**IS314 - Database Program**

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**COMMENT ON EXPERIENCES AND DIFFICULTIES**

**Experiences**:

-The scope of the project/program is always changing. Even when the parameters or rubric is given there is more to it that adds up work to the program (i.e. pulled category information from database).

-SQL statements and database concept. For the first time I was introduced to SQL statements.

-Stored procedures were new to me too.

-I learned to not call the form directly from the clsDatabase and instead store my article data a clsArticles to be called later by frmArticles.

-It was interesting to see how long it actually takes to communicate with the database and reload the information on my tabs. I would have just reloaded one area but it wasn’t possible because I couldn’t find an onClick event for the top tabs. Otherwise I would have only loaded the relevant form data when the user was on that specific tab. I believe this would have sped up the reaction time when voting on articles. An alternative solution could have been to separate my application into separate forms but this isn’t as nice as having tabs in my opinion for the user of the application.

-It was interesting learning about the new things I didn’t have any idea existed such as the stored procedures.

**Difficulties**:

-Make the date and time working based on database information. I had troubles with this because every time I click like or dislike in my program it will update the date and time and it will disorder the descending order.

-Store procedures in the database after I had all the functions working in my code.

-Rewriting my code completely to go to clsArticles instead of directly to the frmArticles didn’t make much sense to me at the beginning but now I understand. Even so, it was quite a lot of work when I was almost done with the program.

-Keeping track of every little detail can sometimes be difficult. Sometimes I’d forget to change a property name from “One” to “Two” and it resulted in 5-10 minutes putting in break points to fix my program.

-Sometimes I thought there was a problem with the database connection but in reality it was my code. It took a while to figure out some of these problems.

**One tech-tip**:

*Programming Tech-Tip*

One of best site’s I have found for training in MySql is <http://www.Lynda.com/>

They have some of the best tutorials that I have seen on the Internet. Another great resource is <http://www.thenewboston.com/>

Pertaining to our application, I believe an excellence tip is following a variable naming standard for your variables, functions, classes, and stored procedures. It may not seem like a big deal, but as a program gets larger it makes the random bug much easier to track down. Check out this Microsoft site that offers some guidance in naming conventions: [http://support.microsoft.com/kb/110264](%22)