UU100 EPORTFOLIO ACTIVITY 1

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Tutorial: Thursday 3-5pm

Activity 1A: ICT Tools & Services

ICT TOOL/SERVICE
1. Mozilla Firefox
2. StudeNet
3. Mahara
4.   Personal Network Share Z: Drive
5. Google Apps
6. Student Online Services (SOLS)
7. MOODLE
8. TurnItIn

Activity 1B: Basic Computing Skills and Hardware Fundamentals

Best Smartphone of 2012

The growing advancements that mankind has achieved over the years has made us more willing to live a luxurious yet easy life. We do not want to use modems or wired connections to get access to the internet nor do we want to carry a camera around every day. Today's generation wants everything to be available with just the click of a button yet does not wish to carry around bags full of heavy laptops and cameras. To solve this problem, we came up with an invention that was the ultimate solution, the Smartphone.

A Smartphone is a mobile phone that behaves just like any computer, only difference is that it can be handheld as if it were featherweight. It is capable of a number of advanced functionalities such as sending and receiving emails, taking pictures, downloading and running web-based applications, instant messaging and even online shopping and banking. For this reason, they come fully equipped with their own operating system, such as Android and iPhone OS, their own memory as well as a user interface. There is a new Smartphone on the market almost every other day and one has to be aware of their own needs in order to decide which is best for them.

One may ask, why buy a Smartphone when we already have other gadgets to do the job? Well, since a Smartphone can do almost everything, it is a more cost effective choice. Instead of buying a separate camera, a GPS device, an MP3 player, a PlayStation or a wireless modem for internet access, one can just buy a Smartphone and enjoy all these features yet pay less than what all these gadgets would cost. A Smartphone is also easy to carry around and is lighter hence favored by many. It also allows people to stay connected and up-to-date even while on the move, as internet connectivity is a popular feature of the Smartphone. Travelers can download web-based apps and games to keep themselves occupied during their journey. Music lovers can download latest songs and groove to the tune without any hassle. Smartphone's also allow social networking lovers to keep updating their status via mobile internet. Whatever the need may be, a Smartphone has the features to satisfy it.

Additionally, to get the best Smartphone to suit all your needs, one needs to look out for a few things when choosing such a device. Firstly, the design of the Smartphone, that is, its size, weight, screen size and resolution. A Smartphone should be light with a reasonable screen size so that users don't have to strain their eyes. It should also have advanced multimedia features, with a high resolution camera as well as the ability to play and record videos and audios. Furthermore, it must have the call features of any typical cell phone and have enough battery life to last the entire day as well as storage capabilities and connectivity features for easier internet browsing. Additionally, it should have "practical tools such as calculators, maps and GPS to support everyday lifestyles" (2012 Best Smartphone Comparisons and Reviews, 2012).

Keeping all this in mind, the best Smartphone available in the market today would be the Apple iPhone 4S. In terms of design, it has a dual-core CPU and a 1GHz per core clock speed, making it fast and superb for gaming and web browsing (Apple iPhone 4S, 2012). Its 3.5-inch touch screen produces sharp images for photos and videos and allows zooming without spoiling the image quality. The iPhone 4S also has an 8 megapixel camera with high resolution, eliminating camera shake and allowing you to edit photos on the phone itself. It has a front and back camera and accommodates flawless video calling. Additionally, it has three memory storage options, the highest being 64GB and it also works in collaboration with iCloud, allowing you to store apps, photos and even books on Apple's servers (Apple iPhone 4S, 2012). It also has a large battery life that is dependent on your usage of the phone. The iPhone has even taken voice recognition to a whole new level with the introduction of 'Siri', which not only copies what you say but also understands and takes action (Apple iPhone 4S, 2012). All these features make it a cut above the other Smartphone's such as Samsung Galaxy SIII and HTC One X.

In all, with the growing needs of the information generation today, the Apple iPhone 4S is the perfect answer. It's new and improved features place it ahead of its competitors in the Smartphone industry. So if you want everything to be literally at your fingertips, all you have to do is go down to the nearest Apple s tore and buy an Apple iPhone 4S today.

