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Part One of Three

*1a. What tools and features support collaboration, i.e. multiple people making edits on a file, with colleagues when using Microsoft 365 for business (aka Office 365)?*

In Microsoft Office 365 Suite, we can share a file with anyone using various collaboration tools and features:-

-Microsoft OneDrive and SharePoint allow sharing and giving editing access (using the Get Link option from the top menu bar) to the users we assign. i.e. we can choose whether we allow the shared file to be edited or not.

*1b. What mechanisms permit different ways of collaborating on a single file?*

In order to collaborate on a single file, we can simply share the file allowing the necessary permissions and the users collaborating should have the file opened. Once, every user has the file opened, each user can either edit it or can watch the changes being made by their colleagues in real time.

*1c. What about a project where collaboration on numerous files must be done – what would you use to manage that?*

If there are numerous files that needs to be worked together on, we can use the Microsoft OneNote which is similar to a notebook and can hold various documents at once. This can be shared with others thus, everyone can work together on the files.

2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of storing files “in the cloud” versus on your own system?

There are various merits and demerits of storing the files on the cloud instead of our own system

-The merits are :-

• The foremost one is that the cloud storage is less expensive. Physical storage is much more expensive as compared to the cloud storage services. In addition to that, physical storage also takes space.

• Secondly, it has more accessibility. By this I mean that, any file that is being stored on the cloud can be accessed from anywhere where an internet connection is present. Whereas, in case of physical storage we do not have access to particular data unless we have the storage device with us.

-The demerits are :-

• There is always an issue of support if someone is using the free version of a cloud storage software. We get good customer support only if we spend money on buying a premium version of a cloud service.

• Moreover, privacy is a major concern while using the cloud services. There is no guarantee of our data security by the cloud providers. There is always a question whether who is responsible for the security of our data on the cloud.

3a. How is OneDrive = Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) to the end user

Infrastructure as a service (IaaS) is basically a type of cloud computing service that offers essential compute, storage, and networking resources on demand, on a pay-as-you-go basis. It only includes the servers/storage, network firewalls and data centres. OneDrive as IaaS is for IT administrators and not for the end users.

3b. How is OneDrive = Platform as a Service (PaaS) to the end user

Platform as a service (PaaS) is a complete development and deployment environment in the cloud, with resources that enable you to deliver everything from simple cloud-based apps to sophisticated, cloud-enabled enterprise applications. In other words, it includes everything as in IaaS with additional features. OneDrive as PaaS is for software developers and not useful to the end users.

3c. Is OneDrive = Software as a Service (SaaS) to the end user

Software as a service (SaaS) allows users to connect to and use cloud-based apps over the Internet. Common examples are email, calendaring, and office tools. OneDrive is generally considered as SaaS- Software as a Service.

Part Two of Three   
***Discuss either***

Entertainment: Is it a Product or a Service?

***~or~***

Social Media: To Whom Does It Belong?

Social media are tools for communication that allow the creation or sharing/exchange of information, ideas, interests, and other forms of expression via virtual communities. The things that we post on social networks is owned by us but, there is a catch – we basically give them permission to use our uploaded resources if they need as stated in their terms and conditions. There are various popular social media like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, WhatsApp which are owned by one or another person indirectly. Our uploaded stuff on social media can be used by these companies to provide our preferences and information to other companies to run their business. That’s how it works, surprisingly google is such a software which can determine our preferences, store them and even share with the third party apps for monetization and advertisement purposes. Yes, we can change how we need our profile to be shown but, only to the other users or followers. By this I mean that, these companies already have all our data in their databases stored. In short, these databases might leak and the information might go in the hands or hackers or scammers and they can easily access our personal information. For instance, there may be data mining. When we use the internet, we leave data behind that can be used to trace your actions. Social media platforms use personal information to create targeted marketing. In addition, companies collect data on user behaviors: when, where, and how users interact with their platform. Data is stored and leveraged by companies to better target advertising to their users. Sometimes companies share users’ data with third-party entities without consent or knowledge from the user.

Part Three of Three

At the half-way point in the semester…

Right from my childhood, I have a dream of becoming a successful software engineer. Software engineer not just in any common company, but in a well reputed tech company. I do have interest in working either with Apple or Microsoft. To achieve this, I have been working hard doing my assignments, learning new concepts, concentrating in classes and doing my very best. Programming skills, debugging techniques, front end & back end development are some of the concepts that I need to excel to become a successful software developer. Firstly, I need to pick up a certain language which I need to learn each and every single function in it. Having knowledge of all other languages is a plus point too, but knowing a single language can make much easier to learn others as there is just a minor difference of syntax within those language. As of now, I have gradually gained experience with basics of C programming language. In my upcoming semesters, I will take the courses that I have interest in, like IOS development & Android development so that I do not get bored and enjoy learning new terms. I will continue putting my best in my studies until I complete my program.

“Our way is not soft grass; it’s a mountain path with lots of rocks. But it goes upwards, forward, toward the sun.” - Ruth Westheimer