URL: http://flip1.engr.oregonstate.edu:9666/

Project Title: NASA RDMS - Robotic Device Management System

Team Name: PK Thunder

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Executive Summary

The overall design of the NASA RDMS remained relatively consistent over the course of each iteration. The first major improvement based on peer feedback was to implement filter functionality across each column on each table to easily allow users to customize their view of the data that is presented. After reviewing other team's work in progress we also made the decision to implement an "in place" update feature, where users edit and update individual rows of data directly in the table in which they are displayed, rather than requiring a user to fill out a separate form.

Following this, we received feedback that our minimal implementation of foreign key columns across tables was actually very difficult for users to manage, since IDs needed to be looked up on separate pages and then entered manually in the required form field. To remedy this, we first tried implementing view-only tables so that the user could use it to reference foreign keys, but realized that it was still clumsy for the user. We ended up removing the view-only tables and modifying both our front and back-end to support selecting descriptive values corresponding to foreign keys (mostly "name"-style attributes from their respective tables) within dropdowns on each add and edit form. While the UI in particular required a few iterations where reviewers provided feedback on various bugs encountered (for instance, duplicate values appearing in dropdowns or ability to enter an empty string in a text field) we eventually were able to nail down our interface with the assistance of those reviewing.

While we did receive consistent positive feedback about our minimalist interface throughout each iteration, one reviewer did recommend that we introduce an alert to inform users when a particular action does not succeed. Previously, while the expected behavior for particular errors such as 500 server responses did occur, these errors "failed silently" without the user being aware of them. We took this reviewer's recommendation and introduced alerts for most major error conditions with brief explanatory text to notify the user of the issue.

Lastly, after receiving feedback from a grader regarding being unable to update a NULLable foreign key to NULL, which we fixed in our final step, we also noticed that supposed NULL values were neither consistently displayed on our website, nor updated as NULL in the database. Our solution was to always display NULL values as empty strings in our website's tables, and vice-versa; interpret empty strings from all inputs on the website as NULL values in our database queries.

Project Overview

The engineering department at NASA is ramping up their production of robotic systems to send out into the solar system. The management of these devices has become problematic and quickly getting out of hand as the quantity of devices launched into space is now 100+ per year on over 80 missions across over 20 locations in space and is growing at an exponential rate.

To solve this problem, we created a robot management system capable of managing thousands of robotic devices to allow NASA engineers to track and manage all devices launched on missions to outer space. The system allows engineers to track: robotic devices, functionality, operators, missions, and locations. This allows NASA to be more efficient by conserving resources using existing robots already out there to work on new missions.

Database Outline

Entities

- Devices: records the robotic devices launched on missions.
 - deviceID: int, auto_increment, not NULL, PK
 - o deviceName: varchar, UNIQUE, not NULL
 - o dateLaunched: date, not NULL
 - o manufacturer: varchar, not NULL
 - o locationID: int, FK, not NULL
 - o missionID: int, FK, default NULL
- Locations: records locations in space where there may or may not be robotic devices.
 - o locationID: int, auto increment, not NULL, PK
 - o locationName: varchar, UNIQUE, not NULL
 - o localSystem: varchar, not NULL
 - o localBody: varchar, not NULL
- Functions: records the functionality assigned to each device.
 - functionID: int, auto_increment, not NULL, PK
 - o functionName: varchar, UNIQUE, not NULL
 - o description: varchar
- Missions: records NASA missions to locations in space.
 - o missionID: int, auto_increment, not NULL, PK
 - o missionName: varchar, UNIQUE, not NULL
 - o objective: varchar, not NULL
 - o locationID: int, FK, not NULL
- Operators: records operators that execute day-to-day operations for devices.
 - o operatorID: int, auto increment, not NULL, PK
 - o operatorName: varchar, UNIQUE not NULL
 - o deviceID: int, FK, default NULL

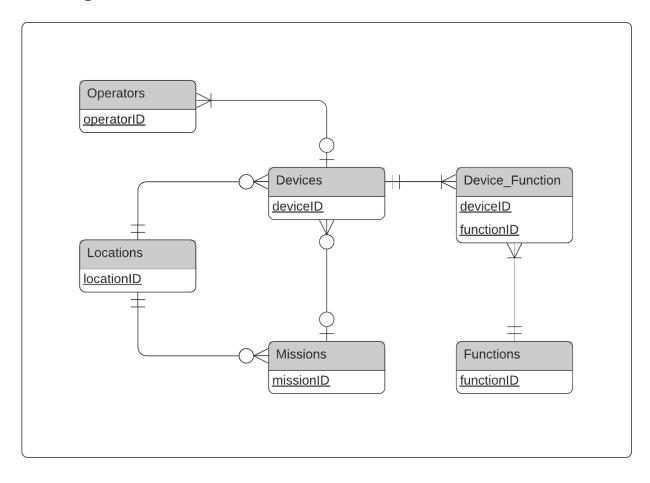
Relationship Tables

- Device Function: records the many-to-many relationship between Devices and Functions.
 - o deviceID: int, FK, not NULL
 - o functionID: int, FK, not NULL

