**Project 1 Reflection**

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From a process perspective, it was easy to decide what topic our group wanted to work on, and how we would approach the project. A more complicated factor to the group process was dividing the labor in a meaningful manner, given the necessary order of operations—the database had to be designed, created via SQL, and then queried, in that specific order. The succession of tasks meant that one person was not able to do certain things without the completed work of another group member first.

One major room for improvement in the project is with regard to importing data into the tables that were created during the second section of the project, “Database creation.” Originally, our team inserted rows manually, however, we were able to implement a BULK INSERT command to insert over 120 rows of products at once. This change in process was a massive efficiency, however, the BULK INSERT commands did not end up running for the two sales-related tables, which meant manual entry of many, many rows. In order to make this process far less tedious, the rows were generated in the right syntax via a repeatable “=CONCATENATE()” function in MS Excel. While this did not ultimately take our group very long, it is not nearly as elegant as using BULK INSERT functions for all of the data tables.

There were a few moments when self-studying was necessary, including a few visits to W3Schools. These moments were mostly related to the aforementioned BULK INSERT syntax and implementation questions. Moving forward, we hope to use Python to automate data formatting and creation (if we are generating sample data) into much neater and more easily readable files, we expect that this would reduce many of the format compatibility errors we encountered.

Our team met very few times but was efficient in each meeting. We ultimately divided the work based on comfortability with material, timing availability based on Spring Break departures, and all provided checks and balances through reading over each other’s work. Slack proved to be very helpful in fast responses to technical questions and discussions. There were no issues while working together, and our team would happily work together on another future project!