Discussion Questions for Chapter 05 Input Devices

*NOTE: for all the discussion questions, you need to read the chapter, think about your responses, and briefly type up your thoughts on the questions. Print out your work and bring it to class the day we cover the chapter.*

In this chapter, you are probably familiar with many of the PC type input devices, e.g. pointing devices, game pads, web cams, etc. Choose one of two of these and find a web site that “goes into detail” on how it works. Write a paragraph summarizing what you found, and explain why you chose this. Be sure to include the web link for the “interesting” site you found.

Look at a few computer web sites (e.g. HP, Dell, Apple). What changes do you see in PC platforms? Do any of these push “tablet PC’s”? What types of input devices do they offer?

One part of this chapter that some of you may not be as familiar with is the section covering scanners, reading devices & terminals, especially those used in larger businesses. Working with a small group of your classmates, divide up the effort and do some research on these devices (e.g. each person can take 1 or 2 device categories and share their findings with the rest of the group)

* What are some of these devices
* What are they used for (e.g. what industry, what function/task)
* What are some of the advantages/disadvantages of using this type of input device
* Are these input devices still being used, or are they being replaced by different technologies
* Have you used any of these devices (or do you know someone who has)? If so, what do they think about the technology – does it work well? Are there any problems with it?

What was Doug Engelbart’s contribution to the area of input devices? Do a “Google search” on Doug Engelbart – look at some of the web sites listed. What are some of his key contributions? Current projects? Lessons you can learn (or interesting things you learned) from Doug?