

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 help 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.

Important Note for 2012

From 2000-2006 Omnitech/MPC was the university's preferred PC supplier, however in 2007 the company went out of business and ceased providing warranty repair coverage. Any MPCs purchased by the university during that time are now at least 6 years old. CaTS strongly recommends replacing any remaining MPC computers within your department. These systems are at higher risk of failure and potential data loss.

Additional Resources and References

CaTS Purchasing Guides for New Computers
<http://www.wright.edu/cats/purchase>

Software Licensing
<http://www.wright.edu/cats/sw>

CaTS Policies and Procedures
<http://www.wright.edu/cats/policy>

RED ZONE

Strongly advised to replace

DESKTOPS

Average age: 5-7 years

Windows OS: XP Pro
MacOS: MacOS X 10.4

Pentium 4 or
Intel Core processor
512mb RAM

LAPTOPS

Average age: 4+ years

Windows OS: XP Pro
MacOS: MacOS X 10.4

Mobile Pentium 4 or
Intel Core, Core Duo
1gb 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.

YELLOW ZONE

Plan for replacement

DESKTOPS

Average age: 4-5 years

Windows OS: XP Pro
MacOS: MacOS X 10.4

Intel Core2Duo
1gb RAM

LAPTOPS

Average age: 3-4 years

Windows OS: XP Pro
MacOS: MacOS X 10.4

Intel Core2Duo
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
2gb RAM

LAPTOPS

Average age: 1-3 years

Windows OS: XP Pro
MacOS: MacOS X 10.5

Intel Core2Duo
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 HP 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 2011	HP Elite 8000/8100 Intel Core 2 Duo 3.0 GHz 4gb RAM	HP EliteBook 8440 & 8540 Intel Core 2 Duo 2.4 GHz 4gb RAM
2 year old January 2010	HP dc8000 Intel Core 2 Duo 3.0 GHz 4gb RAM	HP EliteBook 6930 & 8530 Intel Core 2 Duo 2.4 GHz 4gb RAM
3 year old January 2009	HP dc7900 Intel Core 2 Duo 3.0 GHz 2gb RAM	HP EliteBook 6930 & 8530 Intel Core 2 Duo 2.4 GHz 2gb RAM
4 years old January 2008	HP dc7800 Intel Core 2 Duo 2.33 GHz 1gb RAM	HP 6910 & 8510 Intel Core 2 Duo 2 GHz 1gb RAM
5 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
6 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
7 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

OS Quick Reference Guide

No Longer Supported	Currently Supported	Under Review
Discontinued operating systems	Operating systems currently in use	Evaluation for future support
Windows 95, 98, ME, 2000, etc Windows Home Editions	Windows XP Pro limited support* Windows 7 64-bit Enterprise	No new operating system releases currently under review.
Windows Vista	MacOS X 10.4** released 2005.04 MacOS X 10.5 released 2007.10 MacOS X 10.6 released 2009.08 MacOS X 10.7 released 2011.07	OS support levels are presented as of January 1, 2012 and subject to change. Support for new operating system versions will be announced as the review and compatibility testing process is completed.
MacOS X 9.x and prior MacOS X 10.3 and prior	* XP no longer supported on new PCs **Certain applications may require 10.5 or greater	

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