VCE Computing: Informatics software tools and functions

In the *VCE Computing Study Design (2016–2019),* Informatics Units 3 and 4, there is a set of mandated software tools. These are tools that students are required to both study and use in Units 3 and 4 and for which there are mandated functions. Students use other software such as tools for documenting project plans and capturing data, but there is not a mandated list of functions for these.

In Unit 3 Area of Study 1 students study and use:

* a relational database management system (RDBMS) to create a digital solution
* drawing/graphic software to represent:
* the user interface design of the online page that initiates a transaction
* the user’s interaction with the online solution (user flow diagram).

In Unit 4 Area of Study 1 students study and use one or more software tools to create a multimodal online solution.

Software functions

Following is a list of software functions for each of the software tools that are studied and used, and that students are expected to be able to apply. Note that this list is not exhaustive; learning does not have to be confined to the functions listed.

For School-based Assessment, tasks set by teachers should be realistic and allow discrimination between student performances. When designing assessment tasks for those outcomes that require the use of software tools, not all of the listed functions need to be demonstrated when solving problems.

For assessment purposes, students must be familiar with all of the listed functions for the mandated software tools.

Unit 3: Relational database management system

Students are expected to apply functions that provide the ability to:

* create tables
* create relationships between tables
* use a range of data types
* electronically validate data
* create, edit and use queries
* search and filter records
* perform calculations
* create and edit formatted reports
* sort records or index on different fields.

Unit 3: Drawing or graphics software

Students are expected to apply functions that provide the ability to:

* create/select a range of shapes
* use symbols/images
* show relationships and directions
* enter, edit and format text and other content
* use colour/shading.

Unit 4: Multimodal authoring software

Authoring software does not require the need to write programming code. Students are expected to apply functions that provide the ability to:

* import/enter, edit and format content
* structure screen layout
* create links
* provide navigation
* create buttons
* create tags (alt tags)
* incorporate images (still and moving), text and sound.