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LEVEL 1/2 CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL IN ICT

R001/01 Understanding Computer Systems

PRE-RELEASE CASE STUDY

JANUARY 2013



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Information for Learners

As well as playing complete tracks of music, many club DJs will play sections of tracks. These sections are called samples. Some DJs also play tracks of their own creation. These may combine together samples from other tracks or samples that the DJs have written and created themselves. (Scenario 1).

Many DJs will have regular slots at a nightclub or will rely on the services of an agent to make bookings for them. (Scenario 2).

Scenario 1

Steve Jones works as a club DJ. The music he plays is stored electronically on his home computer system. In preparation for a booking, Steve will select the music he wants to play that night and transfer it to a storage medium, which he will then take to the club. He will then use specialist DJ software on the club's computer system to play his selection. Steve usually plays for between two and three hours per night.

As well as playing complete tracks created by other musicians, Steve creates his own tracks by combining together samples. These samples will include some that he has written himself and some samples he has taken from other people's tracks.

Scenario 2

Nico Mallett is a booking agent specialising in working with club DJs. She has five main DJs, including Steve Jones, for whom she makes bookings at clubs, parties and other events. Nico uses contacts as her main source of bookings, but she also advertises each of her DJs on her website. Each DJ has their own page and, on this page, there is a photograph of that DJ with a description of the sort of music they play. There is a user form on the website that people can use if they want to request further information about any of these DJs.

Nico has had problems in the past because there was no central place where bookings were stored. DJs would often make their own booking for a night only to find that Nico had also made a booking, or the DJs would simply forget that they had a booking and so would not go to the club where they were due to play. In both cases, this would result in the event being cancelled. Nico therefore now uses a series of online calendars to record bookings for her DJs. Each calendar holds the booking for one DJ only and is only shared with that DJ. Both the DJ and Nico can add events to the calendar.

When Nico receives an enquiry about a DJ, she will check the online calendar to see whether the DJ is available. If they are, she will add the event to the calendar and use her webmail facility to inform the DJ that a provisional booking has been made. Nico will then request a deposit from the person making the booking. Nico will then hold this money until the outstanding fee has been paid into her business account. She will then ring her bank and arrange for the DJs fee, minus her costs, to be paid into their personal bank account.

Preparation

In order to prepare for the examination, you should research how a club DJ uses ICT in their work. This should include:

- how music can be played, created and transported securely
- how ICT can be used to enhance the choice of music that the club DJ plays
- the use of wired and wireless technology to connect ICT equipment
- legal restrictions on the use of music samples.

You should also find out about the work of a booking agent and how they may use online calendars to organise events.

This should include:

- security methods that may be employed to control the access to data and information
- the use of ICT to collect information and data from third parties
- methods of calculating fees.

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