Part IV: Reflection

For the first part of the project was it very easy to think about a database for a make believe company. It did not take Mike and I long to think of all the different components that would be needed in an advertising agency. I was put in charge of designing the database and think about the relationships between the tables. I decided to use Microsoft Access to design the database because it helps me make sure the relationships are valid and make sense. Originally I was supposed to design and create the database. However, I was struggling to figure out how operate Visual Studio. So I then asked Mike for help. He was able to figure out how to setup the project by guessing and checking. Then he was able to build the script by looking at the in class example and changing it to fit our database. Mike said occasionally he had to look online to make sure that he was typing in the correct commands to setup the columns in the tables. Mike also did the queries and said that it was very easy to create them because we had a lot of experience with that in class already. So for the queries he said he looked at class notes and did not need the internet to figure anything out. However, he was confused about how to create and post to repositories on GitHub. So I was responsible for learning how to use Github and teach that to him. I had some prior experience with Github before this class but completely forgot how to use it. So I had to google some YouTube videos and was able to refresh myself within minutes.

Both Mike and I learned a lot during this project. We had previously had little experience with both VisualStudio and Github. After the project I am much more comfortable with Github and I think this will be a very valuable tool when I am working with someone else on a project. I previously used it to work on a personal project with one of my computer science major friends from back home. He taught it to me quickly and we were using it to both work on the same project. Github allowed us to make sure our work was up to date since we were not in constant contact but it was helpful to see what each other had accomplished. So I envision being able to use Github for future projects to make sure that work is not being duplicated and everyone is on the same page. Mike is now a lot more comfortable with Visual Studio which will be helpful whenever we need to manage or create data. Between the both of us learned how to use these valuable tools and can continue them to teach each other and continue to learn as future projects and problems happen.

Before starting this project we wished that we had more than one day of working with Visual Studio. We did not find writing the script to be complicated but found setting up the project to be very confusing and had trouble finding answers online. So I wish we had some more prior experience with that before going into this project. I also wish there was a PowerPoint or a document describing the advantages of Visual Studio and the value it adds to companies. Because at the moment I only associate it with building a basic Database. However, I am sure that it can be used for so much more. I think it would have also been helpful to go over how Visual Studio integrates itself with other applications. This was the only thing I wish we had more information on before going into this project because I think it would have helped us succeed since we already had so much practice designing a Database and performing queries.

Since there are only two people in our group our original plan was to split the work in half. I was going to design and create the database, and Mike was going to perform the queries and write the reflection. However, I was struggling with Visual Studio and Mike was able to figure out how to use it much faster than I so we decided to switch parts. I was then responsible for the reflection because he still wanted to do the queries. I also told him that I would learn Github and create the repository and zip file for the project so that he did not have to worry about learning something else as well. The only thing that I would do next time that we did not do this time was set time aside to work together. We both had a busy schedule and were not able to set too much time aside to work together and spent most of the project working on it alone by ourselves. I think that we could have learned more and maybe figured out Visual Studio faster together. That way we would both feel as comfortable with Visual Studio and Github. By working separately I feel less confident and have to spend more time with Visual Studio and Mike is still learning how to use Github properly. Other than that I think we performed very well as a team and do not have a complaint. We were both very willing to help each other and I don’t think either of us felt like one person was doing all the work. We seemed to make a pretty good team.