

CIS 120: Introduction to Computer Information Systems

Lab: Individual Analysis of Key IT Concepts

Due: 09/05/2024 @ 11:59pm

Objective:

- Engage in critical thinking and analysis of key IT concepts.
- Explore the impact of technology on daily life, privacy, security, and the workplace.
- Develop the ability to articulate and analyze your thoughts on various IT-related topics.

Estimated Time:

- In-Lab Activity: 45 minutes
- Take-Home Reflection: 1 hour

In-Lab Activity:

Instructions:

- Choose three of the following discussion topics.
- For each selected topic, write a brief analysis (around 150-200 words) addressing the questions provided. Focus on your personal perspective, supported by examples or experiences where applicable.

Discussion Topics:

1. Impact of IoT and Embedded Computers:

- How have embedded computers and the IoT impacted your daily life? What additional uses can you see yourself using? What security or other risks might you encounter with IoT?

2. Technology in the Workplace:

- What additional uses of technology can you see in the workplace? List ways technology impacts other careers not discussed in this module, such as finance, government, non-profits, and agriculture.

3. Web's Influence on Daily Life:

- How does the web affect your daily life? Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of web technologies on personal and professional levels.

4. Privacy Concerns with Browsing:

- Your browser uses a cache to keep track of the websites you visit, and businesses use cookies to track your online activities. Do you think these practices invade your privacy? Why or why not?

5. Cybersecurity and Risks:

- How serious are the risks to your computer security? Discuss the most significant threats and how individuals can protect themselves.

6. Impact of E-commerce:

- Business analysts say that physical retail stores are in decline, while e-commerce websites such as Amazon are more popular than ever. Do you agree? Why or why not?

7. Operating Systems and Their Importance:

- Discuss how an operating system manages the computer's memory. Why is this important? How does the operating system impact the overall performance and security of a computer?

8. Big Data and Privacy:

- Read an article about how Big Data enables companies to track large amounts of personal information. What types of information do companies track? Are you concerned about your own privacy online in this age of Big Data?

Take-Home Reflection:

Instructions:

- Choose one of the three topics you analyzed during the in-lab portion.
- Write a 1-2 page reflection on the selected topic. In your reflection, address the following points:
 - Summarize the key aspects of your in-lab analysis.
 - Provide deeper insight into the topic by discussing additional research or information you found on the subject.
 - Reflect on how the topic impacts you personally or professionally, and how your understanding of it has evolved after the lab.

Submission:

- Compile your in-lab analyses and take-home reflection into a single document.
- Submit the document through the Brightspace by the specified deadline.