Group Report College Event Website

COP 4710 Fall 2018 Group 5

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Project Description	4
Database Design	4
ER-Model	4
Relational Data Model	4
Create Table Script	4
Triggers	5
Assertions	5
Checks	5
SQL	5
View Events	5
Join RSO/Organization	6
New RSO/Organization	6
New Event	6
Commenting	7
GUI	7
Login Page	7
Dashboard	7
View Events	8
View Event	10
Create Event	11
Create RSO	12
Join RSO	12
Admin Tools	13
Implementation	13
Front End	13
Back End	13
Database	14
Server	14
Constraint Enforcement	14
Event occuring at same time and Place	14
Creating event for Organization Which you aren't an Admin For	14
Number of Members needed to have an RSO	14
Sample Data	14
Python Script	14
Event Table	15

User Table	15
Organization Table	15
University Table	15
Advanced Features	15
Mapping	15
Facebook	16
Availability	16
Conclusion	17
Database Performance	17
Additional Features	17
Problems encountered in project	17

Project Description

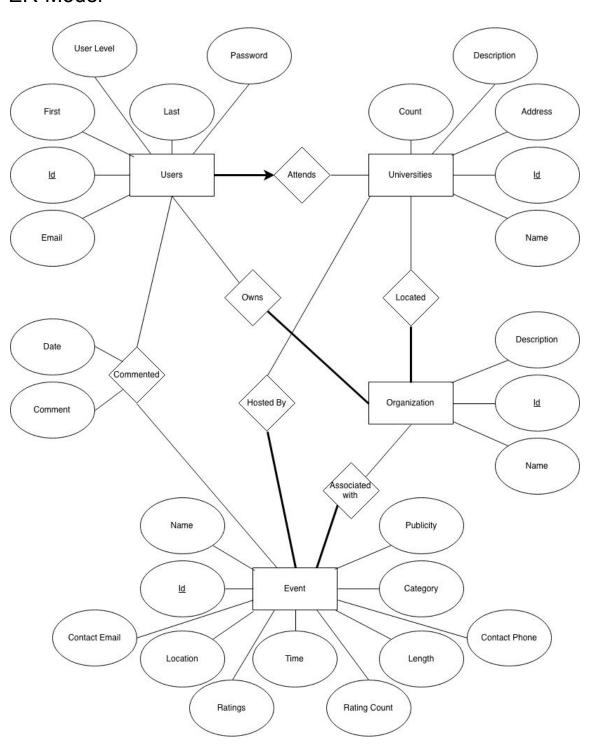
The College Event Website is a website for universities and student organizations to post information about upcoming events into a large, public feed for other students to discover. This is a powerful platform to connect and tie students in various universities together as well as serve as a front for organizations to post and update events which can be directed to the audience.

On which, you can view the following:

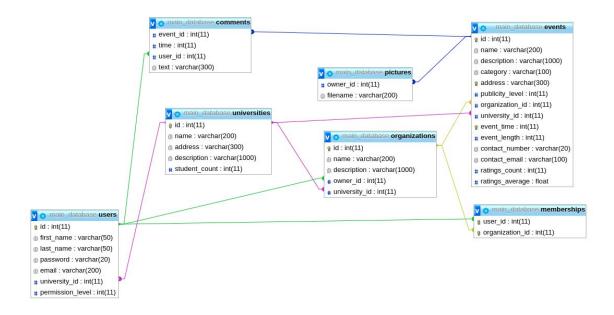
- Organizations: Create and view organizations and clubs at your local university!
- Events: View and create events for local organizations, and register for your favorites!
- Universities: Everything is tied to your university, so you'll always know what's going on around you!

Database Design

ER-Model



Relational Data Model



Create Table Script

This project includes an SQL script to quickly and easily build a new database with the tables described above. Each table contains several fields, and most of the tables contain foreign keys and a primary key.

