



Engineering STI 2009 Computing Requirements

Thank you for registering for the Project Lead the Way® Summer Training Institute (STI) at *University of Illinois*.

Due to the nature and speed of the campus network, you must take some steps to protect your computer before you arrive. In order to provide you with trouble-free computing throughout your experience at *University of Illinois*, please follow the suggestions outlined in this document.

There are many updates that must be installed on your computer before you will be allowed to connect to the network. Be aware that having network access is a requirement of all PLTW® course curricula. If you do not attend to these requirements you will not be able to use the computing resources that are necessary to complete your course.

The following criteria must be met before arriving on our campus:

- Have a laptop that meets or exceeds the minimum requirements listed on the Project Lead the Way® website (<http://www.pltw.org/Engineering/Curriculum/hs-computer-requirements.cfm>)
- Have Windows XP Professional or Vista Business installed on system.
- Install ALL critical Windows updates (Be aware that you must visit the Windows update site multiple times to fully complete this task.) Visit <http://update.microsoft.com/windowsupdate> to let Microsoft perform the task automatically.
- Update the Microsoft Office Products on your computer. Visit <http://office.microsoft.com/officeupdate> to automatically perform the update. At the top, left hand side of the page under the word Download is a Link to Office Updates (see figure1). After checking to be sure you have genuine Microsoft Office, the program will check for updates You may be asked for your original installation CDs during this process or you can select the option to skip your disks but it will take a little longer.

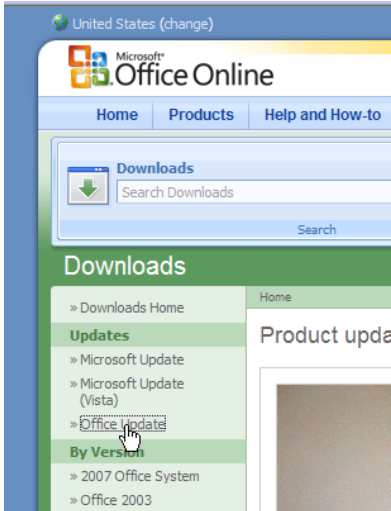


Figure 1

- Know an “Administrator” login and password (this is necessary to install the software that you will use at the STI).
- Have a network interface card. Some colleges only have wireless, please check in advance.
- Install and update Virus detection/prevention software.
- Know the contact information for your school’s technical support department.

* If you are registered in Gateway to Technology®, Principals of Engineering™, or Computer Integrated Manufacturing™, and you do not have a Serial port on your laptop, you might need a serial to USB interface adapter to work with the college’s fischertechnik interface. Please check to see if you need this.

It is also recommended that you bring:

- An external mouse (USB or PS/2).
- A 10 – 15 foot network cable (Cat5 or Cat5e).
- An external USB storage device (thumb drive or memory stick 256 Megs).

If you are unfamiliar with any of these terms/devices, please contact your home school’s technical support professional.