Technology Requirements for 2007

All students at the MIT Sloan School are required to have a Windows-based computer system. Although you may purchase a desktop, you are required to use a portable notebook computer (laptop) if you would like to receive technical support from Sloan Technology Services. There are several reasons why a laptop is the preferred tool for your Sloan experience:

- Study Groups and Team Projects
- Individual use on campus to check email, calendars, SloanSpace courses, schedules, etc.
- Take advantage of the high speed wireless network
- Access to research tools
- Technical Support
- Travel

Windows XP Professional or Vista Business (English Versions only) Operating System

Sloan Technology Services will support only those computers running the U.S. English version of the Microsoft Windows XP Professional (NOT Home Edition) Service Pack 2 or Windows Vista Business operating system.

Windows XP Professional and Vista Business are both business-oriented operating systems, with improved performance and security over Windows 98, ME, NT and XP Home Edition. Sloan does not provide technical support for any versions of Windows other than Windows XP Professional or Vista Business and only for those with the English version of Windows XP Professional and Vista.

Minimum (low end) Hardware Requirement:

**Brand:** It is recommended that you choose a *brand name* system (Lenovo, Dell, HP/Compaq, Toshiba) to ensure quality technical support and quality components. Off-brand systems are often problematic and more difficult to support.

**CPU Speed:** 1.6 GHz or higher

**RAM/Memory:** 1 Gigabyte (2 G is recommended) or higher – some standard system configurations default to 512 MB Ram – check with the vendor before purchase.

**Hard Drive:** Internal Hard Drive of 60 Gigabytes or higher (100 is recommended)

**Optical Drive:** DVD/RW – the standard configuration is typically a CDRW – check with the vendor and upgrade to the DVD/RW before purchase.

**Network:** 802.11 a/b/g built-in wireless (can be either or all of said letter protocols)

**Extended Warranty:** Most machines come with a standard 1 year limited warranty. It is highly recommended that you purchase an extended warranty with any machine you purchase to at least cover the time that you will be at Sloan.

You should purchase a system with the correct Operating System (XP Pro or Vista Business in English) and not expect to upgrade your system as this will eliminate many issues you may not be prepared to support.

Note: All students are responsible for their own hardware support. STS will help diagnose problems but is unable to support hardware. MIT IS&T has on site warranty repair for Lenovo (formerly IBM) and Dell.
You will use several basic software applications at Sloan:

- Microsoft Word (word processing)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (presentation graphics)
- Microsoft Excel (spreadsheet)
- Microsoft Outlook (email)
- Internet Explorer (web browsing)
- McAfee Virus Scan (virus protection)

Sloan will provide all of this software to you so there is no need to purchase your own copy. Microsoft Office 2007 Professional will be made available to all matriculated MIT Sloan students courtesy of Sloan Technology Services via download via the IS&T software download page.

**Wireless Network**

The wireless network at MIT Sloan uses the IEEE 802.11 a/b/g technology standard. You may see this described as simply 'wireless LAN replacement' or 'high-rate or high-speed wireless.' Check the system configuration to be sure that it is 802.11 a/b/g technology. Most systems now offer built-in wireless capability available at purchase. If so, confirm that it is the 802.11 a/b/g standard.

**NOTE:** Other types of wireless technology will not work on the MIT Sloan system. Bluetooth compatible wireless cards do not work on the MIT Sloan network.

If you have chosen to live on campus you will find that all MIT dormitories are equipped with full wireless network coverage.

**Special Notes**

Each year the computer system requirements are reviewed and updated based on the technology available and the changes in how students use technology at MIT Sloan. Please keep this in mind when you speak with outside technology professionals and with current students who may have had different requirements when they entered MIT Sloan.

Please also note that these are the minimum requirements for computer use at MIT Sloan. You may choose to purchase a more powerful system with more advanced features and or additional software for your personal use.

**Purchasing a New System**

MIT and the MIT Sloan School work with a variety of vendors to obtain discounted pricing for computer systems and peripherals that are available for purchase by all MIT and MIT Sloan faculty, staff and students year round. By special arrangement, shortly after you obtain your Kerberos credentials and digital certificates you will be able to access the purchasing resources in STS – Student Technology Services Sloanspace to take advantage of the offers available where, in most cases, you will find significant discounts. Keep in mind that from time to time vendors themselves offer specially discounted items, often peripherals, if the purchase is made from their own site so be sure to check both places before you purchase. New systems are generally released by vendors in April and in November.

Please be aware that you are not limited to purchasing laptop systems from MIT Sloan vendors. The sites were built to offer student pricing on all items. If you have questions about any of the products offered, feel free to contact the designated account manager noted on the sites.

**NOTE:** The time from the order to the delivery can take anywhere from 2 days (if the system is available) to 6 weeks (for configured systems). Please speak with the specific account representative to get an estimated date for delivery and plan accordingly.