

Professional Issues Assessment 2 (with a solution)

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Consider the following text.

Recently, web application development has become one of the most promising areas of research in Computer Science. Not only because web applications offer distributed and concurrent access over heterogenous execution environments—resulting in a high degree of client ubiquity—, but also because they also provide their administrators the ability to update and maintain them without even distributing and installing software on a huge amount of client computers. In addition to ubiquity and maintenance, we can enumerate usability advantages of web applications, like platform independence and user comfort (due to web browser familiarity).

(92 words)

- (a) Rewrite the above text in between half and two thirds as many words, without losing any significant information. (It should serve as a drop-in replacement for the above text.)
- (b) Rewrite the text again, but this time as a series of examples, replacing each abstract point by concrete imagery. (Because each general point is replaced by a specific example, it need not serve as a drop-in replacement for the above text.)

Sample solution

- (a) One possible solution:

Web applications are one of the most promising areas of computing research, because they offer clients ubiquitous, distributed, and concurrent access in a variety of environments, they permit administrators to maintain them without distributing software on a large number of machines, and they enhance usability through platform independence and familiarity with the browser.

(53 words)

- (b) One possible solution:

Jill prefers Google Docs to Open Office because it works the same on her desktop, laptop, tablet, and phone; because she doesn't need Bill in IT to update her software; and because Firefox provides a familiar look and feel everywhere.

(40 words)