

Computer Architecture & Systems

C20012

Describe an Information System for a small business

Objective:

You are to suggest and describe a computer/information system for a small home office.

Software requirements:

The minimum software needs are for basic office functions:

- word-processing
- spreadsheet
- DTP
- email/internet

... with development tools ...

- web-design
- programming
- image manipulation

and any other software in support of your business.

Hardware requirements:

A minimum hardware list should include:

- desktop, or laptop
- mobile device
- back-up device

and any other hardware in support of the business.

Communications:

The office should be internet connected, and be

- capable of running it's own website (either in the office or hosted elsewhere)
- have a voice telephony solution

and any other items in support of the business.

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 €3,000 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 UK, on-line, with shipping costs allowed for.

There are no greater marks available for being under-budget.

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

Provide 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 be an essay discussion about the broad overview of the IT solution you propose putting in place.

Subsequent pages will describe list the products you suggest should be obtained. This list will include cost, function, purpose, source and justification for each item.

Organise your list of items in tables under these headings.

NB The final document should not be overly technical, and should be understandable by a lay reader. **NB**

Glossary

You should include a short glossary of some of the more technical terms you use in the project.

References

Include printouts from relevant sites of suggested purchases. Include any other documents you rely on for your decisions. (Note do **not** include every single printed sheet you can lay your hands on! Doing so will make your project impossible to staple – include just the important pages)

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.*