Evaluation

I feel that I have achieved the intended objectives and met the aims because I was able to create a database that for a hire/rental company so that they could use it to manage stock, customer data and finances.

Did you alter your original plans? If so, why?

My original plan was to create a simple relational data base with three tables, stock, rental and customer. Then to create the fields, then make the forms and continue from there. The reason I did not change my original plans was because I thought it was a good plan and would be clearly implemented.

Data base

Were the tables suitable, why?

The tables were suitable; included sufficient fields and they were easily related.

Were the fields suitable, why?

The fields were chosen to hold all information within reason. The fields information entered in to these fields will benefit from the field sizes, validation, input masks and look ups; these would prevent the wrong information being entered.

Was the data suitable, why?

The data was suitable because it was relevant and appropriate for the purpose.

Did the forms work ok; did they have to be improved in any way? How/why? And or could they have been improved in any way?

The forms looked very nice, the design, colours, fonts, logo and buttons matched, each form was created in the same design. They covered all the necessary functions and included buttons. The forms were very user friendly; any one could look at them and work out how to use it.

Did the queries meet the original requirements – did they have to be altered in any way, did they return results that will be useful to the company? How could they have been improved?

The queries met the original requirements and the queries answered all the questions.

Testing – did you have to make any changes as a result of testing - copy any print screens which show evidence of this and past them here, explain what happened and how it improved the system.

I found the testing very boring. I had to work very carefully to make sure that I did not make any mistakes when testing the fields. I was surprised when I had finished the expected result was the same as the actual result for every test, meaning that there were no mistakes.

Did the reports look and print ed ok; did they have to be improved in any way? Or how could they have been improved?

The reports looked very plain; if I was doing this again I would put a company logo on the report, however I would like to keep the report plain and simple because people find it easier to read the report like this and the report is not over loaded with information that discourage people from reading it.

Did you develop a switchboard menu system – why – is it useful to the organisation?

I developed a switchboard menu system. The switchboard worked correctly. Switchboards make it easier for staff to use the data base as it is clear and easy to understand.

Did they have to be improved in any way? How/why? And or could they have been improved in any way?

How could you have improved your database?

How well did the database work?

Would the database improve the efficiency of the business?

Evaluation

I feel that I have achieved the intended objectives and met the aims because I was able to create a database that for a hire/rental company so that they could use it to manage stock, customer data and finances. My original plan was to create a simple relational data base with three tables, stock, rental and customer. Then to create the fields, then make the forms and continue from there. The reason I did not change my original plans was because I thought it was a good plan and would be clearly implemented.

The tables were suitable. The tables included sufficient fields and they were related to make sure that redundant data had to be entered/ stored. The fields were chosen to hold all information within reason. The data entered in to these fields will benefit from the field sizes, validation, input masks and look ups; these will reduce the chance of the wrong information being entered and speed up data entry. The data was suitable because it was relevant and appropriate for the purpose. The forms were very user friendly, the design, colours, fonts, logo and buttons matched; each form was created in the same design. They covered all the necessary functions and included buttons. The forms were very user friendly; any one could look at them and work out how to use it.

The queries met the original requirements and they answered all the questions required. I had to work very carefully to make sure that I did not make any mistakes when testing the fields. I was surprised when I when I was testing the date rented field on the rental form that when I entered the date as 01/13/08 and it was accepted, then the computer switched the day to the month and the month to the day date to changing the date from 01/13/08 to 13/01/08 . Instead of refusing the data it used the same data and tried to make sense of it by swapping the day and the month around. I was worried about the computer swapping the date around so I decided that I would change the field input mask so that instead of entering the month as a number the user would now enter the first three letters of month, to reduce the margin for error in this field.

The reports looked very plain; if I was doing this again I would put a company logo on the report, to do this I would have to open the report in design view copy the logo I created and paste the logo in to place. However I would have to make sure that the logo is the right size before I paste it in to the report as once it is in I can not edit the shape or size of the logo. I would have to use a different program such as paint to edit it before pasting it in to the reports. I would like to keep the report plain and simple because people find it easier to read the report like this and the report is not over loaded with information that discourage people from reading it.

I developed a switchboard menu system. The switchboard worked correctly. Switchboards make it easier for staff to use the data base as it is clear and easy to understand. I would like to change the order of the five menu buttons in my switch board menu because I feel that the customer menu should have been placed at the top as it is the one which will be, however the rental sub menu which is at the top would probably be used most and therefore is better left at the top.

Once all the testing had been completed and I was happy with the results and the way the data base worked I began to create a user guide. At this point I felt that the data base was working properly and the presentation was professional. I was really pleased with my switch board, which made my system user friendly and I felt the presentation of the switchboard matched the high standard of the forms. The forms colours and designs were clear and alike, showing the attention to detail and clear effort that I have put in to the creation of my data base. The forms were organised and showed creativity. My forms had a buttons to make them as user friendly as possible.

The business will have benefited from the data base as they are now able to store their data in the computer and they don't need to keep paper based data which took up a lot of office space. They can also use the queries to collate information quickly. They know which stock is available and the data base stops double booking which used to be a big problem for the company.