Computer Architecture & Systems – Research Assignment
Assignment Brief – Overview

Assignment Weighting: 60%

Hanson Engineering Ltd is a civil engineering firm started in 1970 by Jim Hanson. From modest beginnings the company now has established itself as one of the most reliable in the business; this positive reputation allows the firm to continue to grow.

Although the company has hundreds of employees these are mainly engineers who are on-site at the various projects being undertaken. The actual number of employees at head office is just a fraction of the total number of employees, though some engineers – heads & sub-heads of divisions – will come in to the office for days at a time to work.

As the company has recently won a large contract to build three new bridges the number of engineers on the payroll is going to increase; inevitably administrative employment will increase as well. Consequently, they have recently taken a lease on a small office building to accommodate this increasing requirement for space. The new building is in the same town as the old, but on the other side of that town.

It is proposed to reduce the level of traffic at head office by providing facilities in the new one for the visiting division heads. The department that produces promotional materials and tender publications – essentially a small print house – will also be moved to the new offices.

There are 6 primary divisions in the company. The promotional department consists of 4 staff.

About fifteen new secretarial and general administrative staff are to be employed to administer the new projects. There are also to be five engineers permanently in the office performing drawing functions for the projects.

It is also proposed that one of the senior partners will have a permanent office at this location and a secretary and an assistant secretary are to be provided.

As the new building has one room designed for large meetings it is proposed to make this room into one suitable for presentations/conferences.

The new building has no computer facilities of any type at the moment so you will be required to enumerate all facilities required. This includes all hardware, software, networking and other functions and features.

A final budget has not yet been agreed for the move, but an initial estimate of €50,000 is presently being discussed.

Further details will follow.