

Create a Design Plan

Learning Outcome:

Create a design plan that outlines alternative approaches to the IT solution.

Bloom's Level: 6 - Creating

Students will be first given the assignment in **module 9**.

Students will turn in the assignment after **module 12**.

INTRO TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

INSTRUCTIONS

What is the primary focus of the Create a Design Plan assignment?

For this assignment, you think about different ways you might design the information technology solution you proposed to address the organization's problem.

What is a design plan?

The design plan is a document that describes the major assumptions about the problem the organization has asked you to address and lists alternative approaches to designing that solution with information technology.

What is the purpose of the design plan?

The purpose of the design plan is to encourage you to "ideate", which is to generate alternative approaches to designing the IT solution you proposed to address the client's problem.

What are the components of the design plan?

- Client organization's name
- Description of the problem
- Characteristics of the users of the technology solution
- Characteristics of data associated with the problem
- Descriptions of alternative approaches to designing the solution
- A graphical representation of the design alternatives such as a flow chart or block diagram that shows the components of the solution and how they interact with other components, data flows, and user interactions should be included to supplement the textual description of the approach.
- Potential issues or problems with developing or implementing the solution

What activities will you perform during the Create a Design assignment?

- Make sure you understand the problem and associated factors such as characteristics of the data and user. If needed, communicate with the client organization to clarify.

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- Generate at least three ideas on how to design the solutions using the proposed information technology. These ideas should include specific approaches you would take but are not a “deep dive” into the implementation details at the coding level. You should be generating high-level design alternatives that consider such factors as the solution’s “look and feel”, types of data to be used, and how the data will be processed and displayed. This is not the time to do low-level coding such as HTML or JavaScript for web pages, SQL statements for databases, or formulas and functions for spreadsheets.
- Prepare a document that includes the design plan components
- Meet with the client to review the document, answer questions, and resolve any issues
- Make any revisions to the design plan document that arise from the meeting
- Submit the design plan document to the assignment dropbox

What advice would help me with this assignment?

- Avoid "analysis paralysis" in generating your alternative approaches. Be creative (and quick) and don't be overly concerned with implementation details at this point - that comes later.
- You certainly can generate as many alternatives as you like; the three alternatives are just a guideline.