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Business Intelligence and Data Analytics

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Project 1 Reflection

          Overall, this was a fairly successful project from all sides. The process went very smoothly due to upfront communication from the beginning as well as solid planning. One improvement area would be in our team’s ability to predict roadblocks in the project process. For example, we realized that none of us really knew how to create a repository on Github. Though we soon realized that it was fairly straightforward and were able to do it easily, this is something that we could have thought ahead about and been more prepared. The other small obstacle that we had was when we were going into the process of building the database. We had created an Excel spreadsheet that held all of the data, assuming that it would be easy to copy and paste the data into the appropriate fields. Turns out, that is not the best way of going about it and that caused a lot of time to be wasted on doing something that we didn’t need to be spending that much time on.

We believe that our project was appropriately scoped. Our business idea, Beaver Bread Company provided us with a creative background that allowed our group to plan a database that was suitable for our skills while also challenging us. We didn’t believe that we could build a database that was more complex than a simple retail database and we stuck with project that would push us but not crush us. In terms of self-studying, there was some outside research needed for us to complete the project up to the standards that we deemed adequate. Our past in class assignments, as well as general class notes also proved very valuable in the successful completion of this project. Google was a beautiful tool that really helped us in terms of figuring out how to create a repository, generate random data online, how to share a repository and make sure that the tables we were creating would actually work.

This project really built upon a lot of the skills that we have learned so far throughout this semester and we all feel much more confident with this material after its completion. Going forward, our skills that were reinforced with this project could be extremely beneficial in a work or startup environment. There may be a point where a situation like the one discussed in our company background actually arises. It is easy to envision a time where one of us may be starting a company and a database may be needed to adequately manage everything that is going. Though it will obviously need to be on a larger scale than the database we created for this project, the skills we learned will be of great help. Going into the project, everyone felt well prepared and confident in our abilities to successfully complete it and we do not believe there is anything else that we could have known that would have helped us succeed. In the process of interviewing with companies, the ability to talk about SQL intelligently and this made me feel more comfortable around the idea of collaborating on a SQL project with multiple people.

Our team, being all members of the same fraternity, are very used to working together and that proved very valuable in this process. We understand one another’s skills and split the work up accordingly. Though we were collaborating throughout the entire project, asking one another questions and helping where needed, we decided to split up the work with Evan taking lead on the Database Design, Alex working on the Database Creation, Ryan working on SQL queries and the reflection. This was the plan we put in place and was followed well. As expected, there were no problems that arose while working on the project together. Evan started his portion of the project first, naming all of the fields, creating the connections and guiding the way for Alex to be able to build the database itself and Ryan to start coding the queries before the database was fully finished. All members of the team worked on the insertion of data as stated earlier, our method was less than ideal. Our communication really helped as we were all always on the same page and were able to help out when necessary. We all felt really comfortable working together and this allowed us to feel confident asking for help when we needed it before any problems arose.