SCO Committee Activities for Academic Year 2003-2004

Members: Jim McClellan(CoE, chair/secretary), Linda Cabot (OIT), Eric Carlen (CoS), Luis Martins (Mgt), (CoE), Michael Gamble (Arch), David Smith (CoC), Dan Morrison (Student Housing), Jason Wallace (Student), Miles Edson (Resnet), Alex Taubman (Bookstore), Scott Riggle (OIT), Leo Mark (CoC, Exec Board).

Meetings

Two meetings were held:
1) 24-Nov-03: discuss status of hardware and software configurations.
2) 23-Jan-04: 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) An e-mail 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 e-mail 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 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. Information is transmitted to Deborah Smith in Admissions.

Desktop Hardware Configurations

Processor: At least Pentium IV class or at least a Power Macintosh G4 processor
Memory: At least 512 MB
Hard Drive: 30 GB or larger
Monitor: 15 inch or larger
Accessories: CDR
                Sound card (standard on Macintosh and some Windows models)
                Speakers
                10/100 Base-T Ethernet card or modem

Laptop Hardware Configurations

Some students may choose to bring laptop computers to campus. Following is a list of "Pros" and "Cons" for students to think about prior to purchasing and bringing portable computers for academic use.

Pros
- Wireless access availability in library and numerous other campus locations (see below for information on wireless access)
- Ability to use with team projects
- Convenient to use when discussing projects with professors during office hours

- Easy to take home over breaks/holidays
- Increased mobility

Cons

- Potential for theft
- More expensive than desktop computers
- Some professors may not allow laptops in class
- Insurance coverage responsibility of parent/student

Processor: At least Pentium III class or at least a Power Macintosh G3 processor
Memory: At least 512 MB
Hard Drive: 30 GB or larger
Monitor: Supports XGA (1024 x 768) resolution or better
Accessories: CDR
Sound card (standard on Macintosh and some Windows models)
Network capability (see below)

Software Recommendations

Type	Vendor	Software Title
Operating System	Microsoft	Windows 2000 or Windows XP Pro
	Apple	Mac OS 10.2, or higher
Communications	Qualcomm*	Eudora Pro 6 (Win/Mac)
	Mozilla	Mozilla 1.6 or higher
	Van Dyke Software*	SecureCRT 4.1.1 (PC)
	Network Associates*	NAI Virus Scan Enterprise 7 (PC)
	Zonelabs*	Zone Alarm Pro Integrity Desktop 4
Productivity & Education	Microsoft	Office 2000 or later Std (Win), or Office 2001 or higher (Mac)
	Adobe	Acrobat 6 StandardVersion (Win); Mac OS X includes this functionality
	Macromedia	Dreamweaver 2004
	Waterloo Maple	Maple 9
	Mathworks	Matlab 6.5 (Release 13sp1 for Win/Mac)

*Applications downloadable from the web or a GT server at no cost to students. See http://software.oit.gatech.edu

This past year, no significant requests were made to add to the software list. Most changes were updates to existing software. Creating PDF files continues to be an issue that is not covered by the standard software, but OIT provides information on PDF on its main FAQ site at http://faq.oit.gatech.edu. In the hardware recommendations, changes were made to include a CDR and upgrade the minimum CPU speed, memory size, and disk size.

Laptops Under Consideration

Last year, the faculty was asked for input on the question of whether the computer ownership requirement should be for laptops only. In most cases, the faculty who responded were in favor of this change. During the coming year, a proposal will be made to change the requirement to laptops.