Assessment 3 – Software and Storage  
  
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**Part 1**

**Identifying Software**

**Shareware:** A type of software known as Shareware is typically a free trial version ofthe requested software. The user is allowed to use the free trial version for a predetermined number of days at which point they must choose whether they want to pay for the full version of the software. The free shareware usually has limited functionality as compared to the full paid version to give the user a taste of what the software is capable of without giving them too much freedom. (Christensson, 2012)

**Open Source Software:** This type of software is usually used by people who enjoy making modifications to source code. There is usually no cost to use the product and users can manipulate the Out of the Box (OOTB) functionality. The source code behind the software is usually something that a typical user would never see but that is the difference with open source software. A user can put their own coding knowledge to use and edit the default code to force it to work in a specific way that helps that user’s tasks. (OpenSource, 2018)

**Presentation Software:** TechTarget defines presentation software as “a category of application program used to create sequences of words and pictures that tell a story or help support a speech or public presentation of information.” (Rouse, 2011) These types of software are usually very easy to learn and understand and the user may add photos, videos, audio and animation if they software allows for it. Presentation software can also be used to create webpages through software like FrontPage from Microsoft to combine media with HTML.

**RFID:** Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) uses electromagnetic radio frequencies to give a unique identifier to an object, animal or person usually. This unique identifier is stored in a small RFID chip. The user must have a network-connected reader in order to scan the RFID chip and retrieve the data. The reader can be permanently attached to a wall or it can be portable. This type of software has multiple uses ranging from badging in and out of a secure facility using a card reader outside each door to buy groceries at Amazon’s physical store in Seattle without needing cashiers or security. The RFID chip handles the heavy lifting for the user. (Rouse, 2017)

**QR Code:** QR stands for Quick Response and this type of software is a two dimensional barcode that can store information like a webpage URL. A QR code scanner is necessary to decode the information and data within the code. Anyone with a cell phone can use QR codes because the cameras on today’s smartphones can take a picture of a QR code and the software within the phone can decipher what the information is saying or asking and the software will initiate the correct response such as opening an application or directing the user to a website to buy goods. (Delivr, 2008)

**Part 2**

**New Developments**

The first real attempt at data storage was the idea of punch cards. Most people probably think of clocking in and out of work when they are presented with punch cards but these were also used in textile looms and player pianos. The holes in the paper would act as On/Off switches to relay the necessary data. In the case of a player piano, the holes in the paper would indicate which key needed to be pressed to play the song. The next big development in storage came in 1948 when a Professor named Fredrick Williams developed the first Random Access Memory (RAM). RAM is used to store things that the computer uses frequently so they do not have to be fully loaded every time they are needed. This drastically increased the speed of modern computers. Another milestone in developing storage was the invention of Optical Discs. This method uses light to record onto a disc and then replays the content. Optical Discs led to the creation of CDs, DVDs, and Blu-Ray. Flash Drives are an incredibly important piece in storage evolution. It revolutionized the portability of the world’s data. Especially in recent times, a person can easily get gigabytes upon gigabytes of storage in a small stick only 2 inches long that easily fits in a pocket to take anywhere. Last but not least, the world has been shifting toward cloud storage due to a mobile lifestyle where everybody wants everything to be available everywhere. Cloud storage is a great option to keep all of your data in one place because it essentially offers infinite storage but it is not necessarily the most secure storage place in the world. (Foote, 2017)

**Effect on Productivity**

The advancement of data storage and technology as a whole has effected the productivity of the world in ways that most people never thought were possible. A simple example is a flash drive. Almost everyone has a flash drive in 2018 and they make life so incredibly easy with the ability to move files and data from one location to another just by pulling the flash drive out of one computer and inserting it into another. Instead of having to burn data to a disc which used to take at least several minutes, a person can drag and drop a file to a flash drive and have it downloaded on another device within seconds. The portability of storage has made the whole world more productive.

**Professional Environment Impact**

The professional environment has also been widely impacted by advancing technology with gigantic external hard drives for data storage and cloud storage that makes work documents available virtually anywhere. In fact, there has been a surge in recent years of companies creating storage platforms for their users. Amazon created their AWS cloud storage, Google created the Google Cloud, and Dropbox has been providing cloud service for quite a while. All of these services boast an incredible amount of storage space along with security and reliability that a company can trust. That adds productivity to any organization because an employee can be out traveling where he or she would not ordinarily have access to working or their documents. Having all of the tools readily available anywhere an employee needs them instantly makes an impact on your organization and production.

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