IT Short Case
10 Points – Due at Beginning of Exam, December 11

You have five topics to choose from to develop the case, they are listed at the bottom. The case may be between 5 and 10 double spaced pages, 5 pages is better if you spend the effort to be concise without losing content. This is a group project and all members are expected to participate.

The case turned in should begin with a short summary that outlines the issue you chose, why it is important, the most important facts, and your decision. Remember that the format of the case report begins with the summary but when you write the case the summary is the last thing written. I.e., after you complete the case write-up, including the summary, simply cut-and-paste the summary to the beginning of the report.

Your case report must include a analysis of the pros and cons of the topic you choose. That analysis should drive your decision. The analysis should weigh each pro and con, in class we talked about ‘very important’, ‘important’, and ‘low importance’ as possible ratings for a pro or con characteristic. Describe how that metric works. You may wish to make more specific pro and/or con statements such as “saves 25% of current costs” as a pro to a cost characteristic. At the same time a con might be “requires all costs to be paid up-front instead of pay-per-use.”

Each pro and each con should be supported in the important facts you research as you analyze the case. And you must reference the sources of your case facts. Gartner, Wikipedia, Informationweek.com, etc are sources reflecting private research organizations, open source references, and trade information. There are other sources and you should not rely on only three or four to make your analysis.

Five Topics (in random order)
1. Software as a Service – a.k.a. SaaS is the concept of paying for use of software as opposed to buying the software and using it as much as you want. The current common definition of Saas includes that the vendor of the service also provides support, upgrades that are transparent to the user, and many other features. If you choose this case topic you must research how this concept has been tried in the past as well as the results from past SaaS initiatives.
2. Outsourcing the E-Mail service – if this topic is chosen I require that you research the Google e-mail outsourcing service. First, there are too many e-mail outsourcing vendors to leave this topic open to your specific choice and second there has been a lot of data to gather since the August ‘incidents’ with Google e-mail outsourcing.
3. Windows Genuine Advantage – Microsoft has instituted a practice of checking to see if a computer has a legal installation of its software before it provides the updates, patches, etc. Microsoft does not deny the updates but Microsoft has a particularly public way of showing that it believes the installed software is not a legal copy.
4. Advanced Wireless Service-3 – a.k.a. “Free Spectrum” is the proposal by the Federal Communications Commission to sell a range of radio frequencies (referred to as AWS-3) to the highest bidder with the provision that 25% of that frequency range to be for free, high speed wireless broadband access for the US.
5. non-US workers choosing to telecommute to their US workplace, work as an outsourced employee to the US workplace, or work at a in-country location for the US-based company – since 2000 and the Y2K crisis there has been the ability for non-US workers to take advantage of these choices on their own terms. If your team chooses this topic it must consider the pros and cons of each segment; the worker, the US-based company, and the worker’s native country.