Triggers

There are several triggers included in this project. These triggers are written in the create table script. The triggers mainly focus on the university count field of the universities table. When a new student is added, the appropriate university's university count is incremented. If that student is ever removed, the appropriate university's university count is decremented. Finally, if a student changes universities, the count for the respective universities will change to match.

Assertions

This project did not require any assertions.

Checks

This project did not require any checks.

SQL

Throughout the project we used a series of queries to be able to gather the needed information and present it to the user. Through php we used prepared statements, but we have condensed the statements into pure SQL for the ease of explanation.

View Events

The view all event page has two main SQL queries. The first one simply looks for all event open to the public, publicity level 0, or event open to all student of a university, publicity level 2. The second query has to pull in the membership table to see if an event is only open to members and is the use a member of the organization. We had to separate these into two separate queries to ensure we got all of the wanted events without duplication.

SELECT DISTINCT * FROM `events` E where (E.publicity_level = 0) OR (E.publicity_level = 1 AND E.university id = '\$ SESSION[univ]')

SELECT DISTINCT *

FROM 'events' E, 'memberships' M

WHERE(E.publicity_level = 2 AND E.university_id = '\$_SESSION[univ]' AND M.organization_id = E.organization_id AND M.user_id = '\$_SESSION[id]'

To view events also relies on some secondary queries, as organization id and university id are stored in the table not the actual name of the organization or university, which is what we want to show. To solve this we added our secondary queries.

SELECT name
FROM organizations
WHERE organizations.id = '\$row[organization_id]'

SELECT name
FROM universities
WHERE universities.id = '\$row[university id]' LIMIT 0,1";

Join RSO/Organization

To join an organization is dependent on 2 queries. The first query enforces the constraint that only members of the university can join an organization associated with that organization. This is by only showing organizations associated with the university to the user and giving them the ability to join. The second query simply inserts the membership into the membership using the organization id and the user id.

SELECT name,id FROM organizations WHERE organizations.university_id ='\$_SESSION[univ]

INSERT INTO memberships (user_id, organization_id)

VALUES (:user_id, :organization_id)')

New RSO/Organization

Creating a new RSO only requires the user of one query. This query simply fills out all of the required information to create a new organization. The id of the organization is auto incremented therefore does not need to be incremented. The university id is also inserted, but does not need to be queried from the users profile because we have it stored in the session variable.

INSERT INTO organizations (name, owner_id, university_id, description) VALUES (:name, :owner, :university, :description)'))

New Event

Creating a new event uses a simple query, that takes the input from the form and inserts it into the table. There are some supporting queries that help populate the date in the form. There is a query that looks ups all of the organizations that the user is an admin for and can create a event for that organization. The university is automatically populated, by the session variable.

INSERT INTO events (name, description, category, address, publicity_level, organization_id, event_time, contact_number, contact_email, university_id, event_length)

VALUES (:name, :description, :category, :address, :publicity_level, :organization id,:event time, :contact number, :contact email, :university id, :event length)'))

Commenting

Commenting is dependent on three queries, the first query shows all of the comments related to a event on the view event page. The second query allows for the user to edit a comment, the user can only access this feature if they own the comment. They also have the option to delete the comment if they own the comment.

SELECT * FROM `comments` c WHERE c.event_id = \$_GET[event]

UPDATE comments

SET comment = '\$comment'

WHERE id = '\$_GET[comment]'

DELETE FROM comments

WHERE id = '\$_GET[comment]'

GUI

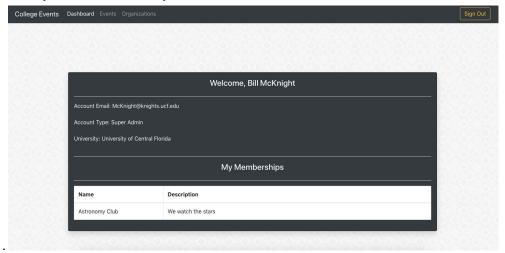
Login Page

Upon entry to the site, you start at the Login page, this page allows for the user to log into the website and start viewing events. If the user does not have an account there is a link on the page to take them to a Register screen so they can create and account.



