

# Student Computer Ownership Committee Annual Report

## Academic Year 2009-2010

### Members:

- Christos Alexopoulos (ISyE)
- Lori Critz (Library)
- Miles Edson (Housing)
- Jonathon Giffin (CS)
- Andy Jones (Student)
- Steve Potter (BME)
- Nicholas Robson (Student)
- Jarek Rossignac (IC/Executive Board Liaison)
- Lisa Spence (OIT)
- Alex Taubman (Technology Center)
- Bruce Walker (Psych)

**Chair:** Jonathon Giffin

**Meetings:** The committee held two regular meetings; we conducted other points of business over email as necessary.

1. 2009-Sep-09: Began discussion of the impact of recent technology trends upon our expectations for student computing, particularly the development of Windows 7, the widespread uses of netbooks, and the popularity of cloud computing services. Decided to widen the scope of recommended and supported [by OIT] software to include selected open source software packages.
2. 2009-Oct-29: Received a briefing from OIT representatives regarding OIT's plan to migrate support from Windows XP to Windows 7. With their input, the committee finalized its software recommendations for students entering Georgia Tech in 2010.

**Hardware Requirements:** The committee set minimum laptop hardware capabilities designed to last students for multiple years. Most requirements were an evolutionary increase from the 2009 requirements and reflected the progression of the laptop computer market. After considering netbooks, the committee decided not to recommend netbook purchases to students due to their inability to remain sufficiently powerful for 3 or 4 years.

**Software Requirements:** The committee set minimum software requirements for Microsoft Windows and Mac OS X systems. Due to major software updates from multiple vendors over the previous year, here were substantial changes on both platforms:

- We required Windows systems to run Windows 7 rather than XP or Vista.
- We required Mac systems to run Snow Leopard.
- We permitted the use of the OpenOffice.org productivity suite as a free alternative to Microsoft Office; Microsoft Office remains approved software.
- We expanded our recommended virtualization software to include Parallels Desktop.

The committee set the hardware and software requirements after consultation with OIT and advertised the requirements to students both as a brochure distributed by the Institute at FASET and on our website: <http://www.sco.gatech.edu>.