Greetings:

Students frequently ask the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering’s IT Professionals about computer requirements to help in their pursuit of a degree. Currently, the department has no policy requiring students to own a computer or a specific set of software; however, students will find owning a laptop computer to be highly beneficial throughout their educational experience and we highly recommend that if you are planning to purchase a laptop for school, you consider either an Apple or Dell.

To help you select an appropriate computer, one that meets the curriculum and instructional requirements of the department, we have worked with TechCyte (www.isubookstore.com/SiteText.aspx?id=2925), Iowa State University’s on-campus computer store, to negotiate enhanced computer bundles with the appropriate hardware for your computing needs. These systems are exclusively available through TechCyte at the ISU Book Store.

Apple and Dell are preferred providers and are fully supported on campus. Both companies offer multiple system configurations that may be used throughout your area of study. The bundles offered vary in price and TechCyte offers several payment options.

Why Apple products? First, Apple is fully supported on campus with a support team including a campus service center for warranty repairs. Second, the Apple OS X operating system is based on Unix, a highly sought after interface for programming. Third, Apple’s great user interface allows for multiple operating systems, including Windows, Linux, and Unix to be installed and used simultaneously on the same computer, which provides for the greatest flexibility to the end user for all computing operations. Fourth, Apple’s superbly designed computers come with several software applications and utilities preinstalled. And lastly, Apple computers lead the industry in customer satisfaction and are the most eco-friendly through their all aluminum and glass design.

Why Dell? First, Dell is fully supported on campus with a full support team for warranty repairs. Second, support for multiple operating system interfaces allow for great flexibility. Third, many of the college software offerings are Windows-only based.

Every decision is up to the individual and his or her preference. We have made arrangements through TechCyte at the ISU Book Store to have the recommended system bundles available for your in-store evaluation.

If you have any questions about the laptop recommendation, please contact TechCyte at 515-294-8357 or techcyte@iastate.edu. You can also e-mail csg@iastate.edu or phone us directly at 515-294-3031 to answer any questions that you may have.

Congratulations on your acceptance to Iowa State University and your choice to continue your education with us.

Steven Kovarik
Manager of Information Technology for the Complete Support Group