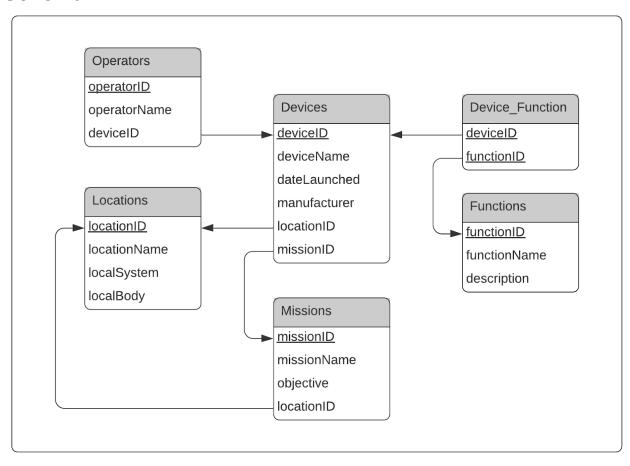
Relationships

- Devices : Missions
 - M:1. 0 or 1 missions per device, 0 or more devices per mission.
- Devices : Locations
 - o M:1. Exactly 1 location per device, 0 or more devices per location.
- Missions : Locations
 - M:1. Exactly 1 location per mission, 0 or more missions per location.
- Operators : Devices
 - M:1. 0 or 1 devices per operator, 1 or more operators per device.
- Devices : Functions
 - M:M. 1 or more functions per device, 1 or more device per function.

ER Diagram



Schema

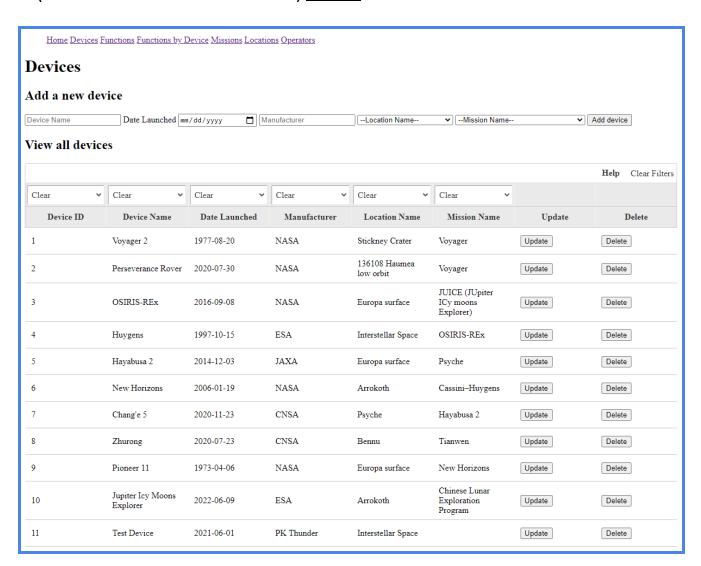


UI Screenshots

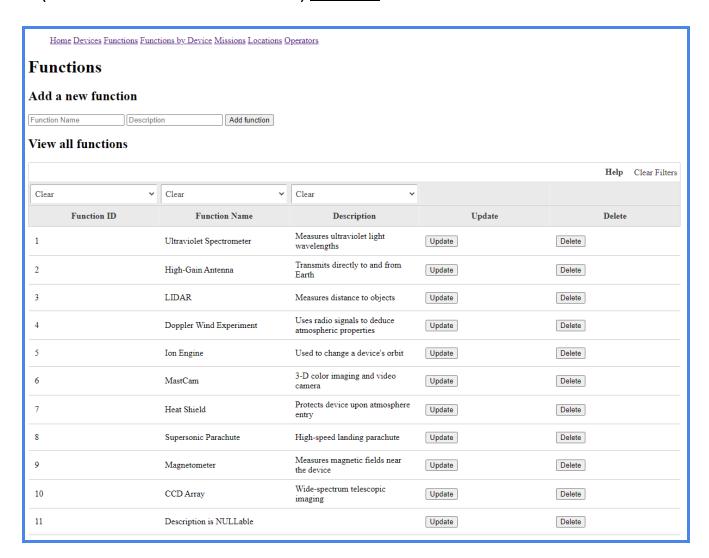
1 - Home Page

Home Devices Functions Functions by Device Missions Locations Operators
NASA RDMS

