Internationalization Module for CIS 110 – Introduction to Computers

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Introduction to Hardware

Resources Needed:

A. First few pages (pages 414–419 in the first edition hardback) of chapter 12 from *The World is Flat* by Thomas Friedman.

B. Map showing countries of the world.

Source:


Summary:

Thomas Friedman, in his book *The World Is Flat*, provides a description of how a typical laptop computer (his laptop, in fact) from Dell was designed, assembled, and delivered. These few pages provide us with a glimpse of a massive global supply chain, as the locations of its various design shops and part providers circle the globe. The author uses this example to propose that international supply chaining will not only lead to a flatter world, but will also lead to conflict prevention as one-time and future rivals will now be financially dependent on one another.

Questions for Consideration:

1. On your map, locate and mark each country mentioned in the article.
2. Were you surprised at how many nations are involved in the production of a typical Dell laptop computer? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think that Dell uses hardware from so many places around the world?
4. Do you see any drawbacks from this type of international supply chaining?
5. The author uses this corporate interconnectedness as an example of how the flattening world will possibly be a stabilizing factor in how old and new conflicts are handled. How could a Dell computer (and other products like it) bring about international conflict prevention?
Offshoring / Outsourcing in the Computer Industry

Resources Needed:

A. Various Internet articles – providing both positive and negative views of offshoring and outsourcing. Also, these articles should point to changes in the offshoring movement.

Sample Sources:


McCue, Andy. IT jobs 'not hit by offshore outsourcing'. 26 February 2006. 13 April 2008 <http://services.silicon.com/offshoring/0,3800004877,39156794,00.htm>.

Summary:

One hot-button issue that continues to create waves throughout the computer industry is that of offshoring / outsourcing work (including software development, computer manufacturing, and technical support) to other countries. It seems as though everyone has a different view of the trend – from economists that gleefully point to economic growth to workers whose anguish of losing jobs is palpable. The provided articles highlight varying views of the outsourcing trends and point to its continuing evolution.

Questions for Consideration:

1. Read each article provided to you. Rate each article as taking a positive, negative, or neutral view of offshoring and outsourcing.
2. What is the difference, if any, between the practices of offshoring and outsourcing?
3. What do you see as the benefits of offshoring and outsourcing to the United States? What benefits do you gain from these practices?
4. Do you personally know of anyone that has lost his or her job as the result of offshoring or outsourcing? Do you think that the overall benefits outweigh the pains associated with outsourcing and offshoring?

5. What do you think that the future holds for outsourcing and offshoring?

6. *For additional research:* What types of work are the primary targets of outsourcing? What can you do to ensure that your job is not lost as a result of outsourcing or offshoring?
The Debate over ICANN and Internet Control

Resources Needed:

A. Website or magazine articles highlighting the international debate over ICANN’s role in Internet governance.

Sample Sources:


Summary:

The Internet grew as a result of a military project sponsored by the US Department of Defense. While the Internet infrastructure is not controlled by any one entity, the US-based private group known as ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) manages the Domain Name System and currently operates with Department of Commerce oversight. Many groups around the world question the organization, motives, and relevancy of ICANN. The arguments for and against internationalization of the roles currently filled by ICANN came to a head in 2005 and continue to be heavily debated today.

Questions for Consideration:

1. Do you think that Internet governance should be a function of an international body, such as the United Nations? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think that the United States is lobbying to continue ICANN’s jurisdiction over domain names?
3. Do you think that moving Internet governance to an international body would affect you? How?
4. For additional research: Does the Internet have or respect national borders? Should it? Do you think that countries should be able to decide what Internet content is available to its citizens? Before answering, research Internet censorship in countries such as China and Cuba and Internet availability in very remote or rural areas.
Global Internet Copyright Issues

Resources Needed:

A. Website or magazine articles describing current copyright issues and concerns facing the global community.

Sample Sources:


Harris, Lesley Ellen. Managing Global Copyright Issues: What You Need to Know About Foreign Copyright; Navigating the Copyright Globe Means Knowing Your Own Country's Copyright Laws-and Knowing that Other Countries May Do Things Differently. September 2007. 13 April 2008 <http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0FWE/is_9_11/ai_n21053577>.


Summary:

Internet and computer technologies have brought about a wide variety of benefits – but have also opened up a Pandora’s Box worth of problems. Namely, legal protection of intellectual property and copyright in countries abroad is not always implemented as it is in the United States. While content creators desperately want to preserve the distribution rights to the materials that they create, a patchwork of international laws have led to little in the way of global copyright enforcement.

