**Week 5: Software, Database and the role of an Information Systems (IS) Procurement Consultant**

**Intended Learning Outcomes**

ILO1: Describe how software and databases can be used to gain and sustain competitive advantage.

ILO3: Demonstrate the attitude and ability to propose software for supporting business processes at various organizational levels.

**Activity 1. Week 5 Bi-Weekly Lecture Quiz Reminder**

Please feel free to let me know if you have any problems in answering the MC questions.

Reminder:

(a) Max 3 attempts allowed

(b) Deadline: This Sunday, 11:59 pm

**Activity 2. Tutorial Discussion [15 mins]**

Log on to Canvas and complete Tutorial 5 Discussion. It carries a bonus participation of 0.5% for correct answer.

Topic for Discussion:

“Big Data: A Challenge or an Opportunity? How do Firms Ride on the Wave of Big Data?”

Suggested Readings:

1. Noyes, K. (19th August 2015), ComputerWorld, “Why Big Data Isn’t Always the Answer?” <http://www.computerworld.com/article/2973436/big-data/why-big-data-isnt-always-the-answer.html>
2. Chamorro-Premuzic, T. (19th December 2016), Forbes, “Forget Big Data: What You Need is Deep Data”, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/tomaspremuzic/2016/12/19/forget-big-data-what-you-need-is-deep-data/#154bc60156e4>

**Activity 4. Overview**

Recall the Human Resource (HR) business that you had established in your tutorial last week (Week 4). In this tutorial, you will take on the role of a software procurement consultant. Your role is to help the HR company build its IT system.

**4.1 Recommend some software for an HR company [10 minutes]**

Recommend THREE to FOUR software packages and/or web-based programs for the company’s departments/units to adopt and explain how each of them could be beneficial to the company.

Tips:

1. You may suggest any relevant off-the-shelf, off-the-shelf and then customized or custom-developed software.
2. You may also refer to <https://www.pcmag.com/article/344148/10-free-tools-your-small-business-will-love>, <http://www.channelpro.co.uk/advice/7748/the-best-business-productivity-applications> and <https://www.techradar.com/news/best-hr-software> for some examples.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Name of Software/Web service** | **Department/Unit** | **Benefits** |
| **1** |  |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |  |
| **3** |  |  |  |
| **4** |  |  |  |

**4.2 Managing data for HR company [15 minutes]**

Explain the differences between a database software (e.g. Microsoft Access) and a spreadsheet (e.g. Microsoft Excel) to your client. Which one would you recommend for the HR company and why?

Tips: You are encouraged to search the Internet for clues.

**Reminder of BI Performance Test in Week 6**

There will be a BI Performance Test next week. The test carries a bonus of 0.5% of your tutorial participation. The scope of the test covers materials from Modules 1-3 in KEEP. You will be asked to complete some multiple choice questions and use Facepager and SAS Enterprise Miners in the test.