

Computer Architecture & Systems – Research Assignment

Comparative Case Study Section

As part of the Purfitt Real Estate research assignment you are required to carry out a comparative case study on the use of computer technology in some other company. This report should take the form of a general discussion (essay) under headings of your choosing. Suitable headings may be suggested by this document and by discussion in class.

The company chosen may be the company where you do your work placement or the company which will be visited on a field trip in late February. In either case, you should read the guidelines below and prepare a list of questions to ask *in advance* of either visit.

You should indicate the level of computerisation in the business. State whether it is only computerised to a small extent or a large extent. A large extent of computerisation would be indicated where the technology is central to how the business is run.

Since many take a view that the possession of computers alone is a good thing, you should determine whether this is so for the business which you choose as the basis for your case study. You should be able to list the distinct benefits that the business receives from being computerised.

There are also likely to be some disadvantages. What are they?

You should further examine how heavily dependent the company is upon their IT. Could they carry out business in a power cut, for example. How long could the company stay in business with out their IT?

This assignment will list not just the hardware and software in use in the company but for what purpose those items are used. You should avoid meaningless lists in your submission, but instead focus upon the use made of the technologies, giving examples if possible.

Typically 1,000 words should be sufficient to describe the technologies in use and their purpose.

Though this assignment is part of the Computer Architecture & Systems Research Project it presently has a separate due date of: **7th March 2003**