Murdoch University’s computer policy is based on a service agreement with its preferred supplier Dell, viz that Dell computers bought through IT Services have a comprehensive three-year maintenance agreement, after which they will not be supported; see both of the following URLs


URL – Computer support policy not yet on the IT website!

In practice, this means that such computers become useless if major problems occur outside the service agreement period. There is also a significant problem with on-going software provision and access to the University’s network. Obviously the School needs to operate within this framework, and this informs the following policy.

This policy does not apply to Macintosh, laptop or notebook computers.

Staff: The School will provide each (non-casual) staff member, except those employed on research grants, with a standard IBM-compatible desktop. Funds will be made available to update current hardware where needed.

Research Staff: Computers and other equipment for research staff should be funded by the Research Grants under which they are employed.

Casual staff will have access to computing facilities as required.

Higher Degree Research and Honours students:

The School will provide each Higher Degree Research student and each Honours student with a standard IBM-compatible desktop. This might be an older machine that has previously been deployed elsewhere, but it will be in good working order and it will be supported. Students who require specialist software must utilise their maintenance allocations. Students requiring further hardware and/or software should have these built into their study proposals, with a clear indication of the funding sources.

Visiting Fellows, Visiting Occupational Trainees and other visitors:

The provision of computer equipment, software and access to the University’s network is the responsibility of the host staff member.

Adjunct and Emeritus Staff are to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Walter R Bloom
Deputy Dean, CMS
8 July 2010