Course Wrap-up

csc343, Introduction to Databases
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csc343 admin stuff

- We will post when A3 results are available.
- Sina will post extra pre-exam office hours. See Piazza for a schedule
Preparing for the final

- Re-solve parts of the assignments where you didn’t get full marks or your partner lead.
- For topics you aren’t fully confident in, re-do the lecture prep and in-class exercises.
- Solve old tests and finals.
About using old finals

- The website has several
- If solutions aren’t posted, it’s because we don’t have them
  - but we’re happy to review them in office hours or exam prep sessions
- If you find old exams elsewhere, beware of coverage mismatches
  - e.g., we did not cover XML this year
- Old E/R questions may use a different notation with arrows rather than cardinality constraints
The final

- Comprehensive (covers the whole term), including:
  - relational model
  - RA
  - SQL and JDBC
  - FD theory and normalization
  - ER modeling and DB design
The final

- You need to know the semantics and basic syntax of relational algebra and SQL
  - Exception: We don’t care much about your Java syntax.

- You don’t need to memorize function/method APIs.
  - We will provide what you need.

- SQL views and RA intermediate steps are always welcome.

- Comments are not necessary, but may help us give you part marks.
The final

- You need 50% on the final to pass the course, but
  - If the exam is unexpectedly long or difficult, we will raise the marks on it
  - We apply that rule with great care
csc443

- “Database System Technology”
- Takes the perspective of the DBMS builder.
- Topics like:
  - indices; query optimization
  - managing storage; concurrency control
  - transaction management
  - tuning for performance
  - data mining, data warehousing
Trends in DB Research

- managing huge amounts of data: approximate querying, statistical methods, self-tuning, power management
- managing uncertainty
- data privacy and security
- different kinds of data, e.g., temporal, spatial, data from sensors, social network data
- visualization of massive data
- data science (analysis and prediction over massive data)
- Check out the VLDB and SIGMOD conferences
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