

Buying/Upgrading a Computer: What You Need as a Student at UCSF

Rob Slaughter, PhD

School of Nursing

Kirk Hudson

UCSF Library

I'll just use my home computer...

- Exceptionally Bad Idea!
 - You need to finish your paper... BUT...
 - Somebody is defending Earth from alien predators
 - Somebody is downloading “music” from iTunes
 - Somebody is updating their MYSpace profile
 - Somebody is installing the newest version of Microsoft Office
- You really need your own computer!

Top Ten Signs You Bought A Bad Computer

Aug. 15, 2006 - CBS Late Show with David Letterman

- **10.** Runs on 200 "D" batteries
- **9.** In the morning you have to defrost it
- **8.** Runs on Windows '78
- **7.** Box reads *"Pre-loaded with hundreds of viruses!"*
- **6.** Tech support number is a Silicon Valley Applebee's
- **5.** For better Internet reception, salesman includes pair of rabbit ears
- **4.** You move the pointer around by licking the screen
- **3.** It's made by IBN
- **2.** The mouse bit you
- **1.** When you tell it to print, it tells you to go screw yourself

Is It a Good Idea to Upgrade a Computer?



OK... So Let's Go Shopping

First Important Decision:



Most Students Prefer Laptops

- Cost slightly higher, but competitive
- Gives you options for mobility you just don't have with a desktop system
- Security is an issue, but with reasonable care, theft can be easily prevented
- Off the shelf network connectivity is better... virtually all laptops have wired and wireless connectivity

Second Important Decision:



Lots of Hype!

So, let's have some facts

- Market Share:
 - Overall U.S. market share 1st Qtr. 2008
 - PC 93% vs. Apple 7%
 - Laptop market share in the U.S. 1st Qtr. 2008
 - PC 95% vs. Apple 5%
- Translates to support, software availability
- PCs dominate business markets (e.g., Hospitals)
- Apples dominate “creative” markets (e.g., video production, multimedia)

Don't the “new” Macs Give Me the Best of Both Worlds

- Current generation Macs, running Intel processors allow you to run Windows as well as Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard)... but...
- You are totally on your own with Windows! Apple will unequivocally NOT support Windows on their computers.
- You will not only have to purchase Windows yourself, but all of the Windows versions of the software you use as well. OUCH!!

It's YOUR Choice!

- If you want to run Windows, get a PC
- If you want to run OS X, get a Mac
- Another consideration:
 - The newest version of Windows, “Vienna” is scheduled for release in January, 2010
 - The newest version of OS X (10.6 – “Snow Leopard”) is due to be released in June, 2009

Viruses, Trojans, Worms and Malware

OH MY!



- It is generally true that viruses, trojans, worms and malware are a bigger threat on PCs than on Macs... BUT
- The advantage is shrinking.
- We're seeing almost as many warnings for Macs as we are for PCs these days
- Way to go, Apple! You just had to go on TV and brag!!
- Use anti-virus/anti-spyware software on ANY computer you use... **and be careful!**

The Bottom Line...

- Truthfully, it's just a very personal decision
- We really don't care... however,
- The School of Nursing is about 98% PC
 - So, if you choose to use a Mac, you'll be solely responsible for making certain that your work is compatible with the vast majority of faculty computers and campus systems

Where to Shop

- UCSF Tech Store
- Normal retail outlets (e.g., Best Buy, Circuit City, Fry's, etc.)
- Warehouse stores (e.g., Costco, Sams Club)
- Internet "stores" (e.g., Amazon.com, eBay, Newegg.com, etc.)
- **NOTE: Consider support very carefully!**

UCSF Tech Store

- Dell and Apple
 - Can help with specially configured and priced systems designed for UCSF students



- <http://campusliveservices.ucsf.edu/techstore>

What else do I need?

