Networking CISCO Academy

Answers: 7.1.2.8 Lab - Research Docking Stations and Port Replicators

Introduction

A docking station uses proprietary connectors that turn laptops into a desktop system by connecting to other peripheral devices, such as mice, keyboards, and external monitors. A port replicator can provide some or all of the functionality of docking station; however, it usually connects to the laptops via USB or Thunderbolt connection.

In this lab, you will research the specifications for a proprietary laptop docking station and a generic port replicator for a specific laptop model. Be prepared to discuss your decisions regarding your choices.

For the proprietary docking stations, navigate to the major computer brands' websites to search for their recommendations. For the generic port replicators, they can be found on websites of major computer brands or computer electronic stores.

Instructions

Step 1: Choose a laptop with an associated docking station.

The major computer brands that target the business market will most likely sell laptop models that use proprietary docking stations.

Navigate to the web site of a major computer brand. Search for a propriety docking station suitable for your laptop model. Review the provided information and answer the following questions.

Questions:

a. What is the model or part number of the docking station?

   Type your answers here.

b. What is the approximate cost?

   Type your answers here.

c. What are the dimensions of the docking station?

   Type your answers here.

d. How does the laptop connect to the docking station?

   Type your answers here.

e. List some of the features available with this docking station.

   Type your answers here.

f. Is this docking station compatible with other laptop models?

   Type your answers here.

Step 2: Choose a port replicator.

In this step, search and review the technical specification for a port replicator that is compatible with your laptop model. Answer the following questions.

a. What is the model or part number of the port replicator?

   Type your answers here.

b. What is the approximate cost?

Type your answers here.

c. What are the dimensions of the port replictor?

Type your answers here.

d. How does the laptop connect to the port replicator?

Type your answers here.

e. List some of the features available with this port replicator.

Type your answers here.

f. Is this port replicator compatible with other laptop models?

Type your answers here.

Reflection Question

Now that you have chosen a docking station and a port replicator for your laptop model, which is your choice? Explain your choice and list some of advantages and disadvantages.

Type your answers here.