

SCO Committee Activities for Academic Year 2004-2005

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

Meetings

Three meetings were held:

- 1) 20-Oct-04: discuss the possibility of requiring laptops.
- 2) 10-Dec-04: review material from peer institutions about laptops.
- 3) 7-Jan-05: 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: 40 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, but laptops are not required.

Processor: At least Pentium M class or at least a Power Macintosh G4 processor
Memory: At least 512 MB
Hard Drive: 40 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
<i>Operating System</i>	Microsoft	Windows XP Pro
	Apple	Mac OS 10.3, or higher
Communications	Qualcomm*	Eudora Pro 6.2.1 (Win/Mac)
	Van Dyke Software*	SecureCRT 4.1.10 (PC)
	McAfee*	Virus Scan Enterprise 8.0i
	ISS*	RealSecure Desktop
Productivity & Education	Microsoft	Office 2000 or later Std (Win), or Office 2001 or higher (Mac)
	Adobe	Acrobat 7 StandardVersion (Win); Mac OS X includes this functionality
	Macromedia	Dreamweaver MX 2004
	Waterloo Maple	Maple 9.5
	Mathworks	Matlab 7.01 (Release 14sp1 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. In the hardware recommendations, changes were made to disk size and laptop specifications.

Laptops Under Consideration

The committee is developing documentation to make the case for laptops. Last year, Michael Gamble, Luis Martins and Adrian Smith prepared a "Laptop Ownership Peer Review Report." Among the peer schools surveyed, none have committed completely to a laptop requirement. Therefore, it seems that we are probably still a couple years short of making such a requirement here at Georgia Tech. However, the sense of the committee is that "laptops are coming" and it just a matter of time before laptop computers are used universally. As a result the discussion arrived at the following points:

- Georgia Tech should plan for having a laptop requirement within 2 to 3 years
- The biggest issues in moving to a laptop requirement will be infrastructure and support Infrastructure involves primarily wireless network availability, and can probably be solved with money.
- Support involves many issues: repair, software upgrades, troubleshooting, user assistance, and so on. The impact on Housing is great, as well as on OIT. It will be the hardest to plan for, because it involves hiring or training support staff.
- A suggestion for migration to laptops would be to have one or two colleges require them. College of Computing and College of Architecture might be the logical first adopters. This would provide impetus for solving the support and infrastructure issues.