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# Overview

At Black Swan Community College, we aspire to offer our students and faculty the best possible technological experience while using our library. When the college received a generous and anonymous charitable bequest, the Vice President of Academic Affairs apportioned $15,000 of these funds to be used specifically for the betterment of the Learning Commons, the newest area of our library. A task force was formed, led by the Dean of the Library and supported by the Information Technology department.

## Implementation

In order to ensure the least amount of downtime for the Learning Commons, the task force has scheduled the upgrades of [the iMacs](#iMacs) and the printer to coincide with intersession break. Since [the MacBooks](#MacBooks) are new additions, they will be rolled out as soon as they are ready.

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| Implementation Schedule | |
| Upgrade of iMacs and Printer | 13-20 December 2010 |
| Loaner Laptop rollout | Ongoing, beginning 1 November 2010 |

## Support

Due to the 70% increase in usage of Learning Commons workstations over the past two years, the task force has decided that the college cannot afford to upgrade and add new hardware without some dedicated support. Therefore, we will hire a part-time lab technician for 15 hours a week who will be in charge of managing these machines.

## Evaluation

After six months of usage, the efficiency and performance of all hardware and software will be assessed via an anonymous survey taken by users of the Learning Commons. The Information Technology department will also do thorough diagnostics on all hardware, including defragmenting and re-imaging the hard drives if necessary.

# Hardware: Desktops

As the Learning Commons is already Mac-based, with twenty workstations running Leopard, the task force chose to upgrade four of these workstations with the 21.5-inch iMac running Snow Leopard, upgrading the RAM in order to accommodate future increases in system requirements. The Apple salesperson consulted confirmed that workstations running Leopard and Snow Leopard can coexist peacefully on the same network with no compatibility issues.

# Hardware: Laptops

Part of the Learning Commons upgrade is the rollout of the Loaner Laptop program, targeting students and faculty who must work off-campus for a time. For these laptops, the task force chose the MacBook, again with upgraded RAM in the hopes of extending the relevance of these machines on our campus as long as possible.

## Hardware: Printer

Since our last printer saw unprecedented usage – as well as unprecedented support tickets – the task force decided to replace it with an [Epson WorkForce 615 All-In-One](http://store.apple.com/us/product/TX321LL/A). Its wireless capability will certainly be a hit with students and faculty using laptops on the wireless network in the Learning Commons. Other features that the Epson WorkForce 615 has:

* Prints 2x faster than other inkjet printers
* Prints in instant-dry ink
* Uses 70% less power than laser printers

# Software

Since our campus was formerly PC-based, we have continued to use Microsoft Office for productivity software, and so all models will come with MS Office for Mac pre-installed. The task force also researched anti-virus software, and decided on [PC Tools’ iAntiVirus](http://www.iantivirus.com/) as the best value within our budget.

# Conclusion

Black Swan Community College’s Learning Commons had modest beginnings in 2002, but with the help of this charitable bequest, the library is able to provide students and faculty with upgraded machines and a brand-new laptop lending program. The library is also able to provide a better, more efficient method of printing documents in the Learning Commons. All of the new workstations will have Microsoft Office and will be protected with state-of-the-art anti-virus software.