MIS 325: Database Management
Summer 2012

Room: UTC 1.132
Time: M-Th 12:00 to 1:45
Unique: 718500

John Mote
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Course Objectives

Databases form the backbone of virtually every modern corporate information system. The database supports the organization's highly structured, operational activities (e.g., inventory, sales, marketing, personnel) as well as the ad hoc, strategic managerial analysis of complex business decision problems (e.g., new product introduction, plant expansion, off-shoring, downsizing, stock offerings). Without a well designed and intelligently implemented database, the organization will have a difficult time remaining competitive in the marketplace.

This course provides a balanced introduction to the design and implementation of corporate database management systems. We will examine effective strategies and techniques for modeling typical corporate data collection, retrieval and analysis problems. By understanding the information needs and data flows within an organization, we can create a database solution that best serves our users. The design skills we master in this course are universal. That is, the same basic modeling skills are needed whether we are designing a database for a single-user, pc-based environment or for a thousand-user, client-server, distributed environment.

Given a database design, and the corresponding hardware and network environment, the next crucial step of the process is the implementation phase (including verification). We will use Microsoft SQL Server as our primary vehicle for mastering the database implementation process. We will also use ASP and PHP for the user-interface component of web-based databases.

Given a basic design and implementation, the final step of the process is the ongoing monitoring and revision of the database management system as the organization, the users and the database itself evolve over time. Clearly, this step never ends.
Readings

There is no required textbook. Readings will be provided throughout the semester to provide background and to help fill gaps in the lectures.

Software

You do not need to purchase any software for this class. Everything is available on the computers in the Mod and Millennium Labs. You may also download the software (Visio Pro and SQL Server) at no cost to your own Windows computer. Installation instructions will be provided during the semester.

Class Web

All of the class material (slides, assignments, sample databases, ASP/PHP applications, FAQs, grades, etc) will be available from the class web (not Blackboard):

http://www.utexas.edu/courses/mis325

Grading

Assignments & Quizzes  50 percent
June 21st Exam          30 percent
July 3rd Exam           20 percent

Assignments & Quizzes

All assignments will be posted on the web. Most assignments will be turned in electronically. Late assignments will be penalized twenty percent per calendar day (not class day) up to the time when grades and suggested solutions are posted. In order to be fair to the other students in the class, late assignments cannot be accepted after that point.

A few unannounced quizzes may be given during the semester. They will count as minor homework assignments.

Students with Disabilities

The University of Texas provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.