Questions for Consideration:

1. How do you think that the Internet has contributed to an increasing concern about copyright issues?
2. Why should governments care about copyright? Why should you?

3. Should there be one law that governs how every country handles copyright and intellectual property? Do you think your country should be subject to such an internationally-set law?

4. What countries (as discussed in the readings) are the worst offenders of copyright violations? Why do you think that this is?

5. For additional research: What is Fair Use? How does the United States view Fair Use practices? How do other nations account for Fair Use?
Global Internet Privacy Issues

Resources Needed:

A. Website or magazine articles describing current privacy issues and concerns facing the global community.

Sample Sources:


Summary:

Many privacy concerns have sprung out of the growing reliance of the Internet. Countries all around the world are struggling to define what information businesses should be allowed to keep and use (and for how long). Net users are also engaged in a fierce battle over how much access government entities should have to personal data, and whether companies should be required to provide data to a government in order to do business in that nation. For the foreseeable future, nations will grapple with questions of commercial responsibilities, government access, and individual freedoms with regard to online privacy.

Questions for Consideration:

1. Do you think that your government should have the right to see what you do online? What about in the pursuit of terrorists or criminals? How would you distinguish between your privacy and theirs?

2. Do you think that a business that operates in a foreign nation must comply with all of that nation’s governmental requests for information? Why or why not? How would you feel about a business ignoring your own government’s requests for information?
3. How long do you think that a company (search engine, email provider, etc) should be allowed to store your data? How should they inform you of this policy?

4. Many businesses today operate in several different countries around the world – each with varying views of privacy, security, and freedoms. When two nations have differing laws regarding Internet privacy, who’s laws should be followed.

5. For additional research: Summarize the overall views of privacy held by each of the following: United States, European Union, China.
Global Internet Security Issues

Resources Needed:

A. Website or magazine articles describing current security issues and concerns facing the global community.

Sample Sources:


Summary:

The Internet: a global community of learning, knowledge sharing, and communication. The Internet: a global community of crime, warfare, and malicious software proliferation. Which view is accurate? The interconnectedness of today’s Internet-obsessed world has brought about security problems like the world has never faced. Today, a country can attack another through the Web – causing outages of vital online services to which users have become accustomed. Countries can steal from one another using the global computer networks – information and economic resources are all fair game. Reports of government-sponsored hackers, virus writers, and spyware manufacturers fill the headlines. Has the “wild-west” Internet been replaced by a network battlefield?

Questions for Consideration:

1. How dependent are you on the Internet today? What would you do if you found that all of the Internet services that you use were disabled?
2. How likely is a cyberwar today?
3. Do you believe that nations around the world are training a generation of hackers, or do you see this as paranoia for an online world? How vulnerable do you think that your own country is to an Internet-based army?
4. Have you ever been the recipient of a computer virus? Why do you think that virus writers create them?
International Letter and Memo Considerations

Resources Needed:
A. Resources introducing the concerns that business should have when sending letters and memos to international audiences

Sample Sources:


Summary:
In a world that is becoming smaller, knowing how to communicate with an international audience is growing more important. While the samples that have been provided only address a few locations in the world, they highlight that a writer must be knowledgeable about foreign customs and cultures to effectively communicate on an international scale. In a business setting, you should want to provide the needed information without offending or alienating your audience.

Questions for Consideration:
1. When you receive a letter, do you expect it to follow your own cultural customs and guidelines?
2. What do you think is the most interesting format/style/content consideration listed for Chinese business audiences?
3. How about Indian business audiences?
4. Were you surprised at all of the additional concerns that writers must take into account for international audiences? Why or why not?
5. **For practice:** Write a letter to an American recipient in standard block format explaining that a project will not meet the requested deadline. You can make up information as appropriate, but be thorough.
   a. Now rewrite the letter for an Indian audience.
   b. Rewrite the letter again for a Chinese audience.
Word Processing – Report Assignment

Write a report (minimum of 1.5 pages) on an international/foreign issue that is currently being discussed and analyzed in the news media. To research this information, you must use (and cite) at least two non-electronic references such as newspapers and magazines. You may also want to supplement your research using more standard sources (books, etc) or electronic sources (credible web pages). Your report must adhere to the following guidelines:

Report:

