Georgia Institute of Technology

Student Computer Ownership Committee

2012-2013 Annual Report

October 22, 2013

3 - 5:00 p.m.

Student Center Theater

Fall Meeting of the General Faculty, General Faculty Assembly, & Academic Senate

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

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

Executive Board Liaison: Michael Gamble

Student Representative: Berry, Alex   Fresh. Student Rep.

Chair: Lori Critz (Library) served as Chair of the Committee for 2012-2013.

Meetings: The Committee met on the following dates: September 12, 2012; March 15, 2013; September 4, 2013. Considerable work was also conducted virtually.

Summary: The primary work of the Committee was the development of the 2013/2014 Student Computer Ownership Guide. The Committee determined the hardware and software requirements for undergraduate students in collaboration with the Office of Information Technology (both the OIT Technology Support Center staff and the OIT Classroom Support Group), ResNet and Barnes & Noble @ GT. Five drafts of the Student Computer Ownership Guide were developed in this iterative process, and the final document was distributed in late March 2013. 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, and virus protection.

The Committee determined 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. 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. Therefore, netbooks or tablets are still not, at this juncture, a suitable substitute for a laptop (as a student's primary computing system).

Recommendations from the Committee that have been incorporated in the 2013/2014 Student Computer Ownership Guide and policy include:

- Clarification on VLab: "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. Your system will still need to independently support the required software."

- Requirement for 8 GB minimum memory instead of the previous 4 – 8 GB range requirement

- Removal of references to McAfee for anti-virus/security protection; recommendation added to use the freely available options (AVG or Security Essentials for PC; Sophos for Mac)

- Operating System requirement set to Microsoft Windows 7 (64-bit) or newer version

- More explicit details regarding password security

- Networking requirement set to Dual-Band (2.4 GHz/5 GHz) Wireless 802.11n capable.

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.

A major revision of the Student Computer Ownership (SCO) website (http://www.sco.gatech.edu) was completed in July 2013. The site was migrated to Drupal to allow for real-time updates. Additional information on the charge and role of the Student Computer Ownership Committee has also been added along with the latest revisions to the policies and guidelines.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Critz, Chair, 2012-2013 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: 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: Dual-Band (2.4 GHz/5 GHz) 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):
                              - Dongles for connecting to an external display or projection device may be required
                                      -All classrooms on campus utilize VGA as the standard connectivity option
                              for projection systems and mini-jack for audio; and newer classrooms may also have
                              DVI and/or HDMI connections. Video adapters for notebooks, tablets or other
                              mobile devices are not provided by the Institute. (See classrooms.gatech.edu for
                              information on classroom support resources.)
                              -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

*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

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use software such as MATLAB and AutoCAD from any computer with Internet access) does not diminish these requirements. (See mydesk.gatech.edu for the Citrix Access Gateway to VLab.) Your system will still need to independently support the required software.

Software Requirements:

The standard software suite for both Mac OSX and Windows 7 is as follows:

Windows Systems

Operating System

Microsoft Windows 7 (64-bit) or newer version.

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/$211 for 1 computer).

Security

The Technology Support Center and ResNet recommends and supports Microsoft Security Essentials (http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/security-essentials-download) or AVG (http://www.avg.com/us-en/free-antivirus-download) to help guard against viruses, spyware, and other malicious software.

Word Processor, Spreadsheet, Presentation Software

Microsoft Office 365 University *or* OpenOffice.org

Note: Purchase Microsoft Office at the Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech ($89.98 for students – for a 4 year subscription exclusively for eligible higher education students, faculty and staff which allows for use on 2 PCs or Macs plus select mobile devices, and the ability to get the latest versions of the Office apps and access to Cloud Services) 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 10.8 (Mountain Lion) or newer version (Lion 10.7 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/$211 for 1 computer).

Security

The Technology Support Center and ResNet recommends and supports Sophos, a free scanning software. (See: http://www.sophos.com/en-us/)

Word Processor, Spreadsheet, Presentation Software

Microsoft Office 365 University *or* OpenOffice.org

Note: Purchase Microsoft Office at Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech ($89.98 for students – for a 4 year subscription exclusively for eligible higher education students, faculty and staff which allows for use on 2 PCs or Macs plus select mobile devices, and the ability to get the latest versions of the Office apps and access to Cloud Services) or other vendors. Download OpenOffice for free at http://www.openoffice.org.

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.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Critz, Chair, 2012-2013 Student Computer Ownership Committee