# Mandate

### Background

Many successful software development companies focus on a niche customer market and they design products and services exclusively for that market. Customers may have almost identical business requirements but they will still require minor variations based on organisation policy.

Other software companies support a diverse set of customers and each can operate in very different markets. Business requirements can therefore be very diverse and frequently each customer is provided with a bespoke solution. This introduces a high maintenance burden and drives up cost.

The ability to reconfigure one software solution to service different customers and markets is key to the success of global software companies such as SAP.

### Project Scope

You are tasked with conducting an investigation into Microsoft Cloud Technologies and the degree to which these can be used to separate out business logic from our core application.

You should consider not only the technologies, but also cost and through life implications of any technology change.

Technologies which would appear to merit consideration in this regard are: WCF Services, BizTalk Services and Machine Learning.

### Key Requirements

Deliver a presentation on 8 May 2016 summarising your findings.

Provide a detailed report and recommend a way ahead by 1 May 2016.

Construct working prototype(s) showing separation of code base and business logic by 1 May 2016.

### Governance

Problem reporting will be by exception. You are granted 10% contingency on allocated hours and 0% contingency on allocated budget.

A review meeting will be held once a month between the development team and the customer to assess progress, evaluate deliverables and consider the detailed plan to completion.

### Constraints

IEP will bear reasonable costs arising from the use of Microsoft Cloud Technologies in the course of this work. All costs are to be agreed with one of the Directors in advance of any commitment.

This project must be completed by the pre-set deadline of the 1st May 2016, this includes finalising all documentation, deploying the final product and preparing for a final presentation on the 8th May 2016.

You are authorised to spend up to 40 working hours on this activity (assumes 4 hours per week for 10 weeks) in addition to the time you spend on day release at University.

No confidential information is to be shared outside the company without explicit permission.

All changes made to business rules shall be recorded in the System Audit Log.

All data is to remain fully encrypted at rest or in motion.