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Learning Aim B & C

Carry out project initiation for an IT project and carry out the planning, execution, monitoring, and controlling an IT project, using an appropriate methodology

Unit 9 assignment 2

Assignment 2

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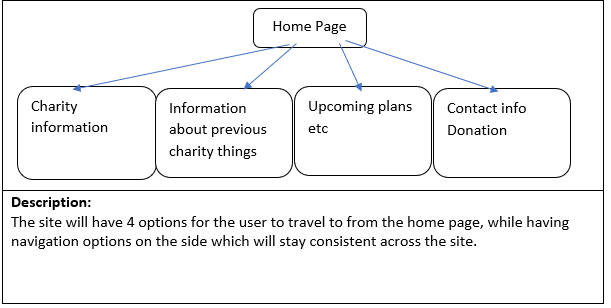
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# Introduction

# IT Problem and solution

## Problem

The problem for this project is using the correct software to accurately develop a successful website. There are many options available to develop websites, such as notepad++, visual studio code, visual studio community, and Dreamweaver, and among these many options we will have to choose one that works effectively for our project. Below is a display of the website and how it should work when all it comes together, taken from the initial design of the project.



This is the initial sitemap which displays the different pages that will be available for the project.

## Solution 1

The first solution is to make the website using visual studio code. Visual studio code is a lightweight code editor with many powerful tools, such as having options for plugins and add-on onto the software in order to enhance it (VS Code, 2023). There are advantages to using visual studio code and these are detailed below describing the strengths:

* Support for multiple programming languages. This will enable me to do javascript and CSS inside of VS Code as well.
* Intelli-Sense, this is a Microsoft exclusive feature that aims to help developers by trying to autocomplete the code that the developer is typing.
* Cross platform support, this is the fact that visual studio code can be used by all devices, such as Mac, Linux, and Windows, making it somewhat unique as a code editor.
* Extensions and plugins, this is where VS Code offers options for plugins and extensions to improve the base application for visual studio code and expand on it. (Pedamkar, 2023)

On the other hand, some of the weaknesses and disadvantages of VS Code include:

* It is not as extensive and feature rich as other IDEs, such as Visual Studio Community
* It does not work well for specific kinds of development such as mobile applications or game development
* It can encounter performance issues with largescale projects
* Some users might find the UI less intuitive compared to other options available (Maurya, 2023)

## Alternative solution 1

Another option that might be used is Notepad++. This is similar to visual studio code as it is another lightweight editor and works well for projects like web development. Some of the advantages can be found detailed below:

* Notepad++ allows users to edit any of their scripts without having to access any heavy-duty editors or software that might require a long loading time for minimal changes
* There is different syntax highlighting for all scripting languages, such as html and JavaScript
* It is completely free and there is a lot of support available online for it
* It is simple and intuitive to use the software for beginners (TrustRadius, 2023)

Some of the weaknesses and disadvantages of the software include:

* It has many bugs, such as when updating the software and this can lead to issues in development
* Opening files over a certain size can cause issues with the software and that is not ideal for our website as we do not want to have the website crash during development
* It lacks support for code auto completion and formatting, putting it behind when compared to newer code editors
* It does not have as many features compared to newer code editors (TrustRadius, 2023)

## Alternative solution 2

Another alternative solution for this project is to use Dreamweaver. Dreamweaver is Adobes IDE for website development and is highly optimised for this, offering options such as making tables through drop down boxes and is an efficient tool for developing a website for this project. Some of the strengths of Dreamweaver include:

* Dreamweaver highlights code that is written so it can be quickly read through and understood
* Dreamweaver has options that allow users to see their changes live as they make them, meaning that they do not have to switch tabs
* Dreamweaver has constant code validation and syntax checking to ensure that everything is correct
* Dreamweaver offers code suggestions to users as it helps to autofill the code

Some of the weaknesses of Dreamweaver include:

* Dreamweaver is not browser based, meaning that it might not look the same in the web browser
* It can be complicated to learn and understand for new users as it has a large amount of features that can complicate it for new members
* It has a high price point that can be quite off putting, especially when considering the budget of this project
* Automatic coding options such as autocomplete are non-specific as they are made to meet as many users’ needs and demands as possible and might not always work for our project scenario. (Gaille, 2016)

# Feasibility study – Visual Studio Code

## Technical assessment

When creating our website in visual studio code, there are many factors that need to be taken into consideration. For example, the hardware and software of the device we are working on needs to be up to speed, and therefore there will be some minimum requirements for working with Visual Studio Code. Due to the fact that there will likely be multiple instances of Visual Studio Code open, the device will have to be able to handle multiple tabs running at the same time and this will be considered when outlining the minimum requirements.

Some examples of the minimum requirements for the technical ability to run Visual Studio Code include:

* A CPU with a minimum of 2 cores, recommended 4 cores at 2.5Ghz clock speed
* Windows 10 or 11
* 8GB of RAM, recommended to be 16GB
* 256GB HDD
* Internet
* 1080p monitor

If these requirements are met then the device will likely be able to run visual studio code effectively and this is a strong advantage for the project.

