Laura Josuweit

Professor Zahira Khan

COMPSCI 357-01

5 October 2016

Initial Study: Black Dragon Knit & Crochet

Analyze the Company:

Black Dragon Knit & Crochet is a small online business with four employees: Kaitlin (company head), Ellen (secretary and employee 1), Kayla (employee 2), and Dan (employee 3). Black Dragon Knit & Crochet sells handmade knit and crochet hats, scarves, gloves, and other items online and via word of mouth. The company started as a side project of the company head’s and grew larger over time. Recently, sales have picked up and friends have started joining Kaitlin’s business as employees. Kaitlin is the head of the company, and currently handles most of the sales information, coordination, and business management. Ellen is not only a regular employee, but also helps Kaitlin manage the business, and Kayla and Dan are just regular employees that make hats and such.

Define Existing Problems and Constraints:

Black Dragon currently does not have much of a system. For the most part Kaitlin and Ellen just write down orders or put them on their calendars, contacting Kayla and Dan when they have a project they want them to do. Recently, Kaitlin and Ellen have been having problems making sure that everything is getting done, and that orders are not misplaced or forgotten. Currently, everyone just works independently on the projects they feel like doing at the moment, and then they put them up for sale (unless a customer explicitly requests something). Kaitlin wants to also have several items they know are popular up for sale at all times, to have a steady source of income for her company, and needs a way to keep track of who knows how to make which patterns. Kaitlin would like to have an updated inventory of what yarns they current have and what completed projects they are trying to sell, so she can make more informed decisions about her company. She would also like to have her employees be able to see some of this information (such as a table of who is working on what project, what yarn colors they currently have available, etc.)

Define Objectives of New Proposed Database:

I propose creating a new database for Black Dragon Knit & Crochet that will keep track of who is working on what projects, what items are awaiting sale, what yarn is currently owned, what orders are outstanding, which employees can make which pattern, and other information. Some of this information will be able to be viewed and edited by any employee, and other information will only be able to be edited by higher ranking employees.

The initial objective is to store information Kaitlin needs to run Black Dragon Knit & Crochet in a meaningful and intuitive manner, so she can run her company more efficiently and serve her customers (and employees) better.

The new system will store more information than the current “system”, and keep all the information in one easily accessed space so there are no data redundancy problems. Kaitlin and Ellen will also have access to up-to-date lists of their for-sale items, outstanding orders, and available yarn.

Define Scope and Boundaries:

-Time Constraints (10 weeks)

-Budget Constraints (no funds)

-Hardware and Software Constraints (Oracle DBMS will be used)