

Introduction to Information Technology Final Project

Choose ONE of the four research topics outlined on the pages below. Work should be turned in using a well-organized format of your choice. Your paper should be double-spaced, include a title, page numbering, citations and bibliography. Start with the web links provided to begin your research. Make sure you answer using full sentences/paragraphs, proper capitalization, grammar and spelling. You should cite at least 3 sources for your project and include a bibliography page.

Web Project 1: The History and Future of Cell Phones

If you were to read an ad for the first cell phone, it might look something like this:

This portable phone is easy to carry around weighing only 2 pounds and just over a foot tall and 4 inches thick. After 8 hours of charging, you can talk for nearly 30 minutes and store up to 30 phone numbers. Prices start at just \$3,995!

Obviously, cell phones have come a long way since their invention more than 35 years ago. Today, cell phones can fit in your pocket and are capable of offering many services other than just phone communication. If this much has changed in 30 years, what changes do you think might occur within the next 30 years?

Your task in this research project is to research BOTH the history AND future of the cell phone. Write at least three pages that summarizes how today's cell phone was developed and based on your research and imagination, describe how cell phones may change in the future.

Suggested Web Sites:

<http://bit.ly/9Q5vw7>

<http://bit.ly/aeIwpo>

<http://bit.ly/92xIul>

<http://bit.ly/5t2eH>

Suggested Search Keywords:

History of Cell Phones, Future of Cell Phones, Cell Phone Timeline, Cell Phone Innovations

Web Project 2: Portable Media Players and Media Software

Sometimes referred to as MP3 players, portable media players (PMPs) or portable video players (PVPs), these devices can often play a variety of files. They are not just media players but are often small Internet connected devices that have applications and messaging/VoIP capabilities. Apple's iPod has the most brand awareness, but there are a number of different PMPs on the market such as Samsung's Galaxy S and Sony's Walkman Z. Even though smartphones will likely replace PMPs, there is still a market for these devices because they do not require a cellular data contract. Research the history of personal media players. What features have been introduced improved or been introduced? How has software and the Internet played a role in the success of different media players?

Using the Internet, research portable media players that are not smartphones. Locate at least two players with video capability, two more players with built-in FM or satellite radios, two more players with a small profile (designed for exercising, etc.), and two that have downloadable applications.

Create a chart that compares and contrasts the following items:

1. Screen/display size
2. Storage capacity
3. Weight
4. Size/Dimensions
5. Audio and video formats (i.e., MP3, WAV, AAC, etc.) supported
6. Battery life (i.e., length of play before recharging)
7. Additional features or accessories (i.e., dock, FM tuner, subscription option, etc.)
8. Price
9. Date released

After you finish your research and comparison, write at least two pages that document the history of PMPs, how they have changed over time and the roles of the software and the Internet have impacted their development. State which PMP would best suit your needs and why or why not you might be interested in purchasing it.

Suggested Web Sites:

<http://bit.ly/7oYttu>

<http://bit.ly/dchHzG>

<http://www.apple.com/itunes>

<http://www.creative.com/products/mp3>

<http://bit.ly/c0iADW>

<http://bit.ly/7LzqaK>
<http://bit.ly/pxreb>

Suggested Search Keywords:

Personal Media Player, Video Media Player, MP3 Player, MP3 Player Comparison, Media Player Software

Web Project 3: Improving Portable Power Sources

Laptop computer sales outpaced desktop computers for the first time in 2008. This trend continues as netbooks, tablets and smartphones make mobile computing more popular. The benefit of portability can be virtually limitless with an AC power source. But if there is no place to plug in your device, the usefulness only lasts until the battery dies.

Using the Internet, research the history of powering mobile devices and the various options available for powering and recharging portable computing devices today. How did older mobile devices cope with this challenge? What new technologies are being developed to help extend or maximize battery life? What types of alternative power sources are available today? Additionally, research ways to extend the life of a typical battery powered device. Write at least three pages summarizing your findings. Which of the new technologies or power alternatives do you think holds the most promise for the future?

Suggested Web Sites:

<http://nyti.ms/b3iryX>
<http://bit.ly/bhfkoU>
<http://www.eclipsesolargear.com>
<http://bit.ly/cfHfAC>
<http://bit.ly/4JTVs5>

Suggested Search Keywords:

Notebook Battery, Notebook Power Technology, Improving Notebook Battery Life, Maximize Battery Performance

Web Project 4: Smartphones vs. Tablets vs. eBook Readers

Cell phones are increasing in their capabilities and becoming portable hand held computers. At the same time, tablet computers and eBook readers are replacing the traditional, more bulky laptops. Smartphones, tablets and eBook Readers can have applications, access email and the access Internet content. They may have Bluetooth, WiFi, and/or cellular connectivity options for accessing the network. There are unique hardware challenges such as external input devices that can be used on the move and extending battery life.

Research the differences and similarities between tablets, smartphones, and eBook readers. Select a high-priced model and a mid-range model for each category. What features does each device have? What features are available in one but not in the other? Are the differences significant? Do not forget to consider things like cellular service contracts/providers, purchase cost and monthly fees, battery life (and replacement costs), size, types of software that can be used, etc.

Create a chart listing your findings and write two additional pages with references summarizing your thoughts. Did you find any key features that differentiate these three types of devices? Do you think that one device form factor is better than the others? Why or why not? Was there one device that appealed most to you? Why?

Suggested Web Sites:

<http://bit.ly/pUMfmb>

<http://bit.ly/oSlZ77h>

<http://cnet.co/j3Wy35>

<http://bit.ly/wLtyPx>

<http://www.mobiletechreview.com>

Suggested Search Keywords:

Smartphone vs. eBook readers vs. Tablet, Smartphone Features, Tablet Features, eBook reader Features, Comparison of smartphones vs. tablets