Reflection

From a process point of view, what went well? What could you improve? Other possible reflection topics: Was your project appropriately scoped? What self-studying did you do? How will you use what you learned going forward? What do you wish you knew before you started that would have helped you succeed?

Looking back at the assignment that we just finished, we believe that being able to accomplish this project in a timely matter was one of our major strengths. Although initially we struggled to join the server and to understand what we were doing, we believe that it was important for us to work together. In the future, we believe that we could improve by maximizing our time in meetings, as well as meeting in person more.

Although our database includes many important tables and attributes, we understand that this is a very basic database. While we understand that an analysis with this database and entries alone would not be entirely appropriate, we learned a lot that could be applied in other scenarios. To accomplish this project, we had to go back through our notes and asses what we had done well in the past and apply it to our relational database, our database creation, and our queries. With this, we were able to grasp to what extent we were successfully accomplishing our tasks. Going forward, we will be able to successfully apply the skill of database creation in a larger scale.

Perhaps having more prior practice would have been helpful, but looking back at the sample from class (and some help from the internet) was enough to create the database efficiently. We realized that the creation of a database and queries takes time and diligence in order to be a useful tool and to work appropriately.

Also discuss your team process in your reflection. How did you plan to divide the work (e.g. split by deliverables, always work together, etc.) and how did it actually happen? Were there any issues that arose while working together, and how did you address them? What would you do differently next time?

In order to successfully accomplish this assignment, we decided to come together to come to a consensus on how to approach the project. In this initial meeting, we began by discussing how we wanted to approach this project and by creating our relational database design. During this meeting, we also decided to both try to create the database separately in order to make sure we both went through the learning process. However, we had to part ways due to different commitments at Babson.

Not long after, we remained in constant communication through chat in order to stay in line to what we were trying to solve. In a way, we ended up separating the deliverables to ensure that we could successfully finish these on time. Although we separated some of the tasks, we went back and forth trying to solve some of the problems we were encountering. Visual Studio has a lot of specifics that need to be done properly in order for it to work, and we struggled to remember some of them initially (for example, remembering how to connect to the server). After going through the notes from prior classes and some trial and error, we were able to solve this problem.  Another problem we encountered was that after the creation of our queries we realized that we were missing some of the requirements. In order to solve the problem, we added another entry to our database in order to allow us to include a Full Outer Join.

Overall, we believe we successfully completed all of the steps of the project. If we had to do something differently next time, I believe we would have met multiple times or for a longer period of time so we did not have to divide and conquer.