

Computer Lab Subcommittee  
Final Report to ECAT  
February 20, 2001

*Approved unanimously by ECAT on 2/20/2001*

| All Labs                  |   |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|
|                           | Current or within the next year (2000-01)   | Three to five years in the future ( to 2005)  |
| <b>Lab need</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As more bring their own machines to campus, and with direct connection and dial-up for connectivity for these personally owned computers, labs are more necessary than ever. The amount of computing necessary to succeed at Illinois State is also dramatically rising.</li> <li>• Over 35% of in-coming freshman students DO NOT bring a machine to campus. Percentages for total campus student population are even higher. <i>Educating Illinois</i> calls for accessible technology resources for all students, and labs are one of the main ways to continue to accomplish this. University labs should meet the needs of those without personal resources. Department labs have discipline specific software/hardware that is cost prohibitive for personally owned machines. Thus almost all students—regardless of computer ownership—will utilize labs while at Illinois State.</li> <li>• Insure that University and Departmental laboratories across campus have a professional, aesthetically pleasing appearance with ergonomically correct furnishings.</li> <li>• Implement a system such as Lyncsys that allows the instructor to control student screens and to show an entire class a particular screen.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider requiring all students to bring computer hardware to campus.</li> <li>• Have laptops available for checkout in University Labs.</li> <li>• Insure that technology tuition dollars keep pace with laboratory needs</li> <li>• Increase and systematize laboratory assistant training.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Laptop integration</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where appropriate, labs should develop areas where students can plug-in for both power and network accessibility.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore wireless technologies that would provide cable-less network access.</li> </ul>   |

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|   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate security issues for open areas where laptops might be used or accessible for use</li> </ul>   |
|---|---|--|
|   | Current or within the next year (2000-01)   | Three to five years in the future ( to 2005)   |
| <b>Printing</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The need for printing will not diminish in the immediate future. Many labs need a cost recovery system as a way of recouping costs and limiting excess jobs. The current University Print Solution developed by Milner Library is a feasible system that all labs should consider. The subcommittee raised concerns about its integration into future operating systems (Windows 2000) and the reliability that we currently have on local personnel to maintain it. The recommendation is that work should continue to offer a solution now and into the future.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore use of an automatic charge system activated by ULID.</li> <li>Investigate possible solutions to automatic charge system available with Windows 2000.</li> </ul>         |
| <b>Tours and sharing of information</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An active Lab Managers group should formally arrange for sharing opportunities and participate in planning/advising on lab-related issues, including a unified marketing strategy and communications issues to all students</li> </ul>   |  |
| <b>Common standards</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The subcommittee encourages the propagation of common services offered across University and departmental labs where feasible.</li> <li>One example is Datastore where students can save their documents and obtain them via the network in any location.</li> <li>Striving for as many services utilizing a single sign-on is another example.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement system by which Lab Managers group helps to identify those elements which could be standard across campus in both University and departmental laboratories</li> </ul> |

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| <b>University Labs &amp; Services</b> |  |   |
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|                                       | Current or within the next year (2000-01)  | Three to five years in the future ( to 2005)  |
| <b>Hardware</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The subcommittee recommends that University labs move to a 3-year hardware rotation cycle, providing the cost/benefit of repairs within warranty cycles and sufficient hardware to fulfill the most common software needs.</li> <li>• The subcommittee further recommends that the University purchase machines at a level equal or greater to than the specifications listed in the annual Student Buying guide.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install card swipe security/monitoring systems for University and departmental labs.</li> <li>• Explore advantages/disadvantages and cost factors for card swipe log-on to lab computers; one advantage is increased privacy and another is more efficient auditing of computer use.</li> <li>• Provide laptop ports in smart classrooms along with electric plugs to avoid battery problems.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Software</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee supports installing as much software in University labs as possible with departments taking responsibility for support and purchasing the software. A key-server technology may be usable in some applications for more attractive licensing. The committee suggests these guidelines:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty should be informed that installing discipline-specific software is an option but support available in the labs is confined to the technical running of the software.</li> <li>• Any software that can be appropriately</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore Software solutions for the future, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active desktop</li> <li>• Server based software</li> <li>• Thin client software</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |

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|                                   | <p>site-licensed or plug-in type software should be included in the annual I-tools package. The deadline for the ECAT sponsored committee to decide this is usually mid-winter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other applications to be included should be communicated to the Director of CISS before July 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> </ul>   |  |
|                                   | <b>Current or within the next year (2000-01)</b>   | <b>Three to five years in the future ( to 2005)</b>  |
| <b>Walk-up stations</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion should occur in providing walk-up stations to highly trafficked student areas (Bone, Julian) and academic areas (survey associate deans for ideas for spaces). Whenever possible, older equipment should be “bumped” down for this purpose as long as it is still capable of providing core functions.</li> <li>• Such stations should be limited to e-mail, mainframe access for registration, and in some areas, web access.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support for PDA's as an alternative to walk-up stations to access e-mail and basic web services.</li> <li>• Explore/implement verification and security checks for public access areas.</li> <li>• Determine who is authorized to use walk-up facilities.</li> <li>• Explore use of wireless solutions in public areas</li> </ul> |
| <b>Possible Future Directions</b> |  |  |
| <b>Testing Center</b>             |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a facility with hardware resources and also staffing to provide secure procedures for testing.</li> <li>• Explore security possibilities of matching a Redbird card with a photo, fingerprint scanning, or retinal scanning.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Space Issues</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with campus master planners to determine space issues for additional laboratory use.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore construction of multi-purpose rooms that can be readily used as both laboratories and classrooms, with wiring for laptop plug in.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Thin Client workstations</b>   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore both hardware and software solutions</li> </ul>   |

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|  |  | <p>and costs for thin client applications including those solutions from SUN and Microsoft WinCE..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore the expansion of walk-up stations that need only limited functionality for this type of technology.</li><li>• Monitor the possibilities and conduct research in a pilot project.</li></ul> |
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