Heinz College
Laptop Requirements

April 2015

Policy Statement
All Heinz College students enrolled in a full time degree program are required to have a laptop at the beginning of the semester through graduation.

It is highly recommended that part time students have a laptop at the beginning of the semester or when the degree program requires the use of a laptop. Some courses may require the use of a laptop. Please read the syllabus for each course for the requirements.

Minimum Hardware Specifications
In order to be successful at Heinz, your laptop must meet the minimum hardware specifications below. We strongly recommend you buy a laptop that meets the recommended specifications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Recommended</th>
<th>NOT recommended and/or not supported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Processor</strong></td>
<td>Intel Core i5 2.2 GHz or better, dual-core</td>
<td>Intel Core i5 2.4 or better</td>
<td>Pentium ULV processor; Intel Atom or like processor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RAM</strong></td>
<td>4 GB</td>
<td>8 GB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hard Drive</strong></td>
<td>250 GB</td>
<td>350GB</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wireless</strong></td>
<td>802.11n</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Operating System</strong></td>
<td>Windows 7 or 8 Pro: 64 bit (English Language) or greater</td>
<td>Windows 7 or 8 Pro, Business, Enterprise, or Ultimate: 64 bit (English Language) or greater</td>
<td>Windows Vista, Windows Home (except Home Premium), Linux, OS in any non-English language, Windows 8 RT, Windows 8 Basic Mac OSX (See Mac section below), 32 bit OS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Warranty</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Yes, for your enrollment period</td>
<td></td>
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Unsupported Equipment: iPad, iPhone, smart phones or like devices; Kindles, Nook, netbooks, and tablet PCs without keyboards (just to name a few). Any questions about supported equipment can be emailed to Heinz-computing@andrew.cmu.edu.

Laptop Older than 2 years?
If your laptop is two years old, it might meet the specifications listed above. It depends on whether you bought a gaming or a basic productivity laptop. If your computer is 3 years old, it likely will not meet the specifications. If your laptop is 4 years old, it is highly unlikely to meet the specifications.

We do not have physical computers for public use in Hamburg Hall. Your laptop is your primary computing platform. In order for you to be successful, please review the laptop requirements guideline prior to your arrival.

Operating System

Windows

We only support Windows 7 Professional/Business/Enterprise/Ultimate and Windows 8 Pro/Enterprise. We do not support Windows Vista or any other version of Windows. If you are unable to buy a laptop with a supported operating system, we suggest one of the following:

• Contact the manufacturer and ask for a copy for one of the supported operating systems listed above.
• Dual boot your computer so you can choose to run Windows 7/8 at startup. This option is for advanced users only. Please be advised that data loss can occur while attempting to setup your computer for dual boot and that all precautions including backups should be taken.
• Virtualization: See virtualization section below.

Mac OS X

We do not recommend Mac OSX. Some of our core courses require software only available on Windows OS. Some of our students with Macs have reported difficulty completing assignments with Mac OSX. Unless you are very comfortable with hardware virtualization and installing Windows on Mac OS and have a Mac computer with 8GB RAM or greater, we do not recommend you use a Mac for your primary computing platform.

If you do decide to use Mac OSX, you have been warned. We do provide support for Mac OS X 10.9 or greater. You will need to install Windows, we recommend setting up Boot Camp (http://www.apple.com/support/bootcamp/) to dual boot with
Windows 7 Pro. You can download Windows 7 from Dreamspark.
http://www.cmu.edu/computing/software/all/dreamspark/

Virtualization

This section is optional. You only need to install virtualization if you have an unsupported operating system or want to run Windows-only programs on Mac OS X.

Download VirtualBox (http://www.virtualbox.org/) (or your favorite virtual hypervisor) for Mac OS X or Windows. The host laptop must have at least 4 GB of RAM (6 GB RAM recommended) for this option to work properly. When you install Windows 7/8 Professional in the VMWare server, you must designate at least 2.5 GB (3 GB recommended) of RAM.

Operating System Language

Some of our course software expects to see English as the operating system language and will fail to install or function correctly if other languages are used. We regret that Computing Services is unable to support laptops that are not set to the English language.

Ordering a Laptop from Carnegie Mellon

You can order a laptop from the Carnegie Mellon computer store. They offer a wide variety of manufacturers at educational discount pricing.
http://www.cmu.edu/stores/computer/

Consulting Services

Heinz Computing Services can answer any question you have about your current computer or if you are buying a new computer. Send your questions to Heinz-computing@andrew.cmu.edu.