Assignment: Investigating Information Systems in Action

Objective: Students will investigate how a local or global company applies the principles of:

1. **Systems that Span Organizational Boundaries**
2. **Expert Systems & Knowledge Management Systems**
3. **Computer Systems (Hardware/Software), Telecommunications & The Internet**

Through research, teamwork, and presentation, they will analyze real-world implementations and demonstrate their understanding.

Instructions:

Part 1: Group Research (50 minutes)

1. **Form Groups:** Divide the class into groups of 7–8 students.
2. **Select a Company:** Each group selects one company (local or global). Examples:
    - **Local:** A university, hospital, or small manufacturing company.
    - **Global:** Google, Microsoft, Samsung, Apple, Huawei, IBM, Boeing, or any major organization with technological infrastructure..
3. **Focus Areas:** Investigate how the company applies the following:

    Systems that Span Organizational Boundaries:
    - How the company integrates **external partners, suppliers, or customers** through inter-organizational systems.
    - Examples:
        - **Office Automation Systems (OAS):** How companies use document sharing, workflow automation, or scheduling systems to improve efficiency.
        - **Collaboration Technologies:** Use of videoconferencing, shared digital workspaces, or group decision support systems (GSS).
        - **Geographic Information Systems (GIS):** How location-based data is used for business strategy, logistics, or urban planning.

    Expert Systems & Knowledge Management Systems:
    - How the company **uses AI-driven decision-making systems** or expert systems to support operations.
    - Examples:
        - **Decision Support Systems (DSS):** How organizations use data-driven decision-making tools (e.g., financial modeling, healthcare diagnostics).
        - **Expert Systems:** AI-based tools that replicate human expertise in decision-making (e.g., IBM Watson for medical diagnosis, automated financial advisors).
        - **Knowledge Management Systems (KMS):** Platforms for **capturing, storing, and sharing knowledge** within an organization (e.g., corporate wikis, best-practice databases).

    Computer Systems (Hardware/Software), Telecommunications & The Internet:
    - The company's **technological infrastructure** and its role in daily operations.
    - Examples:

- **Cloud Computing Services:** Use of AWS, Azure, Google Cloud, or Huawei Cloud.
- **Network Security & Telecommunications:** How the company ensures secure communication and data transmission.
- **Proprietary Hardware & Software:** Development of custom computing solutions (e.g., Apple's M-series chips, Google's Tensor processors).
- **Data Centers & Edge Computing:** How organizations store and process information efficiently.

4. **Collaborate:** Use online research tools or prior knowledge to gather relevant information. Groups should divide roles such as researcher, note-taker, timekeeper, and presenters to stay organized.

Part 2: Presentation Creation

1. **Slide Deck:** Prepare a 5–7 slide presentation covering:
   - **Slide 1:** Company Overview.
   - **Slide 2:** Overview of **Systems that Span Organizational Boundaries** and their role.
   - **Slide 3:** Use of **Expert Systems & Knowledge Management Systems** and their impact.
   - **Slide 4: Computer Systems, Telecommunications & The Internet** used by the company.
   - **Slide 5–6: Analysis of how these systems interact and improve efficiency** + Recommendations for improvement (optional).
   - **Slide 7 (Final Slide): List of sources** (e.g., websites, articles, books, interviews).
2. **Visuals and Clarity:**
   - Include charts, diagrams, or screenshots where possible to illustrate findings.
   - Make slides clear and easy to read, with a professional design.
3. **Citation Style:**
   - Use a consistent format for listing sources (e.g., APA, MLA, or simply URLs and publication names).

Part 3: Group Presentation (Next Class)

1. **Duration:** Each group will have 7 minutes to present their findings and 3 minutes to answers questions.
2. **Presentation Roles:**
   - At least 3 members of the group must present, while others can assist with Q&A or technical setup (e.g., managing slides or handling visuals).
   - Groups should decide who will present based on strengths and preferences.
3. **Q&A:** After the presentation, the entire group must be prepared to answer 1-3 questions. Non-presenting members should contribute during Q&A to ensure full group participation.

Deliverables:

1. A PowerPoint or Google Slides presentation file (submitted before presenting).
2. An optional one-page summary of their findings (to aid in Q&A).

Grading Criteria:

Criteria	Points
Relevance and depth of research	20
Clarity and organization of slides	20
Quality of analysis and insights	25
Creativity and use of visuals	15
Team participation and delivery	20
Total	100