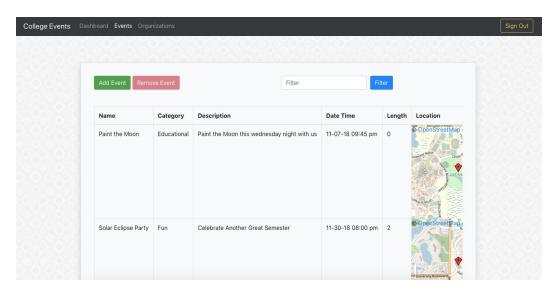
Dashboard

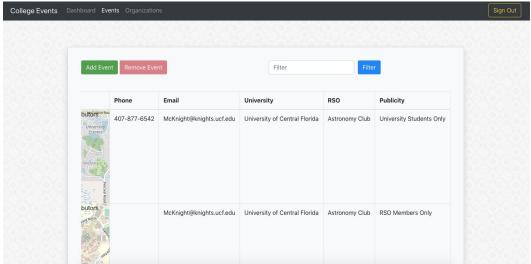
Upon successful logging in the user is presented with the dashboard. This gives the user a quick run down of information about them, such as the university they are registered with and their user level. This page also shows the users memberships to organizations, this gives the user a quick way to make sure they will see events relevant to them



View Events

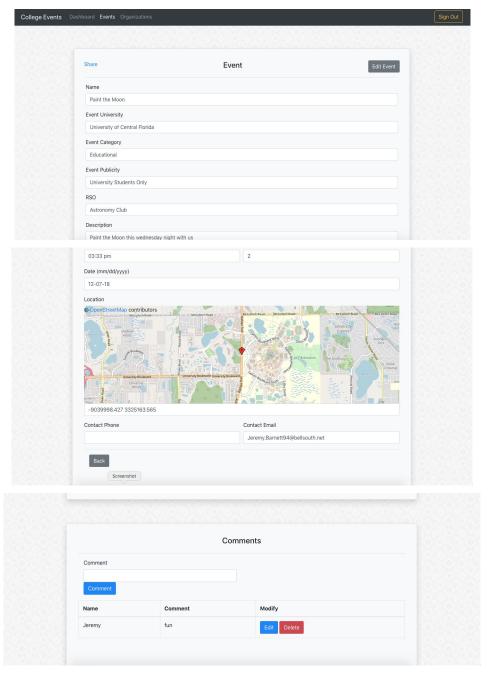
The view event page shows all of the events that are open to all users, open to members at your university or open to organizations in which you are a member of. This ensures no events show up here that you are unable to attend. Each event has tons of information. This information includes the name, a description, the time and date, a pin on a map representing the location, as well as contact information for the organizer.





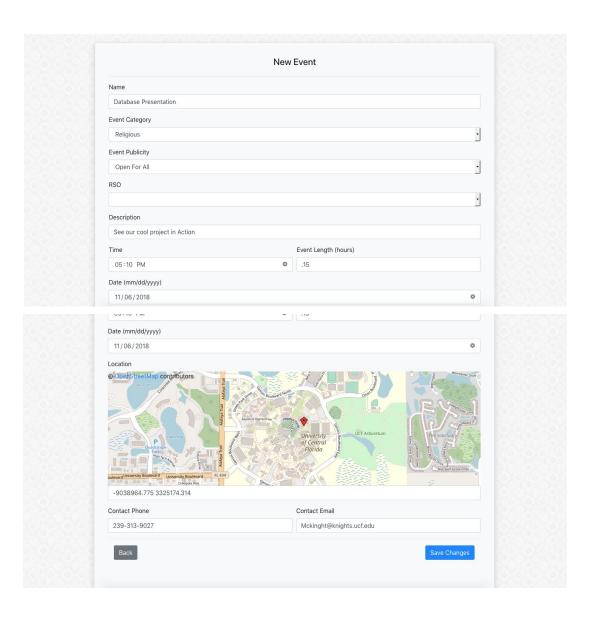
View Event

If a user see an event they want to see more information on or wants to comment on, they can click on the event, and it will show up on its own page. This page shows all the information available on the event. This page also allows for user to leave comment on events. Users can edit and delete their own personal comments after they are left, however they cannot edit or delete other users comments. From this page the user can also share the event on facebook, this allows for them to get the word out without the need for having all users creating an account.



