The OIT Faculty-Staff Computer Life-Cycle Replacement Program

ABSTRACT

This program is a MSU-wide initiative to provide a computer for each full-time faculty and staff employee. This description is not an official description of this project, but attempts to document the parameters of this program for the College of Science and Mathematics.

SYNOPSIS

This program provides a new computer every three years, from a list of standard systems for full-time faculty and staff at MSU.

INTRODUCTION

Every full time employee at MSU who requires a computer as part of their job requirements is provided with a computer through this program. This is a relatively new program at MSU. Before this program was in place, all computers in use in the College of Science and Mathematics were purchased with the use of college or departmental funds. The computers provided through this program are fairly powerful, but may not be adequate for more intensive computing needs. CORE (the CSAM computing staff) will work on an individual basis to address any needs that fall outside the parameters of the program.

There are a number of benefits from this program. First and foremost, we are able to realize economies in scale through the use of standardized systems. We are able to obtain these systems at a significant discount due to the volume of purchases. More importantly, the majority of the cost of owning a computer comes from the maintenance and support of the device. Industry research shows that less than one-third of the total cost of ownership is represented by the actual purchase price of the device. To the extent that we are able to standardize on hardware and software configurations, enormous financial and operational benefits accrue to Montclair State University.

The parameters of this program do not apply to computers that are obtained through any of the following: startup grants, grant purchases, departmental funds and CSAM funds. However, given the numerous benefits of standardized system, we encourage the purchase of standardized systems where possible, no matter what the source of funding.

HOW DO I GET A COMPUTER THROUGH THIS PROGRAM?

There are three groups that can receive a new computer through this program - current employees without a leased system, current employees with a leased system, and newly hired employees. This program only applies to full-time employees who need a computer for job-related tasks. CORE works with OIT to obtain the new systems and handles the deployment of all systems for CSAM.

Current employees without a leased system

Since this is a new program, many current employees have computers that were purchased outside this program. Once the computer that you are using is more than three years old, you are eligible for a replacement system provided through this program. You will have to trade in your current system to receive a new computer through this program.

Current employees with a leased system

Once you have a system obtained through this program, you should expect to have that computer replaced when it is three years old. Your system must be returned at the end of the three year lease.

New employees

New people who do not already have a computer provided as part of their position will receive a new computer through this program. The new computer must be returned at the end of the three year lease.

WHAT TYPE OF COMPUTER CAN I GET?

The computers that are available through this program are specified by OIT. The exact specification of the systems will change from year to year. You can see a list of systems

that should give you a general idea of the system configurations on the following web page:

 http://oit.montclair.edu/resources/facultystaffcomputer.html

The computer that you receive may not exactly match the configuration shown on this page. From time to time, substitutions are made based on availability of systems from the vendor. In most cases, the changes will be for the better...

Basically, at any time, there will be four different computers available:

 1) A Windows desktop (currently the IBM M50)
 2) A Windows laptop (currently the IBM T41)
 3) A Mac desktop (currently the PowerMac G5 Tower)
 4) A Mac laptop (currently the 15" PowerBook G4)

WHAT IF I NEED SOMETHING ELSE?

You do not need to take the computer offered to you as part of this program. However, you will not receive anything from the University in return. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you see if you can work with the standard system before seeking other solutions. CORE can also assist if you wish to purchase system upgrades for your leased systems - for example, extra memory or a larger hard drive.

Again, this document only describes the OIT Faculty/Staff Computer Life-Cycle Replacement Program. There are many computers in CSAM that do not fall under this program.

CAN I KEEP MY OLD SYSTEM?

One of the rules of this program is that a system has to be traded in for every new system obtained through this program. We will work with you to transfer all of the data from your old system to your new systems. Once you have a leased system, it must be returned at the end of the lease.