Unit C
Hardware & Software

Introduction

My task is to design and build a computer for an Estonian graphic artist named Avril. To do this I will not only have to choose hardware, software and an operating system specific to Avril but I will also have to set the system up. This involves:

- Setting up folders
- Setting up printer drivers
- Setting up display drivers
- Setting the time & date
- Setting up the mouse for a left handed person
- Setting up the keyboard to an Estonian setting so Avril can send letters home.

As Avril is a graphic artist she will need hardware, software and an operating system suitable for her profession and will have individual requirements. I suggest she would need the following hardware components:

- No less than a 21" **Monitor** with a high resolution so she has a large area to work with and can clearly see what she is doing.
- **Keyboard** to allow her to enter text.
- **Mouse**
- **Speakers** are not essential as she is a graphics designer but are quite useful to have. Therefore these do not need to be a prime consideration.
- **Printer** with a relatively high dpi (e.g.1200 x 2400) so Avril can print good quality images.
- **Scanner** again with a relatively high dpi so she can scan images with a high resolution.
- **Graphics Tablet** so Avril can produce her own hand drawn images and transfer them to the computer
- **CD – ROM drive** so she can read CD's with large amounts of data.
- I feel that a **CD/RW drive** is necessary so she can save large documents onto compact disk.
- Large **hard drive** to store all the programs and information.
- **Modem** so she can access the internet
- A **wrist support** would be a good idea if she were to spend a lot of time on the computer.
- **Digital Camera** to produce high quality images.
- **Floppy disk** to save small amounts of data.
- High amount of **RAM** (Random Access Memory) to speed up the working rate of the system, which will be important if Avril is working with large files.
- A good quality **graphics card** so Avril can produce high quality images.
- 400 MHz or higher **motherboard**

Avril will need specific graphics software such as:

1. Adobe Photoshop
2. Paint Shop Pro
3. Corel Draw or
4. Office Suite

I will need to decide in the future which of the following operating systems is most suitable for Avril: Windows 98, Windows 2000, Windows ME or Windows XP.

Planning my time

I need to make sure that I finish my project for the proposed deadline and to do this I have created an action plan with short deadlines to help plan my time effectively.

Date Started	**Tasks planned** to complete the assignment	**Outcomes Covered**	**Deadline**	**Completed**
05/11/02	Task 1 Planning the specification	P1, P5, M5	11/11/02	Yes/No
11/11/02	Task 2 Specification first draft	P5, M4	18/11/02	Yes/No
18/11/02	Task 3 Specification final draft	P5, M1	25/11/02	Yes/No
02/11/02	Task 4 Setting up the system	P2, P5	06/01/03*	Yes/No
06/11/02	Task 5 Setting up the applications software	P3, P5, M3, D1	13/01/03	Yes/No
13/01/03	Task 6 Evaluation of the whole project			Yes/No
Reasons for not completing work to the deadlines;	I was unable to complete tasks 3 & 4 to the set deadlines due to unforeseen problems: unavailability of computers, illness and teacher away. With the exceptions of these tasks though I was able to meet all other deadlines.			

* The reason I have given myself so long to complete this section is because it runs into the mock period and so I don't know how much I will be able to get done in this time. The Christmas holidays are then straight afterwards and I do not want to be doing much work in this time but as long as I have task 4 completed by the time I return to school, I will be on schedule to meet my deadline.

I will save my work from each lesson on to the hard drive at school. I will also save the work onto a CD/RW as a back up copy. I have decided not to save onto floppy disk, as I will have to use a lot of screen dumps throughout the document making it a too big a file to fit on. I will store my rough work and development ideas in my A4 IT folder, which I carry to and fro school so is convenient.

My rough layout of where I think the hardware components should go is in appendix 1.