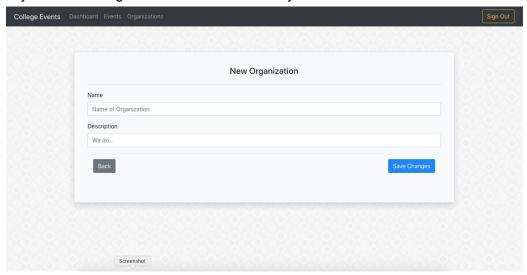
Create Event

An admin or super admin can create an event for their owned organization. They can select the publicity of an event to control who can see there event, and which RSO/Organization its associated with. The user can use the map to pinpoint the exact location of the event for easy communication. These events are automatically associated with the university that the user is associated, making sure only students that attend a university can own a events at said university.



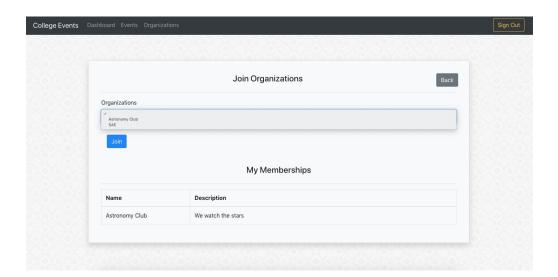
Create RSO

An admin or super admin can also create organizations. These organizations are automatically associated with the university that the user is associated, making sure only students that attend a university can own a organization at said university.



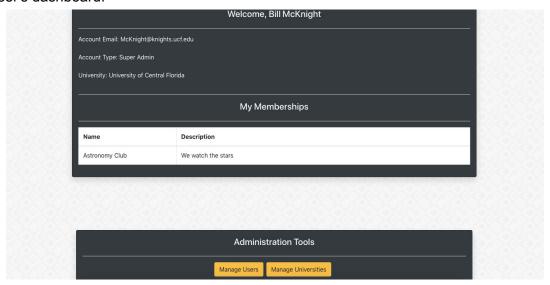
Join RSO

Any student that attends a university that an organization is associated with has the ability to join the organization. This can be done with a simple click. Once an organization is joined it all events associated with organization will show up in the users event feed.



Admin Tools

Users who are admin automatically have access to the admin tools. Any admin can add users, but only super admins can add universities. All of these tools are available from the bottom of the user's dashboard.



Implementation

Front End

The front end of the website was constructed with a HTML and CSS styling. This was the most efficient way to get a nice looking website in the shortest amount of time. There is also some uses of Javascript to improve the look and feel of the website, as well as facilitating the mapping solution. The mapping solution uses Openlayer.js a open source mapping solution. This was the best choice for the project as it did not cost to implement and can be easily be traded out for other options latter on. To give the website the ability to act dynamically the website backend also echos some of the html to change the layout and view based on the user. We also used the Bootstrap library to help with the brunt of the CSS work, as Bootstrap makes website look very nice, very easily.

Back End

The backend of the website uses php to communicate with the website. This was a new technology for many of us, and was a great learning experience. The php let it self to be very useful as it allowed us to make our website very dynamic by being able to echo new html with

variables set based on the user, as well as allowing us to pass variables via the url. PHP also gave us a simple way to query the database. Making the act of accessing data very easy.

