

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROPOSAL

EFESUE'S BEST OPPORTUNITY
FOR ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE AND
DECISION MAKING AMONG PROJECT
TEAMS

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BRIEF SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After extensive research, team Colin Powell came up with several solutions for the Efesue Company. These solutions are; each employee should obtain a **cell phone** and the company should give a stipend of 50 dollars monthly so they will have unlimited minutes. Have the company Efesue purchase **Sony VAIO Laptops** for all twenty employees and provide the designers with **Dream Weaver** to help with web design. The third solution is to purchase **Three Servers** instead of using the online server, which will save Efesue money in under a year and give a redundant backup recovery system.

All of these solutions will Increase productivity, save the company money and give them an efficient back up system.

The three separate solutions that make up the proposal plan:

- Employees will purchase cell phones and the company will pay a stipend for business use.
- Purchase Sony VAIOs for all twenty employees along with Dream Weaver for the designers
- Purchase three servers for the company. This is better than using a different company's online server, which will also be used as back up.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The purpose of this report is to persuade a small website company Efesue to upgrade their existing hardware and software to enhance the dynamics of website creation and collaborative methods among employees. The report's main goal is to enhance productivity within Efesue. The report's objectives are to incorporate powerful, inexpensive laptops, cell phones and necessary software that will help increase the company's productivity and communication. Joshua Gonzalez made the authorization for this report. The team has worked 3 hrs. a week for six weeks developing a successful strategy.

The main problem is helping Efesue keep up with the speed of technology while not spending too many resources. The factors that contribute to this problem are the company's lack of knowledge (in terms of technology), the company's limited resources, and the company's lack of available time (in terms of searching for resources). Team Colin Powell decided that solutions to these main factors would enhance productivity to Efesue.

Efesue's problem is important because it hinders its efficiency. Efesue does not have the best resources it can to increase its productivity. By setting limits to a company's potential, factors like profit and communication suffer. Team Colin Powell has several suggestions to solve the problems and in turn increase Efesue's efficiency and productivity. The solutions are important in order to keep the company in good shape and further its limitations. With an increase in communication and collaboration, Team Colin Powell feels that productivity will increase as well.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

For this project, we suggested new computers and computer software for Efesue. Thus far, we searched for two formidable models, a Macbook-Pro from Apple Computer and a VAIO laptop computer from Sony. The two models are among the best for their needs, but are not very different in their parameters. We suggest laptop computers for every employee, whether they are executives or the designers in the firm.

THE TWO COMPUTERS TO CONSIDER

The two laptops are not very different. Both laptops are capable of wireless fidelity networking in the 802.11 protocols. They also carry webcams on board for taking pictures and videos. For further wireless fidelity, both laptops are compatible with Bluetooth technology, which will help reduce other expenses. However, The Sony VAIO appears to have more security features than the Macbook, given the fingerprint reader that only allows one person with the applicable fingerprint to access the system. The Macbook however, only has an anchor point for a Kensington security cable to physically lock the laptop down to a table and is not as susceptible to most computer viruses that attack PCs. Thus far, the laptops have good uses, but the VAIO is about \$1950 and the Macbook is about \$2500.¹(Fig.1)

The features of the laptops target one of the communication problems with Efesue. The built-in Webcams have multiple applications, including video conferencing within and between employees and other firms respectively. The Bluetooth compatibilities of the laptops may allow for data from the mobile phones to be synchronized with the computers themselves and assure the security of their data. These features add great value to the laptops.

¹ <http://www.apple.com>

PROGRAMS AND SERVERS

As for Web design programs, we found that Adobe (Macromedia) Dreamweaver CS3 would be the best investment for designing Web pages on a GUI rather than hard coding with a text editor. The investment would allow for better use of multimedia, which is quintessential in a society using Web 2.0 for most of the Internet. The program allows for text, pictures, and media files to be incorporated in a page, as well as hosting a Web site. The licenses for the program are \$375 each for a PC, but they are \$525 for the Mac, proving that it would be cheaper to get the program for the PC.

We also figured that buying a server rather than leasing it would be more cost effective and safer. Buying three backup servers capable of 320 GB each at \$200 each from Staples proved to be more effective over time, saving countless amounts of money.² Leasing a server from a third party would warrant possible dangers of the server failing, and it also costs at least \$100 per month from Handybackup.com. Owning the server, however, would warrant for improved maintenance of company files and put the maintenance in the hands of the firm.

