What is CUP?

The Computer Upgrade Program (CUP) is a centrally funded program designed to upgrade the computer equipment for UTK faculty and staff once every five years. Funding for the program is on an annual basis and is dependent each year on available resources. Maximum reimbursement amounts are established for base desktops and notebooks for the Windows and Apple platforms. Approved faculty or staff members may choose to purchase one of these systems as configured or they can go to one of the university's contract vendor websites and configure a custom system. Reimbursement, however, is limited to the cost of the recommended base configurations.

Who is eligible for CUP?

For faculty, you must be a full-time employee of UTK and tenured or tenure track. Faculty receiving startup funds are not eligible within the first five years of employment. Non-tenure track faculty are eligible if they teach one class both fall and spring semester. Departmental computers managed by the department for classroom and teaching use are also eligible if resources are available.

For staff, you must be a full-time employee of UTK and at least half of your funding must come from a centrally-funded E01 account.

What can I order?

Base configurations for Windows and Apple desktops and notebooks have been established. These machines have been configured to meet the work requirements of a majority of faculty and staff. The costs of the base machines represent the maximum reimbursement amount you will receive for your upgrade. You can order whatever your Dean or Department Head will approve, but any expense above this fixed reimbursement amount must be paid by the departmental cost center account.

How do I submit a request?

Your Dean, Department Head, or Director appoints a contact person and a purchasing agent for your area, and all requests must come through them. Select the machine of your choice and then contact your purchasing agent.

Can I request hardware other than desktops or laptops, such as printers and scanners?

No, peripheral equipment is not eligible this year due to limited resources.

Are tablets eligible for reimbursement?

No. To receive reimbursement from CUP you must purchase either a standard notebook or a lightweight notebook.

How can I determine if my machine is old enough to be eligible?

Contact your departmental business office to see if they have purchase records for your computer. If your computer was $1,500 or more at the time of purchase, the information is available in IRIS. If you have a Dell computer you can look up the purchase date on their site using your Service Tag.
Frequently Asked Questions, CUP

Number. Apple computers have a similar web page based on your hardware serial number. Lenovo warranty information is available on the Lenovo website.

In past years desktops & laptops four (4) years or older were eligible, but now it’s five (5) years or older. Why has that changed?

Each year the program is structured based on available resources, with the goal to upgrade as many older machines as possible. Budgetary constraints going forward require us to limit the eligibility to machines five (5) years or older.

How long do I have to purchase my upgrade computer once approved?

The deadline to purchase CUP machines is February 13, 2017.

When’s the last day to submit my reimbursement paperwork?

The deadline to submit paid invoices with cover sheet for reimbursement is March 20, 2017. Isn’t there a kick-off meeting of contact persons and purchasing agents we’re required to attend?

We eliminated the required meeting last year, focusing instead on web site documentation and emails to share and exchange information.

Will the department be receiving a list of faculty and staff who received machines during the last CUP?

We no longer provide that information. Most departments maintain their own purchasing records and our list is usually redundant. If you have a specific question about the eligibility of a machine, please contact us.

I still have questions. Who do I contact?

The Office of Information Technology administers the CUP program on behalf of the Budget and Finance Office. Contact Cindy Ogle (cogle1@utk.edu or 974-2198) with any questions.