Student Computer Ownership (SCO) Committee

2011-2012 Annual Report

Members:
Faculty: Christos Alexopoulos (IsyE); Lori Critz (Library); Hyesoon Kim (CS); Steve Potter (BME); Bruce Walker (Psych)

Non voting members: Miles Edson (Aux. Serv./ResNET); Steven McDaniel (ResNET); Dale Myers (OIT); Alex Taubman (Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech)

Executive Board Liaison: Jeff Jenkins (GTRI)

Chair: Lori Critz (Library) served as Chair of the Committee for 2011-2012.

Meetings: The Committee met on the following dates: September 15, 2011; February 15, 2012; September 12, 2012. Considerable work was also conducted virtually.

Summary: The primary work of the Committee was the development of the 2012/2013 Student Computer Ownership Guide. This was a highly participatory endeavor, and the Committee solicited input and recommendations from both students and Georgia Tech stakeholder units. These included: the OIT team members (including the student User Assistants) managing the Library West Commons cluster, OIT Technology Support Center staff , a CETL instructional technologist, the OIT Classroom Support Group, student workers in the Library, and - via the Committee membership - ResNet and Barnes & Noble @ GT. Seven versions of the Guide were drafted in this iterative cycle, and the final document was distributed in May 2012. All editions were posted on the SCO Committee T-Square site, to allow for comment/input from the Committee and others.

In addition to the determination of the minimum hardware and software requirements (with a two - three year life cycle) for required laptops (aka notebooks), the Committee addressed purchasing options for students, campus and third party support options (including the life cycle for GT support), security guidelines, warranty recommendations, student printing options, a comprehensive FAQ for students and parents, and virus protection. The Committee set the hardware and software requirements in consultation with OIT, Barnes & Noble @ GT, and Auxiliary Services/ResNET.

It was determined that purchase guideline updates were needed for 2012 for the processor, memory and hard drive requirements, and the accessories list.

After careful consideration, the Committee determined that netbooks or tablets are still not, at this juncture, a suitable substitute for a laptop (as a student's primary computing system). This issue will be revisited for 2013/2014 to determine if the policy will need to be modified.

The requirements and the Student Computer Ownership Guide were presented to students as a handout and web link at FASET and other orientation programs, and are posted on the Student Computer Ownership Committee website at: http://www.sco.gatech.edu.

The Student Computer Ownership (SCO) website (http://www.sco.gatech.edu) was also revised, and reflects the latest revisions to the policies and guidelines. A major revision of the SCO website is underway. The site will be reformatted to the Georgia Tech template, and content is being added and revised to provide supplementary information to students, parents and relevant units within Georgia Tech.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Critz, Chair, 2011-2012 Student Computer Ownership Committee

<u>**ADDENDUM:**</u>

<u>**Hardware Requirements**</u>:
The computer should be fast enough and have enough memory and disk space to provide satisfactory performance over a usable life of at least two to three years. All student computers should have the following components:

Form Factor: Notebook. (A netbook or tablet should not be used as the primary computing device.*) A minimum of 2 hours of battery life is required.

Processor: 64 bit Multi-core processor or better.**

Memory: 4 - 8 GB or more. For best performance, we recommend that you install as much memory as affordable at the time of purchase.

Primary Hard Drive: 128GB solid state drive or 250GB hard disk drive or larger.

Backup Device or Service: For local backup, an external hard drive with double the size of the internal hard drive or a subscription to a cloud based backup solution like Crashplan is highly recommended.

Networking: Wireless 802.11n capable.

Recovery options: It is highly recommended that all computers include a recovery partition or recovery utility that allows quick restoration of the factory image should a re-installation be necessary. If the system does not have a recovery partition, then students should have their software media with them in the event a re-installation is necessary.

Accessories (optional):
- An external DVD writer
- USB flash drive
- Ethernet cable
- Laptop anti-theft cable lock
- An external webcam may also be useful for some applications, as well as a USB microphone and headphones
- Dongles for connecting to an external display or projection device may also be required
- Typical connectivity to a projection system is VGA, but newer rooms have DVI and/or HDMI connections. Video adapters for notebooks, tablets or other mobile devices are not provided by the Institute.

*Note that most netbooks and tablets (e.g. Apple iPad, Galaxy Tab and others that run on an operating system designed specifically for the device) do NOT meet the minimum hardware requirements above. While they may initially provide sufficient performance for basic tasks such as web browsing or simple word processing, use of technical software in courses may not be possible.

**The use of VLab (a Virtual Lab that provides GT students a way to access 'virtual machines' on campus and use software such as MATLAB and AutoCAD from any computer with Internet access) does not diminish these requirements.

<u>Software Requirements</u>:

Windows Systems

Operating System
Microsoft Windows 7 (32-bit or 64-bit) Home Premium or Professional. Refer to: http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/compare/default.aspx for a Microsoft OS comparison guide.

Note: Included with new computer purchase.

Email

My GaTech (can be used with any web browser)

Note: Online at http://my.gatech.edu/. No purchase or installation required.

Data Backup

Microsoft Windows Backup

Note: Included as part of Windows 7. Requires external hard drive.

Optional: Gatech.crashplan.com – unlimited back-up and storage for a fee (currently 5 yrs/$157 for 1 computer).

Security

McAfee VirusScan & Antispyware Enterprise 8.8

Note: Free to students. Download at http://software.oit.gatech.edu.
The Technology Support Center currently supplies McAfee at no cost for student use. As an alternative, free scanning software is also acceptable - examples include Microsoft Security Essentials or AVG.

Word Processor, Spreadsheet, Presentation Software

Microsoft Office 2010 *or* OpenOffice.org

Note: Purchase Microsoft Office at the Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech or other vendors. Download OpenOffice for free at http://www.openoffice.org.

Windows Live Movie-Maker

Available at no cost through Microsoft Download Center.

Mac OS X Systems

Operating System

Apple Mac OS X 10.7 (Lion) or better (Snow Leopard 10.6 is still acceptable at this time.)

Note: Included with new computer purchase.

Email

My GaTech (can be used with any web browser)

Note: Online at http://my.gatech.edu/. No purchase or installation required.

Data Backup

Apple Time Machine

Note: Included with Mac OS X. Requires external hard drive.

Optional: Gatech.crashplan.com – unlimited back-up and storage for a fee (currently 5 yrs/$157 for 1 computer).

Security

McAfee VirusScan 9.0

Note: Free to students. Download at http://software.oit.gatech.edu.
The Technology Support Center currently supplies McAfee at no cost for student use. As an alternative, free scanning software is also acceptable – an example would include Sophos.

Word Processor, Spreadsheet, Presentation Software

Microsoft Office 2011 *or* OpenOffice.org

Note: Purchase Microsoft Office at Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech or through the links at software.oit.gatech.edu. Download OpenOffice for free at http://www.openoffice.org.

Quicktime

Macs should come with this application already loaded.

Windows Compatibility

Windows compatibility software is not required campus-wide. However, some classes may require the use of specific, Windows-only applications. Students in these classes choosing to use Mac OS X systems can use Apple's Boot Camp solution to run Windows at native speed or install virtualization software (Parallels Desktop 6 or VMware Fusion 3 or Virtual Box (free)) and a fully licensed copy of Microsoft Windows 7 in order to run Windows applications.

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