EXPLORE TASK DESCRIPTION

Name of the Innovation:  **Bitorrent protocol**

Consider the information from the articles you have read. List at least five intended purposes or functions of the innovation and put the article’s author in parentheses. You are putting the author’s name in parentheses to ensure you correctly cite your information. Make sure to cover the following points:

* how the computing innovation functions
* how the computing innovation is used
* the problem that the computing innovation solved
* the opportunity that the computing innovation created
* the discovery that the computing innovation made possible

Ex:  Mobile credit card readers allow small business owners to make transactions anywhere at any time (Geier).

1. The Bittorrent protocol allows users to connect to two other users and transfer data between them. This is called a peer to peer computer system. A full file is stored on what are called “seeds” in the protocol. The originator of a transfer “announces” to the entire network that they have a file available. A user downloads a torrent file and is redirected to the seed through a “tracker.”
2. The protocol reduces strain on the server providing the file, which on the internet is usually an ftp or web server, but in this case the server is a user providing a file. The protocol is also seen as more safe and secure because of the open source and peer to peer nature.
3. Reduced strain on web servers is a benefit.
4. The system does create the ability to download copyrighted files, and sharing files which would otherwise be stopped by a government, but it also allows people to host their own files.
5. The centralization of the internet allowed more torrent files to be indexed which made is easier for users to find data.

In the space below, write a paragraph (approximately 100–150 words) that **introduces the innovation** and **describes its intended purposes**.

The Bittorrent protocol is a peer to peer internet protocol designed to reduce strain on file hosting servers, and allow users greater anonymity than a centralized web server. The peer to peer system is what the internet was originally envisioned as. Each user connects to a tracker and the tracker points them to other users or the seed. The seed is the first host of the file, but as the number of users on a certain torrent file increase the speed is decreased for each user. By returning to a decentralized ideal the users of the protocol are upholding the original purpose of the internet.