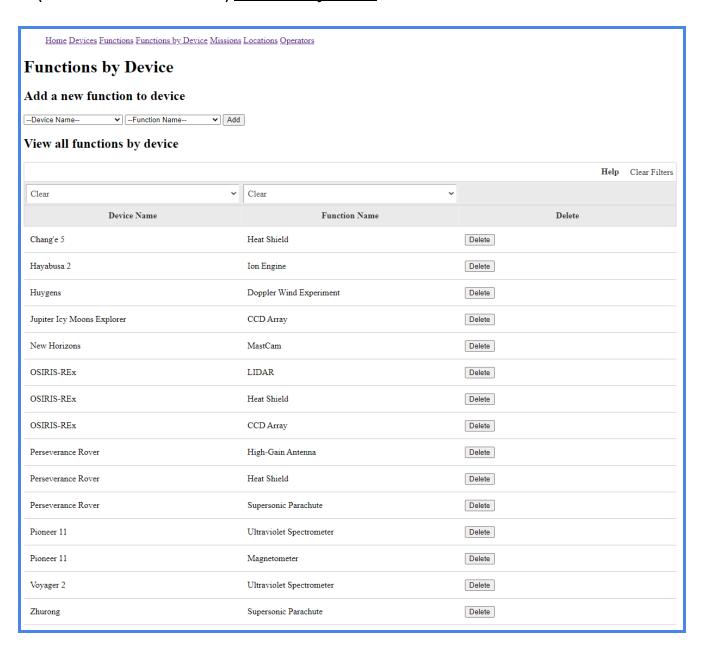
2 - (CREATE / READ / UPDATE / DELETE) Devices



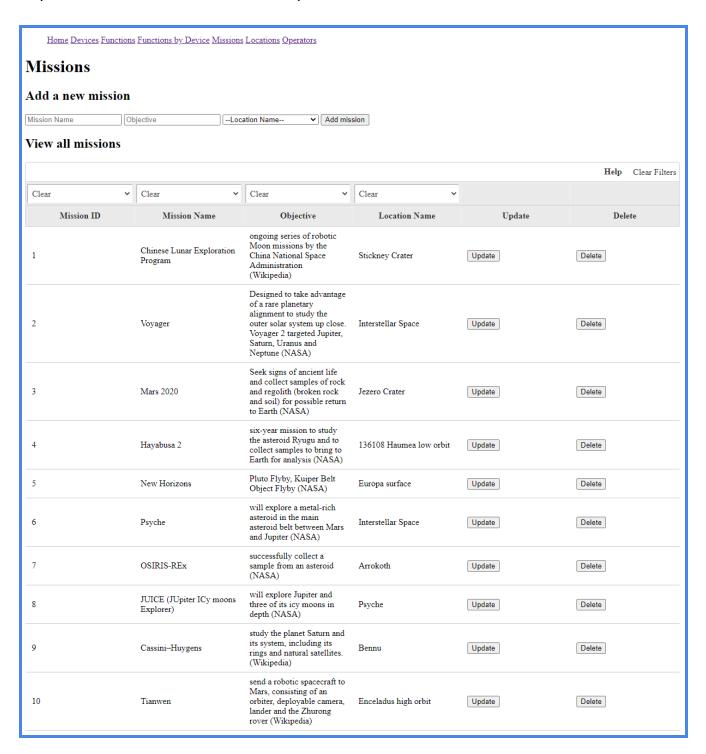
3 - (CREATE / READ / UPDATE / DELETE) Functions



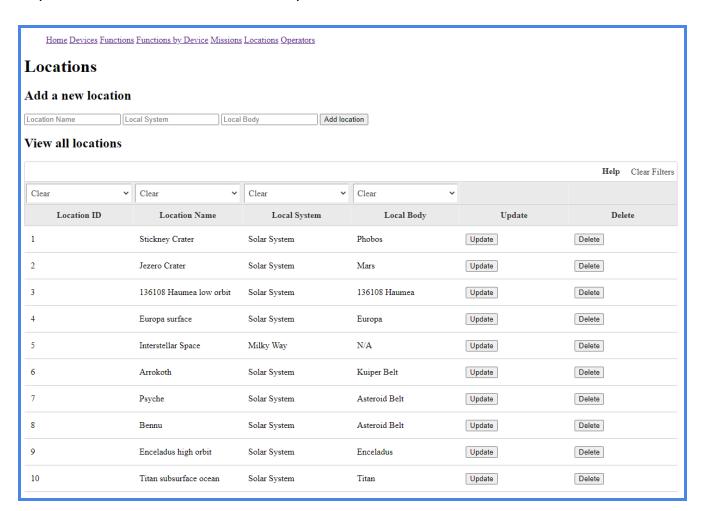
4 - (CREATE / READ / DELETE) Functions by Device



5 - (CREATE / READ / UPDATE / DELETE) Missions



6 - (CREATE / READ / UPDATE / DELETE) Locations



7 - (CREATE / READ / UPDATE / DELETE) Operators