Database

For this project, we stuck with the tried and true DBMS MySQL. We had originally chosen MariaDB for our DBMS which is a free and open-source fork of MySQL more open to privacy concerns and community. MariaDB caused us to have some issues, as it was a new technology for all of us. After a couple weeks of messing around with MariaDB, we chose to instead go with MySQL as we were much more familiar with it. Due to the DBMS being the core part of this project (can't have a website without a database), it was crucial that we got the database software up and running as soon as possible. MySQL is very reliable and can handle rows of data in the tens of millions. Overall our database implementation was extremely standard. We made no tweaks to MySQL besides allowing users to login to the root user account with a password. MySQL proved to be extremely useful for this project as it had no gimmicks or quirks, and no issues whatsoever. Our DBMS simply worked, and the database was implemented using MySQL swimmingly.

Server

For our backend server we chose to run linux using Ubuntu 18.04 LTS. We chose Ubuntu because those helping to set up the server were very familiar with the OS. DigitalOcean (our hosting provider) allowed a "one-click install" of Ubuntu with the entire LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP) stack already installed. In terms of operating systems, Ubuntu - just like MySQL - is very standard and basic, and does everything we need it to do. After making sure all of the LAMP components were properly installed and configured, we implemented a couple of firewall rules and were up and running in minutes. We used Apache2 as our web-server, as it came pre-installed with the LAMP stack. There isn't much of a difference between Apache2 and NGinx, so we just stuck with Apache2. Installing modules for PHP7 was as simple as a one-line command. With Digital Ocean we are guaranteed consistent uptimes and on-demand support in the event that we had an issue. We couldn't have asked for an easier time setting up our server.

Constraint Enforcement

Event occuring at same time and Place

Events cannot occur at the same time and place, as per the assignment description. To ensure that this never happens, in the events table, the primary key for each entry is the location crossed with the time. Event times are stored in Unix Time, and locations are stored as coordinates. This will ensure that no two entries occur at the same time and same place.

Creating event for Organization Which you aren't an Admin For

This constraint is enforced by the GUI, as the user does not have the option to create event for admins they are not admins for. The create event button is only shown if the users user level is an admin or super admin. Then from there we run a query to see if the user is the owner of the organization. Only then can they create an event associated with the organization.

SELECT name,id FROM organizations WHERE organizations.owner_id ='\$_SESSION[id]'

Number of Members needed to have an RSO

This constraint is not enforced as we see this as a tool for organizations and not a organization management page. This is designed as a way to get the word out about an event. Also the only way to get the privilege to have an event is to be an admin, meaning that you have been upgraded from a regular user to admin or super admin. Meaning you have been approved by some higher power.

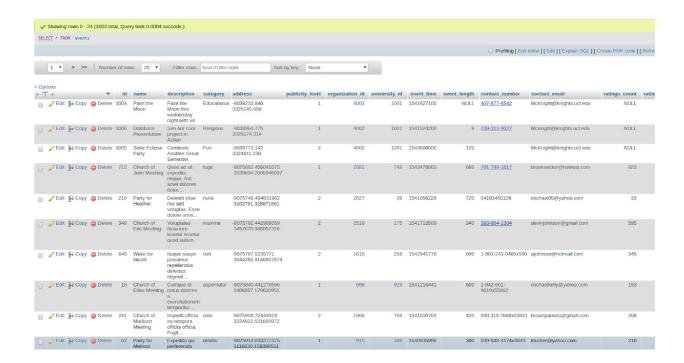
Sample Data

Python Script

This project generates a huge heap of sample data using Python scripts. These scripts create objects for events, universities, users, etc. and populate variables for each field in the respective table. These variables are partially generated with the random Python package, and partially generated with the faker Python package. The faker Python package generates natural language random strings for all sorts of things, like names, emails, and addresses. Random numbers can simply be generated using the random Python package for things like phone numbers, coordinates, and times. All script data is then written into SQL scripts, which can be run by MySQL and inserted into the tables.

