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Analysis of Group Assignment

In our recent group project for Database Management, our objective was to design and implement a database solution for Cell Tech, a company specializing in prebuilt custom personal computers with a rotating, limited inventory. The existing system of recording customer data using a Word document and manually looking up specifications presented significant inefficiencies. Our task was to streamline this process by creating an updatable and accessible database that would simplify record-keeping and reduce research time.

Throughout the project, we utilized Microsoft Azure Data Studio, draw.io for data modeling, and Excel for data management. My design approach focused on consolidating product data into a single Product table with a product category attribute to differentiate between product types. This design aimed to minimize redundancies, ensure data integrity, and simplify the relationships between tables, thereby making the database easier to manage and maintain.

Despite my belief that this consolidated approach would offer a more efficient and maintainable solution, one of my group partners was strongly in favor of a different design that involved separate tables for each type of product. This method, while initially appealing, could potentially lead to data inconsistencies and complicate the management of relationships and queries across multiple tables. Given the time constraints and the necessity to align with the group consensus, I was unable to persuade my group member to adopt my proposed design.

Despite these differences in opinion, I believe our group project was a success. We managed to deliver a functional database that addressed Cell Tech's needs. The experience provided valuable insights into database design and management, including the challenges of working with differing viewpoints within a team. This project highlighted the importance of effective communication and compromise in collaborative settings.

In retrospect, the project reinforced my understanding of database principles and the significance of designing for both efficiency and scalability. While I remain confident in my proposed design's merits, the project underscored the importance of teamwork and adaptability in achieving a common goal. Overall, I am proud of our team's efforts and the knowledge gained throughout the semester, and I look forward to applying these lessons to future projects.