

Continuation of Frist term work(computer studies)

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The concept of digital divide.

The term digital is used to describe the gap between the people who have regular and beneficial access and control of modern information technology and those who do not have such access. It is the unequal access by some members of society to information and communication technology.

How to bridge the digital divide

Bridging the digital divide simply means removing the gap between the people who have access to and control of digital technology and the people who do not. The following are important measures to be taken in order to bridge the digital divide:

1. The government should develop national infrastructure that will increase internet access among the population, such as lowering taxes and duties on information technology (IT) goods.
2. Government should encourage alternative access to the internet such as the use o f wireless technologies and device to connect to the internet.
3. Local content should be encouraged in internet language such as Yoruba, Igbo or Hausa (in Nigeria).
4. The private sector should invest in information technology (it) business such as internet café and internet service provider (ISP).
5. There should be corporate social responsibility effort that will ensure broader access to information and communication technology (ICT) goods and services.

Old and new economies

Old economy

This is a term used to describe the business or economic system of the pre-information technology period

Features of old economy

1. **It was time consuming:** the old economic system was time wasting in its operation.
2. **It was labour based:** the old economy depended on physical labour. Money and papers were physically moved around.
3. **It was mechanical:** the old economic system used physical force in operation.
4. **It was constrained by space:** the old economy required physical space such as market place or meeting venues to carry out business.
5. **It was constrained by time:** the old economy depended on a particular time of the day to transact business.
6. **It was constrained by distance:** was a big problem in the old economy. Long distance business was very difficult to carry out in the old economic system.

New economy

The new economy is an evolution of developed countries from industrial-based wealth producing economy into a service sector, asset-based economy brought about by globalization, digital technology and currency manipulation by governments.

Features of the new economy

1. **It is digital:** it does not depend much on papers but rather on

electronic and computer-based transactions.

2. **No limitations due to time, space and distance:** in the new economy, people can carry out business at any time, in any place, even in the comfort of their rooms on their laptops
3. **It is technology driven:** the new economy is not labour-based; rather it is based on new technologies.
4. **It is knowledge based:** unlike the old economy, the new economy depends mainly on technical know-how and skills
5. **It involves continuous research:** the new economy continue to improve in its operation due to continuous research.

Limitation of the old economy

1. **Space:** the old economy depended on physical space such as market places and offices before business transaction could take place.
2. **Distance:** the old economy depended of physical contract; as a result, business transaction would not take place if there was a distance barrier.
3. **Time:** in the old economy, time determined when transaction will take place. Nobody would carry out business when the market was closed, but the new economy allows business transactions at anytime and anywhere.
4. **Technology:** there was minimal use of technology in the old economy. As a result it was labour-based and very hard to operate.

BENEFIT OF THE NEW ECONOMY

1. **It requires low capital to start and operate business:** The new economy requires very little capital to start. An example is starting a phone call centre which requires very little capital to

start.

2. **It creates employment:** the new economy provides employment for people who have the required education and training, and even for people with less education and training such as phone call centre operators.
3. **It creates new jobs:** the new economy creates new jobs such as the phone call center operator, computer analyst, and the e-banking operator.
4. **It widens knowledge:** the new economy broadens the knowledge of its operators through education, training and experience.
5. **Globalization:** The new economy has made the world a global village. Space and distance is no barrier.

The concept of database

A database is a collection of related data organized for storage and easy access by authorized users.

An address book or even a list containing telephone numbers could be regarded as an example of a very simple database. If a database is well thought out, well set up and efficiently maintained, it gives the managers of the organization the information they need to take informed decision at appropriate times. Database range from smaller packages found on micros, to enormous large-volume transaction systems connected to mainframe computers via high speed links

Types of database

There are two main types of database namely:

1. Manual database

2. Computerized database

DATABASE TERMINOLOGIES

1. Field

A field, also called **attributes**, is an area reserved for each piece of individual data (each data item) such as student number, surname, first name and date of birth.

2. Records

Record, also known as **tuple**, is a group of related field pertaining to one person, place or thing, i.e. a record is a collection of related field

3. File

This is collection of related records

4. Information

This is processed data

5. Objects

An object is an option that can be selected and manipulated.

6. Table

A table is the basic unit of a database. It is a collection of rated data about a specific subject. A table is made up of rows and columns. Each row holds a record and each column represents a field.

7. Primary key

This is a selected field in a table that uniquely identifies a record.

8. A form

This is a method used in entering, viewing, and printing information other than simply through rows and columns. It can also be used as a switchboard that opens other forms and reports in the database.

9. Report

This is a generated information from a table or query

10. Query

This is a Microsoft Access object that enables users to view from one or more tables in a specified order. A query stores questions being asked from one or more tables in a database. There are three main types of query namely:

- a) Select
- b) Action
- c) Cross tab

11. Index

This is an alphabetical reference list of topics, names, locations, etc. of any record in a table. Index database program is similar to the index of a textbook which is used for easy location of words. Index speeds up a search