

SCO Committee Activities for Academic Year 2002-2003

Members: Jim McClellan(CoE, chair/secretary), Linda Cabot (OIT), Eric Carlen (CoS), Luis Martins (Mgt), Matthew J. Realff (CoE), Michael Gamble (Arch), David Smith (CoC), Dan Morrison (Student Housing), John Patrick Floyd (Student), Miles Edson (Resnet), Chris Donovan (Graduate Student), Maxine Wright (Bookstore), Leo Mark (CoC, Exec Board).

Meetings

Three meetings were held:

- 1) 25-Nov-02: discuss status of hardware and software recommendations
- 2) 19-Dec-02: visit the Library Commons area
- 3) 31-Jan-03: Finalize the hardware and software recommendations.

Hardware/Software Recommendations for Incoming Students

The committee followed the procedure to review the software/hardware specifications that was used in previous years:

- 1) A note is circulated to the entire academic faculty by the Secretary of the Faculty two weeks prior to a scheduled SCOC meeting. This is usually in December or January, depending on deadlines for producing the recommendations. The note asks for faculty to send their requests to the chair of this committee and then if they wanted to come to the scheduled meeting to give their input. The guidelines provided were that the software should be something that the entire GIT undergraduate body could be expected to use during their time at Tech and that the decision would be based on the benefits and costs, such as support.
- 2) The suggestions are circulated to the committee members and Linda Cabot (OIT) determines potential cost of a site license and license for the software suggestions.
- 3) The committee meets on the appointed day and discusses the options with input on costs of the software from OIT.
- 4) The SCO Web site, <http://www.sco.gatech.edu> is updated to reflect any important changes and considerations.

Hardware: Desktop configurations

Processor: At least Pentium IV class or at least a Power Macintosh G4 processor

Memory: At least 256 MB

Hard Drive: 20 GB or larger

Monitor: 15 inch or larger

Accessories: CD-ROM

Sound card (standard on Macintosh and some Windows models)

Speakers

10/100 Base-T Ethernet port or modem

Hardware: Laptop configuration

We provided a list of advantages and disadvantages to help students decide on whether a laptop configuration would be appropriate for their computing needs. The following configuration was recommended:

Processor: At least Pentium III class or at least a Power Macintosh G3 processor

Memory: At least 256 MB

Hard Drive: 20 GB or larger

Monitor: Supports XGA (1024 x 768) resolution or better

Accessories: CD-ROM

Sound card (standard on Macintosh and some Windows models)

Speakers

Network capability (see below)

We provided further advice to help students determine if their existing hardware would satisfy computing requirements, at the SCO website (<http://www.sco.gatech.edu>).

Software Recommendations

Type	Vendor	Software Title
<i>Operating System</i>	Microsoft	Windows 2000 or Windows XP
	Apple	Mac OS 10.1, or higher
Communications*	Qualcomm	Eudora Pro 5.2 (Win) 5.1.1 (Mac)
	Netscape	Communicator 7.01 or higher with 128-bit encryption
	Van Dyke Software	SecureCRT 4.0.3 (PC)
	Network Associates	NAI Virus Scan 4.5.1 sp1
	Zonelabs	Zone Alarm 3.1
Productivity & Education	Microsoft	Office 2000 or later Std (Win), or Office 2001 or higher (Mac)
	Adobe	Acrobat 5 Full Version (Win); Mac OS X includes this functionality
	Macromedia	Dreamweaver MX
	Waterloo Maple	Maple 8
	Mathworks	Matlab 6.5 (Release 13 for Win/Mac)

*Applications in this section only are downloadable from the web or a GT server at no cost to students. See <http://software.oit.gatech.edu> for further details.

This past year, several requests were made as additions to the software list. Some changes were made, with the biggest being the addition of Acrobat so that student would be able to create PDF files. OIT also provides information on PDF on its main FAQ site at <http://faq.oit.gatech.edu>. A Technology Fee proposal was also submitted to request funding for the PDF license.

Campus buildings and SCO

The committee also held one meeting in the Library Commons area and was briefed on how that space was being used. In the future, the impact on student computer ownership of these new common spaces will be factored into the committee's work, but no action items were taken during the past year.