

Computer Replacement Policy

Spring 2016

LIT's current practice is to replace the office computers of all tenure-track faculty and full-time staff every 4 years. Computers in faculty teaching and research labs, classrooms, and open computing labs are also replaced on a 4-year schedule. The same schedule is observed for computers used by many staff that are on nine-month contracts, particularly departmental assistants. Adjunct faculty and some part-time staff are equipped with gently used computers, and every effort is made to provide the best equipment possible. When a computer is replaced with a new one, the old computer must be returned to LIT.

Beginning with the 2016-17 budget cycle, it will be LIT's practice to identify standard desktop and laptop computer configurations for the PC and Macintosh platforms that offer the best combination of performance and price. Faculty and staff who are scheduled to receive a new computer may select one of these computers. Requests for upgrades to the standard configuration must be accompanied by a justification explaining why the upgrade is necessary. In some cases, the only option for individuals who wish to request more expensive hardware will be to find supplemental funding sources.

Additional Information

As of January 2016, there were approximately 300 faculty and staff computers on LIT's regular four-year replacement schedule. Also on this schedule are approximately 270 computers in teaching and research labs, computer labs, and smart classrooms. This means that almost 140 computers are scheduled for replacement annually.

LIT has considered extending the replacement cycle to five years in order to provide budget relief. However, LIT depends on a regular supply of used computers to redeploy to adjunct faculty, part-time staff, and to various administrative office for student worker use. Old computers are also cannibalized for spare parts. We have concluded that reducing the number of used computers available for redeployment and spare parts would likely create additional challenges. Consequently, for the time being, LIT plans to stay on the present four-year replacement schedule while continuing to evaluate other options.

Reviewed and endorsed by the LIT Advisory Committee, April 2016