- Security
 - A locking security cable
- Backup & File Transfer
 - Flash (or USB) drive
 - Portable Hard Drive
 - Writeable CDs and/or DVDs
- Software
 - Microsoft Office
 - Reference Management (e.g., EndNote, Reference Manager)



Microsoft Office Recommended Versions

- For older PCs
 - Microsoft Office 2003 + 2007 Compatibility Pack
- For newer PCs
 - Microsoft Office 2007
- For older Macs
 - Microsoft Office 2004
- For newer Macs
 - Microsoft Office 2008



Versions of Versions!

- For Windows Computers:
 - There are no less than 6 different versions of Microsoft Office
 - We do NOT recommend that you purchase Microsoft Office Basic, Standard, Small Business, Home & Student, or Student and Teacher versions
 - So... we DO recommend that you purchase the “Professional” version (which the UCSF Tech Store sells for \$197)

Versions of Versions!

- For Macs
 - There are 3 different versions of Microsoft Office
 - We do NOT recommend that you purchase the Home and Student version
 - We DO recommend that you purchase the “regular” version (which the UCSF Tech Store sells for \$349.99) or the Special Media Edition (\$449.99)

Last but not least...

- Be absolutely certain that you keep your computer up to date
 - Operating System Updates (Windows or OS X)
 - Anti-Virus and Anti-Spyware Software
 - BOTH software and signatures

Questions?



Other stuff you need
to know about...



Your SAA UserID and PIN

(or your “MyAccess” ID)

- You should have received a letter from the Office of Admission and Registrar this summer with your SAA User ID and PIN (or “MyAccess” ID). If not, go to OAR (MU200).
- Used for virtually all UCSF computing resources
 - Online Registration & Study List filing
 - UCSF email account
 - GALEN (Library) account
 - WebCT account
 - Virtual Private Network (VPN) account

UCSF Computing Facilities

- School of Nursing Computer Lab (N735)
 - Hours vary, depending on use of lab for courses, workshops, etc.
 - <http://nurseweb.ucsf.edu/public/crl.htm>
- Library Interactive Learning Centers (ILC)
 - Main Library, 2nd Floor (Library Hours)
 - S165 (24-hour using proximity ID badge)
 - Mission Bay Library (MB Library Hours)



Wireless Network Connectivity

- Fairly ubiquitous at UCSF
 - Library, Café areas, Lounges, Classrooms
- You must “register” your computer
- Instructions for the registration process:
 - <http://library.ucsf.edu/info/wireless/>
 - <http://dne.ucsf.edu/media/howto/>
- Help... if you can't figure it out, try the School of Nursing Computer Lab (N735)

Microsoft Office 2007 Incompatibility Issue

- The default document format for MS Office 2007/8 is called “docx”
- docx is not naturally compatible with previous versions of MS Office which use the “doc” default format (on both PCs and Macs running Office 2004)
- To avoid the incompatibility problem:
 - Use “Save As” to save your documents with the older “doc” format -- or --
 - Make sure those you give “docx” documents to have either the “MS Office Compatibility Pack” for PCs or the “Microsoft Office Open XML File Format Converter” for Macs or MS Office 2007 (PC)/2008 (Mac)
- Virtually all of the School of Nursing is now using MS Office 2007, so this issue is less of a problem than it used to be.

Internet Service Provider (ISP)

- UCSF does not provide off-campus Internet service
- If you do not already have an ISP, you will need to get one
- We highly recommend you use a broadband service (DSL or Cable)

UCSF Student Resource CD

- Provides virtually all of the software, plugins, etc. that we can legally give you while you're a student at UCSF
- Works with both Windows-based PCs and Macs
- **WARNING:** If you are using Windows Vista, DO NOT INSTALL SpySweeper!

