users interacting with the data. This really helped us think more deeply about how much permission users should be allowed in modifying the data and how the data itself should be constrained so that inaccurate information cannot be accidentally entered (avoiding some human error). During the last few following weeks, we continued to learn about how databases can be incorporated with applications. We concluded with material on how to maintain databases through the basics administration as how a typical database administrator would interact with it in regards to security and backing up amongst other tasks.

References

Connolly, T. M. & Begg, C. E. (2009). Database Systems: A Practical Approach to Design,

Implementation, and Management (5th Edition) New York: Addison-Wesley Publishing. [ISBN-10: 0321523067]