

# Business Report

## 1. INTRODUCTION (*Milestone One*)

- a. [Milestone One: For this milestone assignment, you will be using what you have learned in Module Two to examine how the system development life cycle applies to your final project scenario.
- b.
- c. Begin by restating the context of your assignment as an IT business analyst intern at Sharpe Style. Describe why your task is relevant given the role of information technology in business management.
- d.
- e. Next, describe the system development life cycle approach and how it can help document and inform IT business decisions in this case. Use your Final Project Guidelines and Rubric document and the Final Project Template to help you. Discuss the appendices required for your business report and when they are developed in the life cycle. Include considerations on what information you were given in the scenario that applies to the life cycle and what you will need to

research further.

f.

g. Use the Milestone One section of the template and submit the template to your instructor for feedback and grading. Remember to incorporate instructor feedback before your final submission in Module Seven.]

h.

**1. NEEDS AND OPTIONS: DATABASE (*Milestone Two*)**

a. [For Milestone Two, you will be assessing the database needs and options for Sharpe Style. After looking at how the SDLC applies to your final project, a good next step is looking at the data. Think small and see where your requirements take you. Remember that Mary is worried about how she will keep track of her inventory when she migrates into online sales. You will be using the Milestone Two section of the template to complete this assignment. Refer to the Sharpe Style scenario for details on the current state of the company and the business owner's goals.

b.

c. Based on what you have learned in Module Three, assess the type of database technology the company will need to support new online services.

d.

- e. Once you have established the company's needs, you should research the available options. Present a minimum of two. Keep in mind that Mary Sharpe is looking for an inexpensive and easy-to-implement solution. What are the pros and cons of each option?
- f.
- g. For this assignment, find a real-world example of what has or has not worked for another company. Talk about how this example informs the options you will present to Mary Sharpe. Make sure you site your source(s) appropriately.
- h.
- i. Remember that you are an intern and are not expected to make suggestions that encompass a deep level of technical detail. You are expected to provide a high-level view of what would be required to help your business owner make an informed decision regarding database needs for online services.
- j.
- k. Use the Milestone Two section of the template and submit the template to your instructor for feedback and grading. Remember to incorporate instructor feedback before your final submission in Module Seven.]

**1. NEEDS AND OPTIONS: WEBSITE (*Milestone Three*)**

- a. [For Milestone Three, you will be focusing on the website for Sharpe Style based

on what you have learned in Module Four. Your response must address three different aspects of the website: features, mobile computing, and security challenges. Remember that Sharpe Style has a website that directs customers to the retail location, advertises sales events, and provides coupons that customers can print. The main guiding question to consider is, what will the company's website need in order to accommodate online sales? You will be using the Milestone Three section of the template to complete this assignment. Refer to the Sharpe Style scenario for details on the current state of the company and the business owner's goals.

b.

c. For each one of these aspects, assess what the company needs and research two options to propose to Mary the business owner.

d.

- Features: What features might the business owner want the new website to include? Think about what features an online shopper would need to see on a website. Also think about Mary's goal to implement intelligent marketing. Support your answer with examples of what other consumer companies are doing. Remember to cite your sources appropriately.

a.

- Mobile Computing: What challenges and needs might the owner face in terms

of supporting mobile computing? As you assess these challenges, fill out the Requirements Document in Appendix A of the Final Project Template.

a.

- **Security:** Analyze the security challenges arising from adding e-commerce to the website including both internal and external security concerns. Identify a minimum of two options for the business owner to consider. Compare and contrast these available IT security solutions to address the needs you identified. What are the advantages and disadvantages to each? To illustrate your point(s), research examples of what has or has not worked for other companies.]

## **1. HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE (*Milestone Four*)**

[So far throughout this course, you have been looking at different facets of the company from database needs and options to website needs and options. For your Milestone Four assignment, you will be looking at hardware and software needs and hardware and software options. Refer to the Sharpe Style scenario for details on the current state of the company and the business owner's goals.

Begin your response by explaining why it is important to consider the current IT infrastructure when integrating new e-commerce features to a website (the specifics of which you looked at in Module Four). Discuss how the business's current IT affects the costs of data storage and processing. You should also discuss how the current

business's current IT affects customer satisfaction with the purchasing experience.