## Economic assessment

Given that Visual Studio Code is an open-source free software available for users, there is no economic loss when using it, however the hardware costs for the devices to run it will be included in the final costs. Additionally, the average costs of staff, rent, and all of the necessities like electricity and heating are considered as the project cannot begin without a proper space to work effectively. Finally, due to the fact that Visual Studio Code is free for private and commercial use, this means that there will be no issues of legality using it and puts Visual Studio Code at a strong advantage.

Here is a rough budget outline of the project:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
| Electricity | £752 |
| Developer salaries | £75/hour (includes all developers) |
| Team manager salary | £32.50/hour |
| Visual Studio Code | Free |
| GitHub | £32/month |
| Other software | £460 |
| Hardware for each developer | £600 x 4 |
| Temp office space | £3200/month |

## Legal assessment

Due to the nature of creating a website there are many legal issues to consider, such as copyright and creative laws for the project. In order to ensure that this does not become an issue in the future, all aspects of the project that are going to be involved in the final product will be screened heavily for any potential issues, and only then will they be able to be introduced to the project. Other than this, any content or media that is used will have to be created in house by the team to prevent any issues arising through the use of media. Any authors of content will have to be credited when we use their work in the visual studio code project, such as in the page or even in the source code through the use of comments that visual studio code allows. Finally, it is important to talk about how nothing in the website is used for profit as the whole website is to raise awareness and therefore it is not for profit other than to sustain itself.

## Operational assessment

Visual Studio Code has a wide array of features that can be expanded upon to be able to include all the features that are required of the website, such as having an image carousel and including multiple pages. Additionally, it has the ability to work on multiple pages at the same time and have different tabs open of the source code, which will greatly help to decrease the total project time and result in a successful final product for the project. Visual Studio Code also has the biggest bonus feature of all of the aforementioned options, in that it supports plugins and extensions, enabling developers to expand on their IDE and customise it for themselves and allowing developers to work faster and expand on the original Visual Studio Code, making it stronger and more powerful compared to before.

## Scheduling assessment

Although Visual Studio Code does not have any specific scheduling features, due to the numerous features available withing the software it is highly likely that this will aid in saving time during the development phase and allowing for the project to be completed successfully. Due to the nature of this project being under a tight time schedule, allowing only a few months from start to finish, the ability to save time during development is very attractive and is a considerable advantage for Visual Studio Code and will likely be focused on when choosing the software to plan and develop the website.

## Sustainability assessment

As Visual Studio Code is owned by Microsoft there is always a chance that Microsoft could discontinue production and updates on the software of VS Code, leading to future security issues in the software and potential breaches, however that only applies for the development for the website. Once the website has been created and is published, whether or not VS Code is continued will hold little significance. Given that the time frame for development is miniscule compared to larger projects, being only a few months, the likelihood that VS Code will suddenly be discontinued *and* face security breaches while in development is astronomically low. Due to this, it is highly unlikely that sustainability will be an issue for this and this is a big advantage for Visual Studio Code.

## Security assessment

There is a minimal security risk to developing the website withing VS Code as Visual Studio Code is software owned by Microsoft who would likely be at risk if there were any security issues in their own software and therefore it makes it even more unlikely that there would be any security issues with the software. Additionally, the shorter development time for the project means that there is a minimal time frame where there is any chance of a security risk, i.e. development period, and therefore leaves the security high for Visual Studio Code. Finally, with the combination of security software like antivirus and firewalls, there is an even lower possibility of anything happening to the website.

## Usability assessment

Visual Studio Code has earned an esteemed reputation for its outstanding software quality and performance. Furthermore, due to the diverse nature of Visual Studio Code, offering many extensions and plugins, this enhances the usability of Visual Studio Code and allows more creative options for our development team when making the website. Additionally, due to the fact that we are creating a website, it is also important to consider the website that will be used, like Chrome, Edge, Opera, and Firefox, and therefore these are also factors that have to be considered with the development of the website. Overall, VS Code has a high usability score when compared to other options like notepad, notepad++ and more, based on its extensibility options like add-ons and plugins.

# Feasibility study – Dreamweaver

## Technical assessment

Similarly, to Visual Studio Code, Dreamweaver requires roughly the same hardware and software requirements in order to function effectively and handle the work load of developing multiple websites at the same time. Additionally, it is imperative to establish if Dreamweaver is even able to accurately create a website and this can be verified through things like videos about it and its capabilities.

After reviewing content regarding Dreamweaver, it is established to be a highly effective software for creating a website and the requirements will be specified below:

* A CPU with a minimum of 3 cores, recommended 4 cores at 2.5Ghz clock speed
* Windows 10 or 11
* 8GB of RAM, recommended to be 16GB
* 512GB HDD
* Internet
* 1080p monitor

If these requirements are met with the hardware and OS of the system, then Dreamweaver will be able to effectively make a website for the project.

