

WPI STI 2009 Laptop Requirements

We are glad that you're joining us at WPI this year for your Project Lead the Way Training! There are many updates that you must make sure are on your computer before you will be allowed to connect to the network. Be aware that having network access is a requirement of all PLTW course curricula. If you do not attend to these requirements you will not be able to use the computing resources that are necessary to complete your course.

The following general criteria must be met before arriving on our campus:

- 1) Have a laptop that meets or exceeds the minimum requirements for either **NEW** or **USED** Laptops listed below. Specifications can also be found on the Project Lead the Way website (<http://www.pltw.org/curriculum/08compspecs.cfm>)
- 2) Have Windows XP Professional or Vista Business installed on system.
- 3) Install ALL critical Windows updates (Be aware that you must visit the Windows update site multiple times to fully complete this task.) Visit <http://update.microsoft.com/windowsupdate> to let Microsoft perform the task automatically.
- 4) Update the Microsoft Office Products on your computer. Visit <http://office.microsoft.com/officeupdate> to automatically perform the update. At the top, left hand side of the page under the word Download is a Link to Office Updates (see figure1). After checking to be sure you have genuine Microsoft Office, the program will check for updates You may be asked for your original installation CDs during this process or you can select the option to skip your disks but it will take a little longer.

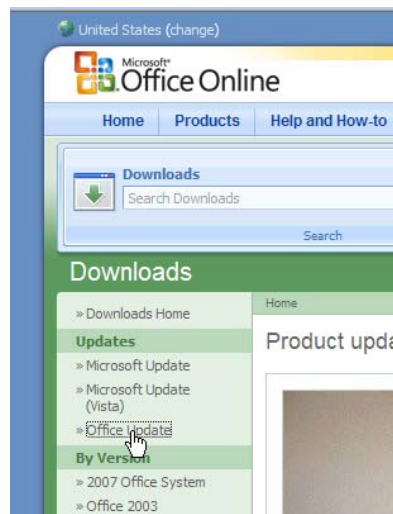


Figure 1



- 5) Know an “Administrator” login and password (this is necessary to install the software that you will use at the STI).
- 6) Have a wireless network interface card. WPI will provide wireless access during the PLTW course.
- 7) Install and update Virus detection/prevention software.
- 8) Know the contact information for your school’s technical support department.

* If you are registered in Gateway to Technology, Principals of Engineering, or Computer Integrated Manufacturing, and you do not have a Serial port on your laptop, you might need a serial to USB interface adapter to work with the college’s fischertechnik interface. Please check to see if you need this.

It is also recommended that you bring:

- An external mouse (USB or PS/2).
- A 10 – 15 foot network cable (Cat5 or Cat5e) for night-time use.
- An external USB storage device (thumb drive or memory stick 256 Megs).

If you are unfamiliar with any of these terms/devices, contact your home school’s technical support professional .



My STI Computer Checklist: New Laptops

Use this form to ensure your computer is ready to go for the STI. Note: The items on this list are NOT optional. If your laptop does not meet ALL of the minimum requirements, you will need to make arrangements to have another laptop to use during the STI.

Each teacher participating in training and teaching Project Lead The Way® courses is required to have a laptop computer for his/her use. Teachers should have Administrator rights on their computer. Specifications for new laptops are as follows:

| | |
|--|--|
| Intel Core2 Duo T9300 or better | USB Memory Key (Memory Stick, Thumb Drive, etc.) |
| 2 GIG DDR2 SDRAM Memory (4 GB Preferred) | Integrated 100 Mbps Fast Ethernet connection |
| 60 GB + 7200 RPM SATA Hard Drive | External VGA Port |
| DVD-CDRW Drive | 2 - USB Ports Minimum |
| 14.1 XGA TFT Color LCD Display or larger | Anti Virus software |
| Li-Ion Battery | Win XP Pro or later 3 Year Warranty |
| PCI-express x16 Video card with a minimum 256 Megs RAM (Must be 3D CAD Display Compatible and support DirectX 9 &10) See http://www.autodesk.com/us/inventor/graphic_cards/ | 802.11 a/g wireless |

For further details about graphics cards, see Autodesk's website http://www.autodesk.com/us/inventor/graphic_cards/

PLEASE NOTE: Basic Intel graphic chipset or other chipsets with shared memory are **not** recommended for video display. All graphic chipsets must be 3D capable and support OpenGL and DirectX. A third party Graphic card is usually necessary.



My STI Computer Checklist: *For Used Laptops*

BARE MINIMUM SPECS TO RUN INVENTOR FOR 2008-2009

Minimum system requirements should not be used to purchase equipment; rather, they are provided to evaluate existing equipment for use with Inventor. Minimum hardware required to run (Not recommended for production use).

| | |
|---|--|
| Intel Pentium® or AMD Athlon Processor 2.0GH or better | 2-4 Gigs Virtual Memory Space |
| 8.0GB Free (minimum install) Hard Drive Space | 64+ MB DirectX 9 Capable Graphics Card |
| 3 GB Scratch "Temp" space | Windows XP Pro with Service Pack 2 operating system |
| 1 GB RAM | Internet Explorer 6 with latest service packs |