

Student Computer Ownership (SCO) Committee

2010-2011 Annual Report

Members:

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

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

Student Members: Jordan Webb; Ivan Morales

Executive Board Liaison: Jeff Jenkins (GTRI)

Chair: Lori Critz (Library) served as Chair of the Committee for 2010-2011.

Meetings: The Committee met on the following dates: August 31, 2010; February 24, 2011; March 1, 2011; March 18, 2011. Considerable work was also conducted virtually.

Summary: The primary work of the Committee was the development of the 2011 Student Computer Ownership Guide. The process was participatory, inclusive and iterative. Input was solicited from various units on campus, and from numerous student groups. In addition to the determination of the minimum hardware and software requirements (with a two to three year life cycle) for required laptops, the Committee addressed purchasing options for students, support options (including the life cycle for GT support), security guidelines, warranty recommendations, virus protection, and computer ownership financial aid information. The Committee set the hardware and software requirements in consultation with OIT, Barnes & Noble @ GT, and Auxiliary Services/ResNET. It was determined that updates were needed for 2011 for the processor, memory and hard drive requirements.

After careful consideration, the Committee determined that netbooks or tablets are not, at this juncture, a suitable substitute for a laptop (as a student's primary computing system).

The requirements and Guide were presented to students as a handout 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 completely revised, and reflects the latest revisions to the policies and guidelines.

ADDENDUM:

Hardware Requirements:

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

Processor: Dual core or Quad core; 2.0 GHz 64-bit, or better.**

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

Primary Hard Drive: 250 GB or larger hard drive.

External Hard Drive: Double the size of the internal hard drive.

Networking: Wireless 802.11n capable.

Accessories (optional): DVD writer, USB flash drive, Ethernet cable, and laptop anti-theft cable lock. Webcams may also be useful for some applications.

*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. Your system will still need to independently support the required software.

Software Requirements:

Windows Systems

Operating System

Microsoft Windows 7 64-bit Home Premium or Professional.

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

Security

McAfee VirusScan & Antispyware Enterprise 8.7i

Note: Free to students. Download at <http://software.oit.gatech.edu>.

Word Processor, Spreadsheet, Presentation Software

Microsoft Office 2010 *or* OpenOffice.org

Mac OS X Systems

Operating System

Apple Mac OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard) or better

Note: Included with new computer purchase.

Email

My GaTech (can be used with any web browser)

Data Backup

Apple Time Machine (Included with MAC OSX – requires external hard drive.)

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

Security

McAfee VirusScan 9.0

Word Processor, Spreadsheet, Presentation Software

Microsoft Office 2011 *or* 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 will need virtualization software (Parallels Desktop 6 or VMware Fusion 3) and a copy of Microsoft Windows 7 in order to run Windows applications.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Critz, Chair, 2010-2011 Student Computer Ownership Committee