

CSDS 341: Final Project Report

Questionnaire Website

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1 Background

Questionnaires and surveys are very important for understanding and shaping the world. Surveys are one of the main tools for collection and analysis of data for making decisions. For example, United States uses the Census and the American Community Survey to understand how country demographics is shifting and to make decisions about the allocation of resources. Researchers use questionnaires for scientific studies to understand both the social and natural worlds. Psychologists in particular make great use of Likert scales in questionnaires to help build our collective knowledge.

Therefore, streamlining the process of collecting and analysing surveys using technology is very beneficial for decision-making. Our application would allow users to create their own questionnaires, distribute and analyse them easily. Additionally, application would allow for streamlining the decision-making process based on the analysis of data to an advanced degree.

This will be accomplished through the design of the database allowing for multiple functionalities based on the user. With different roles and permissions a user will be able to participate in questionnaires or be the creator of a questionnaire. Then, questionnaires will have a certain amount of questions and these questions will have possible answers created by the maker of the questionnaire. Responses will be recorded and using the relationships in the database queries can be written to analyze the gathered data. This survey tool streamlines the process of creating and answering surveys and allows for data analysis to make decisions or understand the participants choices.

2 Data Description

Users contains information about all of the users, questionnaire creators and responders, that interact with the website. Since our project depends on user-generated data, we had to artificially generate random data to demonstrate how our database works. We generated data using a Python script which created hundreds of users with random names, multiple choice possible answers to questions, and responses to questions and questionnaires.

3 Functional Dependencies

For the *Users* table, the functional dependencies (FDs) are $\text{user_id} \rightarrow \text{first_name}, \text{last_name}, \text{email}, \text{subscription_id}$ and $\text{email} \rightarrow \text{user_id}, \text{first_name}, \text{last_name}, \text{subscription_id}$. The first functional dependency exists because *user_id* is the primary key for *Users* and the second functional dependency exists because each email is associated with only one user, making it another candidate key for *Users*.

For the *Permissions* table, the only functional dependency is $\text{permission_id} \rightarrow \text{user_id}, \text{questionnaire_id}, \text{role_id}$. This functional dependency exists because *permission_id* is a key for *Permissions*.

For the *Roles* table, the only functional dependency is $\text{role_id} \rightarrow \text{edit_perm}, \text{resp_perm}, \text{view_resp_perm}$. This functional dependency exists because *role_id* is a key for *Roles*.

For the *Subscription* table, the only functional dependency is $\text{subscription_id} \rightarrow \text{survey_limit}$. This functional dependency exists because *subscription_id* is a key for *Subscription*.

For the *Questionnaires* table, the only functional dependency is $\text{questionnaire_id} \rightarrow \text{number_of_questions}$. This functional dependency exists because *questionnaire_id* is a key for *Questionnaires*.

4 BCNF

Users

This entity represents users of the questionnaire website. All types of users, including people who create questionnaires or answer questionnaires, are in this table. `first_name`, `last_name`, `email`, `subscription_id` are attributes of the User and there is no FD between them.

$R1 = (\text{user_id}, \text{first_name}, \text{last_name}, \text{email}, \text{subscription_id})$

$F1 = \{\text{user_id} \rightarrow \text{first_name}, \text{last_name}, \text{email}, \text{subscription_id}; \text{email} \rightarrow \text{user_id}, \text{first_name}, \text{last_name}, \text{subscription_id}\}$

Since, both `user_id` and `email` are superkeys Users is in BCNF form.

Permissions

This entity describes the permission level of a user for each questionnaire, this is part of a ternary relationship between users, questionnaire, and permission. `user_id`, `questionnaire_id`, `role_id` are attributes of Permission and there is no FD in between them.

$R2 = (\text{permission_id}, \text{user_id}, \text{questionnaire_id}, \text{role_id})$

$F2 = \{\text{permission_id} \rightarrow \text{user_id}, \text{questionnaire_id}, \text{role_id}\}$

Since `permission_id` is a superkey Permissions is in BCNF form.

Roles

This entity describes the roles that are allowed for each permission level. For each role there are different permissions that are dependent on a true or false value (BIT) in SQL. For each tuple of user and survey the permission level determines what roles they have. `edit_perm`, `resp_perm`, `view_resp_perm` are all attributes of a role with no FD between them.

$R3 = (\text{role_id}, \text{edit_perm}, \text{resp_perm}, \text{view_resp_perm})$

$F3 = \{\text{role_id} \rightarrow \text{edit_perm}, \text{resp_perm}, \text{view_resp_perm}\}$

Since `role_id` is a superkey Roles is in BCNF form.

Subscription

Describes the subscription level and how many surveys users are allowed to create at each subscription level.

$R4 = (\text{subscription_id}, \text{survey_limit})$

$F4 = \{\text{subscription_id} \rightarrow \text{survey_limit}\}$

Since `subscription_id` is a superkey Subscription is in BCNF form.

Questionnaires

Defines a questionnaire with the unique id that will be bound to a user using the permissions table.

$R5 = (\text{questionnaire_id}, \text{number_of_questions})$

$F5 = \{\text{questionnaire_id}, \text{number_of_questions}\}$

Since `questionnaire_id` is a superkey Questionnaires is in BCNF form.

Questions

Determines questions as they are related to each questionnaire. `questionnaire_id`, `question_text` are attributes of Question with no FD between them.

$R5 = (\text{question_id}, \text{questionnaire_id}, \text{question_text})$

$F5 = \{\text{question_id} \rightarrow \text{questionnaire_id}, \text{question_text}\}$

Since `question_id` is a superkey Questions is in BCNF form.

Possible_Answers

Defines possible answers to each question. e.g. for multiple choice questions, this will have entries for each possible answer, while for questions like rating questions, this place will have the range of rankings available. `question_id`, `possible_answer` are attributes of an response option with no FD between them.

$R6 = (\text{option_id}, \text{question_id}, \text{possible_answer})$

$F6 = \{\text{option_id} \rightarrow \text{question_id}, \text{possible_answer}\}$

Since `option_id` is a superkey Possible_Answers is in BCNF form.

Responses

Defines the user response to each of the questions and ties them to the unique response option identifier and user id. `user_id`, `option_id`, `date_time` have no FD between them.

$R7 = (\text{response_id}, \text{user_id}, \text{option_id}, \text{date_time})$

$F7 = \{\text{response_id} \rightarrow \text{user_id}, \text{option_id}, \text{date_time}\}$

Since `response_id` is a superkey Responses is in BCNF form.

5 Implementation

We used MySQL as our database management system.