Software Development Unit 3, 2.5

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# I can describe the compatibility issues in different combinations of collaborative tools and devices.

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| **Hardware/Software** | **Compatibility issues** |
| **Desktop hardware** (includes CPU, monitor, RAM, Hard drive, etc) | The desktop specs must be compatible with the Operating Systems. If the specs of a desktop are old are do not meet the minimum requirements of the OS, it may not work or the performance can be noticeably affected.  Some software is also sold exclusively to specific devices. For example, you won’t be able to buy a Windows OS in an Apple product. The only way to do this is to load Windows in an apple product manually. Since the compatibility hasn’t been tested fully, there is a chance it may or may not work. |
| **Ports** | Some computers have limited slots and may not be compatible for all types of external hardware. There are a variety of ports such as different versions of USB, USB C, HDMI, VGA etc. I’d need to get the right adaptors or extension to accommodate all my external hardware. For example:   * Some keyboard and mouse normally require a USB slot to work. Some laptops only have USB. * Some laptops no longer have VGA and only have HDMI or mini-HDMI. * Some devices only have a limited number or ports and may not accommodate all my required external hardware. Therefore, I’d need to but an extension.   It's also worth noting that some external hardware like speakers and mice are now Bluetooth compatible. If the OS doesn’t support Bluetooth, then these Bluetooth only devices will not be compatible too. |
| **External Hardware compatibility** | All devices normally have minimum requirements. If a device doesn’t work with another device or software, it’s possible that that they’re not compatible.  Sometimes it is also because the correct and up to date driver isn’t installed in the OS. It’s important to always have the relevant drivers for the external and even internal hardware. Nowadays, most external devices are just Plug and Play and they work. If they don’t plug and play immediately, they at least take you to the right place where you can download the relevant software and drivers to make it work. |
| **Software incompatibilities** | There are some software that don’t work well with other software. For example, I was moving from using McAfee to Norton which are both anti-virus software. When I tried to install Norton without removing McAfee first, I was prompted by Norton that only one anti-virus software can run at a time. Therefore, I had to delete my McAfee antivirus. |