MODULE I IMPACTS AND THE LAW · I7

Software licences: open source vs proprietary

Original practice questions · 20 marks · ~25 minutes · OCR J277 spec 1.6.1

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions. Answer all questions in the spaces provided. The marks for each part are shown in brackets [ ]. The total for this worksheet is **20 marks**.

1

Total: 4 marks

(a) Tick (✓) **one** box in each row to show whether each statement describes **open source** software or **proprietary** software. **[4]**

Statement	Open source	Proprietary
The source code is provided with the software		
It is commonly bought off-the-shelf, and a licence fee is paid to use it		
Users are allowed to change the software to meet their own needs		
Users cannot see the source code, so they cannot edit the program		

2

Total: 4 marks

Larchfield Systems Ltd writes stock-control software. It sells copies of the software to shops, which install it on their own computers.

(a) Describe the purpose of a **software licence**. **[2]**

(b) Explain why Larchfield Systems needs to license its software to the shops that buy it. **[2]**

3 **Total: 6 marks**

Riverbend Community Hall is a small charity run by adult volunteers. It has been given six old laptops. The volunteers need an operating system, office software and a program to manage room bookings on each laptop. The charity has very little money to spend. One volunteer is a retired software developer who can program.

(a) Describe **two** benefits to the charity of choosing **open source** software for the laptops. **[4]**

1

2

(b) Describe **one** drawback to the charity of choosing **open source** software for the laptops. **[2]**

4 **Total: 6 marks**

Hartwell Survey Partners is a firm of 40 building surveyors. It needs new software to write and store the survey reports it sends to its clients. None of the staff can program. Reports must reach clients by strict deadlines, so the software has to work reliably every day. The firm has two options:

Option A	Option B
An **open source** report program. It is free to download. It is written by volunteers, who answer questions on an online forum when they have time.	A **proprietary** report package, bought off-the-shelf. The firm pays a licence fee every year for each member of staff. The company that makes it runs a telephone help desk and releases regular updates.

(a) Identify which type of licence you would recommend for Hartwell Survey Partners. Justify your choice. Your answer should include **benefits** and **drawbacks** of the type of licence you recommend, applied to this firm. **[6]**

Recommended licence:

Total for this worksheet: 20 marks