

Computer Architecture & Systems

C20012

Brief:

You are to design an information technology system for the home office of a virtual webbusiness.

The business title is The Digital Pet Shop, and business object is as previously used for your Web-Authoring and Computer Programming projects. Your recommended system should be in support of that main project.

Online sales (*i.e.* retail) are to be supported by the provision of an in-house server with always-on internet connection, and any software necessary to facilitate sales.

There should be a primary workstation, suitably secured against data loss, accidental or intentional. You should also allow for the use of a laptop or other mobile device(s), including telephony.

Budget:

You are to calculate the total cost for the provision of all hardware, software and any other items you deem necessary. The first year of running costs must be included in this figure. An upper guide of EUR2,000 is presently in place, however.

VAT must be included in the budgeting. All purchases must be made in The Republic of Ireland or as a last resort The United Kingdom, on-line, with shipping costs allowed for.

Overview of requirements

You must select all elements required to enable a solution to be implemented, *explaining the reasons* for your decisions.

Specification of design solution

Start by providing an initial A4 page in which you specify the purpose of the project, sources of information are identified, a plan of progress for the project. This initial page should provide a discussion about the broad overview of the IT solution you propose putting in place.

You are required to use your imagination in the completion of the system design. You will also be required to list in table form *all* items to be purchased. This list will include cost, function, purpose, source and justification for each item.

Note: All writing should be impersonal, rather than first-person personal. *ie*

Wrong: I will get a computer for the office.

Right: A computer will be obtained for the office.

Please note that there is no one right answer to this project. There are many valid solutions, as long as there good reasons for the solutions offered. Considerable imagination may be required.