Advantages and Disadvantages of IT

Advantages

- Information is available 24 hours a day through access on the Internet or home computer files or office/ workshop servers and computer facilities

- Vast amounts of data can be stored and processed quickly and efficiently
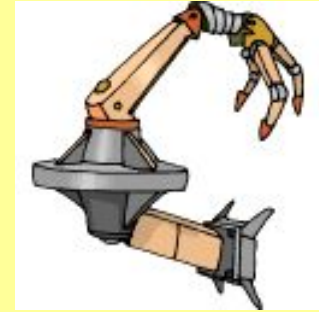
Advantages

- You don't need to leave home to shop – you can shop on line and deal with bank transactions and book holidays – an advantage if your are disabled and cannot easily get out.

- You can work from home and use video conferencing/ forum or chat to people across the other side of the world. (all of which saves money and time)

Advantages

- Computers can be used to control automated processes in dangerous or hazardous places protecting employees

- Computers can be used to store and process digital data, to read bar codes and carry out automatic stock checks in warehouses and shops.

Advantages

- Computers can be used with voice recognition software to type for the disabled and to carry out commands not possible

- Huge advances have occurred in diagnosing disease and damage to the body with the introduction of body scanners which use software to process the information produced to give us maps of the body..

- Computers are used to aid surgeons in their operations and in training new doctors.

Disadvantages

- Information is readily available, however confidential information may be accessed unless properly password controlled

- If the hardware fails – economies can be badly effected as sales may be halted, stock markets fail to receive information and systems relying on computers stop – eg air traffic control of aircraft at airports

Disadvantages

- Photographs can be edited using software resulting in distorted images and distorted reality – a common example is airbrushing of photographs of models to improve their figure or the removal of building works from photographs of hotels in holiday resorts or houses for sale.

Example

The playground has been touched up green to give the impression of grass.

Disadvantages

- Work involving computers may remove employees from social contact with other employees, this change can cause stress

- Computers can be misused – employees who waste time playing games at work and the unwanted e-mails (SPAM) that fill up the mail box and cause disruption to normal work.

Citizenship, Respect, ICT

Disadvantages

- Unless sites are filtered it is possible for young children to view unsuitable material on the Internet.

- The Internet is an easy means of sharing and swapping files often resulting in breaches of copyright.

Key Skill 24