

How often must a computer be replaced in a MicroLab system?



Many schools are using computers more than five years old in their labs, and those computers have plenty of "get up and go" to run word processing, power point, spreadsheet programs, and still run MicroLab software. They will also run molecular modeling programs and tutorials that may be used to complement in-lab data acquisition.

Replacing PCs is a matter of some concern to many customers, but it really is not an issue today. The cost of computers is very reasonable when compared to the cost of replacing or upgrading

other lab tools, such as balances, ovens, and standard taper organic kits. Remember when an Apple II cost more than \$2,000? Today, a new laptop meeting the requirements for lab data acquisition using MicroLab can be had for a few hundred dollars US. There certainly is no need for a high end gaming machine, and modern computers are extremely reliable.

Whether or not your institution is a "laptop university", many students will have their own laptops that they bring to lab.

With MicroLab's software site licensing and free downloads from our website, your students can put MicroLab's software on their own PCs and use them in lab for data acquisition or at home for report generation and writing.

The short answer is that the time to replace a computer in a MicroLab lab is when it breaks and can't be repaired, or when it can no longer run a current operating system. This can be quite a few years.



MicroLab's general minimum computer requirement is the ability to run Windows XP. This ten-year old computer still serves well. It collects data, graphs well, and permits students to analyze and discuss their data in the lab with their instructor participating.