*It is strongly recommended that you read this document **several** times before making any start.*

Comhairle na nDámhachtainí Breisoideachais agus Oiliúna
Further Education and Training Awards Council

Information Technology CITXX
(Clonmel Central Technical Institute)

Computer Architecture and Systems
C20012

Academic Year 2012-2013

PROJECT BRIEF

This project counts as 60% of the total module

Brief:

Quinlough Adventure Centre & Hostel is seeking to install a computer network to facilitate its hostel front-desk operations, reservations system and other IT functions. Typical front desk operations include:

- Processing arrivals
- Processing departures (billing)
- Handling customer queries
- Any other day-to-day requirements

Online reservations are to be supported by the provision of an in-house server with always-on internet connection.

In addition, the lobby area of the hostel (where the front desk is located) should be a wireless hot-spot. Guests should be able to use Wi-Fi devices in this area with a password provided by the front desk.

Detail:

For the purposes of this assignment all current information processing operations *etc.* can be considered to be carried out on paper; therefore no existing data or files need be ported.

Two customer-facing staff should be facilitated at the check-in counter. Two back-office staff handling reservations, accounts and other financial operations are in one room and two staff handling telephone business and general communications are in another.

The manager and assistant manager have separate offices.

The business operates a popular adventure centre; your network should allow for 2 other staff carrying out administrative tasks and a computer to be used as a POS system in the adventure centre shop.

There should be expansion options for the network described.

Budget:

€8,000 has been allocated for the provision of hardware, software and any other items you deem necessary. The first year of recurring costs must be included in this figure.

VAT can be excluded from the budget. There is no requirement to allow for labour costs for installation of hardware, software or infrastructure. All purchases must be made in The Republic of Ireland or as a last resort The United Kingdom, online, with shipping costs allowed for. All values must be expressed in €. If values are converted from Stg£ a conversion rate must be shown.

For the purpose of this exercise, staff training costs are not taken from the allocated figure.

Enumerate the items required and provide a total estimate of costs.

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

The specification of a solution should be of a standard as to satisfy the understanding of an independent consultant who has no prior knowledge (other than that given here) of the Quinlough business.

Provide, in accordance with the marking scheme in the module descriptor (page 12), 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.

Thereafter your project should be clearly structured and tidily presented according to standard formatting rules and show:

1. "clear understanding and application of concepts in computer architecture and systems
2. appropriate use of research, with careful observations and recording of relevant information
3. comprehensive analysis and evaluation of the system
4. logical conclusions/recommendations based on evaluation"

You are required to use your imagination in the completion of the system design/layout. You will also be required to list *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.