Best Antivirus Software Product of 2012

The constant growth of the computer industry brings with it a greater extent of reliance on resources on the Web as well as increased use of electronic mailing. With this, comes exposure to threats associated with the use of computers. Identity theft, hacking and espionage are only some of these threats. The most dangerous of all is computer viruses.
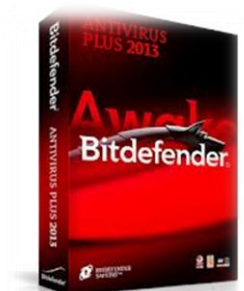
A computer virus is a malicious piece of coding that has the ability to replicate itself once it enters a computer system. It can spread from one computer to another through networks, emails or even through removable storage devices such as USB drives. Once inside a computer system, a computer virus can cause various forms of damage depending on the type of virus. For instance, "some viruses may delete all files on the hard disk while others may damage system components" (O'Leary, 2010). The names of some viruses discovered in 2012 are Flame and Shamoon.

Due to the harm brought about by viruses, computer users must try their best to prevent these viruses. Some ways of doing so would be to install anti-spyware and anti-malware programs, avoid mistrustful websites, scan email attachments before opening them, install a firewall and most importantly, install a reliable anti-virus program. Also, any antivirus or anti-spyware programs installed must be continuously updated so that viruses do not trespass the detection process.

Since reliable anti-virus software forms the foundation of a safe computer system, a lot of factors must be kept in mind when deciding on which one to buy. Firstly, one must consider the *scope of protection* offered by the software. The software must provide protection from all types of viruses, worms and any other threat. Secondly, the antivirus software must be *effective* in detecting malicious coding on the computer system. Thirdly, the software must be *easy to install* or setup so that people can install it themselves. Furthermore, the antivirus software must be *easy to use* so that one doesn't require a doctorate to operate it. Moreover, since "a security software is only as good as its latest update" (Best Antivirus Software Review, 2012), the software chosen must be equipped with automatic *updates* that are regular and do not slow down the computer system. Finally, the antivirus software must have *help and support* features so that the user can get answers to questions whether he is online or offline.

Keeping the above features in mind, the best commercial anti-virus software product available in the market today is the Bitdefender Antivirus Plus 2013. This antivirus software "is effective in successfully blocking, removing, neutralizing and preventing malware infections" (Bitdefender Antivirus Plus 2013, 2012). It ensures security and optimizes operations without affecting the speed of the computer. It also has a Scan Dispatcher feature which maintains performance by identifying and utilizing time slices should the system's resource utilization drop. The Bitdefender also has quick installation and has an elegant user interface. It also has an Autopilot feature that makes security-related decisions without troubling the user for prompts. It also automatically uses a secure browser for web browsing, scans any removable storage device that is used, protects against all forms of online threats, scans all email, instant messaging and web traffic for malicious programs and even uses encryption. It monitors suspicious file behaviors as well as privacy settings on Facebook and Twitter. The gamer mode feature of Bitdefender diverts all interruptions when you're playing games while its laptop mode saves resources on unplugged laptops. Bitdefender is also easy to use and provides 24/7 additional help and support through phone, email and online live chats and even through its integrated help.

In all, anti-virus softwares play an essential role in ensuring the safety of your computer system hence every care must be taken to choose the package that provides excellent features. Bitdefender Antivirus Plus 2013 is the best software on the market currently to do this job as it offers protection like no other.

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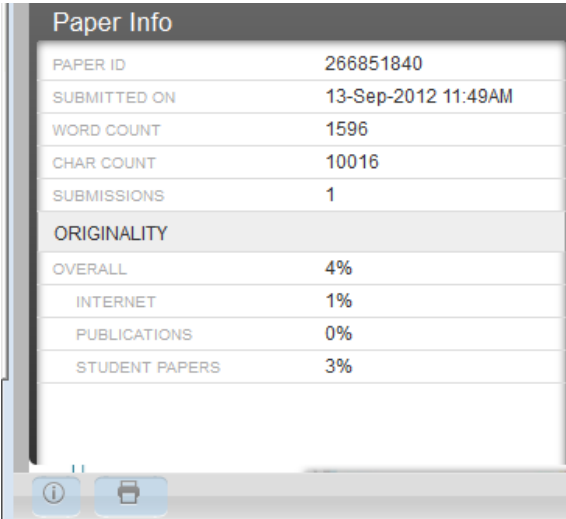
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Similarity Index

Figure 1: TurnItIn Paper Info