



Standard Workstation & Operating System Guidelines

Purpose

To establish a standard for desktop/laptop purchases at Albany State University to a common workstation operating system, thereby greatly simplifying technical support requirements; providing opportunities for interoperability and compatibility between department programs and systems and lowering overall support expenses.

Policy

Speed, memory, and a stable operating platform become increasingly important with the applications in use today. Standardizing on a 32-bit operating system will support faster processing, access to more memory, and better memory management. Support of desktop operating systems constitutes a large portion of Albany State University's technology infrastructure support costs. The more desktop operating systems supported, the higher the University's costs for technology infrastructure support.

I. Scope

This policy applies to all divisions and departments seeking to purchase new workstations for use on the Albany State University network. Non-wintel platform workstations or specialized workstations are not within the scope of this Standard.

II. Definition of Terms

Wintel—A term describing any computer platform consisting of some version of Microsoft Windows running on an Intel 80x86 processor or compatible.

Workstation—A wintel platform desktop or laptop general-purpose computer deployed to University knowledge (i.e. business or office) workers. Computers used by developers and other high end or specialized users may differ from this definition and therefore are not required to adhere to this standard.

III. Introduction

While Windows operating systems are all proprietary operating systems, they dominate the desktop computer operating system market and have become de facto standards. Other competing operating systems command much smaller shares of the desktop operating systems market and are not expected to gain mass acceptance in the near term.

IV. Current Standard

For the desktop workstation OS, the 32-bit Windows XP workstation is the standard operating system standard for Albany State University and is recommended for departments and divisions purchasing new desktop or notebook computers. This version of Windows operating system can effectively be used on both desktops and laptops.

V. Emerging Trends and Architectural Directions

A. Windows Vista was released to the public on January 30, 2007 and is under review for inclusion under this standard.



B. Due to the increased capabilities of modern processors and motherboards, migration to a 64-bit standard is under review for inclusion under this standard.

C. Use of the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (EA) is suggested

VI. Definition of Users

There are three types of end users in the Albany State University Community and purchasing guidelines for their workstations should follow along these basic guidelines.

i. Developers: Developers are those members of the University community who are responsible for programming, maintaining, and developing the systems the University community depends upon for the efficient flow of business. Specifically, Developers can be identified by the following characteristics:

1. Works directly in an enterprise system or on the network six to eight hours per day.
2. Works in a system that requires a great deal of memory and processing power.
3. Utilize multiple windows and sessions in order to test and maintain the University computing system.

ii. Power Users: Power users are those members of the University community who utilize advanced functions and programs which are outside the reach of normal users due to the complexity and advanced knowledge required to perform these tasks. Specifically, Power users can be identified by the following characteristics:

1. Works directly in an enterprise system or on the network six to eight hours per day.
2. Works in a system that requires a great deal of memory and processing power.

iii. Standard Users: Standard users are those members of the University community who do not utilize enterprise systems or network systems on a daily basis and whose computing needs do not require a great deal of memory or processing power.

VII. Restrictions

A. Previous Versions of Windows: Departments and Divisions should not install Windows 95, 98 or NT on new workstations and should eliminate their use on existing computers, where practical and feasible

B. Other Operating Systems: Linux OS is not an approved OS for the desktop and laptop computer categories. Macintosh systems will require a request for exemption from the CIO.

VIII. Other—Review Cycle

6 month full review with continuous monitoring.



Appendix A Guidelines for Purchasing New Computers

*These are minimum guidelines only.

	Standard Users	Power Users	Developers
Processor	800 MHz 32-bit (x86)	1.0 GHz 32-bit (x86)	2.0 GHz on 64-bit (x64)
Memory	512 MB RAM	1 GB RAM	2 GB RAM
Graphics card	DirectX 9 capable	DirectX 9 capable	DirectX 9 capable
Graphics memory	N/A	128 MB RAM	128 MB RAM
HDD capacity	20 GB	30 GB	40 GB
HDD free space	15 GB	15 GB	15 GB
Other drives	DVD-ROM	DVD-ROM	DVD-RW