

A report into my use of ICT at school and at home in my personal and social life

School

I use ICT at school for various things, for example researching in history lessons or to easily write something up without worrying about spelling or punctuation thanks to spell checker. I am using ICT at school for this report which is an important piece towards my final grade.

The technology that this involves is. Internet mainly used for things like research. Access is used at school not entirely used by the students, mostly by teachers with things like interactive boards and touch pens. The third thing that I use ICT for within school is reprographics.

These three things meet my need within school for various reasons, for example Internet is often mostly used for research within the lesson for bigger things like essay writing, internet often proves more useful than text books. Access is used mostly by teachers but with the benefit of students. The interactive boards and pens prove more sufficient than board pens, with costs and potential. Reprographics I use for things like scanning, printing any other equipment that help me in doing my work with IT.

There are few disadvantages involve with using this technology. The only possible disadvantages involved with the internet is the speed it runs at, often it can take long to load up a website, also the possible chance of being exposed to inappropriate sites and receiving viruses from them. The disadvantages involved with Access are that things like interactive boards and touch pens are not always reliable, as they can lose signal. Reprographics has the fewest disadvantages, the only possible ones are errors that may happen whilst using it.

Without this technology the alternative ways for the internet would be to research things in the library using books and that would be far more time consuming. The alternative way to Access is by using a black board and a black board pen; this increases cost of things like pens and board cleaners. Interactive boards would prove much more sufficient than any other method. The alternative to using reprographics would be not to use IT at all, and to write out the work or possibly email.

The only differences in technologies for the internet are depending on what kind of connection you have, there are different speeds in which you can connect to the internet and this will change how fast you can download and serve the internet. Within school there is a set connection spread to every PC on the network, so it can not be improved unless the school buy a faster connection. To my knowledge there is no current improved from the Access that we use in school, only possible means for improvement would be to purchase more things to do with this technology E.G more interactive boards. Reprographics can only be improved within school by things like more accurate scanning, printing and other technologies involved with reprographics.

Home Social

I need to use ICT within home social for reasons such as homework, MSN, internet, gaming and other entertainment. It is linked within the use of ICT within school; homework is one of the key things I use ICT at home for. Home ICT proves very useful to day by day needs and activities for various reasons.

The technologies that are mostly involved with ICT with home social are communication, entertainment and internet.

Communication helps me in lots of ways to do with home social, ICT helps me communicate to friends and family over the internet with programs like MSN, ICQ and AOL messenger. Over internet video conferencing is also possible using IT, so you can talk to people over the internet in a form of face-to-face providing you have a webcam and also a microphone. Entertainment is possibly the key technology that I involve with ICT at home social. I use it for many things like gaming, media station and also I am able to use my PC at home with a TV. The advantages are these things are easier accessed by using ICT especially as you can fit so many technologies used at home into your PC. Internet at with home social is similar to the use of internet at school, I use it to find out information, to perform tasks easier and it is linked with the communication.

The disadvantages with communication are that over internet communication with a pc can often be slow and unreliable, or programs can become corrupted. The disadvantages with entertainment on ICT are,

gaming will tend to take up a lot of space on your hard -drive when you install a game, especially the latest ones, so you can often get a full hard drive if you install too many and not have room for other entertainment such as songs and videos. If you use ICT for a TV, it can often become unreliable. Only possible disadvantage for the internet is sometimes the things you can find on it will be unreliable, the connection you may have could be slow so it will take longer to perform tasks and the risk of getting a virus onto your PC.

If I did not have these technologies at home there are lots of alternatives I could use, for example a PS2 can be just as sufficient for entertainment with gaming, media can just be used by CD's on a CD player and the alternative for the TV would just too simply watch a normal TV. The other way of communicating would be to use normal day to day communications like phone and mobile phone. There is no current alternative to the internet with home social apart from the methods I have already mentioned, if you need to research you could use books, videos or phone.

Entertainment within ICT is getting better by the day, especially with gaming, it is all depending on if you have the latest pc components. For example the latest games that are coming out for PC some will struggle to run it probably. If I could not use a TV within my PC I could just easily watch a different TV, often proving more sufficient for viewing pleasure. An easier method of communication would be to just use usual communication methods for example phone. For the internet, this is the most advanced away for this technology at the moment, apart from getting a faster connection.

Home Personal

At home I also use ICT for my personal needs, things that are much convenient to me, for example a remote control, easy for me to handle from a distance.

The technologies that are involved with my home personal are access, internet and data capture.

Within ICT Access helps me most personally, at home I use a keyboard for my own convenience and the computers remote control also for

convenience of range. Internet as all the others, helps me with home personal, without the internet I wouldn't be able to do most tasks at home that I would need to meet, for example for the curiosity of information I want to find out, the internet would help me with this. With ICT I also use Data Capture, this is for personal things like loading photos onto the pc by using a digital camera, and the scanner is also very useful for me for my own use.

{Explain any disadvantages that there are when you use this technology}

{Explain how you would meet this need if you did not have the technology}

{Are there any latest technologies which you would use to meet this need if you could. What advantages do they have over the technology you use}