

Selection of Cloud Technologies

Task 1

(a) What do we mean by the term platform independent?

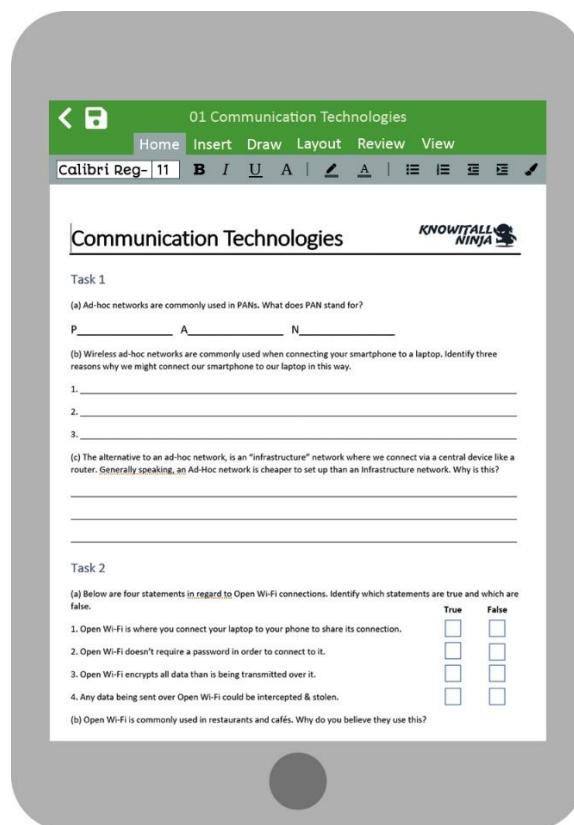
A program can work on any operating system without any modification.

(b) Explain why we don't always want to select the cloud technology that has the most features.

The more features available the more complex a system becomes. This will potentially make it difficult for employees to adapt to and make use of which could lead to less efficiency in the business.

Many of these features will not be needed by the business and so won't serve a purpose. What the business needs is a system that provides the features it requires and no more.

(c) Below is a drawing of a user interface for a cloud word processing software application.



Identify two ways the cloud software interface's design makes it easier to use.

1. It has adapted it's layout to fit in with a mobile display, making it usable on a tablet or smartphone device.

2. Its layout is similar to common word processing applications which will make it more intuitive and easier to use for individuals.

(d) Freya is the IT manager for a tech company that has fifteen employees but is expanding quickly. The company is thinking of switching to using a cloud service provider to access cloud storage and software. Freya has been asked to choose a provider of these services.

Discuss the factors that Freya would need to consider before choosing a cloud service.

One of the biggest factors Freya should consider is the cost. She could look at free cloud services but these usually aren't designed for businesses. A paid service will provide proper support and you can increase or decrease the access as the business grows or shrinks. This makes it really beneficial over sticking with traditional local services which are costly to increase and can't be decreased.

Another factor to consider is what devices the service is available on. For example, Freya's business may be using an operating system that the cloud service doesn't support with applications to set up syncing of files. This would make the service less useful.

Accessibility is another factor. Freya may have employees with individuals needs and she'll need to be sure the service provides good support for these to avoid discrimination.

Task 2

(a) What do we mean by the term "device synchronisation".

Where files are updated on two or more devices so both have the latest version of the files.

(b) Below are three statements regarding the use of cloud & traditional systems together. Identify which statements are true and which are false.

	True	False
1. Files can be synced between cloud & local storage so they can be worked on locally.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Files edited while offline can't be synced with cloud storage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Cloud software can give notifications when events occur like a file being synced.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(c) Explain one situation where traditional storage and software may be preferable to cloud software.

If the business loses internet connectivity, then cloud services won't be accessible to the business which could stop it from being able to run. That's why the business will need local storage and software to use when the cloud services aren't available. If files are synced with the local storage, then you can still edit the files stored on cloud servers and they'll be updated when you can connect to the internet again.