PC/Windows Laptop

Purpose

This is a basic recommendation for PC/Windows Laptop for any purchases with regards to a Windows based computer for UCSB usage.

General Configuration

Minimum Configuration

Here is the recommended minimum configuration in general:

Light Usage

Light Usage Configuration is generally recommended for:

- Presentations
- Small Demonstrations
- Web Browsing

Here is what should be configured for a 3 to 5 year usage.

- RAM: 8 Gigs
- Hard Drive: 256 Gigs
- Warranty for Duration of computer (3 to 5 years)
- Supported operating system such as Windows 10. Windows 7 end of life is January 14, 2020 and Microsoft now charges for upgrades from Windows 7 to 10.

Long Term Usage

Long Term Configuration is meant for the following:

- Personal Work Laptop
- Portable Workstation (IE: Main computer usage)

Here is what should be configured for a 3 to 5 year usage.

- RAM: 16 Gigs
- Hard Drive: 512 Gigs
- Warranty for Duration of computer (3 to 5 years)
- Supported operating system such as Windows 10. Windows 7 end of life is January 14, 2020 and Microsoft now charges for upgrades from Windows 7 to 10.

Warranty Requirement

Due to the way laptops are built, it is highly recommended that laptops have a Warranty to cover the expected lifetime of the computer.

Most computers have a general lifetime of 3 years, with most parts considered obsolete or not worth repairing past 5 years.
Recommended Brands

The recommended brand names you should shoot for are the following:

- Dell - Available on the UC Gateway System
- HP
- Lenovo

Things to Consider...

Thinbook/Ultrabooks

The design of Thinbook/Ultrabooks focus on being light and portable.

This means that anything done with these devices are meant for Light Usage expectations.

Adapters

Most Thinbooks/Ultrabooks are also not designed to have a lot of connections, such as Ethernet or convenient video outputs.

As an example:

The Dell Latitude e7470 Ultrabook has a network connection, an HDMI connector and a mini-displayport, but no VGA.

The Lenovo Yoga 720 Only has a USB 3.0 and 2 USB-C for connections, which means you need to have an adapter to hook up to any video source.

Weight

Ultrabooks/Thinbooks are made to be light, but at the sacrifice of power and capacity.

Any laptop where you may wish to have more power or capability will end up being heavier (5+ pounds) and often bulkier as well.

In General...

We recommend also considering the following:

Optional Sticker Containing Software Serial Numbers

DELL, HP, and several other brands no longer include stickers on their machines with license keys for Windows or Microsoft Office for free if said software comes with the machine.

While this information is generally included in a email at time of purchase, it is very easy to loose email, especially if machines suffer hardware issues or viral infection.

Stickers with software licensing information are generally less that $5 for all info. Depending on the brand, users may be charged $15-$50 per email to recover keys they already paid for.

Additional Power Adapters

At least 2 additional Power Adapters:

One for the Office

One for Travel

This leaves the one with the laptop as being your 'home' one to avoid having to concern yourself with plugging/unplugging the adapter all the time.

Port Replicator

If you plan on using the laptop as a desktop computer with Keyboard/Mouse/Monitor with it, you may find having a Port Replicator helpful in having all those connections become a single connection.

Unfortunately, since each manufacturer have different connection types, we can't recommend a particular port replicator for the PC, but you can do a Google Search to cover the needs you might have.

Video Adapters
ECI cannot always cover the various video adapters out there.

We recommend that you have video adapters to cover the kind of connections that are currently on campus:

- HDMI
- VGA