## Economic assessment

Contrary to VS Code, Dreamweaver requires a paid license to use and therefore will incur more costs for the project and this has to be considered for the budget. Due to funding from the stakeholders, this will likely not be an issue however it is still something to consider and keep in mind. It costs a total of £20 a month (£19.97), and this will have to be for every developer, monthly, to be continued to be used by the team for the development of the project (Adobe, 2023).

This is the budget when including Adobe Dreamweaver prices for all the months of developments for each of the developers.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
| Electricity | £752 |
| Developer salaries | £75/hour (includes all developers) |
| Team manager salary | £32.50/hour |
| Dreamweaver | £320 |
| GitHub | £32/month |
| Other software | £460 |
| Hardware for each developer | £600 x 4 |
| Temp office space | £3200/month |

## Legal assessment

As Dreamweaver is a part of Adobe, and Adobe is large tech giant, it is highly likely that Dreamweaver follows all necessary laws. This is mostly the same to VS Code, when mentioning how images must be screened and adequately give credit when needed, however it is important to reiterate for this project that it is a non-profit website, which means other than the profits needed to run the page and project, all other profits will be donated to charity as this is what the website is based around. Additionally, we will all be following the necessary procedures in order to follow the relevant laws, like copyright, and therefore there should be no legal issues for our project.

## Operational assessment

In the aforementioned sections of this paper, we briefly discussed the capabilities of Dreamweaver and these remain vital in this assignment as they help to expand on the capabilities of normal text editors such as notepad, etc. Dreamweaver supports the ability to look at the live changes made through your edits to the code by displaying the website on the top half of the screen and the code on the bottom. Additionally, Dreamweaver also enables the project members to work on HTML, CSS, and JavaScript as it supports all of these programming languages, meaning that this is a very viable solution for developing a website. Finally, Dreamweaver also has options to use templates when making a website, meaning that it will be much easier to make new web pages based on previous templates.

## Scheduling assessment

Dreamweaver does not have any built-in scheduling capabilities, however, just like VS Code, Dreamweaver is a highly capable tool that can be used to create an effective website. These tools that can be used to enhance the development and complete the website quicker, which will eventually aid in the scheduling. Saving this significant amount of time is a big advantage for choosing Dreamweaver and helps to promote the choice of Dreamweaver. Yet again, this is crucial as there is a limited amount of time to make the website and all the time that can be saved is highly valuable.

## Sustainability assessment

Similarly, to VS Code, Dreamweaver is at risk of being shut down and discontinued by Adobe, leading them to potential security risks and breaches in the future and this is unsafe. However, given then short duration of the of the project, it is highly unlikely that even if Adobe shuts down Dreamweaver, the chances of any security issues arising or being detected while development occurs is even more unlikely and therefore it should be a sustainable option for the project. Once the website is developed it will be possible to keep it running without the need for Dreamweaver, eliminating that sustainability risk.

## Security assessment

There is little to no security risk for developing the website in Dreamweaver and once it is online, there is even less risk. The website will be hosted securely and privately, and given that Dreamweaver is a paid service, if there were any security issues then Adobe would be liable for damages if people wanted to sue, and therefore they would want to secure their software to prevent this from happening. It is due to this self interest that I believe Dreamweaver is acceptable as a software to use in terms of the security of the application.

## Usability assessment

Dreamweaver is a highly acclaimed software that has been in use by web developers for many years and therefore has a high credibility. Additionally, it has many different options for development, such as Chrome, Firefox, Opera, and Edge, just like VS Code, and its easy to work with UI makes it great to work for web development. Although it can be harder to understand when beginning, once the user is experienced then it can be an effective tool for development. Finally, due to the ability to see the live changes to the website during development, it makes Dreamweaver a very attractive option for the project, giving it a big advantage.

# Evaluation of preferred solution

Initially, I was leaning more towards choosing Dreamweaver as the preferred solution for developing this website, however after taking some time to consider the benefits and negatives of both, I ended up deciding to proceed with Visual Studio Code.

The largest advantage of Visual Studio Code compared to the weakness of Dreamweaver is the high price point of Dreamweaver. Given that funding is limited and we need to save every penny that we can, this puts VS Code in a much stronger position compared to Dreamweaver, and therefore the outcome of the economic assessment puts Dreamweaver behind VS Code.

Furthermore, the flexibility of VS Code is a big advantage that I have taken into consideration. Being able to work in multiple programming languages and have different extensions for each developer that they might prefer to have means that every developer will have an enhanced experience creating the website and makes it much more significant for me as the project manager if I were to choose VS Code. This will help to save on both the economic aspect, as well as the usability and scheduling aspect as lots of time will be saved through this.

Finally, given that VS Code is a universal light weight IDE, there is a high probability that our developers will be experienced with using it and therefore be able to work better and faster in VS Code than compared to how they would work in Dreamweaver. This makes VS Code much more advantageous to use and therefore my ideal choice for this project.