K-State CVM Student Computer Recommendations

The Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine believes that in order to maximize the learning experience and prepare for the medical, technological, and business challenges of the world they will be entering, our students must be proficient in the use of technology.

We are currently pursuing a student laptop initiative that, if approved, will begin in Fall of 2007. The initiative will provide each new 1st-year student enrolling at Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine their choice of a laptop or tablet PC upon their arrival to our campus. These computers will be the student's window to their education throughout the 4-year curriculum, providing access to electronic versions of all curricular materials made available via the CVM Intranet and/or K-State Online (including text, images, audio, and video), as well as serving as a communications and collaboration tool between their fellow students and their professors.

The program benefits for students and parents include:

- **Uniformity** - Students will have hardware and software that is compatible with all other veterinary students and their professors.

- **Flexibility** - Students can more effectively use computers throughout the Veterinary Medicine complex and from other locations on campus. Since the computers offer wireless access, they will provide "anytime, anywhere" convenience, enabling the students to connect to all network services and functions between the College of Veterinary Medicine and Kansas State University.

- **Support** - The computers will be under warranty, and CVM IT staff will be vendor certified and available to troubleshoot and make repairs if needed. Complete computer replacement within 24 hours will be available for catastrophic damage.

- **Value and Convenience** - The burden for students and parents on deciding which computer and what software to buy has been greatly reduced, as the computer will be furnished, configured, and maintained as part of the student's tuition. Overall cost to the student will be substantially lower than individual purchases due to buying power, academic incentives, and standardization.

Additional information on the laptop initiative will be made available in late 2006/early 2007.

In the mean time, ***all current students and those enrolling BEFORE Fall of 2007 who are contemplating a computer purchase*** may wish to consider a model similar to the ones that will be offered then. The two models listed below (or their similar replacements) will be provided through the program:

Dell Latitude D810   Gateway M280 Convertible

For those students who currently have their own computer or wish to purchase another brand, they MUST meet the following **minimum** standards in order to be supported at KSUCVM:

Laptop or TabletPC - IBM Compatible
- Macintosh computers are not supported at KSUCVM.

WindowsXP Professional or Tablet Edition Operating System
- with Service Pack 2. WindowsXP Home Edition is not recommended.

1.7 GHz Pentium M Processor or equivalent

80.0 GB Hard Drive

512 MB RAM (1GB preferred)

14-inch TFT display (12-inch for TabletPC), 4x AGP bus video, 64MB video RAM

16-bit Sound

10/100/1000Base-TX and 802.11b/g wireless network capability
- wireless access is available throughout the CVM complex and most of the K-State campus.

In addition, a basic office suite of software will be needed. The K-State Student Union offers the Microsoft Office Suite at a greatly reduced academic price to all K-State students.

Before connecting to the CVM network, please be sure to come to room 406 Trotter to have your computer configured for access. Initial setup for connection to the CVM network is free of charge and includes a virus scan, installation of the latest Windows updates and patches, and installation and configuration of the university's required anti-virus software. Configuration also includes:

- CVM Network and E-Mail account creation
- Configuration of installed network/wireless hardware
- Installation of the CVM Novell Network Client
- Installation of software required to view/run programs used for teaching at CVM

To make the setup process go smoothly, please try to have all updates and patches installed beforehand. You are also encouraged to go to the CaTS website at http://www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/cats to download and install antivirus software and perform a virus scan to be sure your computer is clean before bringing it in for configuration. If, during the configuration process, your computer is found to be infected with a virus or worm, you may be asked to have it cleaned before configuration can proceed. Please note that some infections call for a reformat of the computer's hard drive in order to be considered "clean" (see the following note on security).

IMPORTANT COMPUTER SECURITY INFORMATION:

The risk of computer viruses and worms has continues to rise, and a vulnerable machine can be attacked and compromised in a few seconds, even through a dial-up connection. To protect the university's network and resources as well as other K-Staters' systems, K-State now **requires** computers connecting to the university network to:

> 1. Install the university's site-licensed anti-virus software and have it configured to update continuously through a local server.
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> 2. Set Windows Update to check for updates daily and install critical updates automatically.

K-State actively scans its network to identify computers that are unpatched, vulnerable, or infected with a computer worm or virus. If yours is identified as such, it will be blocked from accessing the network until it has been repaired and/or patched. Once a computer is compromised, it may be necessary to reformat the computer's hard drive in order to return it to a known safe state. To help avoid this scenario, KSUCVM has adopted these additional policies:

> 3. Computers will be configured to download and install critical updates through the CVM Windows Update Server. This insures that the latest critical patches and updates are available to CVM computers even if Microsoft's servers are temporarily overloaded or unavailable, and allows the updates to be installed at times that are convenient to our users.
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> 4. Computers will be configured with a universal administrative user account and strong password. In the event of a failure of the CVM Windows Update Server, the network administrator will be able to use this account, in conjunction with Network Security software, to push critical updates and patches to vulnerable computers as necessary.
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> 5. The universal administrative account will be configured to have access via Remote Desktop, so that in the rare instance where procedures #1 and #2 fail, the network administrator can remotely log into a vulnerable machine and manually install critical updates and patches.

