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Reflection

We started our design process by discussing values and industries we were passionate about. Since we all liked the interior design space and strongly believe in the philosophies of environmental sustainability, we created Eco-Interior, a sustainable high-end online furniture retailer.

We found that designing the relational database in the form of an entity diagram and identifying primary/foreign keys, columns, and rows on paper came instinctively to us as we had all practiced it several times, through class exercises and homework. However, we soon realized that creating this database on paper was different from creating it on SQL and we had to re-watch a few videos on Lynda.com and perform online research to understand the process of writing a SQL script for it.

All did not go as smoothly as planned; we ran into a few errors while creating the database. We sometimes forgot to fill in information for all columns or all rows which resulted in miss-matched entries; this showed us the importance of paying attention to even the most minute details that we may overlook. We wish we knew that we had to be so patient and detail-oriented.  Also we had issues figuring out the syntax behind placing quotation marks for text and numbers as SQL did not give us a detailed reason when it displayed error messages. To resolve the error messages, we performed further research online to see what the specific error could mean and how other people around the world, who have faced similar issues, resolved it. This demonstrated to us the power of secondary research and how valuable the internet is, as a tool for helping us learn more.

This project will help us in the future when we want to start our own business or digitize a current business. Designing databases and asking queries shows how processes are currently run, which implies that we understand what can be changed to improve flow of operations or achieve new organizational objectives and strategies. This will also help us in job interviews, especially those in the analytics and IT field as it has allowed us to apply classroom concepts and practice practical skills like SQL.

In order to get the assignment done, we booked a room in the library for four hours and planned to complete the entire project in one sitting. This initial plan worked out very well. During this four-hour block, we used a mix of working together and dividing and conquering, this is what we planned and this is what actually happened. As a group, we designed our database and company together. We felt it was important that everyone was aware of the business model and company details. We also brainstormed the relationship database together. Then, one person formally made the PowerPoint of the relational database and wrote out the company description to create our company’s story. For all of the following deliverables, we divided and conquered.

        There were no issues that arose when we worked together, therefore, we did not need to address anything. It was a very pleasant experience and we would all collaborate again in the future if given the opportunity to do so.

        Next time, we would have split it up over two days. This would have given us a chance to complete the work in sprints, and take a more iterative approach. This would have enabled us to stay continuously attentive through the project completion, as we found completing it in one day to be very tiring.