**Rationale**

**Staff**

All the members of staff are new hires for the company, and so may require time getting used to working in a new environment and with new team members. In addition to this, Ahad has no prior experience as a former student, and therefore will require the most assistance of all project members.

Whilst Ahad is the only member with no experience, Sarah is the only member with experience working within the financial sector and therefore other staff members may struggle with getting used to applying their skills for an industry they are not used to.

The cost for all staff members working reaches £68,181.

**Resources**

Each member of staff was selected to work on each task specifically, based on their skills and experience.

* Sarah O’Toole has the most experience of all staff on the project, and her experience in the financial sector made her a suitable choice for Module 4 as it is the module with the most relevance to the industry. Whilst each staff member had been given time to contribute to the Test Plan, Sarah was given the most time in order to greater separate tasks from Ahad and Terry as their total hours were reaching too high, as well as completing Minor Fault fixing for Module 5 as Terry hours were becoming too great, and her experience as a Senior Software Engineer meant that she could support this module appropriately.
* Ahad Shafiq has the least experience and so it was important that he was given a sensible amount of work to complete, which is also why Sarah has taken over what otherwise would have been tasks for him as it could become too much. However, his ability to explain complicated processes in a suitable way made him the choice for User Training.
* Terry Duran has more experience and slight improved skills compared to Ahad, and since there were 6 Modules to be split amongst 5 members Terry’s expertise gained himself both Module 2 and 5. Module 2 was selected alongside 5 as it was the least hours, so it was necessary that whoever did two would at least do Module 2 as one of them.
* Gina Diaz and Marius Bronski had limited capabilities as a Database Engineer and Network Engineer respectively, so only Marius was qualified to upgrade the infrastructure and complete Module 6 and only Gina could complete Module 1 as they either fit their capabilities or they did not have the skills to complete any other modules.

The cloud server was selected from the options as not only did it take the responsibility for server maintenance away from RBSX Group Ltd as they may not have the knowledge, space or capabilities to maintain a physical server and because the majority of staff members (Sarah, Terry, and Gina) all have prior experience delivering cloud solutions, and therefore this would be possible.

**Time and Costs**

Based on the Gantt Chart, the project will finish within the time frame requested by RBSX Group Ltd, with the total time taking under just under 3 months. Initially, all available staff began their modules at the same time but two modules have been pushed back to give time in case of any staff absences in the initial stages of the project, where those who do not have to begin their modules can help work on the others.

It is unlikely that there will be no absences during the entire project, and therefore the task will need contingency time to make up for both this factor and that Ahad’s inexperience could cause him to need additional time to work on tasks.

The final cost of the project is estimated to be £86,880, which based on RBSX Group’s projected revenue increase in the first year will mean that they will be able to afford this solution. They will generate an extra £138,000 in revenue.

**Risks**

As mentioned before, the limited experience of Ahad may mean that his work load extends past their estimated duration, and as new hires the team may struggle initially with the work load as their skills are yet to be proven.

There is likely to be absences during the project, and so time will need to be allocated to stop this from creating too many issues with the organisation of the rest of the project.

If a cloud server is used as mentioned, there may be issues associated with costs – it is more expensive after 1 year to manage the cloud server than to purchase a physical one outright. The use of a cloud server also requires continued maintenance from the team and could pose security risks depending on the types of information being stored there.

If a physical server is used, the maintenance will fall upon RBSX Group and they may not have the ability or time to hire maintenance staff, nor should there be an expectation that they would. Physical servers also mean that their network security will need to be improved, which may mean that they will have to spend longer once the solution is developed before it can be utilised as they wait for their network to be updated and their security to improve.