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| Main text body word count | 967 |
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| **Reflective abstract (up to 150 words)**  Please help the marker give you useful, personally tailored, feedback by completing the sections below. Nothing you write here will adversely affect your mark. | |
| What mark do you anticipate your essay will achieve? | Optimistically I would say I’ve at least reached 40%, but potentially, I could be close to 70%, due to my use of UWE Harvard referencing, working systems, good report structure and decent diagrams, at least in my opinion. |
| What do you think you did well in the writing of this essay? | Identifying the good and bad points of Astah through experience, as well as making use of research sources that I could find. |
| What aspects of your essay do you think may need improvement? | Finding better sources to research and narrowing down my word count. My critical review was originally more than 1100 words before I trimmed it. I also think that maybe I could consider where and what to reference in essays such as this. |
| What areas of feedback would be most helpful for you? | How I could best make use of references in essays like this and if all my information is relevant. |

PART I << CRITICAL ANALYSIS>>

I .1 INTRODUCTION

This is my critical review. Here, I will explain how I used Astah to design diagrams for a cinema manager.

Since that was my only focus, the scope of what I discuss will be the diagram tools in relation to that specific area.

1.2 EVALUATION CRITERIA

COST

Astah is free to use, but only with a student e-Mail and license. The good points of this are that licences are determined by account rather than system. Meaning that if an individual in a group has access to a device that Astah works on, then it will work. However, it would be best for groups to check that everyone can provide one. If any members of the group can’t then they may have to pay for a monthly license themselves.[[1]](#footnote-2)[[2]](#footnote-3)

CAPABILITIES

As shown below. I made five different diagrams. If I click on the “Diagram” tool, then Astah provides me with a list asking to pick a diagram. This is useful, because I can select one and it will only provide access to symbols relevant to the diagram that I chose.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

Diagram

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Description automatically generated

Depending on what diagram I am working on, a bar will be provided at the top, giving me fast access to each diagram symbol, This means that Astah is capable of cutting time.

However, Astah is limited to usage with only these kinds of diagrams. Therefore, it would be best to know in advance if Astah can work with these diagrams or not. [[3]](#footnote-4)

USABILITY

Without using File Explorer, I can store all of my diagrams in one place and quickly move between them with a single window open. This saves opening too many windows at once. It can also provide guidance while working on documents.

Graphical user interface, text, application

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Graphical user interface

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An example of how Astah provided this kind of guidance can be seen on my components diagram above. It provides guidelines that make the various symbols easier to line-up next-to each other. This is useful for the components diagram as it makes it clearer where each layer of data is.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

However, it’s not completely user-friendly. It will give the name of each symbol, but not describe it. Consequently, Astah will not give you much detail on your chosen diagram itself. This makes Astah not beginner friendly as it does expect your own research.

Another point is that it’s not easy for someone who is considering using Astah to find out if it’s right for them. Few results come up when looking up the benefits of Astah on Google, besides Astah’s main site. This means that the best way to judge Astah is first-hand experience, which can take more time than reading an article.

1.3 EVIDENCE (WITH EXAMPLE ILLUSTRATIONS) AND ANALYSIS

My first diagram was Cinema\_Manager\_UseCase. This is a Use-Case diagram that shows the Cinema Manager as an actor who uses the system. The square box that all of the actions are in show visually how a cinema manager is outside the system, but has direct access to everything provided by the system to them

Next, Cinema\_Manager\_Class. This is a class diagram showing the contents of each database, and how they link. For example, the diagram shows that while the cinema manager can access showings directly, it also shows that it depends on films and screens to work. One film or screen maps to many showings, which is represented by the \*’s by ‘Showings.’

My next diagram is Cinema\_Manager\_Compoments. This diagram splits how a system works into different layers. Higher layers depend on lower ones. This diagram shows film and club records as top-layered.[[4]](#footnote-5)[[5]](#footnote-6)

The next diagram is Cinema\_Manager\_Sequence. This is a sequence diagram that shows the links between cinema managers and club manager representatives. When a new club is set up, the individual chosen as a club representative will have their password and number assigned automatically.

My final diagram is Cinema\_Manager\_DataFlow. As the name would imply, it shows the use of data from within the cinema manager system. This diagram shows what actions the cinema manager can do, and how they affect other users.[[6]](#footnote-7)[[7]](#footnote-8)[[8]](#footnote-9)

1.4 CONCLUSIONS

Overall, I do consider Astah useful. However, I have also found that while Astah provides some guidance on helping with diagrams, which won’t benefit individuals if they don’t understand it themselves. Therefore, knowledge and experience may lead to better diagrams, and I think that I can make use of that.

PART II << REFLECTIVE REPORT >>

2 .1 INTRODUCTION

This report will be reflecting on my experiences designing my cinema manager system and diagrams. This will include where I went well and where I made missteps.

2.2 REFLECTIONS

When designing my system. I had little difficulty using Astah. Even if I had to evaluate it, it was a software tool that I was used to. I had to do my own research to learn to draw the components and data flow diagrams, but I was able to overcome this using Google.

The hardest area for me was designing the system using Django and Visual Studio Code. It not easy for me to work with a program that requires multiple files and a specific server.

However, I still tried looking into actions such as adding or deleting databases.[[9]](#footnote-10)[[10]](#footnote-11)

Text

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This was an error that I ran into. It gave me trouble as I was confused about why half of my databases weren’t setting up and like Astah, it was difficult to research. However, the solution turned out to be deleting the entire cache of previous migrations from the table and migrating all of them again from scratch. The tables that I tested worked fine after that, so I was able to overcome this problem.[[11]](#footnote-12)[[12]](#footnote-13)

The server works fine here.

Graphical user interface, application

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2.3 CONCLUSIONS

Overall, I have tried to demonstrate with justification how well I can work by myself. I can say for certain that coding is the area that I have the most difficulty with when compared with writing and designing. When I start working in a group, I will try making use of these strengths.

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Appendix A

https://github.com/j2-hore/desd-assignment.git

Appendix B

**Cinema\_Manager\_UseCase**

Diagram

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**Cinema\_Manager\_Class**

Diagram

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**Cinema\_Manager\_Compoments**

Diagram

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**Cinema\_Manager\_Sequence**

Diagram

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**Cinema\_Manager\_Diagram

Description automatically generatedDataFlow**

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