THE UT CHRONICLES

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DREW
TECHNOLOGY

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COMPUTER INITIATIVE AT DREW

IN HONOR OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST HANDOUT

In 1984, Drew University was the first liberal arts college to issue a computer to students. This first desktop computer was the Epson QX-10. We have a story from one of the students who received this machine posted online at the Computers of the Computer Initiative page. If you ever have an opportunity to speak with Vivian Bull, Drew's former president, ask her about setting up the computers for resident students that year.

In August 1989, *The New York Times* published an article about the Zenith laptops being issued to students, called "The Lap-Top Computer Goes to College". Former president W. Scott McDonald is quoted in the article: "The school gave students computers 'because a liberally educated person needs to know how to deal with computers.'"

The Computer Initiative continued to see changes through the years, as anyone who interacts with technology would expect. At one point in time, all students received a printer with their computers. Accidental damage warranties were introduced with the IBM ThinkPad R40 machines handed out in 2003. For a college campus, those warranties were a big deal. The Communications Department produced a video about handout in 2010. Macbooks were introduced to the party in 2011.

The final computer handout happened in 2012. Since the following Fall, students have been required to meet certain standards for the computers they bring to campus, but they choose the computer they feel best meets their needs.

GETTING READY FOR WINDOWS 10 ACROSS CAMPUS

If you haven't heard, Microsoft has identified January 14, 2020 as the end of support for Windows 7. We have been moving computers on campus to Windows 10 slowly, but will be moving more aggressively during this Fall semester.

The first step we ask each person with a Drew-provided Windows 7 machine to take is reviewing what is stored locally on your computer and moving these files (if they are still needed) to a Drew network drive or your Drew Google Drive. If there are personal files, check out this article from How-To Geek for some options on backing them up.

Not sure what version of Windows you are using? Press the **Windows logo** key + **R**, type **winver** in the **Open** box, and then select **OK**.
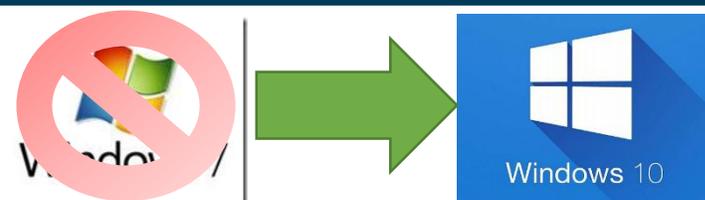
CLASSROOM AND EVENT SUPPORT LINE

For the past 15 years, 1ITS (x1487) has been used by faculty to connect to Instructional Technology (and the MRC) to respond to classroom technology emergencies. The one major drawback was that x1487 was an internal number within the Drew phone system and couldn't be reached by cell phone. With the switch to VOIP this past spring, we're happy to announce that we've moved x1487 to 973-408-3001. 973-408-3001 can be used on a cellphone and, for those who still use the classroom landlines, both x3001 and x1487 are active and will connect you to Instructional Technology staff to help with your classroom technology emergencies. We have already placed green stickers on the classroom phones to remind you of x3001.

The addition of x3001 means we will be using that for Event Support as well. Formerly, 973-665-2100 was our event support helpline; we will sunset this number at the end of the calendar year and use 973-408-3001 for both classroom and event support.