**1.1.2 Task: What does IT mean to you?**

My Forum Submission

What interests me in IT (information technology) are the vast numerous applications that it can contain for the purposes they are built for. Whether it will be for leisure, professional, practical, medical, etc… IT plays a vital role in today’s society and everyday living.

I have been exposed to IT since I was child, with my Father working in the software engineering industry he showed me all the things about his career and how “cool” it was to create programs and software to make life easier for everyone. With that, my background in IT is vast and I am always wanting to keep up to date with the latest technology and always wanting to learn more about technology. Whether it be through YouTube content creators like Linus Tech Tips, JayzTwoCentz, and MKBHD, or random scrolling through Reddit forums and other social media platforms I am always keeping on my toes and eager to learn.

The reason why I took this course is to gain a more industry standard knowledge of technology and to have a qualification in the area of IT. I have always wanted to gain a career in IT. Being able to be part of a Tech company or a position in an industry that revolves around tech and make a difference is what motivates me. Seeing how far technology can go is what aspires me to learn more. Hopefully one day my dream of becoming a Software Programmer/Engineer will be a reality.

The thing that really interests me in the Field of IT is how far can technology go? Will it be that in 5 years time we can convert subconscious thoughts into JPEG images, or will there ever be a technology that can be used to translate every language and use it like wireless earbuds. That is what really interests me, what will technology be like in 5, 10, 20 years time.

**1.2.2 Task: What are the positive and negative aspects of IT**

My Forum submission

To say that IT has made a big impact in my life would be underestimating how much IT has been an instrumental part as well as a damaging part on both my personally and professional life. To discuss as to why it has been an instrumental part of my life would be like discussing the necessity for food and water to survive. Without IT I would not begin to imagine a life where IT was not part of it.   
In essence I utilise IT to keep up to date with latest trends in technology, ways in which it can better peoples lives as well as provide the utilities to make everyday tasks more efficient. I also use IT to interact with people around the world through forums and social media, as well as keeping in touch with my friends and family. IT also helps automate my surroundings at home by utilising AI to convert my home into a Smart Home. Automating what time, the sprinklers go on through the year for my garden, installing automated security cameras that link to a cloud system like Google Home to check my house day to day, having “smart devices” to command things like smart lights and Bluetooth speakers. All of these functions can be set and operated through my smartphone. All of these functions enable my day to day life to be more automated and more efficient, meaning I don’t have to think or remember “did I water the plants?” or “did I switch of my lights at home?”.

IT also plays a major role in my leisure and entertainment lifestyle. As mentioned, I listen to music by simply saying the command to my Smart Home Hub “Hey Google… Play my playlist” and it automatically play’s my music through my home speakers. I play video games through my computer and watch streaming services and video content sharing hubs like YouTube as a way to destress and enjoy my downtime after working a full-time career.

With all that said there are also damaging aspects of IT that can sometimes be around the corner and you wouldn’t even know its there due to how “amazing” IT can be. For example, I sometimes spend way too much time on my smartphone scrolling through social media and video content sharing hubs at night right before I go to sleep. I spend say almost 1-2 hours of screentime before bed and I haven’t noticed that it is impacting how well I sleep at night and wake up the next morning. I have also witnessed (and was part of) breaches in personal information and data through companies experiencing “cyber-attacks” which does impact your whole identity if it where to be stolen and used for other purposes. In a sense IT does have its “vulnerabilities” in which when identified can affect a user in a negative way. It is only when the user is well informed that they can prevent some negative aspects of IT and ensure that they are utilising IT in the right ways.

To sum up what IT means to me and to put it in a definition, Information Technology are form tools and utilities that enable people and users to generate a unique experience with their day to day activities whether it would be for leisure, entertainment, professional, or social uses. It may elevate a person’s life or it may damage it, everyone will be exposed to IT in one shape or form.