Subject: IT
Topic: User Interfaces

Summary of key information:

User Interfaces

Text Interfaces are made up of text and don't contain any graphics. The user enters commands using a keyboard.

A **Menu Interface** displays a list of options for the user to select. All options within a menu are usually related to each other.
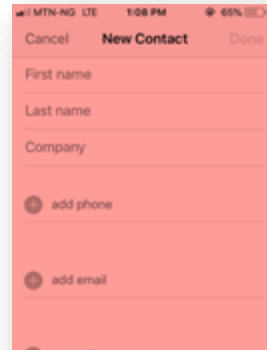
Form Interfaces allow the user to enter information. It uses form controls such as buttons, tick boxes and drop down menus. They are often used to enter data into a database

A **Graphical User Interface** is a visual interface made up of graphics. Users can navigate around the interface logically. It requires powerful hardware to process complex graphics.

Speech Interfaces allow users to enter commands using their own voice. They use a built in microphone that will listen for the user to say different commands.

Sensor Interfaces use built in sensors which are constantly monitoring what is going on around the device.

Summary of key information:

User Interfaces – Key Terms

User Interface is a piece of software that allows users to interact with their devices

Software allows users to complete tasks to create something. There are different types of software to control hardware and applications such as word processing

Accessibility is about how devices are designed for people with disabilities to use with ease

Form Controls include buttons, tick boxes and option boxes to enable the user to enter information

Navigate/Navigation is how a user works their way around the software

Pixels are the smallest dots which make up the screen on our devices. An image is made up of millions of pixels

Sensors detect and respond to the environment around them. They can be responsive to heat, light, sound, movement of patterns

Intuitive means easy to understand. A user should be able to understand and interact with an interface instinctively.

Operating systems control the whole operation of a computer system, such as a desktop computer, mobile phone, or tablet computer

Platform is the name given to the computer (hardware) and operating system (software) on which applications can be run

Keyboard Shortcuts are combinations of keystrokes or a sequence of keystrokes which command the software

Motor Needs relates to users who have limited function in their movement, muscle control or mobility

Cognitive Needs cover a wide range of disabilities, including developmental delays, learning disabilities, brain injuries and dementia

House style refers to a set of rules that an organisation follows on all of their documents to ensure they are consistent

Prominent means to stand out easily and be particularly noticable

Icons are small computer graphics. There is usually an image representing an application or file

Breadcrumbs is the term used to describe a user interface component which makes navigation easy and instinctive

Predetermined means something that is planned in advance

Productivity software is software that is made up of a suite of different programs which make it easier to produce work to a professional standard (e.g. Office)