CSE 444
Database Management Systems
Spring 1997
University of Washington

Introduction and Welcome

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Today’s Topics

• Course contents overview
• Course structure overview
• What is a database? and who cares?

Course Contents

• DB for decades has been the workhorse of corporate applications
  – unglamorous but essential
  – lots of good-paying (but dull?) jobs
• DB is once again a hot hot topic
  – objects, very large DB, new media, distributed heterogeneous computing, RAD, etc., etc.

My Goals for You

• Learn classic topics really well
  – E/R modeling, relational design, classic query languages, storage and indexing, transaction processing concepts
• Hands-on practice with small DBs on PC
• Have awareness of some current trends
  • Enough background to go forth and learn anything you need to in the real world.

What this course is not

• Not "Mastering Microsoft Access 97" (or Oracle or Sybase or whatever)
• Not becoming an SQL guru
• Not building way-cool GUIs in Visual Basic or Java
• Not a course on CORBA or ODBM or SQL Server or ...

Are you in the right course?

• CSE 326 is the prerequisite
• Also very helpful
  – Operating Systems
  – Programming Languages
  – Software Engineering
  – Computer Architecture
• CSE 444 will likely be taught again Winter
• Likely an advanced DB course in Spring
Instructor’s Perspective

• 1970’s: database consultant for Honeywell
• 1980’s: as a grad student, DB was one of my “quals” areas
• 1990’s: taught a semester-length version of this course
• Admit to feeling somewhat distanced from current practice...

Hoping your papers and projects will help correct that!

Course Structure

• Tests: midterm and final.
  – important but not huge
• Written (non-programming) homework
• Hands-on homework (using Microsoft Access 97) including some programming
• Short research paper (due mid-quarter)
• Group DB project (due end of quarter)

Infrastructure

• TA: Jake Cockrell
• Lecture periods
  – slides will only outline the material
  – sometimes follow text, sometimes not
  – I’ll want you to participate, too.
• Text: Elmasri and Navathe 2nd edition
  – Start reading today! Chapters 1-3
  – Later you might want to buy books on MS Access and/or SQL

Hands-on Stuff

• Lab: Sieg 232 (NT)
  – Pay a visit today! Verify you can log-on and start up MS Access
• Web site
  www.cs.washington.edu/education/courses/444/
• E-mail

We can do a lot by e-mail and web, but I still would like to see you in person!

Looking forward to the paper...

• Topic
  – Proposed by you, OK’d by me. Start looking!
  – Every person should have a different topic
  – Should be something current and not otherwise covered in the course
  – Could be a commercial product or application
  – Could relate to other CS areas
    • OS, Architecture, Networking, ProgLangs, etc.
• Writing counts!

Looking forward to the projects...

• Group projects
  – Each group with a different project
  – Get to know each other so you can form good groups!
• “Service” oriented
  – Should fulfill a real need for someone outside the course
• Emphasis on DB
  – But also specification, user interface, etc.
A Note of Caution

• The paper and projects will OVERLAP other activities: tests, homeworks, etc.
• You may expect conflicts and deadline clashes within the course!

*Please use all your best time-management skills to avoid overload and stress!*