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# Assessment 1 Context

## Integrated Action Learning (IAL) Project Description

As a practitioner designing appropriate IT solutions, you need an in-depth understanding of the organization, its environment, and the needs of key stakeholders. Deciding on which technology or mix of technologies to use requires collaboration and communication to form an understanding of the overall context and potential impacts of specific solutions. Throughout your IT program at Capella, you have developed key competencies to enable you to meet the challenges of this role, and your integrated action learning (IAL) project for this course is an opportunity for you to demonstrate that you have mastered these competencies.

### Project Overview

This capstone course and the course project are quite special. This is the culmination of your studies in the Capella BS IT program. Similar to an internship or a practicum in traditional senior-year capstone courses, this course project will use your existing knowledge of an organization and require you to apply the IT knowledge you have learned throughout the BS IT program at Capella.

For your capstone project, you will design and model an IT solutions proposal that takes into account the overall context and potential constraints of the organization and benefits from research in the field about the solutions you propose. You will choose a real organization and collaborate with a key individual within the organization, presenting your ideas and asking questions as you move through your design process. You will also reflect on your own role in the process of developing the proposal and consider how your coursework and your background contributed to your endeavor. This final project will provide you with a field experience that allows you to demonstrate your abilities.

The IAL project is a real-world project solving a real-world problem. You should seek to develop a project that will apply the concepts you have learned in your time at Capella. As you choose your project, consider the examples below:

- If you are in the project management specialization, you might decide to propose a risk-management system for your employer.
- If you are in the network technology specialization, you might want to propose a local area network (LAN).
- If you are in the information assurance and security specialization, you might develop a security proposal for your organization.
- If you are in the health informatics specialization, you might create a proposal for transitioning to electronic health records for a health care unit.
- If you are in the software architecture specialization, you might want to develop a strategy for creating the architecture for a Web or mobile application for your employer.

As you can see, the ideas for benefiting an organization, community, or industry are quite limitless.

You will begin by laying the groundwork for developing your project proposal. The first step of this process is to examine the environment that will serve as the context for your project. You will define your environment, perform an environmental scan, and start the development of a document that outlines the major features of your environment.

### What the Project Is Not

Unlike in some other courses you may have completed, you will not be expected to implement the solutions you propose in your capstone project. Ideally, at some point after this course, your organization would decide to

implement your proposed strategies, and you would then evaluate the success of that implementation and make adjustments as necessary.

Your focus over the coming weeks will be on developing a proposal that clearly communicates IT solutions that address the complex needs of clients and account for various stakeholder interests as well as other key internal and external factors influencing the organization.

## Project Components

Your project is a compilation of the documentation you will create throughout this course. For your final IAL project proposal to be submitted in Assessment 6, you will incorporate all of the components listed below in one document that is your final proposal:

- **Executive Summary** (Assessment 5): This is placed at the start of the proposal but is the last piece written.
- **Organization and Site Supervisor Description** (Assessment 1): This includes a short description of key information about the site supervisor.
- **Environmental Scan** (Assessment 1): This provides an initial analysis of key internal and external factors affecting the organization to identify critical problems that might be addressed by IT solutions.
- **Literature Review** (Assessment 2): This identifies themes in the literature regarding IT concepts related to potential solutions for the problem you are addressing. It is an annotated bibliography that includes a short summary and reference for each resource, organized into themes or topics. All sources must be listed according to APA format.
- **Self-Assessment** (Assessment 3): This represents a thorough assessment of what you offer when it comes to your project, as well as how your personal factors might affect the success of your project. Include your lifelong learner and professional development plan (Assessment 3) in this section.
- **The Action Learning Process** (Assessment 3): In this section, you reflect on the process of developing your proposal.
  - **Communication:** How have you used business communication and tools in developing the proposal?
  - **Decision Tools:** What IT tools have you used in developing the proposal and in collaborating during the planning process?
  - **Collaboration:** Reflect on the role of collaboration in developing your proposal.
    - Who did you work with to accomplish the planning in the environment, and how did your connection with them help shape your proposal?
    - How did feedback from your site supervisor or critical friend contribute to your final revisions to your proposal?
  - **Reflective Learning:** Consider the value that your educational and personal background brought to the process.
    - How has your learning process in your program at Capella contributed to your approach to developing your final project proposal?
    - How have other aspects of your background helped or potentially hindered your work on this proposal?
    - What lessons have you learned from this process that you would apply to future planning pursuits in your field?
- **Solution(s) Analysis** (Assessment 4): This addresses key questions related to your proposed solutions.
- **Needs and Risk Analysis** (Assessment 4): This specifies how the proposal's solutions meet the needs of the organization and key stakeholders and identifies the potential risks involved as well as strategies for addressing those risks.
- **Legal, Ethical, and Policy Analysis** (Assessment 4): This specifies potential legal, ethical, and policy issues related to the solutions being designed and the context of the organization.
- **Reflection** (Assessment 6): This addresses your experience of working on the capstone project.

## Additional Requirements

- **Written communication:** Your writing should be free of errors that detract from the overall message.

- **Formatting:** Format resources according to current APA style.
- **Font and font size:** Use Arial or a similar font, 10-point.