1. Use the following margins for your report: 1.2” on the left, right, top, and bottom.
   - (concept: changing margins in the word processor)
2. Title your report and center this title. Change the title font to 14 point, Cambria, bold.
   - (concepts: setting paragraph alignment, font size, font face, and font style)
3. The text in the body of your paper should be non-bold, 12 point, Arial font. Each of these body paragraphs should be justified
   - (concepts: removing font style; setting font face and font size; adjusting paragraph alignment)
4. Double-space the body paragraphs in your report, and set a first-line indent of 0.5” for each regular body paragraph.
   - (concepts: setting line spacing and first-line indents)
5. Remove all spacing before and after your body paragraphs.
   - (concepts: setting Spacing Before and Spacing After paragraphs; Normal versus No Spacing styles)
6. You must use one extended / block quote in your paper. A block quote is a direct quotation of four or more lines. You will format this quotation as double-spaced, indented 1” on the left.
   - (concepts: setting line spacing and left indents)
7. Your paper should have at least one ordered list. Use the ABC numbering style.
   - (concepts: bullets and numbering)
8. Be sure to use appropriate citations in your paper.
   - (concepts: proper citations and use of the Word citation tools)
9. Add a simple page header to the top-right of each page in your document in the form <last name> <page #>. 
   - (concept: headers and page numbering)
Works Cited:

10. After completing your text, create a new page to serve as your Works Cited page.
   (concept: manual page breaks)

11. Create a Works Cited page in MLA format. Include each source that you cited in your report.
   (concepts: bibliography formatting and Word bibliography tools)

Save your document to a storage device in a folder named Word. Name your presentation "<yourname>-Report". Print off a copy of your report. Submit your printouts and your storage device.
Internet – Scavenger Hunt Assignment

For the questions below, write the answer to each question part. Some questions require more than one answer. Also, include the ENTIRE URL (for example: http://www.mayland.edu/academics/index.html) of the page on which you found the answer. DO NOT provide the URL of the search engine…I don’t want to see any www.google.com or www.yahoo.com or any of the like in these URLs. You must actually go to the web page pointed to by the search engine. Type and print your answers and submit your printout.

1. What country’s national flag is composed of only one color with no other design on it? What color is this flag? Why was this color chosen?

2. List the top three wine-producing countries in the world. Use at least two sources to verify your results.

3. What is the largest country in the world by area? What is the smallest country in the world by area? List their respective sizes by square miles and square kilometers.

4. What is the largest country in the world by population? What is the smallest country in the world by population? List their respective populations.

5. Let’s say that you have won a trip to New Zealand. List two sights that must be on the itinerary.

6. What is the capital of Kenya? What does the name of this city mean?

Exploratory Question. In at least three medium-length paragraphs, answer the following question as fully as possible. Provide the URLs of at least three sites that you used to gather your information. Type and print your answers and submit your printout.

Recently, much of the world’s attention and many news media reports have focused on Darfur. Where is Darfur? Find a map of this region and print it using your web browser. What events are taking place in Darfur, and why has international attention been called to this region?
PowerPoint – Presentation Project

Create a PowerPoint presentation on one of the following topics:

Tourist Destinations – You represent an international tourist destination and are providing marketing information based on history, culture, selling points, unique features, geography, and other important information. Audience: Travel agents or jet-setting clients looking for international scenic adventures.

X - OR - W

Business Opportunities – You are a ladder-climber in a large corporation looking to get noticed by the executives. You think that you can expand your operations overseas and want to provide basic facts: geography, government, culture, people, money, economy, business needs, and how expansion into this market will provide business solutions. Be sure to acknowledge any drawbacks that you see in entering this foreign market. Audience: Executives looking to expand products into a new market.

Your presentation must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Your presentation must have a minimum of six slides. The number of slides for your presentation will be dependent on your topic. You need enough to cover the subject. Don’t just assume that six slides will be adequate.

2. Your presentation must have the same design theme applied to all slides. You cannot leave this theme as the default/blank “Office Theme” that is in place when PowerPoint starts.

3. Consider using a different Theme Color scheme. While not a requirement, it may make your presentation more effective.

4. You must have at least two images in your presentation that relate to your topic.

5. Make sure that you can add and delete additional slides. While I have no way of checking this, it is a necessary skill needed when creating presentations.

6. Set an appropriate Transition Effect for your presentation.

7. Add a Custom Animation effect to the first image in the presentation.

8. Add speaker notes to every slide as if you were going to actually present them to an audience.

9. Save the presentation on a storage device in a folder named PwPt. Name your presentation “<yourname>presentation”

10. Print out handouts 6 to a page.

11. Turn in your storage device and handouts.