

Computer Architecture & Systems – Research Assignment

Assignment Brief – Stage 01

Purfitt Real Estate has been in existence since 1952. The company has recently been sold complete with premises, client list, name and goodwill.

The new buyer intends retaining all the existing staff and clients but intends to modernise and grow the business in order to recoup the cost of purchasing the company. As it stands the company is not technologically advanced in any way; the previous owner, Patrick Purfitt, had not seen the advantages of computerisation when others were taking that route, and in later years did not wish to over invest in a business which he knew he would soon be selling.

The company employs 4 dedicated sales staff to handle residential sales, 1 for commercial sales and 1 staff member for agricultural and other sales. In addition there are 4 general office staff, a financial controller and a receptionist. Management will consist of the new owner and an assistant manager – formerly the office manager.

The new owner intends to fully computerise the office and all functions associated with the business. Each employee will be provided with a computer, network facilities and email. Publicity brochures and flyers will be produced on computer. Accounts and customer management records will be computerised. Each staff member will need to be provided with wordprocessing and spreadsheet software. Appropriate software should be chosen for each staff member.

As the commercial and agricultural sales people have to work in the field some form of mobile computing solution will have to be considered.

As the office building is historic and covered by a preservation order only limited interference with walls *etc.* is permitted. To this end wireless networking must be used to connect the computers.

You are required to select all the necessary items to enable the modernisation of this office. You will be provided with a budget which it is advisable to stay within. From a marking point of view it will be important to give reasons for all selections and decisions.