Thus far, we are encouraging laptop computers for each employee, as well as Dreamweaver licenses for the designers in the firm and the company's own backup servers. Using these, the costs will continue to be low and they are most effective.

Computer Model	Sony VAIO Laptop with Intel Centrino Duo	Macbook Pro
Processing speed (GHz)	2.2 (Intel® Core™2 Duo)	2.4 (Intel® Core™2 Duo)
Screen Size (Inches)	13.3	15
Memory	2 GB	2 GB
Hard Drive	160 GB	160 GB
Disc media	DL DVD±RW/CD-RW	8X Superdrive (DL DVD±RW/CD-RW)
Other	Bluetooth Webcam Fingerprint reader	Bluetooth Webcam (iSight)
Operating System	Windows Vista Business	Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard
Price	\$1950	\$2500

(Fig.1)

Team Colin Powell has done extensive research of local website companies to come up with innovative solutions for Efesue and what technologies will benefit their company financially and productively. The team has done research on the Internet for specifications on cell phones. Through our research we have learned that communication and the tools used within a company are the ultimate keys to success.

CELL PHONES

Team Colin Powell proposes that the Efesue company gives each employee a \$50 a month stipend to upgrade their personal cell phone plan for unlimited anytime minutes that allows for project members to communicate at all times without a large financial burden. Cell phones facilitate communication between group members that are working on a collaborative web project. The other option would be for Efesue to buy cell phones and new plans for all 20 employees which would be more expensive than the \$1000 a month plan that we have proposed. A stipend of \$50 a month to each of the 20 employees will benefit the company's communication and production.³

IMPORTANCE OF BACKUP

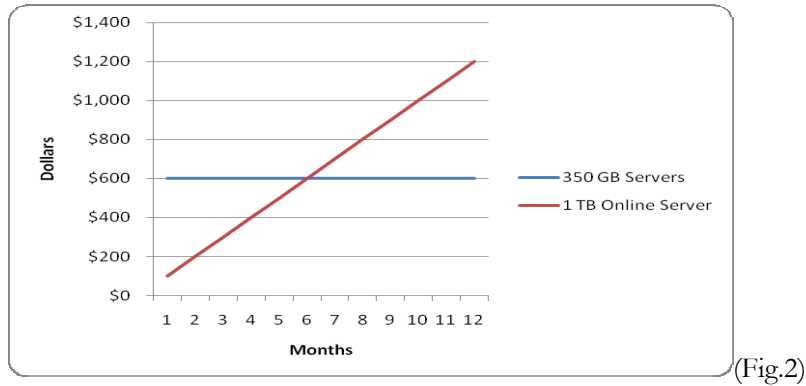
Our team also proposes that Efesue purchases three 350 GB at \$200 a piece from Staples because it allows for an inexpensive and redundant backup and recovery plan.⁴ The alternative option was having a 1 TB online server from HandyBackup.com at \$99 a month. These servers are a source of backup and recovery and are essential to the Efesue website development company. The reason we have proposed the three 350 GB servers is because they provide a redundant backup system in case the other servers fail, and they are less expensive than the one online server. The initial cost of three servers will be much greater but is more inexpensive and beneficial within a matter of months as proven in the graph below. The graph shows the amount of money that will be spent over time between the servers from Staples and the online server from HandyBackup.com.⁵ (Fig.2)

² <http://www.Bestbuy.com>

³ <http://www.alltel.com>

⁴ <http://www.staples.com>

⁵ <http://www.handybackup.com>



(Fig.2)

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Efesue, a small website design company, was experiencing several problems with communication, collaboration, and overall productivity within the company. Team Colin Powell proposed several solutions including the integration of advanced computer systems, software, servers, and the implementation of company cell phones.

Team Colin Powell felt that with an increase in communication and better collaborative methods, productivity and efficiency would increase within the company. These changes would lead to a positive growth financially with the company's output and take some weight off of the employees' workloads. The change, although not instantaneous, would have an overall benefit for Efesue.

TEAM CONTRIBUTION

- Joshua Gonzalez = %100
- Leonardo Gutierrez = %100
- Patrick Mitchell = %100
- Alex Owen = %100
- James Stuart = %100