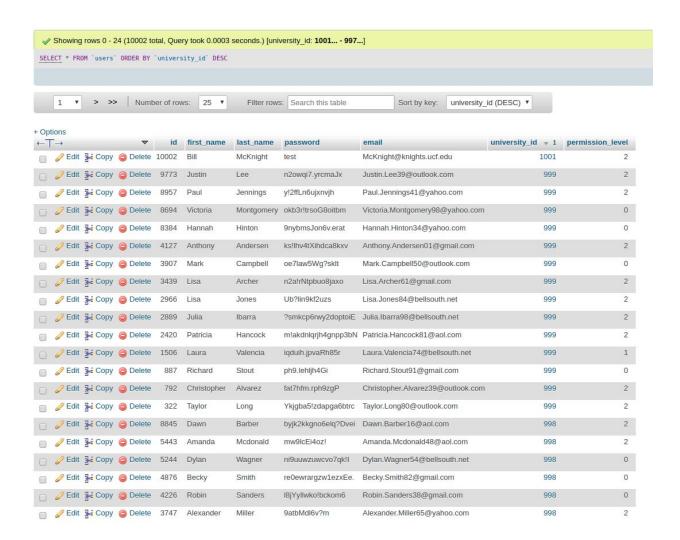
Event Table

Given the sample data we have made, below is an screenshot of some of this data as it actually appears in our Database. Below you can see the events and their corresponding attributes as relevant to the website.



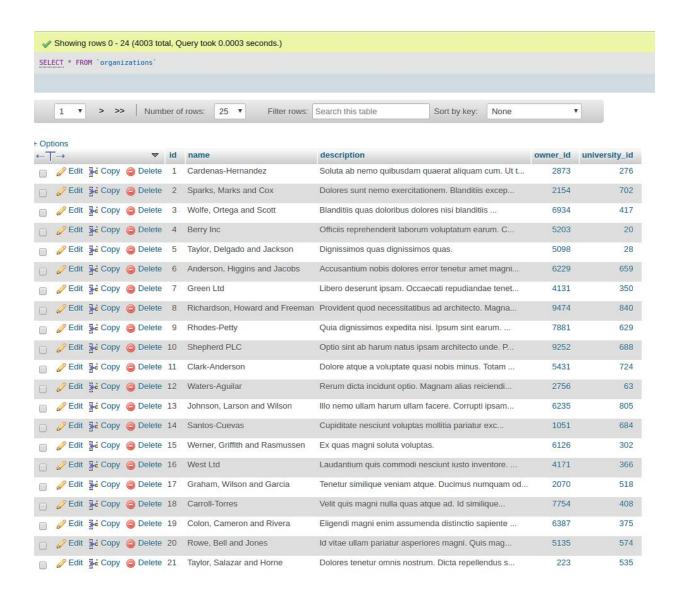
User Table

Given the sample data we have made, below is an screenshot of some of this data as it actually appears in our Database. Below you can see the sample Users currently registered at the time. The relevant attributes tied to each of the users are also shown below.



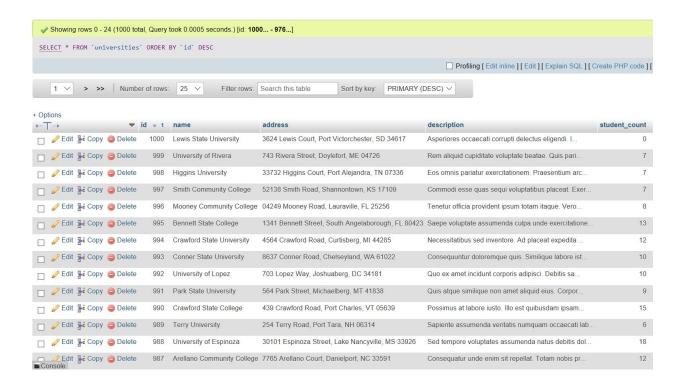
Organization Table

Given the sample data we have made, below is an screenshot of some of this data as it actually appears in our Database. Below you can see the sample organizations as well their corresponding descriptions as well as owner and university tags to which they are tied to.



University Table

Given the sample data we have made, below is an screenshot of some of this data as it actually appears in our Database. Below you can see the universities currently registered in the database. The name, address, description, and total student population are also shown.



