

## **SOFTWARE**

**Q: I'm trying to plan my budget for this year. Can you tell me the cost of the software bundles?**

**A:** Due to the volume of licenses that VT purchases each year, the cost for software from the University is far less than what you can find on the open market. It is highly recommended that you purchase all required software directly from VT as opposed to other sources. Costs for Fall 2009 are as follows:

**Undergraduates: Microsoft Campus Agreement Software Bundle + Pamplin Business Software Bundle**

Freshman: \$99 + \$50 = \$149 (+tax) | Transfer students: \$99 + \$30 = \$129 (+tax)

**MBA student bundle:** \$75 (+tax)

**MACIS student bundle:** \$40 (+tax)

**Q: When will software bundles be available?**

**A:** The Microsoft Campus Agreement Software Bundle will be available during summer orientation. The Pamplin specific bundle will be available a few days before the fall semester starts.

**Q: I purchased a new PC that came preloaded with Microsoft Office. Do I still need to purchase the bundles?**

**A:** Incoming freshman and transfer students ARE REQUIRED to purchase both software bundles mentioned in the requirements (and above). MBA/MACIS students are also required to purchase the appropriate program specific bundle. There is no exception process. Students will be billed for bundles even if they do not pick up the software. This is a requirement by the University which plays into our attractive licensing costs.

**Q: I have Windows VISTA Home Edition. Can I use that?**

**A:** In order for the machine to work with the VT Network, you need to run VISTA Business, Enterprise, or Ultimate. However, you can purchase a machine with VISTA Home (or any less expensive OS you choose) and then once you receive the VT software bundle, you will have a license for Windows VISTA Ultimate which you can install and use. Note that any data stored on the machine between purchase and install of VISTA Ultimate would need to be moved/backed up, as Ultimate much prefers a clean, full install.

## **HARDWARE**

**Q: I already own a Mac. Can I use this?**

**A:** As noted in the requirements, all Pamplin students are required to have a machine that can run Windows VISTA. Intel-based Macs can run VISTA. In order to run VISTA on the Mac, the student will need to purchase and install a program such as Bootcamp or Parallels. Some software used in the various Pamplin programs is only designed for Windows, hence the requirement. If you are purchasing a new machine to bring to VT, it's definitely recommended that you purchase a Windows machine.

**Q: I'm not sure which PC model to purchase. Will Pamplin recommend a specific manufacturer and model for me?**

**A:** Pamplin will not dictate, nor recommend specific models or manufacturers. Machines from Dell, HP, Lenovo, Acer, Toshiba, and others can be used without issue. If you do not know how to match the specifications given to a specific model, it is suggested that you take the specifications to the VT bookstore or a local store of your choosing and discuss with knowledgeable staff there. The specifications are detailed enough that knowledgeable sales associates should be able to assist you. Remember, the specifications are minimums, chosen to be in the pricing "sweet spot" as of March of this year; it would not hurt to exceed such requirements in your purchase, depending upon your budget.

**Q: Can you be more specific about the wireless requirements? I have a Wireless "G" network at home and want the laptop to work at my house and at VT.**

**A:** Wireless cards currently purchased with PCs generally can choose which wireless standard is in place and navigate automatically. VT runs "Wireless G" currently and will likely upgrade to "N" at some point. Your best bet is to purchase a machine with a built-in wireless device which supports "a/b/g/n". This provides for maximum flexibility. However, if your card does not support "n" it is usable and will be usable for years to come. The main difference in the various standards is speed, not interoperability.

**Q: I see the requirement to purchase both a 160 GB internal hard drive and a 160 GB external hard drive. Can I simply purchase one internal 320 GB drive?**

**A:** The reason for the external drive requirement is twofold. First, it allows students to backup data. Secondly, it allow for easy transfer of data from machine to machine amongst classmates. Having one internal drive does not accomplish the same thing. Two drives are therefore required. This is not a requirement simply to have 320 GB of space.

**Q: Should we purchase a computer from the VT bookstore OR are direct vendor purchases preferable?**

**A:** Many parents and students prefer purchasing from the bookstore for support reasons. This is a good reason to consider purchasing from VT. However, all other vendors also provide support options with machines and you should purchase a 3-year warranty (per the requirements) regardless of your source. These warranties generally provide phone and/or internet support, plus parts replacement via mail as necessary. You should consider your individual budget and PC skills of the incoming student when making this decision.