INSTRUMENTATION COMPUTERS

Overview:

Often included as part of a purchase with research hardware are computers while drive the operation of that instrumentation (HPLC, Gas Chromatographs, Microscopes, etc). In many cases, these computers "hold together" those high dollar investments. These computers are also not easily updated, upgraded, or replaced without the substantial financial impact of obtaining expensive software that is compatible with newer operating systems, or leave the researcher having to replace the instrumentation hardware altogether. In these cases, the college will not seek to replace these machines as part of a regular refresh cycle, but CFAES Information Technology Services (CFAES ITS) must continue to secure these machines and limit information risk to the best of our ability based on university IT security standards.

If the device meets these criteria:

- Used primarily / exclusively to run or support an instrument
- Not used routinely for "end-user" tasks such as email, internet searches, Microsoft Office, etc., and

Then, the device:

- Will be counted for support billing to CFAES units / departments, as a "Consumable Device Support Charge".
- Will not be refreshed as part of the MITS (Managed IT Services) agreement
- Will have its initial cost charged directly to the unit / department
- Will be refreshed as needed, at the cost of the unit / department, according to the determination of the CFAES ITS team, based on security and support needs
- Will be supported primarily by the CFAES ITS team, though other IT team members will contribute as needed
- Will be procured by contacting the IT Service Desk

Process for designation as an Instrumentation Computer:

- For currently operating computers, the CFAES ITS team will review and designate these devices (in consultation with the OTDI if needed). If a department / unit believes a current device not currently designated as an Instrumentation Computer should be considered as such, they should contact the IT Service Desk.
- For future purchases, a department / unit needing a new or replacement Instrumentation Computer will contact the IT Service Desk. The CFAES ITS team shall determine whether a particular device meets the criteria for the designation.

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