**1.5 I can select and use IT systems and software applications to complete planned tasks and produce effective results**

There are a number of systems and software which can be used to complete tasks and produce results.   
  
A vector drawing program does have the benefit of creating higher quality images, but tends to be at cost and is more complex than alternatives such as BMP. Assuming the pictures don’t need to be of high quality it can be cheaper and easier to use BMP. The website will load more quickly as well if the pictures contained on it are of a smaller size in addition.  
  
Visual Studio 2019 community edition had more than enough features to create a website. Whilst other alternatives are available it was free, there is plenty guidance available online, and I had the space required to store it on my computer. I did trial some alternatives but felt this best met my needs.

I used Microsoft Office because I already had it and was familiar with its features. To download another application that did the same job would be a waste of time and effort that I could put towards other tasks.

Below is a table showing some strengths and weaknesses of some alternatives.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Microsoft Office | Star Office |
| Costly, up to around £100 | Free |
| Many features | More limited features such as not being able to run macros |
| Continuous new versions being released | Last updated in 2013 |

Fig 1

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Microsoft Visual Studio Community edition | Dreamweaver |
| Free | Not free |
| Normally saved on tangible storage | Can save on the cloud |
| Can create applications for various devices | Web development only |

Fig 2