

**P.E.I. Department of Education  
Standards Governing  
Desktop Computers on all Education Sector Networks**

Desktop computers and the network infrastructure have become essential tools for students and staff in the Prince Edward Island education system. The increased number of desktop computers and the growing demand for support services impacts on the ability of Technology in Learning staff to maintain a high quality of support service. One means of ensuring a consistent level of service is to adopt standards for the acquisition of computers and other IT hardware used in the system. Following these standards will contribute to a more responsible, dependable and supportable computing environment.

These standards will be reviewed on a regular basis. Questions should be directed to the Education Helpdesk.

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**Reasons for Using Business Class Computers**

When you make a computer purchasing decision, it is important to realize that the “business class” is very different from the “consumer line” product.

**Why are Business Class Computers different?**

- Longevity: Currently “Business class” computers provide life cycles of five to seven years. Since there is such a large install base of identical systems, “Business class” computers are supported by the manufacturer with updated drivers supporting multiple operating systems as they are required. These drivers are available on the manufacturers web site by specific model numbers and have been tested for compatibility with other components.
- Dependability: Care is spent ensuring system stability for “Business class” computers. These computers are tested for driver compatibility to a higher level than “Consumer line” products.
- Service: “Business class” computers are engineered with a standard set of components that do not change for a long period of time (1-2 years). Because the manufacturer invests in a “Business class” strategy for clients, the web site driver support and technical support documents are expanded for these systems.
- Re-Imaging: The “Consumer line” product is built with any number of components that can change from one order to the next. Computers in the same order may be built using different components, requiring different device drivers for each system. This requires building a separate re-imaging file for each variety of the same system instead of using the same image across multiple systems.
- Total cost of ownership: With “Business class” computers lowered costs of ownership are achieved through consistency and compatibility of the product. Support time and system downtime costs decrease because less time is needed to upgrade and maintain these computers compared to the “Consumer line” models

**P.E.I. Department of Education  
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New Computers on all Education Sector Networks**

Prior to purchasing any computer equipment, your site technician should be informed with the details. Technical issues may be avoided with this courtesy.

**Minimum Standards for the Acquisition of New Desktop Computers**

Systems not meeting these minimum requirements will not be connected to the network.

\*Preferred Brands: Business class systems from companies such as Compaq, HP or IBM

- Intel Pentium IV Processor
- 256 Megabytes Memory
- 2 Free PCI slots
- Network Interface Card
- Video card with 32 Megabytes Memory
- 17" SVGA Monitor
- 30 Gigabyte Hard Drive (or greater)
- Sound card
- DVD-ROM drive
- Floppy drive
- Windows XP Pro Operating System

**\*\* Modems are not permitted\*\***

Brand *must have* a website supporting the specific model of system(s), including all hardware drivers and patches for the specific model. Models must be in general distribution and not "one of a kind" systems.

Systems which do not have an internet supported model type in general distribution or are not Business class *will not be connected to the network*.

Models should not be comprised of proprietary components.

**Recommended updates**

- Extended warranty
- 19" or larger SVGA Monitor in Graphics intensive or special needs environments
- CD-ROM or DVD burner to backing up user files
- 512 Megabytes Memory

**Laptop Purchases**

For the minimum standards and recommendations for the acquisition of Laptop computers all inquires should be directed to the Education Helpdesk (368-5500) or [edu-help@edu.pe.ca](mailto:edu-help@edu.pe.ca)

**P.E.I. Department of Education  
Standards Governing  
Used Computers on all Education Sector Networks**

Prior to purchasing any computer equipment, your site technician should be informed with the details. Technical issues may be avoided with this courtesy.

**Minimum Standards for the Acquisition of Used Desktop Computers**

Systems not meeting these minimum requirements will not be connected to the network.

\* Preferred Brands: Business class systems from companies such as Compaq, HP, Dell or IBM

Intel Pentium II 350 Processor  
128 Megabytes Memory,  
SVGA Monitor  
10GB Hard Drive (minimum size required for RIMSS) or above  
Windows 98 Operating System (or Windows XP pro only if the processor speed is above 1.0 GHZ)  
Onboard Network Interface Card or D-Link DFE-530TX 10/100 MIPS  
CD-ROM drive

**\*\* Modems are not permitted\*\***

Brand *must have* a website supporting the specific model of system(s), including all hardware drivers and patches for the specific model. Models must be in general distribution and not “one of a kind” systems.

Systems which do not have an internet supported model type in general distribution or are not Business class *will not be connected to the network*.

The Department will make every effort to connect the computer to the network, but cannot guarantee a used system’s functionality or reliability.

Models should not be comprised of proprietary components.

**Used Laptop Purchases**

For the minimum standards and recommendations for the acquisition of used laptop computers all inquires should be directed to the Education Helpdesk (368-5500) or [edu-help@edu.pe.ca](mailto:edu-help@edu.pe.ca)