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IT 350
Lab 1
9/2/16

I <Jacob Parry> really did read and execute all of the instructions in the Ricardo Chapter 1 lab for Microsoft Access using version <2013>. You have thus stated (think honor code ;-) that you did all of the steps in the Lab exercise 1.2.

Access was a very cool database tool that I had used once before a few years ago, but at the time it seemed very daunting because I did not know any of the lingo or what certain things did. This time around it was much nicer and allowed me to learn more about the program. I will definitely use it more for my own personal databases that I want to keep track of.

What in Access was new to me?

Pretty much everything Access was new. I have only ever used it one other time a few years ago when my future father-in-law gave me an Access database with addresses in it. With that file, I was able to print some out, but it was very confusing and I know much more now than I did back then. It seemed very powerful and cool.

What did I learn?

I learned that it is a full-blown database that comes with report building and form building. That was the coolest thing for me. Sometimes in the past things, when working as a junior DBA, one of my responsibilities was to make reports out of the information in the database that we had. However, it was much more confusing and the program we used was 3rd party. It would have been much easier if the system we used had a built in reporting option the way Access does.

What are the limitations or shortcomings of Access?

While it does have cool features and everything is very portable, I cannot imagine it being very scalable for a very large or changing enterprise. How can many people work and manage the database? How can we get even more detailed or specific reports than what Access is capable of making? Is all it is a file? How can we connect computers or web applications to the database? I am not sure how all of that would work with Access.

Explain under what conditions Access may be a good database choice.

For something small, or for a personal database. As I said above, it might be really nice to use if you had a small business that required some history or database that wasn't too complicated. Access would do that for you. Or if you had a million addresses that you wanted to store and keep them easily editable and searchable, then an Access database would be a good choice.