Tools & Technologies

**Web Hosting:**

The development, deployment and hosting of the web site for our application will be handled by Netlify. Netlify is an all-encompassing web content management service, which helps developers to build, test, and deploy websites.

Netlify works by connecting to your GitHub repository to pull your website’s source code. After that it will run a build process to pre-render your website’s pages into static HTML. The resulting pages will then be distributed and deployed across a wider range of content delivery networks. Whenever a user requests access to your website, it will choose the nearest data centre automatically to serve users in the fastest and most efficient way. Because of this process you can test new versions of your website simply by pushing the code to your GitHub repository, Netlify do the rest. (Ref 1. blog.back4app.com *What is Netlify? | Back4App Blog*, 2020)

Netlify offer a number of different service packages, the first three would be of interest to our application. They are:

1. “Starter” A free service for small scale websites and testing.

2. “Pro” For larger scale websites that require greater bandwidth and support.

3. “Business” For full scale business web applications with full support and dedicated Netlify support.

Initial development and testing of our web application would be implemented with the “Starter” package. This provides basic web hosting and rendering which would be sufficient to allow us to test and develop the application before full deployment. Once our web app is fully deployed, we would need to initially upgrade to the “Pro” packaged which costs US$19 per team member, per month. This package offers an increased access bandwidth and many other additional included features such as logon passwords and authentication, and access to technical support. When our web application is up and running, we would have to closely monitor its usage because Netlify have high fees for exceeding the package inclusions. It is much cheaper to move to the “Business” package for US$99 per member, per month than consistently pay for the excess usage charges. As well as an increased user access bandwidth the “Business” package also has unlimited access to many of the services Netlify offers. (Ref 3. netlify.com/pricing/ *Netlify Pricing and Plans*, 2020)

References:

1. Back4App Blog. 2020. *What Is Netlify? | Back4app Blog*. [online] Available at: <https://blog.back4app.com/what-is-netlify/> [Accessed 22 November 2020].
2. Netlify. 2020. *Netlify: All-In-One Platform For Automating Modern Web Projects*. [online] Available at: <https://www.netlify.com/> [Accessed 22 November 2020].
3. Netlify. 2020. *Netlify Pricing And Plans*. [online] Available at: <https://www.netlify.com/pricing/> [Accessed 22 November 2020].