Computing Purchasing Guidelines

Computer Purchase & Inventory Information
(Information Resources Use and Security Policy - Section 19.6)
All units are required to have their local IT Systems Custodian(s) participate in processing (e.g., inventory, standards verification, configuration) of all IT procurements (e.g., network-capable computing devices and large dollar or high risk software). This includes but is not limited to any university owned devices that have the ability to store university data or use the university wired or wireless networks. Examples of these types of computing devices include but are not limited to: laptops, desktop computers, servers, network-attached storage devices, and tablet devices.

All units creating purchase orders or pro-card transactions for IT procurements will ensure IT Systems Custodians are aware of desired purchase, approve equipment selection, and are aware of user delivery destination.

For assistance with system configurations or quotes, please email help@ece.utexas.edu with your desired options. ECE-IT will coordinate with various vendors to leverage higher-education pricing, warranty options, and ensure your system meets the minimum hardware standards.

The University currently has agreements with Dell, Lenovo, SHI, and CDW-G.

Purchasing from UT Market: https://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/frms/utmarket/login/create/

**Computing equipment purchased that does not meet university standards or compliance, and is not granted an exception for production use, may need to be returned or not placed on the UT network (wired and/or wireless)**

**Click here for a list of recommended computing devices that meet University compliance.**

Hardware Requirements/Guidelines

For Windows-based systems, the guidelines below will assist with system performance, security, and university compliance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Processor</th>
<th>Security Features*</th>
<th>Operating Systems (Windows)**</th>
<th>Warranty (preferred)***</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Desktops</td>
<td>Intel Core i5/i7</td>
<td>TPM - Required</td>
<td>Windows 10 Pro/Enterprise</td>
<td>3 or 4 year accidental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laptop/Ultrabook/2-in1 Tablets</td>
<td>Intel Core i5/i7</td>
<td>TPM - Required</td>
<td>Windows 10 Pro/Enterprise</td>
<td>3 or 4 year accidental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workstations</td>
<td>Intel Xeon</td>
<td>TPM - Required</td>
<td>Windows 10 Pro/Enterprise</td>
<td>3 or 4 year accidental</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*TPM hardware is required to leverage native encryption with Bitlocker
**A supported operating system is also required to implement Bitlocker (home version are not supported)
***Not all vendors offer a 3 or 4 year accidental coverage plan. For example, Microsoft may only offer a maximum 2 year coverage plan

**Note:** To read further on encryption, supported hardware, operating systems, and upgrade paths, please visit our wiki page on encryption

Network Capable Devices

**These type of computing devices can range from a variety of hardware connected to the UT wired (physical wall port) or wireless network.**

Examples of such devices include:

- Network Attached Storages (NAS) devices (e.g., Synology DiskStations)
- Programmable microcontroller development boards (e.g., ZedBoard)
- Consumer-based network switches, hubs, routers, wireless-access points (e.g., D-Link, Linksys, Netgear devices) These should never be purchased and/or placed on the network without approval from IT (Network Operations Manual)
- Embedded systems used for complex/specialized applications and prototyping (e.g., National Instruments cRIO-9082)

**Although some of these devices are necessary for academic or research purposes, ECE-IT must be informed of all acquired equipment, especially if it will reside on the UT network.**