Benchmark Database Assignment: From Me to We

Due Dates: Personal Database – August 25 | Team Database – September 15

In the real world, databases rarely live in isolation. They often start small but eventually need to work with other systems, users, or data sources. This project mirrors that journey.

You'll start by building a simple personal database all on your own. No help from me, Professor Waddell. Then, you'll join your classmates to combine everyone's work into one fully integrated team database.

Phase 1: Your Personal Database

Due: August 25

Work Solo – No Professor Assistance

Create a small, personal database all about you. Think of it like your own starter "profile" that you'll eventually connect to others in the class.

What You'll Do:
- Create a relational database using any platform you're comfortable with (e.g., SQLite, MySQL, etc.).
- Include at least 3 tables and 5–10 records per table.
- Example tables might include:

    - BasicInfo – name, age, hometown, etc.
    - Education – schools attended, degrees, graduation year
    - Interests or Skills – hobbies, certifications, favorite tools

- Your tables should have primary keys, use appropriate data types, and include relationships where needed (foreign keys).

What to Submit:

- A SQL dump or .db file of your database
- A basic ER diagram (hand-drawn is fine, but make it clear)
- A short README (1 paragraph) explaining what you built

Phase 2: Team Database Project

Due: September 15

Classwide Team Effort

After everyone turns in their personal database, the class becomes one big team. Your job:
build a shared database that works for everyone.

What You'll Do Together:
- Collaborate to design a shared schema that fits all your data.
- Use normalization to reduce duplication and improve efficiency.
- Assign team roles (ex: schema designer, data migrator, QA tester, documentation lead).
- Merge your data and test the system.
- What to Submit as a Team:

    - The final integrated database
    - ER diagram of the full system
    - A SQL dump or exported file
    - A final README explaining how you built the shared schema, what challenges you
      faced, and who did what

Why This Matters

This assignment reflects the real world. You'll build something yourself, then learn what it
takes to work as a team to merge, clean, and make your data play nicely with others. You'll
also need to manage roles, share responsibilities, and troubleshoot real integration
challenges.

If you have questions during Phase 1: write them down and bring them to class AFTER the
individual deadline. No help will be given before then.