

“ITR: Catalyzing & Nurturing Online Workgroups to Power Virtual Learning Communities”

Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources

MathForum.org hosts the Math Forum website using a suite of Penguin Pentium III servers. Penguin Computing is the foremost hardware provider for the Linux community. Networking and internet connectivity are supported by Drexel University's Information Resources and Technology Department. Drexel has been ranked as one of the most wired colleges in the country by Yahoo Internet Life. The infrastructure is monitored by system administrators to ensure 24/7 availability.

The Math Forum website is served using Apache web server software running under the Red Hat Linux operating system. Dynamic web pages are created using a combination of open-source and commercial tools. Apache/Mod-perl and related toolsets are used to embed in web pages the functionality to access databases. SQL compliant database engines, including Sybase's Adaptive Server Enterprise product and MySQL support eighty percent of Math Forum applications. Two of our eleven servers support a development environment which exactly duplicates our production applications and production database servers, promoting a process for implementing well vetted software by technical staff and user audience.

Math Forum office: 21 desks, conference room, server room, T-1 access, copy machine, fax machine, and a printer.

College of Information Science and Technology: Each faculty member in IST is equipped with at least one workstation of his or her choice, providing a network of approximately 30 PC, 20 Macintosh, and 2 Sun SPARCs. One Silicon Graphics O2 workstation is dedicated to the design and building of virtual worlds for education. All workstations are networked and via Ethernet and interconnected with the Drexel University wired network. The workstations share 2 high-end servers running Windows NT 4.0 Server for print and file services. Drexel also has a campus-wide wireless network that can be accessed by users with a wireless card.

Faculty and students researchers have access to Microsoft Office XP, Visual Studio 6.0, MS Developer Network, Front Page 2000, Outlook, Visio 2000, SPSS 10 for Windows, Adobe Acrobat 4.0, Rational Rose, and Oracle software.

The Knowledge Management Collaboratory/Institute for Health Care Informatics contains 15 PC workstations with flat panel monitors, a SmartTech smart board rear projection unit, and an InSight controller. The Usability Laboratory contains 6 PC computers, a Panasonic front projection unit, and a mirror for observation of participants in experiments. The Alfred P. Sloan Center for Asynchronous Learning Laboratory contains computing and other equipment that supports research on and delivery of the MSIS program over the College of Information Science and Technology (IST) Asynchronous Learning Network.

IST also maintains a Computing Resource Center for student use. This facility houses PC, Macintosh, and HP9000 workstations. An Ethernet Network connects Macintosh, PC, and UNIX workstations and laser printers. At least one Macintosh is equipped with a color scanner