Laptop Buying Guide (Staff)

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This article will discuss best practices for technology onboarding and new hire account requests. Purchasing standards for staff laptops and recommendations, prices, and comparisons of each computer are visible.

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Technology Onboarding Best Practices and Information

- **PennKey username** - Most technology onboarding processes cannot begin without a PennKey. Technology requests should be submitted as soon as possible (even without a PennKey) so we can start the process; however, we ask that you follow up with PennKey information once it is received.

- **Day one deployment** - Day one deployment is our goal! This is made possible by advanced notice of the new hires' start date (at least ten business days notice preferred). If your technology request cannot be processed in time to arrive on the start date, a loaner may be provided (subject to availability).

- **Account mirroring** - To avoid mistakes during the account provisioning process, we ask that access to resources be explicitly requested when completing the technology onboarding survey.

- **Specialized software and configurations** - Many departments require software and configurations specific to their workflow. While we know most needs, please include these (to the best of your ability) when completing the 'specialized software' section of the technology onboarding survey. Some examples include - Google Apps, Java (for Ben Financials), Smart View, Global Protect, etc.

- **Pricing** - Technology pricing can fluctuate 10% or more during its product life cycle.

After reading this guide, complete the Staff Technology Onboarding Survey to submit an official technology request.

Laptop Recommendations and Standards

This section will discuss the price difference and usage of Mac versus Windows PC laptops. For more

Mac

Mac computers run on macOS, the proprietary operating system of Apple products. This system is also known for its user-friendly interface, stability, and security features. Mac models excel in picture accuracy and photo and video editing tasks and remain compatible with most productivity applications. Mac systems can seamlessly integrate with other Apple devices and services, such as iPhones, iPads, Apple Watch, and iCloud. This allows for a cohesive and interconnected user experience across multiple devices.
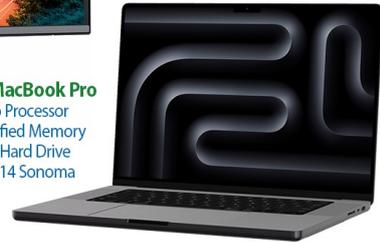
Standard Mac Configurations

Single
Display

Dell UltraSharp 34 inch Display
Extend your desktop
Built in dock
Extra ports

14 inch MacBook Pro
M3 Pro Processor
18GB Unified Memory
512GB Hard Drive
macOS 14 Sonoma

Dell UltraSharp 24 inch Displays

Dual
Display

Plugable Docking Station
Ethernet connectivity
Display connectivity
Charging
Extra ports

14 inch MacBook Pro
M3 Pro Processor
18GB Unified Memory
512GB Hard Drive
macOS 14 Sonoma

Custom configurations are available with use case consultation

Included 3rd Party Applications

Microsoft

- Word
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- OneNote
- Outlook

- OneDrive
- To Do
- Remote Desktop

Other

- Webex
- Chrome
- Zoom
- Slack
- DropBox

- FortiClient
- Solstice
- Self Service
- Creative Cloud
- Adobe Arcrobat

Windows PC

Windows PCs operate on the Windows operating system, which is developed by Microsoft. Windows is known for its widespread usage, versatility, and compatibility. Windows has a vast library of compatible software applications, ranging from productivity tools and creative suites to gaming software and specialized business applications. This broad ecosystem contributes to the popularity of Windows PCs in various domains.

Standard PC Configurations

Single
Display

**Dell UltraSharp
34 inch Display**
Built in dock
Extra ports

**14 inch Dell 7450
Ultralight**
Intel Ultra 7 Processor
32GB RAM
1TB Hard Drive
QHD Touch Display
River Blue Chassis
Windows 11 Pro

Dell UltraSharp 24 inch Displays

Dual Display

Dell Docking Station
Ethernet connectivity
Display connectivity
Charging
Extra ports

14 inch Dell 7450 Ultralight
Intel Ultra 7 Processor
32GB RAM
1TB Hard Drive
QHD Touch Display
River Blue Chassis
Windows 11 Pro

Lenovo   **DELL**   Custom configurations are available with use case consultation

Included Applications

Microsoft

- Word
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- OneNote
- Outlook
- OneDrive
- To Do
- Teams
- Remote Desktop

Other

- Webex
- Chrome
- Zoom
- DropBox
- FortiClient
- Self Service
- Creative Cloud
- Adobe Arcrobat
- Dell Command Update (Dell only)
- Lenovo Commercial Vantage (Lenovo only)

Webcam
Logitech BRIO 4K

**Wireless Keyboard
and Mouse**
Logitech MK650

Spare Charger
Anker 65W GaN II Charger
Belkin 100W Charge Cable

Comparison

	Mac	Windows PC
Recommended Operating System	MacBook Pro	Dell 7450 Ultralight
Productivity Software	✓	✓
Security Software	✓	✓
Application Suite Self-Service	✓	✓
Solstice Screencasting	✓	✓
Features	• High-resolution mini-LED backlit screen • All-day battery life • Apple ecosystem integration • Quiet operation	• High-resolution touch screen • Lightweight • USB-A & USB-C ports • Most compatible with all Productivity Software • Touchpad conferencing controls

Questions?

For more recommendations and information, be sure to reach out to your Wharton Computing representative.