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**SHI Cocina Group Project Reflection**

Overall, we are very proud of our project. It was definitely challenging from a process point of view, nonetheless we were able to overcome all of our issues and as a result learned a lot about creating databases as well as dealing with data and SQL. We will be able to take what we learned from this project to future IT related projects in school or in our jobs. In addition, it has also taught us how databases work from beginning to end and how data can be used from a raw format and turned into something analytical.

Since we were treating SHI Cocina as a special project, we wanted to create a database that had a more specific unique identifier rather than just a sequence of numbers such as 1 through 10. However, once these more specific identifiers (ie SKU00001) were created, the data type could not be altered. There seemed to be no data type, as when we looked at the properties of the table the data type was blank. If we made this the primary key, when we tried to connect the different tables through foreign keys it did not let us. We decided to simply use the simple auto generated number as the primary key and still left the extra ID as another column to maybe learn how to fix it later. We also wanted the field “AmountDue” to be calculated automatically from the Orders table. We looked into creating views or triggers, yet for the scope of this project we decided it would be easier to manually calculate and insert that piece of data. Running some of our queries also resulted in some issues. We overcomplicated our questions and were not able to get the results we desired. We solved this issue by creating queries that actually made sense for the scope of this project. Lastly, we ran into issues when we were inserting the e-mail for our employees and customers in the tables. We continuously received an error message that said our data was being truncated. We later realized that the number of characters allowed for the fields in these tables were too low so we changed them so that the entire e-mail could fit.

We thought that the scope of the project, in general, was smaller than we actually needed. Fortunately, we met earlier than planned since we used the canceled class to start on the project, realized that we did need time to work on the database, and were able to complete the project on time. In order to overcome our issues we did a lot of self-studying, which took some of our time. As mentioned previously, we researched how to use auto generated numbers and also looked to incorporate views and triggers. For the “AmountDue” dilemma, we improvised by using excel and calculated the numbers ourselves. We also sought out to understand what data type was appropriate for each table and field. Nevertheless, it would have been helpful to have dome some more practice on actually utilizing Github, creating databases, inserting and deleting data, and troubleshooting data before this project. For us, more information on auto generation or views would have made the process of creating tables much simpler.

As a team, the three of us worked very well together. At first we decided that we would always work together, however due to the Snow Storm we held FaceTime group meetings. We ended up starting the project together and then created portions of the database and queries separately. We split the work according to our own strengths. Yet, we relied heavily on our group chat as we were constantly communicating with one another about changes that had been done or that had to be done. Finally, it was a great learning experience.