APPLICATIONS SOFTWARE

Level 2 Diploma
Unit 3 Computer Systems
Applications

- Application software performs tasks for the user
- What common application software can you think of?
Common Application Software

- Office software
  - Word processor
  - Spreadsheet
  - Database
  - Presentation
- Business and industrial software
  - CAD
  - Desk top publishing
- Multimedia
  - Photo editing
  - Video editing
  - Publishing
- Communications
  - Email
  - Messaging
  - Web Browser
- Education
  - Computer aided learning
  - Virtual learning environments
- Games
- Specialist
  - Speech recognition
Activity

- Office software
  - Word processor
  - Spreadsheet
  - Database
  - Presentation
- Business and industrial software
  - CAD
  - Desk top publishing
  - Web design software
- Multimedia
  - Photo editing
  - Video editing
  - Publishing

Find an example of each one of the above and write in a document the recommended hardware and software that they need to work (processor, memory, disk space, graphics, operating system etc)
Application software options

- Commercially available package
  - Bought in a shop, by mail order or downloaded

- Tailored solution
  - A commercial package is modified to suit a particular users needs

- Bespoke solution
  - Specifically created by a developer to meet the need
## Application types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercially available</td>
<td>Available immediately</td>
<td>Compromises made</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large user base</td>
<td>Does not always meet needs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Support available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tailored solution</td>
<td>Quick to implement</td>
<td>Some compromises made</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Product is well tested as it is based on an existing product</td>
<td>Does not meet all needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bespoke solution</td>
<td>Exactly meets users needs</td>
<td>Can be expensive</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Professional product</td>
<td>Takes time</td>
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<td></td>
<td>May give business advantage</td>
<td>Support costs extra</td>
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<td>Training will be needed</td>
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User types

- Standard user
- Business user
- Creative/multimedia user
- Gaming user
- Student user
- Researcher/developer
Standard User

- Home desktop computer
- Used for everyday tasks
  - Internet shopping
  - Messaging
  - Word processing
- Moderately computer literate
- Just wants it to work
Business User

- Business specific applications
- Word processing
- Spreadsheets
- Database
- Application software literate
- Lots of documents
- Requires reliability - Just wants it to work!
Creative/Multimedia User

- Power user
- Highly skilled in specific applications
- Big files
- Requires performance
- Favours large or multiple screens
Gaming user

- Highly literate
- Demanding
- Requires cutting edge performance
- Special hardware needs
- Will sacrifice stability for performance
Student users

- Likes portability
- Requires reliability
- Will trade performance for cost
- Wants a good all rounder
- But may have special needs depending on the course
Task

- From your knowledge of software and hardware components
  - Select suitable component types (not actual components) for each user type
  - Eg – a 24” screen for the multimedia user or a netbook for the student
  - Make sure you choose hardware and software
  - What ‘special facilities’ are available for people with particular extra requirements, e.g. Left-handed, disabled