Dietrich Mosel Prof. Labouseur Database Mgmt. 9/11/17

Lab 2: CAP Database

Distinctions Among Terms:

There are many differences between primary, candidate and superkeys. A candidate key is a column, or set, contained in a table that can recognize any database record without having to call upon any other data. The primary key, on the other hand, is the candidate key but it calls upon the column that is the best fit for maintaining the uniqueness within the table. Lastly, a superkey is a combination of different columns that can identify any row within a table. It is more complex than the other two because it's purpose is to reduce time spent calling upon many columns. They all build off the foundation that the primary key provides and cannot stand without one another.

Data Types:

In SQL, there are three main data types. They are text, number and date data types. Within text data types, there are a multitude of functions that refer to the number of characters, letters or numbers in each word with maximum or minimum strings. Number data types contain ranges of digits (positive and negative) and commands that deal with floating decimal points with large or small numbers. Lastly, there are date data types which refer to dates in a range of formats, timestamps, time (in terms of hours, minutes and seconds) and years as well. For my specific table, I chose for it to consist of running statistics. The title would be "College Runners" and the columns or fields would be "Name," "Best Event," "Time" and "School." A person's name would be classified as a text data type (specifically TINYTEXT) because it contains less than 255 characters. Best Event would be dealing with numbers/distances like 5,000 meters or 10,000 meters but it also contains words as well. This would be another text data type (specifically CHAR(size)) because it can hold a fixed length string with letters, numbers or special characters. Time on the other hand is solely composed of numbers but it would not be a number data type. Instead, it would be a date data type (specifically TIME()) because it has a format of HH:MI:SS which is perfect for running times and can support a wide range large enough for this purpose. Finally, School would be sorted as another text data type (specifically TINYTEXT) because it only contains letters. These fields would not be nullable because everyone has a name and I'm not specifying a certain running event so people would be required to fill that field out along with time and school since they are college students.

Relational "Rules":

a. The "first normal form" rule – Otherwise known as 1NF, the first normal form rule is crucial to assembling any SQL table because it makes searching, sorting and filtering information easier. The data has to be in a database table that stores information in

columns and rows with each column containing groups of columns that are not repeating. For example, a table with a product id, color and price that contains multiple colors in that column is not in first normal form. In order to convert it, you would create two separate tables, one with the product id and price and the other with product id and color.

- b. The "access rows by content only" rule The second relational rule that simply states what it does. It accesses by content and accesses rows by the value of their columns. You cannot be vague with this rule by saying "second row from the bottom," because there is no order to the columns or rows. For example, Select * From Agents where Agent # = 5. This is important because it adds order to the searching process. By allowing the user to access rows based on content, it eliminates useless time spent on filtering out unnecessary rows that do not contain the proper information.
- c. The "all rows must be unique" rule This third and final relational rule is similar to the second rule and also relates to the primary key in terms of being unique and necessary. There can be no duplicate tuples so that they cannot be identical in all column values at the same time. This is not necessarily a bad thing for tables containing such information as temperature readings where you will have a lot of repetition. However, it is still important for tables that contain similar (but not for beneficial purposes) rows which someone would like to distinctly sort out.







