

Homework 2

Database Systems
CSCI 440, Fall 2014

Complete by Friday, October 24, 11:59pm

Overview

In this assignment, you will login into phpMyAdmin and submit answers to questions as attribute values. Each relation is a group of questions, and you should view each attribute name as a question. Each student will have a single tuple in each and every table that corresponds to your responses to these questions. In Homework #3, you will then aggregate statistics about class preferences by joining various relations and performing queries.

e.g., How many cat people prefer Java?.

This is a communal exercise. Please follow the rules and the conventions given or you will lose out on easy points.

Read ALL the directions before beginning the assignment.

Getting Started

1. Collect your database login information sheet from Patrick (yes, that means you have to come to class or my office).
2. Go to our database server <https://csci440.cs.montana.edu/phpmyadmin/>
If accessing from off-campus, you will need to use the VPN.
3. Login to phpMyAdmin using your given user name and password.
4. Change your password to something you will remember. Find this option under ‘General Settings’ on your homepage and choose ‘Change Password’.

Homework 2 Database

1. Navigate to the 'homework2' database from list of databases on the left panel.
2. Choose table `student`.
3. Select SQL from top menu.
4. Execute the query `SELECT * FROM student WHERE 1;` to list all student ids.
5. Find your `sid` (student id number). This is based on your 8-digit MSU GID. Your `sid` will be the 4th, 5th, 7th, and 8th digits of your GID¹. Please note that you will skip the 6th digit of your GID. This pattern uniquely identifies all students in the class.

For example, for GID = 12345678, the `sid` will be 4578.

6. Each student has a handle. This has been randomly populated with a Game of Thrones character name (because, why not).
7. Update your handle to a name of your liking. For example:

```
UPDATE student SET handle='XXX' WHERE sid = 123;
```

will change the handle to the value of 'XXX' for user 123. Modify the above command to fit your desired handle and your `sid`.

More Tables

There are nine more tables for which you must submit answers. These largely correspond to favorite objects, events, sports, etc. For each, use the command `DESCRIBE` to find out information about the relation. For example:

```
DESCRIBE planguage;
```

will list all the attributes for the table `planguage` (programming language), such as `next_to_learn` or `most_favorite`. This will also show the types of each attribute.

You should strive to write SQL commands to accomplish all tasks rather than using php-MyAdmin GUI options (e.g., Insert from top menu). Use phpMyAdmin as a tool to practice and learn the underlying SQL commands.

You do not have permissions to drop a table nor a tuple. Therefore if you need to change your response after your initial `INSERT`, you must use an `UPDATE` command.

¹if your 4th digit of your GID is a zero, you will have a three digit `sid`.

Conventions & Guidelines

1. Keep your answers short and simple
 2. Pick responses that are common rather than obscure
 3. Pick responses that many others in the class might also answer
 4. Avoid unnecessary adjectives
 5. Avoid or omit punctuation
 6. Spell things correctly (and double-check yourself!)
 7. Use only lower-case only
 8. Do not use profanity, vulgarity, or references to illegal practices
 9. You may substitute a country code (e.g., **de** or **br**) instead of a US state, if applicable.
 10. If you do not wish to divulge a specific piece of information (e.g., birth city), **you need not**. Merely choose another reasonable response.
 11. You may **ONLY** change tuples with your **sid**. Violators will automatically fail the assignment – No exceptions and ‘accidentally’ is not an excuse. Any and all activity I deem as malicious will be rewarded with a failing grade on this assignment. I am logging all transaction activity and I know each and every command you issue.
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Submission

What to submit: NOTHING.

After midnight on the due date, I will examine the database and grade you on completion of this exercise. If you followed instructions, expect full credit. If you violate the conventions, you will lose points. If you skip a table, you will lose points. If you change your **sid**, I know not to whom to give points².

Crowd Sourcing Homework 3

Do you have any queries you would like to see the class answer? This is optional, but I encourage all students to suggest at least one English query. Your suggestions are anonymous, even to me. Post your meaningful suggestions to this google doc (clickable)³. I will select several of the best queries for use when writing Homework 3.

²If you ‘need’ to change your **sid** for privacy reasons, you must email me your new **sid**.

³You may need to download pdf from d2l to access hyperlinks.