Software Development Unit 1, 1.5

Anna Legaspi

# 1.5 I can select and use IT systems and software applications to complete planned tasks and produce effective results

To complete my project, I will require the use of my laptop which has Windows 10 pre-installed. I already have this available to me, therefore it makes sense to use this Windows is also probably the most compatible OS for my project. Below, I have confirmed the hardware requirements of the software I’ve decided to use along with comments for choosing specified software. My laptop meets the minimum requirements for all the software I need to complete my project.

**Processor:** Intel® Core™ i7-7700HQ CPU@ 2.80Ghz

**Installed RAM:** 16 GB

**Hard disk space:** 125 SSD, 1 TB HD, 5TB External HD

**Graphics card:** NVIDIA GeForce GTX 1060

**Monitor:** MSI 2560 x 1440 resolution

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| **Task** | **Software** | **Hardware requirements** | **Cost** | **Comments** |
| **Graphics editing** | GIMP  Alternatives:  *Adobe Photoshop*  *Corel Draw*  *Inkscape* | * CPU: Intel Pentium 4 (or equivalent) or better. * RAM: 250 Mb memory or more. * OS: Windows 10, 8, 7 (both 32-bit and 64-bit) | Free | I’ve decided to use GIMP because of two reasons. GIMP is free in comparison to its premium alternative such as Photoshop. Despite being free, GIMP gets the job done. I’m also more familiar with it’s features in comparison to other photo editing software. |
| **Graphics editing** | Google Slides  Alternatives:  *MS PowerPoint* | Google slides is web browser based so will work alongside Google Chrome. | Free | Although it isn’t a standard software for graphics, I like the pre-existing shapes available in Google Slides and find it useful. Slides combined with GIMP does the job for me and it’s also free. It’s counterpart, PowerPoint is also a great option, but I didn’t have access to PowerPoint when I started my website. |
| **Website creation**  **HTML and CSS** | Visual Studio  Alternatives:  *Notepad* | * 1.8 GHz or faster 64-bit processor; Quad-core or better recommended. ARM processors are not supported. * Minimum of 4 GB of RAM * Hard disk space: Minimum of 850 MB up to 210 GB of available space, depending on features installed. * Video card that supports a minimum display resolution of WXGA (1366 by 768) | Free | Visual studio is free and also very user friendly and intuitive which is why I decided to use this software for HTML and CSS.  If I were to use Notepad, end tags wouldn’t auto type for me the same way that Visual Studio does. I also like that VS can indent the coding accordingly so I can see my opening and closing tags clearly, which helps. |
|  | Notepad | Microsoft Edge is part of Windows 10 package so will work alongside Windows OS. | Free | I don’t necessarily use Notepad to do HTML, but I do sometimes open this to easily view my coding if needed. I’ve also saved some of my web content in Notepad, ready to copy and paste to Visual Studio for after I’ve completed my HTML template. |
| **Website browser compatibility check** | Edge  Alternatives:  *Firefox*  *Opera* | Microsoft Edge is part of Windows 10 package so will work alongside Windows OS. | Free | My preferred website browser is Google Chrome but I need to make sure that my website is compatible with other browsers too. I used Edge because it is a very popular alternative to Google Chrome and it’s also free. There are many other browser options like Firefox, Safari and Opera and they’re all free and very good, but I already had Edge pre-installed so decided to use this. |
|  | Google Chrome | * Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10 or later * An Intel Pentium 4 processor or later that's SSE3 capable | Free | I used Google Chrome to check if my website is displaying properly whilst I’m coding on Visual Studio. I decided to use Google Chrome because it’s free and it’s the browser I’ve been using for many years now. |
| **Webhosting** | Filezilla | I couldn’t find the exact hardware requirements, but downloaded and tested this and it works with my laptop. | Free | I don’t have the full skills required in webhosting so have decided to use Filezilla as an FTP to publish to my webhost. I have chosen this software because they offer a free version. |
| **Video editing** | InShot  Alternatives:  *Filmora*  *Windows Video Editor* | Samsung Galaxy S4 Tablet  Android 3.0 or higher | £8.49 Annually | Just like graphics, there are a lot of video editing software available. I already had InShot installed in my tablet from previous projects I’ve been involved in and decided to use this Software as it’s technically paid for.  In addition, I’m only using photos to create a video, so a light video editing software will be sufficient. It’s also an app that makes it easy to edit videos to then upload and share to my personal drive. Another bonus is that InShot also offers free music, as long as credit is provided in the video itself. I don’t have much experience in creating original music, therefore using another creator’s music with credit will be most appropriate for this situation.  If I didn’t decide to use InShot, I could also use Windows Video Editor but it has less features that InShot. Filmora is another software I have but didn’t think it’s appropriate for this project as Filmora will be more appropriate for heavier video editing. |
| **File Storage** | Google Drive  Alternatives:  *Onedrive*  *Dropbox* |  | Free or premium for larger storage | I use Google drive on multiple devices including my laptop, tablet and phone. This makes it easy to transfer data from one device to another as all my data lives in the cloud. If my laptop crashes and lose my data, I know mine will be safe as it’s all backed up, and this includes my project and this coursework.  Other alternatives like Onedrive and Dropbox work the same way, but I’ve been using Google drive now for so long that I pay a premium of under £2 and get 100GB of cloud space. |