Software Development Unit 1, 2.2

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# I can describe whether IT tools selected were appropriate for the task and purpose

I have weighed the pros and cons when I chose which software and hardware to use and have highlighted examples of my decision-making process below. My examples are not exhaustive as there are many IT tools that I’ve used in this project including Microsoft Excel, Google Slides, Google Drive, etc.

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| **Image editing software** | | | |
| The purpose of needing an image editing tools are to complete the following tasks:   * Create images for navigation buttons, backgrounds, headers, etc. * Edit images to make them fit for purpose such as resizing and saving in various formats * Digitally clean up my art after it has been scanned | | | |
| **Software** | **Strength** | **Weakness** | **Appropriate/ Inappropriate** |
| GIMP | * Free software * Packed with a lot of photo editing features. | * Skills needed to use as not very intuitive | I have chosen to use GIMP for editing my images and I believe it is the most appropriate for what I was trying to achieve. Since I already have some skills in using GIMP in the past, it was easy to re-familiarise myself with its features.   * From a technical standpoint, I was able to change the image resolution and save the images in various formats. * From an aesthetic standpoint, I was also able to create images that went with the theme of my website which was predominantly black and white. * For the content of my website, it helped me clean and present my art properly.   If I didn’t have the skills to use GIMP, I would’ve explored using more intuitive image editing software like MS Paint. |
| Photoshop | * Packed with exclusive features that exceeds its free alternatives * Offers more support and constantly updated. | * Skills needed to use as not very intuitive * Expensive monthly subscription | I decided that Photoshop was not appropriate for what I was trying to achieve.  The main advantage of getting Photoshop was having access to features that other photo editing software didn’t have. However, GIMP or MS Paint can execute my requirements; therefore, I couldn’t justify paying a monthly subscription as it wouldn’t be cost effective. |
| MS Paint | * Free software that comes with Windows * Simple and intuitive | * Limited and basic features * Images tend to pixelate | I decided that MS Paint was not the most appropriate for what I was trying to achieve.  Since I was already familiar with GIMP and I knew it could do what I needed, I didn’t feel it was necessary to figure out how to achieve the same task in another software.  Additionally, the quality of my images whilst editing looked better on GIMP than MS Paint. This could be down to my lack of knowledge in MS Paint or GIMP is just superior to MS Paint. |

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| **Report creating software** | | | |
| The purpose of needing an image editing tools are to complete the following tasks:   * Create a table of contents, table of figures and index * Create a professional looking report with consistent styles * Review my report to ensure there are no errors | | | |
| **Software** | **Strength** | **Weakness** | **Appropriate/ Inappropriate** |
| Microsoft Word | * It is a widely used Software that offers the features I’m looking for. * There are lots of support to be found on YouTube and online on how to use Word effectively and efficiently. | * Cost £30 for Microsoft Word which is included in MS Office 2018 | I have chosen to use MS Word for creating reports and experienced it to be appropriate for what I was trying to achieve.   * I was able to create the Table of Contents and Figures and the index. * I was able to apply a specific style to the report which made the report appear consistent and professional. * I was able to use spelling and grammar correction to eliminate any errors.   If I didn’t already have MS Word, I could’ve also used other alternatives like LibreOffice as I believe it offers similar features to Word, but for free. |

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| **Operating System and Hardware** | | | |
| I would require an operating system and hardware that will be able to complete my project efficiently and effectively | | | |
| **System** | **Strength** | **Weakness** | **Appropriate/ Inappropriate** |
| MSI Gaming laptop with Windows 10 | * There is more compatible software available in Windows than MacOS. * Better OS for technical jobs like coding | * The inbuilt Security Windows Defender is not as secure as MacOS. I need to have a reliable Antivirus and Anti-malware program to have a more robust security. | I have chosen to use Windows for creating reports and experienced it to be appropriate for what I was trying to achieve.   * I already own a gaming laptop which has relatively decent specification that can handle the software needed to complete my projects. There was no real need to purchase any additional hardware. * I already have Bitdefender which offers an overall security package deal to protect my PC which includes anti-virus, anti-malware, firewall, VPN etc. * I was already familiar with the use of Windows OS since this is the same OS I use for work. |
| MacBook | * Has a robust security and doesn’t require purchasing anti-virus software. * Better OS for graphics design than Windows. | * Not easy to install and find compatible software in comparison to Windows. * Tends to be more expensive if compared with Windows hardware. | I decided that a MacBook was not appropriate for what I was trying to achieve.   * I didn’t own a MacBook and it wouldn’t have been affordable to purchase a new one, especially when I already had a Windows gaming laptop. * Even though it is suitable for graphics, I can still complete my image editing needs in Windows without issues. The main focus of my projects is the coding which is more suitable with Windows. |