

Computing for Freshmen at MIT 2009

MIT Information Services and Technology (IS&T)
web.mit.edu/ist/



MIT provides a rich array of computing resources and services. Check out IS&T's main web site, call or email with questions, and visit us at events during Orientation 2009. For all the essentials in one place, go to our student page.

web.mit.edu/ist/start/students

Athena

MIT's student/academic computing environment, with a wide range of applications and tools. Athena is available to all students through computer labs on campus and in dorms.



web.mit.edu/ist/start/athena

Am I required to buy a computer?

MIT recommends that students own a laptop, but it is not required. MIT has shared resources available to accommodate students who do not bring a computer to campus.

Which computer should I buy?

Laptops offer many advantages and can be used in classrooms, study groups, and labs. MIT's recommended laptops are configured to handle the applications most students need, and they have been tested on MITnet, the campus network. These laptops are from vendors who offer educational discounts to MIT. They come with extended warranties and can be serviced on campus. Check the laptops web page for the latest recommendations, as vendors release new systems throughout the summer.

web.mit.edu/ist/start/laptops

Can I get more advice on what to buy?

The Computing Help Desk provides advice about MIT's recommended systems. Visit the Computing Help Desk showroom where you can try out a selection of these systems.

web.mit.edu/ist/start/presales

What are the recommended operating systems?

Macintosh OS X, Ubuntu Linux, Windows XP Professional, and Windows Vista. If you need to upgrade, wait until you are on campus, where IS&T can assist you.

web.mit.edu/ist/topics/os

I already own a computer. Is it good enough?

Possibly. To find out, review MIT's recommended hardware specifications.

web.mit.edu/ist/topics/hardware/guidelines.html

What software does MIT provide?

MIT provides a wide range of software for free or at a discount. Most such software is available for downloading.

web.mit.edu/ist/topics/software

How do I connect to MITnet?

MITnet has wireless and wired access throughout most of the campus. You can register one or more computers for access, and connect to resources such as printers, course materials, and software downloads.

web.mit.edu/ist/start/mitnet

How do I get to MITnet from my dorm room?

All dorms have wireless coverage in most areas, and all dorm rooms are equipped with at least one high-speed wired (Ethernet) connection per student.

web.mit.edu/ist/helpdesk/rcc

How can I make my system secure?

MITnet is an open network. An unprotected computer is vulnerable to attacks, spam, or other threats. Enable automatic OS security updates on your computer, and install the MIT-provided free anti-virus software. MIT also provides a central, network backup service to students at no charge.

web.mit.edu/ist/topics/security

Telephone Services

MIT provides a variety of telephone and voice-related services to students, including recently added cell phone discount plans and Internet calling options. Check for the latest information at the following link.

web.mit.edu/ist/start/telephone

Mobile Devices

For access to MIT's email, web pages, and calendar, IS&T supports Windows Mobile and the BlackBerry. IS&T also supports the Apple iPhone and iPod Touch. If you own, or are considering purchasing a device, check for the latest information on mobile devices in the MIT environment.

web.mit.edu/ist/topics/pda

Adaptive Technology Information Center (ATIC)

Consultations, services, and technologies for students with disabilities.

Web: web.mit.edu/atic

Email: atic@mit.edu

Phone: 617.253.7808

Questions? Need help?

Contact or visit the Computing Help Desk.

Web: web.mit.edu/ist/helpdesk

Email: computing-help@mit.edu

Phone: 617.253.1101

211 Massachusetts Avenue
MIT Building N42

Walk-ins, Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Check out the IS&T orientation podcasts:

web.mit.edu/ist/start/students/podcasts