RSC
Regional Support Centre
East Midlands
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Web-based Applications

These are applications (software programs) that you use online, rather than installing them on your computer. This "browser-based" approach brings a number of benefits, but there are also some issues to consider when deciding whether to use them.

Advantages of using web-based applications

Web applications can be easily accessed from any computer or location that has an Internet connection

They usually require little or no disk space on your own computer

They are upgraded automatically with new features, so you don't need to do upgrades yourself

They often integrate well with other web services, such as email and searching

As you only need a web browser to use them, they are generally "platform independent" i.e. they work with Windows, Apple Mac, Linux

Many web applications are free to use

Possible Disadvantages of using web-based applications

There are increased security risks in doing anything online. As a result, some people may be less inclined to do sensitive or confidential work using web applications

Some web applications use non-standard file formats. This can lead to problems when sharing what you have produced with others (however, many do produce results in formats that are compatible with common standards, such as Microsoft Office)

Web applications that are charged for tend to cost more over time than paying outright for an application

Unlike desktop applications, web applications are affected by any interruptions or slowness of the Internet