Explore – Impact of Computing Innovations
Written Response Submission Template

Please see [Assessment Overview and Performance Task Directions for Student](#) for the task directions and recommended word counts.

Computational Artifact

2a)

> EBay is an online market that enables members of the general public to buy and sell products with other members of the general public as they see fit. The site is meant to give individual people a chance to either sell their possessions to other people who want them or buy possessions from someone else, both usually at a reduced market price due to the product most likely not being in new condition. My artifact shows the step by step process someone trying to make a purchase follows, showing off eBay's function when it is used as intended.

2b)

> I used Photoshop to create my artifact, using a combination of dragging in images that I had saved from Google and the pen/text tool. Once an image is dragged into the file, it is placed on its own layer and kept independent from the other elements, meaning it can be manipulated individually without interference. Using the pen tool and the shift key, I drew boxes around key parts of the images by clicking the start and end points of each individual line. I saved it as a png, opened it in Adobe illustrator, and saved it as a pdf.

Computing Innovation

2c)

> One beneficial effect of eBay is that, due to its overall accessibility for most people, there is an overall increase in commerce on an individual scale. eBay's many seller promotions like it's Christmas free-listing promotion, during which "sellers can list up to 200 fixed price or auction listings", allows people be able to sell even more of their stock, leading to a boost in the economy from an increased circulation of goods (Steiner). One harmful effect of Ebay is that, because of it's completely open nature, people might not receive the actual product they bought or might receive it but not in the promised condition. "Counterfeit items are not allowed on eBay; however, eBay is unable to police the millions of listings as they should or would like to", easily leading people to distrust online shopping via sites like eBay altogether, making the system lose customers and, in the process, hurting the economy that it has helped to create (Hsiao).

2d)

> EBay holds its data, which is comprised of past and present eBay purchases including images of the product sold, account information of both buyer and seller (things like contact information, location, and credit card number, all strings or numbers), and transaction costs, in its 90 petabyte servers meant for research and customer assurance in order to improve the service. When a seller wants to list a product, they must enter their product information, such as price, condition and product pictures, into a listing space on their page, at which point one of eBay's server's meant for pending purchases holds the information temporarily until the transaction is sucessfully made or cancelled. In the case of a completed purchase, the interaction data (consisting of what's listed above) is transferred to a server meant for storage of past purchases, whereas cancelled purchases are forgotten. "The site has more than 100 million active users, generating up to 100 [Terabytes] of new data each day", and in the wake of so much data, data security is somewhat at risk (Tay). With so much data present, the reliability of a security system to correctly and efficiently protect it gets

worse and worse, leading to increased chances of the data being stolen successfully. Data that could be stolen that is important includes locations, dates of shipping, and most importantly credit card numbers.

References

2e)

Image (Artifact) Sources

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Text (Written Response) Sources

Hsiao, Aron. "Low-Priced EBay Products From China May Not Be a Good Deal." The Balance Small Business. The Balance Small Business, 5 Jan. 2019. Web. 05 Feb. 2019. <https://www.thebalancesmb.com/what-to-know-about-buying-items-from-china-on-ebay-1140123>.

Steiner, Ina. "Will You Take Advantage of EBay Free Listings?" EcommerceBytes. N.p., 18 Dec. 2018. Web. 05 Feb. 2019. <https://www.ecommercebytes.com/C/blog/blog.pl?%2Fpl%2F2018%2F12%2F1545192819.html>.

Tay, Liz. "Inside EBay's 90PB Data Warehouse." ITnews. N.p., 10 May 2013. Web. 05 Feb. 2019. <https://www.itnews.com.au/news/inside-ebays-90pb-data-warehouse-342615>.