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Database Management

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Lab 4 Questions

8. Check constraints are integrity constraints used in SQL queries to specify a requirement that each row returned by the query must meet. Check constraints are good for specifying which rows of a database should be returned by a SQL query. The advantage of putting check constraints in a database is that constraints enforce uniqueness on a field. One good example of check constraints in a database would be a table with the column shift that represents a worker's shift. This column was designed so that its value could only be "Day", "Evening", or "Night". This prevents users and programmers from entering values into the table that do not meet the constraint of being one of the three values, which is both good design and helps prevent bugs from developing. One example of a table that uses check constraints poorly is a table with a column that holds Boolean values. If the column was designed so that the only possible values could be true, false, or null, the table would be poorly designed because of the use of null as an option. Null should be avoided in database design whenever possible because it is considered poor design. The difference between these two examples is that the example of a bad use of check constraints in databases uses null, while the good use of check constraints does not use null.