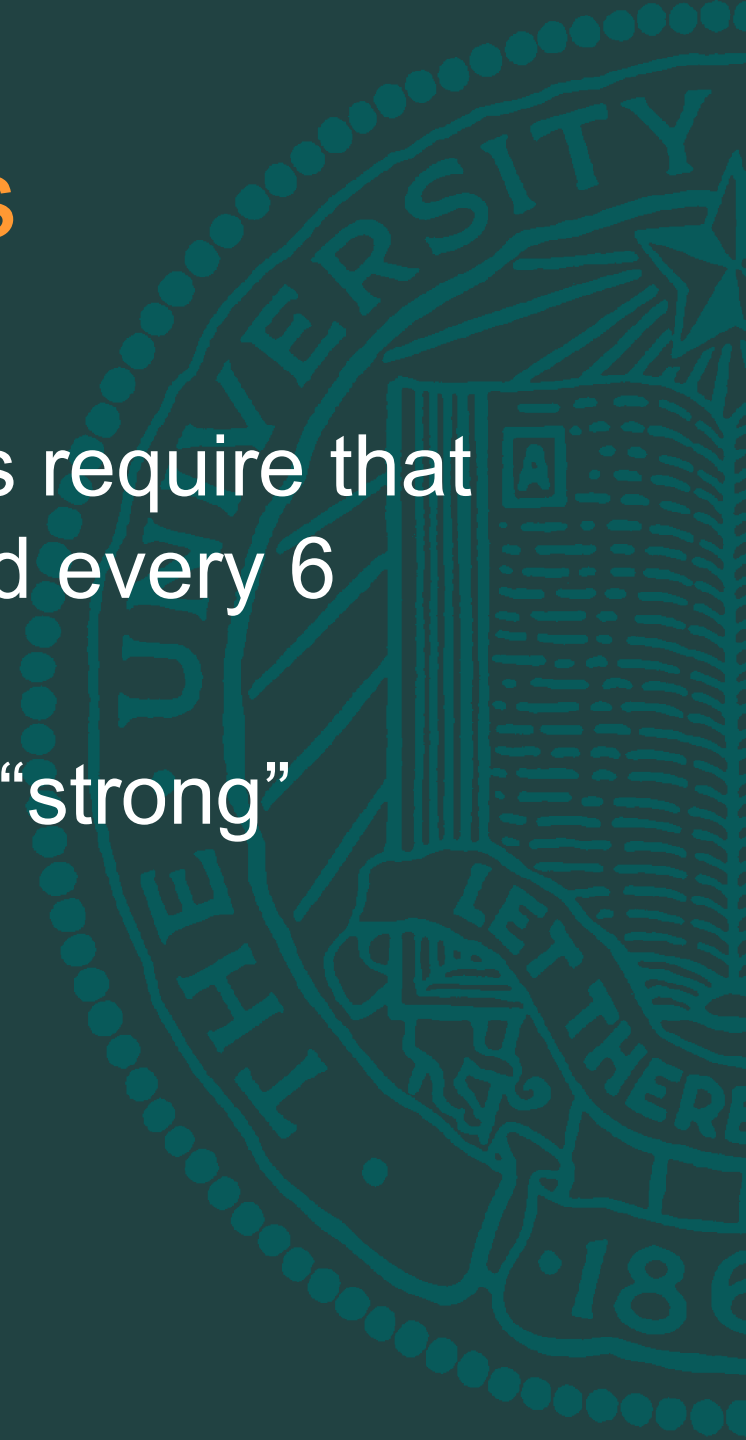
UCSF email System

mail@UCSF

- You are required to use and maintain your UCSF eMail account for all communication with UCSF faculty, staff and students
- Why??? **SECURITY!!** It is a HIPAA requirement
- You cannot, therefore, forward email from your UCSF account to any other email system, because it is not secure
- MUCH more on email in the next session!

Passwords

- Virtually all UCSF systems require that you change your password every 6 months.
- You are required to use a “strong” password



What's a “strong” password?

- Minimum of 7 characters
- Cannot contain:
 - The user's account name
 - More than two consecutive characters of the user's full name
- Must contain characters from three of the following four categories:
 - English uppercase characters (A through Z)
 - English lowercase characters (a through z)
 - Base 10 digits (0 through 9)
 - Symbol characters (!, \$, #, %)

What is “MyAccess?”

- MyAccess is designed to provide a single point of authentication and authorization for UCSF computer users
- Implementation will start sometime after October, 2008 with the VPN system
- Other campus systems will be integrated s-l-o-w-l-y over time
- You’ll be notified when things begin to change

Questions?

