2012 Engineering CT Computer Requirements

Thank you for registering for the Project Lead the Way Core Training (CT) at Type University Name.

Due to the nature and speed of the campus network, you must take some steps to protect your computer before you arrive. In order to provide you with trouble-free computing throughout your experience at Type University Name, please follow the suggestions outlined in this document.

There are many updates that must be installed on your computer before you will be allowed to connect to the network. Be aware that having network access is a requirement of all PLTW course curricula. If you do not complete these requirements you will not be able to use the computing resources that are necessary to complete your course.

The following criteria must be met before arriving on our campus:

- Have a laptop that meets or exceeds the minimum requirements
- Install ALL critical Windows updates (Be aware that you must visit the Windows update site multiple times to fully complete this task.) Visit http://update.microsoft.com to let Microsoft perform the task automatically. This will also update you Microsoft Office Products with all the security patches.
- Download and install all required course-specific CT software as outlined on the PLTW Virtual Academy CT Participant Resource page.
  - Note: CT Participant Resource page access keys will be sent to all participants via email starting May 1st, 2012.
- Know an “Administrator” login and password (this is necessary in the event that a reload of a software is needed).
- Have a network interface card. Some colleges only have wireless, please check in advance.
- Install and update Virus detection/prevention software.
- Know the contact information for your school’s technical support department.

It is also recommended that you bring:

- An external mouse
- A 10 – 15 foot network cable (Cat5 or better).
- An external USB storage device (thumb drive or memory stick 2 GB or greater).

If you are unfamiliar with any of these terms/devices, please contact your home school’s technical support professional.
Recommended 2012 Engineering CT Computer Requirements

Project Lead The Way, working with its vendors, will recommend computer requirement each year that we estimate will run our course software for the next three years. Many schools have developed policies under which new, more powerful computers are placed in PLTW® labs, and the existing computers are moved to areas with less demanding applications. In doing this, they insure the longest useful performance of their computers.

Each teacher participating in training and teaching Project Lead The Way® courses is required to have a laptop computer for his/her use. Teachers should have Administrator rights on their computer. The teacher’s laptop must have wireless Internet in order to participate in the Core Training. Specifications for new laptops for teachers or students are as follows:

Computers should meet or exceed the specifications stated here:

1. Intel i5 or i7 or equivalent
2. 8 GIG DDR3 SDRAM Memory
3. Integrated 100 Mbps Fast Ethernet connection
4. 250 GB + 7200 RPM SATA Hard Drive
5. External VGA Port
6. DVD-CDRW Drive
7. 2 - USB Ports Minimum
8. 14.1 XGA TFT Color LCD Display or larger
9. Anti Virus software
10. Li-Ion Battery
11. Win XP Pro SP3 (32 bit), Vista (32 or 64 bit), Windows 7 Professional (32 or 64 bit), or MAC Book Pro running Bootcamp and one of the above systems
12. PCI-eXpress 256 MB dedicated RAM or greater DirectX (Direct3D) Capable graphics card (No integrated video with shared RAM. Intel Graphics chipsets are not recommended)
   Note: For further details about graphics cards, see Autodesk’s website http://www.autodesk.com/us/inventor/graphic_cards/
13. 802.11 a/g wireless
14. USB Memory Key (Memory Stick, Thumb Drive, etc.)