MIS-3545 Group Project\_IKEA

Project 1: Database Design, Creation, and Queries

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Before starting the project, we decided to split the work based on each other’s strengths and others checking on that. Especially because we had a group member that lived off campus, we thought it would be more efficient if everyone just worked separately on their own parts. Our main platform of communication was through our online group chat. Although we expected to communicate effectively through the group chat, we realized that it was more efficient if we met up in person and went through the deliverables together. We eventually found a good medium and decided to meet up in real life to discuss and report back to each other after completing each assigned part. Next time, we would definitely do this from the start because we did waste time and energy trying to figure out what the other person meant online. There was a lot of miscommunication that could have been avoided if we just met up in real life to debrief and discuss. Thankfully, our group recognized the issue early on so we were able to fix it. Overall, there were no major issues within the group. It really helped that our group tried to maintain transparency as much as possible. Everyone was aware of what the other person was working on and errors were quickly spotted.

In terms of a process point of view, we decided on an existing company, IKEA, to have a better visualization. We tried to make our project appropriately scoped by having the relational database design represent the core business of IKEA. All team members worked on this part together because it was imperative that we were able to correctly identify the entities involved, their attributes and the relationships among them so we can have a solid foundation for the later parts of the project. The most self studying that we had to do was for the database creation part. This is due to the fact that for in class activities and homework, we always had the database with the data given to us. Therefore, it was definitely a learning experience trying to create our own database with the fake data. Although the provided link from w3schools.com was helpful, we had to find help from various other websites to get a better perspective and understanding of how to create the database as well as generating random data. We generated random data on excel and made sure data in different table matched up (ex. ShipmentID and CustomerID pair in sales table should match up the ShipmentID and CustomerID pair in Shipment table) by using VLOOKUP in excel. We also had difficulty trying to transfer the database creation. Fortunately, Phil figured out how to copy and paste inserted data into sql file so he’s in charge of this part of the project. Diana and Stella worked on the SQL Queries as well as this write up. Although we have often worked on SQL Queries in class, there was still difficulty involved because we were too used to using the databases given in class. In the beginning, it was hard to adjust to using our own database but we eventually got the hang of it. We can definitely use this skill going forward because we are able to use SQL Server Data Tool to make queries, regardless of which database it is which is definitely a good technical skill to have.