English 1 – Maxfield
February 22, 2011
I-Search Day 5

During I-Search today

1. Print out and turn in Parts 1 and 2. We will revise next class.
2. Continue research – all research needs to be printed out.
3. Read through and highlight your research.
4. Continue typing Part 3: The Search – See previous handouts for example and internal citation rules.

5 minutes prior to the end of class

5. Fill out and turn in exit slip.

Example – Remember to double space your paper.
Part 3: The Search
                                        Interview

        Mark Maxfield was my first choice as an interviewee. He is a Systems Administrator for Edward Jones. He also happens to be my brother. Mark has a degree in computer information systems from Missouri State University and is always the first person I call when I have a computer/technology related question. He has worked for Edward Jones in their Information Technology department since he graduated from college in 2006. Prior to that, he interned in the same department at Anheuser-Busch. This interview was conducted on January 27, 2008, but I know I can always call him to ask follow up questions if I think of something else.

1. What is your job description or your job responsibilities?
        My group supports all end user hardware. That includes laptops, workstations, tablet PC's and printers.

2. What is a tablet PC?
        It is similar to a laptop, but you can use a pen to write on the screen.

3. What brands of laptops and tablet PC's do you service?
        We service Hewlett Packard (HP) laptops and Toshiba Tablets.

4. What are the primary uses of these devices?
        Home Office Associates use the laptops to provide any service required of their customers. Financial Advisor Trainees use them to train at home.

5. How many laptops does your household own/have use of?
        I have four laptops from work – 3 HP NC6020's and 1 HP NC6000. I also have 2 personal laptops – 1 Toshiba N400 and an Avertek. My wife has 1 work (another HP) and 1 personal Apple ibook.

6. What are your primary personal uses for your laptops?

Mobile computing, downloading software, listening to music, streaming media, and watching movies

7. Can you explain the different methods of wireless services available for laptops?
      There are many varieties but it can basically be broken down into 2 major categories.
      1. 802.11 or Wi-Fi (WLAN) has four different types: A, B, G, and N. "A" is good for security and for short distances, but is slower than the others. "G" is the fastest and most prevalent. "N" is the newest version and is not readily available yet. These can be set up for locations that have internet or network access already available.
      2. Broadband (WWAN) cards use a cellular signal. These can be accessed anywhere cellular service is available. These are generally not as fast as Wi-Fi but speed is improving. The cost of these is also based on your cellular plan so it may be more expensive than Wi-Fi.

8. If you were recommending a new laptop, what brand would you go with?
      Apples for laptops, specifically the MacBook Pro. I recommend it for non-technical people – not that you really fall into that category. It's harder to screw-up. It does come with less software than a PC base laptop, but reliability is excellent and now you can buy versions that run Windows XP and other network and software compatibility is not much of an issue.

If going the PC route I would stick with HP or Dell.

9. What technical specs would you insist if creating the perfect laptop?

1Gig of RAM	HDMI port for High Definition TV possibilities
64 Gig solid state(no moving parts) hard drive	Blue Ray Drive
Core 2 Duo processor	3 USB 2.0 ports
15 inch widescreen	1 Firewire Port
Weight under 4 lbs	Built in cell card
Battery life of 3 hours	Gigabit Ethernet card
XP operating system	

10. Anything else I should know about purchasing a laptop?
      Always read reviews online. Buy locally so you have somewhere to take it if it breaks. Don't buy a MacBook Air – not worth the cost; too limited on features, not very sturdy.

      After I asked my set list of questions, we talked more about computers and technology in general. My compatibility questions were answered, and I was also surprised (at the time) to hear Mark recommend a MacBook Pro. I had not told him ahead of time that was the product I was researching. I probably should have asked more questions specific to Apple, but at that time I did not know exactly what to ask. However, I know I can always give Mark a quick call if there was anything else I need.