**Advanced SQL and XML**

**CSC317 Database Systems II**

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**Case 01 - Summary**

Although getting Oracle database express and Oracle SQL developer installed on my Lenovo machine running Windows 10 was not overly complicated, it did cost a fair amount of time. The installation guide documentation, provided under the case 01 part A assignment, was overly detailed and took a considerable amount of time to discern the correct steps to take in order to install the appropriate software for this course.

Once I was passed those introductory hurdles, getting started with Oracle was a pleasant surprise. My past studies have involved using Microsoft’s SQL Server software and I was not certain how working with Oracle was going to look or feel. The last major issue I faced was connecting to the correct database. Because the steps were not clear and versions vary, I had to spend several hours attempting to download, sign into, and connect, to the correct database. When I had discovered the correct steps I took the additional time of posting those to the discussion board.

Navigating and executing the exercises in the tutorial, found at, <http://www.oracle.com/webfolder/technetwork/tutorials/obe/db/sqldev/r30/sqldev3.0_GS/sqldev3.0_GS.htm>, was very straightforward and I moved through the exercises very quickly. The images provided were a great help and although my version of sql server was not the same as the version in the tutorial, the similarities in steps to accomplish the tasks were obvious and fruitful.

In creating a database connection, as mentioned earlier, I struggled with connecting to the correct database and using the appropriate authentication; as such, I ended up uninstalling Oracle and re-installing it on my machine. During the second installation, I kept track of the username and password I had set up; thereby, helping me to log into the correct database (HR\_ORCL).

I was a bit surprised when the documentation asked for mouse movements when adding a new table using the create table dialog box. I was under the impression that I was going to be asked to write the SQL code to create a table. Oracle has a very elegant GUI for performing such tasks and makes it very easy to perform such tasks that would otherwise resolve to be lengthy SQL statement. Modifying or changing the table definition was also pretty straight forward and less tedious than writing the SQL statement to perform the same task.

Adding table constraints was the most interesting, enjoyable part of this particular exercise, for me. Oracle has a model tab, after having clicked on a table that, once clicked on, gives a relational table diagram. This visual aid is very helpful in discerning if a ‘key’ was placed in a table or tables and if it was placed correctly.

Adding data to a table was not an overly challenging chore, but it was a good exercise to help me familiarize myself with the different ways Oracle provides for accomplishing this task. Find the correct path to the ‘files’ folder on my machine added a little confusion because, the instructions suggested that I navigate to the sqldev3.0 directory that is not on my machine. I resolved this relatively quickly and was able to use the provided files to run the script and insert the data into the DEPENDENTS table. Exporting the data to a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet was also another enjoyable step in this exercise.

I found Oracle makes creating reports intuitive and relatively easy. The GUI not only allows you to make use of an intuitive user interface, but it also generates the appropriate SQL query. Stored procedures, modifying line number by toggling them on and off, and modifying variables to see how Oracle makes use of exception handling was something that I found I’ll be needing to practice over the course of this module.