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## 2011 Engineering CT Computer Requirements

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Project Lead The Way, working with its vendors, will specify computers each year that we estimate will run our course software for the next three years. Many schools have developed policies under which new, more powerful computers are placed in PLTW® labs, and the existing computers are moved to areas with less demanding applications. In doing this, they insure the longest useful performance of their computers.

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. The teacher's laptop must have wireless Internet in order to participate in the Core Training. Specifications for new laptops for teachers or students are as follows:

**Computers should meet or exceed the specifications stated here:**

1. Intel i5 or i7 or equivalent
2. 4 GIG DDR3 SDRAM Memory
3. Integrated 100 Mbps Fast Ethernet connection
4. 150 GB + 7200 RPM SATA Hard Drive
5. External VGA Port
6. DVD-CDRW Drive
7. 2 - USB Ports Minimum
8. 14.1 XGA TFT Color LCD Display or larger
9. Anti Virus software
10. Li-Ion Battery
11. Win XP Pro SP3 (32 bit), Vista (32 or 64 bit), Windows 7 Professional (32 or 64 bit), or MAC Book Pro running Bootcamp and one of the above systems
12. 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/](http://www.autodesk.com/us/inventor/graphic_cards/)
13. 802.11 a/g wireless
14. USB Memory Key (Memory Stick, Thumb Drive, etc.)

For further details about graphics cards, see Autodesk's website  
[http://www.autodesk.com/us/inventor/graphic\\_cards/](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

**Minimum Specs to run software (Not recommended for production use):**

These specs should be used to see if current equipment can run the software during the summer training. The following specs should not be used to purchase equipment:

- Intel Pentium® or AMD Athlon Processor 2.4GH or better
- 30GB Free (minimum install) Hard Drive Space
- 4 GB Scratch "Temp" space
- 2 GB RAM
- 2-4 Gigs Virtual Memory Space
- PCI-eXpress 128 MB dedicated RAM or greater DirectX (Direct3D) capable graphics card (No integrated video with shared RAM. Intel Graphics chipsets are not recommended)
- Windows XP Pro with Service Pack 3 operating system
- Working DVD Drive for installation
- Working network card