Advanced Features

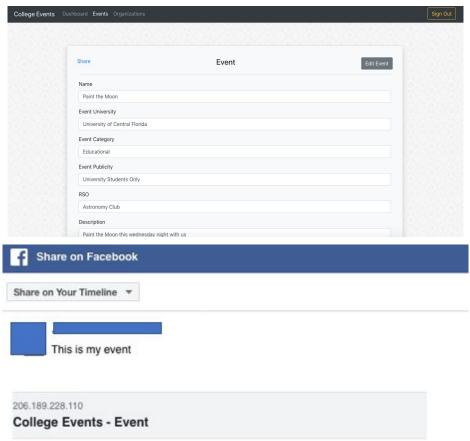
Mapping

The mapping was done using Openlayer.js an open source library, that uses open street view for the source of it mapping data. This was a great solution for this project as it was a no cost solution and can be easily swapped out for other technology latter on. The mapping gives the user to pinpoint the location of their event. While also giving the user the ability to change the location if needed. The location is then stored in the database as a coordinate pair for easy retrieval. Another benefit of this is the ability to easily compare the locations of two events, to ensure they are not occuring in the same location.



Facebook

The facebook integration allows the user to easily share any event on facebook. This allows for events to get more publicity, and be seen by a greater audience. This integration is a very easily done integration as facebook has their own api, and provides all the needed code to simply add the feature to your website. We did have to modify the code a little to have it change dynamically, as the view event page it is on changes based on what event id is stored in the URL. To do this we added some php that will echo the proper address for the facebook link to point to.



Availability

DigitalOcean (our server hosting provider) offers "High Availability" server systems for users with critical systems. When ordering a high availability server, DigitalOcean guarantees you 99% availability in a period of one year (up to 1% downtime). These downtimes include scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, so usually the downtime is even less. DigitalOcean also has many tutorials on increasing availability using software like "heartbeat" and "pacemaker". We

opted-in to DigitalOcean's "Floating IP" feature, which allows our server to change IPs in the event that a load-balancer needs to switch the server's IP. If there is an increased amount of traffic or load on a specific IP, DigitalOcean automatically switches our IP to another, to help prevent downtime. On top of all of this, in the event that our server does go down, DigitalOcean has extremely competent support that is available around the clock.

Conclusion

Database Performance

Using PHPMyAdmin, we were able to manage our database and its performance very well. PHPMyAdmin provides a GUI front-end, and as a result it is slightly slower than MySQL's command-line interface. However, as seen in the picture below, even using PHPMyAdmin, we are able to select, sort, and order by over 10,000 rows in our "users" table in under 0.0006 seconds. This being said, fetching data through PHP yielded select query response times in less than 0.0005 seconds. We would suggest using an index such as a B+ index to quickly slim down specific queries by factors such as first letter of the first or last name instead of iterating over something like 10,000 rows. Overall, due to the small size of our database and the nature of the project, we foresee absolutely no issues with database performance, and are seeing speeds of down to .5-.10 ms for some of our more complicated queries.

```
Showing rows 0 - 24 (10000 total, Query took 0.0006 seconds.) [university_id: 999... - 996...]

SELECT * FROM 'users' ORDER BY 'university_id' DESC
```

Additional Features to Consider

Security Plans

- Escape all user input using htmlspecialchars to prevent XSS and SQLi
- Harden the web-server using fail2ban to prevent against unauthorized SSH access
- Hashing and Salting passwords

Plans to Broaden Project

- We can broaden the project to allow access to entities other than universities
- Advertise the project to other students to get the word around
- Scrape and insert data from UCF event log at regular intervals using Python and BeautifulSoup

Recovery Plans

- Backup database once a day as an offline copy
 - o Rotate out backups weekly to another, separate server

Plans to Enable Different "Views" for Accounts

 Allow people who haven't logged in to access our website up to a certain extent without having to create an account

Problems encountered in project

Learning new languages

This project required us to interact with and learn many languages that some of us were
not familiar with. It challenged us to broaden our programming background while also
further progressing our personal development skills. In the end, we have background in
new technologies that we would not have had the opportunity to work with before.