The network administrator will scan the CVM network on a regular basis, particularly following the release of any critical updates from Microsoft, to identify unpatched and vulnerable computers. Steps 1-3 will be followed as needed until all identified systems have been successfully updated and their vulnerabilities addressed. The configuration requirements above can be removed upon leaving the university.

K-State CVM Student Computing Resources

Students are encouraged to review the K-State Information Technology policies and the CVM Network policies and procedures.

The following computing resources are available to CVM students. If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Michaels, CaTS Director, 406 Trotter Hall, 785-313-0116. Visit the CaTS web site at http://www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/cats.

Trotter Hall Computing Lab: The Trotter Hall computing laboratory is available exclusively for CVM students, and currently contains 20 multimedia workstations. The lab can be accessed through the CVM Library on the 4th floor of Trotter Hall and is open during library hours; however it does close ½ hour before the library each evening, and is sometimes reserved for classes and special instructional purposes. The computing lab provides CVM students access to all CVM multimedia teaching programs, the Internet, the CVM Intranet, and e-mail. Student interns are available in the lab to help you with your computing questions after 5pm on selected weeknights and on weekends during the school year. There is a charge for printing in the lab. Printing credit can be purchased from ITC in Room 1 of Trotter Hall.

Teaching Lab/Wireless network connectivity: There are three computers and a networked printer installed for 24-hour student access in each of the three teaching labs in Trotter Hall. In addition, if you own your own laptop computer that meets the minimum specifications outlined at http://www.vet.k-state.edu/admit/comppur.htm, you may connect to the CVM network directly from your lab desk (if an Ethernet port is available), or from **anywhere** within the CVM complex via wireless connectivity. Check your lab desk for Ethernet availability and review the computer recommendations before purchasing an Ethernet and/or wireless adapter.

Bring your laptop to 406 Trotter Hall to have it configured for connection to the CVM network.

CVM Novell network accounts: All CVM students are given a CVM Novell network account. These accounts are to be used as the student's CVM e-mail address (username@vet.k-state.edu), and are required in order to attach to the CVM network when using personal laptops or computers in the CVM computing labs. Student network usernames are posted on the CVM web site at http://www.vet.k-state.edu and in the computing labs. Clicking on the GroupWise Web Access link on the college's home page will give you access to your CVM e-mail.

K-State campus electronic ID (eID): All K-State students are required to self-register their own eID for access to various campus computing systems and resources. eID's serve as official lifetime electronic identifiers for all faculty, staff, alumni, students, and visitors. Students may self-register their eID by visiting the eID website at http://eid.k-state.edu. In addition to providing access to various campus systems, the eID will also serve as your "official" campus e-mail address, and is used to disseminate campus-wide announcements. Since CVM students are also given CVM e-mail accounts, it is recommended that they have their campus e-mail automatically forwarded to their CVM account. E-mail auto-forwarding can be set up from the eID Personal Profile page, which is appears after logging in to the eID page (http://eid.k-state.edu).

Internet Service Providers: K-State Telecommunications is the Internet Service provider (ISP) for the K-State community, and their dial-up service is available to all K-State students. There are two dial-in rates available, ranging from $5-10/month. On-Line sign-up for this service is available at http://www.telecom.k-state.edu, or you may visit the Telecom offices at 109 East Stadium during business hours. Information on other Manhattan area ISPs, including high-speed cable and DSL Broadband services, can be located in the Manhattan Yellow Pages under "Internet Service Providers".

Remote CVM Intranet access: The CVM Intranet (internal Internet) contains course information, class syllabi, student announcements, and programs accessible only to CVM faculty, staff, and students, and access is restricted to computers connected within the CVM complex. To access the CVM Intranet from off-campus, students must use their CVM Novell username and password.

CaTS Student Computer Repair Service

Computer troubleshooting and repair services are available for a fee at locations both on and off campus, and can be found in the local Yellow Pages. However, as a convenience to our students, CaTS technical services are available to students at a cost here at KSUCVM. The following services are available by visiting Room 9 in Trotter Hall:

- **Problem Diagnosis/Troubleshooting**
- **Upgrade, optimization, peripheral installation assistance**
- **Virus/Malware Removal**
- **Data Recovery/Backup**
- **Network/Wireless Card Installation and Configuration**
- **Hardware/Software Installation**
- **Operating System Installation**

Any service request made after 7 days following initial KSUCVM network setup will be billed at the rate of $60/hr with a $30 minimum. Any repair estimate over $60 will require written approval from the student before being performed.

For hardware/software/OS installations/configurations, computer must be operational. Proof of license/ownership required where applicable.