



IT System Administration Laptop Requirement

All IT System Administration students are required to purchase a laptop to complete assignments in and out of the classroom. Failure to meet the minimum requirements will prevent students from completing coursework successfully, which is necessary for earning a diploma.

Note: The laptop is required ON THE VERY FIRST DAY OF CLASSES in every semester.

For specific program-related questions please contact ITSA@nait.ca. For all technical questions, please visit nait.ca/ITS.

IT System Administration - Laptop Requirement:	
Operating System	Windows 11 64-bit (No S Version) or newer. macOS is not supported
Processor	Latest Intel CPU or AMD with Virtualization (VT-x or AMD-V) capable.
RAM	32GB or more
Hard Drive	512GB or larger SSD (1TB Recommended)
Graphics	Onboard video or greater
Display	1920 x 1080 or greater screen resolution
Network	Wi-Fi 5 (802.11ac) or Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax). Onboard Wired Network or USB Network Adapter Required.
Camera	720p webcam or greater with a microphone
Other Hardware Notes	1TB or greater External SSD Drive is Recommended.

Additional Requirements:

- Method for Backup Storage of Files – 1TB or larger USB external hard drive or cloud storage such as OneDrive. Microsoft Office 365 and OneDrive (with 1TB of space) are free for all currently enrolled NAIT students.

Notes from our Tech Department:

- Please use only SSD or M.2 storage technology for your boot/primary device, and where you are storing the virtual machines, as using different storage technology will diminish the performance of your laptop and virtual machines.
- Windows Defender is the recommended anti-virus software. Installing some 3rd party anti-virus and anti-malware packages might interfere with some of the applications you use for our program.

Software Requirements:

- Software requirements will be discussed in class.

Please be aware that:

- Students are responsible for the maintenance, service, and repair of their laptop(s) in a timely manner while taking classes.
- NAIT takes no responsibility for hardware or software compliance.

Which brand or manufacturer of laptops would you recommend?

Over the years, students have purchased many different brands, and there seems to be no noticeable difference in reliability. Manufacturers use the same hardware, so if the brand you purchased meets the minimum specifications, it should be sufficient.

How much should I spend?

Budget \$1,500 to \$3,500 for the purchase of your laptop. The price will vary depending on the brand, and hardware options.

For specific program-related questions please contact ITSA@nait.ca. For all technical questions, please visit nait.ca/ITS.

Revised 10/17/2024