Next, explain the hardware and software infrastructure currently in place at Sharpe Style. Refer to Appendix B for an IT flowchart depicting the hardware and software in place. Use the flowchart to describe what the company has and state what it is the company lacks. Draw conclusions for how the current state is negatively impacting business processes.

Now that you have systematically gone through and identified needs and options to present Mary Sharpe to help her migrate into online sales, complete the Matrix of Options in Appendix C of the Final Project Template to help organize the research you have done to persuasively communicate your ideas. See prompt in the appendix.

After completing your matrix of options, you can now address some additional considerations. For example, what compatibility issues exist with the different options? Explain your response in terms of how these issues affect the business process.

In proposing solutions to these conclusions, what factors should the business owner consider when deciding whether to use in-house or external IT resources and services such as cloud computing or companies that specialize in hosting online stores? What are the short-term and long-term trade-offs?

Use the Milestone Four section of the template as well as Appendix C, and submit the

template to your instructor for feedback. Remember to incorporate instructor feedback before your final submission in Module Seven.]

1. **CONCLUSION** (*Due for Final Submission in Module Seven*)

- a) [Conclusion: Craft a one-paragraph response suggesting potential next steps for the business in light of your findings. Remember your audience (the business owner) and make sure you justify your response.]

# Appendix A

## Requirements Document

Fill in the sections in red with your information from the research you have completed on the requirements and limitations of online and mobile computing. Once you have replaced the red text with your own, make sure all the text in your document has been changed to black.

### **Online and Mobile Computing: Requirements Document (Version 1.0)**

Project: Expanding Business to Online and Mobile Computing

Date(s): **Fill in the due date for the assignment.**

Prepared by: **Fill in your name.**

## **1. Introduction**

This document contains the system requirements and limitations for expanding the business to online and mobile computing. These requirements have been derived from several sources, noted in the reference section of the requirements document.

## **2. Purpose of This Document**

We expect business executives to understand the requirements and limitations of online and mobile computing through the use of this document.

## **3. Requirements**

This section will give the reader an overview of the requirements for expanding a business to online and mobile computing.

**In this section, list any assumptions you made about the project. For example, did you assume the finished product would require a migration of data to a cloud-based solution? If your requirement depends on any particular technical infrastructure or requires administrators or others with specific skills, note that here.**

### **3.1. User Requirements**

**List user requirements here.**

### **3.2. System Requirements**

**List detailed system requirements here. If your system is large, you may wish to break this down into several subsections.**

### **3.3. Interface Requirements**

**List interface requirements here; these could include device or browser**

requirements.

#### **4. Limitations**

This section will give the reader information on known limitations for expanding a business to online and mobile computing.

In this section, list any limitations that must be considered when expanding a business online.

#### **5. References**

In this section, list any references that you used in the requirements document. Use APA format. For example, this is how the source that was used to create this template would look:

Center for Distributed Learning (CDL). (2015). Writing a requirements document:

Workshop materials. Retrieved from [http://www.cdl.edu/cdl\\_resources/writing-requirements](http://www.cdl.edu/cdl_resources/writing-requirements)

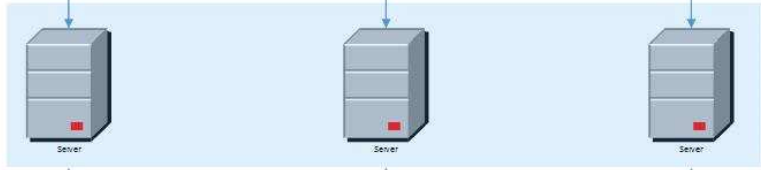
## Appendix B

Flowchart

The Central System houses inventory and other data for the business.



These servers house information and record transactions to report back to the central server.



These point of sale registers process sales and customer orders.



Multiple retail locations



# Appendix C

## Options Matrix

### **IT 210 Matrix of Options**

[For this assignment, based on all of the research you have conducted for Mary Sharpe to help her reach her goals, create a table to organize all of your business recommendations. Your table should summarize your findings and be easy to read. It should clearly and professionally present the company's needs and your recommendations to meet those needs.]

