

Introduction

CaTS publishes equipment guidelines to assist colleges and departments in identifying computer systems that should be replaced as part of a normal equipment lifecycle. Computers are categorized by both performance capabilities and age, to identify equipment that may be of higher risk of failure.

These guidelines departments manage equipment inventories and plan for upgrades and replacements as part of a normal budget cycle. Warranty coverage plays a key role; Desktop PCs from CaTS recommended suppliers typically come with a 5-year warranty and laptops with a 3-year warranty. Non-supported equipment with shorter warranties may be at higher risk of costly repairs during their usable life. Apple Macintosh systems come with a standard 1-year warranty, but can be upgraded to a 3-year warranty with the purchase of an AppleCare Protection Plan.

For information about the purchase of new computer systems, pricing and configuration information, please visit the Purchasing Guides section of the CaTS website, <http://www.wright.edu/cats/purchase/>.

These guidelines are organized into ranges so that you can make informed long-term plans. Rather than a simple good/bad standard, departments can judge the computing requirements of their individual faculty and staff and place systems where they are most needed.

The information presented here may be somewhat complex, so if you have any questions, please contact the CaTS Help Desk to arrange a consultation.

RED ZONE

Strongly advised to replace

DESKTOPS

Average age: 5-7 years

Windows OS: XP Pro
MacOS: MacOS X 10.3

Pentium 4 2.0GHz processor
Mac PowerPC G4/G5
512mb RAM

LAPTOPS

Average age: 4+ years

Windows OS: XP Pro
MacOS: MacOS X 10.3

Mobile Pentium 4 or
Intel Core, Core Duo processor
512mb RAM

ANALYSIS

Performance of key applications (Office, browsers, WINGS, Banner, anti-virus) will be measurably slower on equipment in this category. Required hardware upgrades (RAM, hard drive, screen, etc) may exceed the value of the system.

Current applications and security software may not be available on older operating systems or may have a noticeable impact on start up times and responsiveness.

Out of warranty systems may be at higher risk of hardware failure or data corruption.

Macs with G4/G5 processors may have difficulty running some software and may experience sluggish performance with web browsers and plug-ins.

YELLOW ZONE

Plan for replacement

DESKTOPS

Average age: 4-5 years

Windows OS: XP Pro
MacOS: MacOS X 10.4

Intel Core2Duo processor or
Pentium 4 3GHz processor
1gb RAM

LAPTOPS

Average age: 3-4 years

Windows OS: XP Pro
MacOS: MacOS X 10.4

Mobile Pentium 4 or
Intel Core2Duo processor
1gb RAM

ANALYSIS

Performance of applications (Office, Banner) may be slow, but functional. Fewer applications can be run at the same time.

Systems in this category are reaching the end of warranty coverage and may be at higher risk of hardware failure or data corruption.

May be suitable for lighter use areas such as lab/data entry stations, e-mail stations or users with limited needs, otherwise they should be targeted for replacement in the next 12 months.

Most Mac systems in this category will be out of warranty. (If purchased, AppleCare extended warranty package is 3 years.)

GREEN ZONE

Recommended **minimum**

DESKTOPS

Average age: 1-3 years

Windows OS: XP Pro
MacOS: MacOS X 10.5

Intel Core2Duo 2GHz processor
2gb RAM

LAPTOPS

Average age: 1-3 years

Windows OS: XP Pro
MacOS: MacOS X 10.4

Intel Core2Duo processor
2gb RAM

ANALYSIS

Standard applications (Office, WINGS, WebCT, Banner) will be well supported in this category.

Performance may be enhanced with additional memory or a larger display.

Check Your ASSET TAG – University-recommended PCs include an asset tag. For desktops this is typically on the right-hand side of the unit and for laptops it is usually found on the underside. The tag includes the warranty end date. CaTS recommends planning for replacement near this date.

Historical PC Configurations

	Windows Desktop	Windows Laptop
1 year old January 2009	HP dc7900 Intel Core 2 Duo 3.0 GHz 2gb RAM	HP EliteBook 6930 Intel Core 2 Duo 2.4 GHz 2gb RAM
2 years old January 2008	HP dc7800 Intel Core 2 Duo 2.33 GHz 1gb RAM	HP 6910p Intel Core 2 Duo 2 GHz 1gb RAM
3 years old January 2007	HP/Compaq dc7700 Intel Core 2 Duo 1.86 GHz 1gb RAM	HP/Compaq nc6400 Intel Core 2 Duo 1.83 GHz 512mb RAM
4 years old January 2006	MPC ClientPro 375 Pentium 4 3.0 GHz 512mb RAM	MPC Transport T2300 Intel Pentium M Mobile 1.6 GHz 512mb RAM
5 years old January 2005	MPC ClientPro 365 Pentium 4 3.0 GHz 512mb RAM	MPC Transport T2200 Intel Pentium M Mobile 1.6 GHz 512mb RAM
6 years old January 2004	MPC ClientPro 345 Pentium 4 2.8 GHz 256mb RAM	HP/Compaq nx9010 Pentium 4 Mobile 256mb RAM

OS Quick Reference Guide

No Longer Supported

Discontinued operating systems

Windows 95, 98, ME, 2000, etc
Windows Home Editions

MacOS X 9.x and prior
MacOS X 10.2 and prior

Currently Supported

Operating systems currently in use

Windows XP Pro
Windows Vista Enterprise

MacOS X 10.3, 10.4, 10.5

Under Review

Evaluation for future support

Windows 7 Pro 64-bit
for possible adoption, fall 2010

MacOS X 10.6 Snow Leopard
for possible adoption, early 2010

Information about OS support levels is presented as of January 1, 2010 and subject to change. Support for new operating system versions will be announced to the university as the review and compatibility testing process is completed.

Stay Patched and Protected - Systems should be connected to university Windows/Mac update servers and fully patched. Installation of McAfee anti-virus software is also recommended.