

SCO Committee Activities for Academic Year 2005-2006

Members: Jim McClellan (CoE, chair/secretary), Linda Cabot (OIT), Eric Carlen (CoS), Luis Martins (Mgt), Michael Gamble (Arch), Aaron Lanterman (CoE), Shaun Duncan (Student), Nick Wellkamp (Student), Miles Edson (Resnet), Alex Taubman (Bookstore), Scott Riggle (OIT), Jim Foley (CoC, Exec Board).

Meetings

Two meetings were held:

- 1) 7-Dec-05: discuss the issue of requiring laptops.
- 2) 10-Jan-06: 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 requests faculty inputs to the chair of this committee and/or presentation of their requests at a scheduled meeting of the SCOC. 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, including the cost of 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.

Laptop Hardware Configurations

Some students may choose to bring laptop computers to campus, but laptops are not required.

Processor: At least Pentium M processor or at least a Power Macintosh G4 or Intel Core Duo processor

Memory: At least 512 MB

Hard Drive: 60 GB or larger

Monitor: Supports 1024 x 768 resolution or better

Accessories: CD-Recordable (CDR)

Sound capability

Ethernet card

Wireless card (see lawn.gatech.edu for info)

Desktop configurations

Processor: At least Pentium 3.0GHz processor, or at least a Power Macintosh G5 or Intel Core Duo processor

Memory: At least 512 MB

Hard Drive: 60 GB or larger

Monitor: 15 inch or larger
Accessories: CD-Recordable (CDR)
 Sound capability
 Speakers, or headphones
 Ethernet card

Network Connections

All rooms in campus residence halls are wired for computer network access. Each room has as many connections as beds. Housing fees cover access. There is no additional charge. To access the network, students *living in campus residence halls* will need an ethernet card and a 25' CAT-5 Ethernet cable for their computer.

Students *not living in campus residence halls* will need to purchase a broadband internet service from an ISP (Internet Service Provider).

Software Recommendations

Type	Vendor	Software Title
<i>Operating System</i>	Microsoft	Windows XP Pro SP2
	Apple	Mac OS X 10.4, or higher
Communications	Qualcomm*	Eudora Pro (Win v7/Mac v6.2.3)
	Van Dyke Software*	SecureCRT 5.0.4 (Win)
Security	McAfee*	Virus Scan Enterprise 8.0i (Win)
	ISS*	Proventia Desktop 8 (Win)
	Webroot*	Spy Sweeper 4.5.8 (Win)
Productivity & Education	Microsoft	Office 2003 or later Std (Win), or Office 2004 or higher (Mac)
	Adobe	Acrobat 7 Standard Version (Win); This software serves to read and write pdf files. This functionality is built into Mac OSX
	Macromedia	Dreamweaver 8
	Waterloo Maple	Maple 10
	Mathworks	Matlab 7.1 (Release 14sp3 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 a survey to ask the faculty about the issue of requiring laptops. It seems that we are probably still one or two 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. Thus, Georgia Tech should plan for having a laptop requirement within 1 to 2 years, because 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. One or two colleges might start the requirement early, e.g., College of Computing.