Contributions

- All of us worked collaboratively on designing the database model.
- Paea generated and finalized the MySQL database (put in data types, fixed problems, etc.)
- Shanti inserted all the data (wrote scripts, uploaded them), and Paea helped.
- Yanhui wrote all of our query templates (chose 8 queries, and wrote the SQL).
- We split up the 8 queries evenly and each worked on the PHP pages for them.
- Paea put all of the 8 separate query forms together into a nice, interactive website & template.
- Among the three of us, we all put in relatively equal efforts to pull this project off.
- Joe Bloe never showed up to any of our group meetings and did not really contribute.

Project Resources

- Database model (in ER Studio format): https://ix.cs.uoregon.edu/cit381/paea/finaldb.dm1
- MySQL: database paea_db2, server ix.cs.uoregon.edu, port 3171, user paea, password 9876
- PHP Website homepage: https://ix.cs.uoregon.edu/cit381/paea/index.html
- A special README file for using our website: https://ix.cs.uoregon.edu/cit381/paea/README

Caveats and Lessons Learned

- In our database model, we designed a way to handle conferences over multiple years. However, when we started to insert data, we realized this design was really causing us to repeat a lot of extra work that our chosen queries will not really benefit from. So we decided to alter the actual physical model to not reflect the fact that conferences can occur yearly and save ourselves some non-instructive tedium. This was a good lesson for us to learn about keeping the model streamlined to fit your actual requirements: over designing a model is not necessarily a good thing! If we had chosen queries that aggregated data over years, then we would have no choice but to implement our original design with yearly data.
- We started off adding 50 contacts and 50 proposals and 50 reviewers before we realized that it means we have to enter 17,500 review-question scores (50x50x7)! So we trimmed it down to 50 contacts, 9 proposals, and 27 reviewers (we need at least 3 per proposal: 9x3=27). So we still had to enter 9x27x7=1701 questions. That's still a lot, but any less than 9 proposals seemed like too few to us. Luckily, Paea figured out a way to generate records fairly quickly using Excel's fill-down feature, then we added INSERT syntax around that data using search and replace a few times. We underestimated how much work inserting data would be. So that was a good lesson to learn: inputed data is valuable! That's why durability (the D in ACID) is such an important property that databases support: backups, backups, backups!
- None of us are very good at PHP, so we had some trouble with the syntax when we needed to do something more than the generic templates that were provided. Luckily, the GTF was awesome and helped us figure out how to make PHP do what we wanted it to.
- Finally, and awesome-est of all, we used AJAX to autofill some of our forms! It is super cool, but took us a hella-lot of time to figure out. We're hoping this extra effort will earn us some brownie points?

Signatures & Parting Comments

++Paea: the GTF for this class is the best ever: helpful, nice, available, smart; really helped me learn the stuff.
-Shanti: I want an A+ (please?)
: Yaani: Peace out.

(Joe refused to sign, probably because we were honest about his contribution and he's pissed at us. ++Paea)