The College of Engineering supports a vast array of computing hardware. The efficiency of the support provided though varies depending on the hardware in question. Some hardware must be sent out for repair while others can be serviced on-site. The College has a working relationship with several major PC manufacturers as well as several vendors of new, discontinued, and remanufactured hardware components. This enables the College to efficiently purchase and support the majority of computing hardware currently in use within the College.

The following are preferred brands and models as well as *minimum* recommended specifications for common computer hardware purchases within the College.

**Desktop PCs for administrative use**

Specifications:
- 1.8GHz Intel processor (non-Celeron)
- 1GB RAM
- 80GB SATA Hard Disk
- 18” Monitor with resolution of 1280x1024 (or greater)
- 3 year warranty

Brands/models:
- Dell Optiplex-series desktop PCs
- HP/Compaq DC and RP series desktop PCs
- Gateway – due to changes in Gateway’s business methodology enacted in July 2008, Gateway is no longer a preferred manufacturer.

**Desktop PCs for Engineering application/Research use**

Specifications:
- Intel Core 2 Duo processor w/ 6MB cache
- 2GB RAM
- 250GB SATA Hard Disk
- ATI, Matrox, or Nvidia display adapter with 256MB memory
- 18” Monitor with resolution of 1280x1024 (or greater)
- 3 year warranty

Brands/models:
- Dell Optiplex-series and Precision-series desktop PCs
- HP/Compaq DC-series desktop PCs
- Gateway – due to changes in Gateway’s business methodology enacted in July 2008, Gateway is no longer a preferred manufacturer.
Notebook PCs

Specifications:
- 1.8GHz Intel processor
- 1GB RAM
- 80GB Hard Disk
- 802.11n wireless
- 3 year warranty

Brands/models:
- Dell Latitude series notebooks
- IBM/Lenovo Thinkpad series notebooks
- HP/Compaq business notebooks
- Toshiba Portege/Satellite Pro/Tecra notebooks
- Gateway – due to changes in Gateway’s business methodology enacted in July 2008, Gateway is no longer a preferred manufacturer.

Note: There are many subtle and not-so-subtle differences between brands and even within the same notebook product lines. Please feel free to contact ATS for assistance with narrowing down which notebook PC would work best for your situation.

Printers

Brands/models:
- HP LaserJet printers
- HP Color LaserJet printers
- Konica/Minolta Magicolor laser printers
- Brother HL-series network-ready laser printers

Note: Due to the recent falling costs of laser printers, the increasing image quality of color laser printer output, and the maintenance issues involved with inkjet printers, we no longer recommend the purchase of any inkjet printers except under very specific circumstances (printing onto non-standard media, etc).

Operating Systems and Application Software

The standard set of software that the College installs onto new PCs is:
- Windows XP Professional w/Service Pack 3
- Microsoft Office 2007 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)
- Mozilla Firefox web browser
- Mozilla Thunderbird email client
- Adobe Acrobat Reader

a) Although Windows XP Professional is still the preferred operating system within the College, some newer PCs are not compatible with Windows XP, in which case we’ll install either Windows Vista Business or Windows Vista Enterprise depending on the situation.

b) Although the PC manufacturers usually sell a version of Windows and optionally the MS Office suite with new PCs, the College of Engineering is already site licensed for both. Avoid purchasing MS Office with new PCs and purchase whichever operating system is the least expensive. For example, if Windows XP Home Basic is the least expensive option, go ahead and choose it. When the PC arrives, your departmental technician will reformat the hard disk and start over with the above set of standard operating systems and software. This applies to both desktop PCs and notebook PCs.

If you have any questions regarding any information contained within this document or other general purchasing questions, please contact us via phone: 313.577.3824 or via email: ats@eng.wayne.edu