

Computer Experience Assessment Framework

for first-year students

This study aims to identify first-year students' prior computer experience and knowledge. The results will help instructors to adapt learning requirements and practices to your abilities and preferences. There are no right or wrong answers, only responses that accurately and honestly describe your own personal experience.

Participation in the study typically takes 10-20 minutes and is strictly anonymous. Please complete sincerely and carefully the questionnaire.

Please mark with a \surd only one answer for each of the following questions:

Gender:

- Male
 Female
-

Now,

I use computers

- many times a day
 every day
 many times a week
 a few times a week
 almost every week
 a few times a month
 not at all

Each time, I use a computer for about

- 1-2 hours
 2-4 hours
 4-8 hours
 more than 8 hours
-

Until recently...

I had access to and used a computer in my home

- for as long as I wished
 for less time than I wished
 not at all

I had access to and used my friends' or relatives' computers

- for as long as I wished
 for less time than I wished
 not at all

I had access to and used computers in Internet cafés

- for as long as I wished
 for less time than I wished
 not at all

I had access to and used school's computers

- for as long as I wished
 for less time than I wished
 not at all

I have used

DVD players (e.g., InterVideo WinDVD, InterVideo WinCinema...)

many times several times few times not at all

Music players (e.g., Microsoft Windows Media Player, Nullsoft Winamp...)

many times several times few times not at all

Antivirus software (e.g., Norton Antivirus, McAfee Antivirus...)

many times several times few times not at all

Databases (e.g., Microsoft Access...)

many times several times few times not at all

Web authoring tools (e.g., Macromedia Dreamweaver, Microsoft FrontPage...)

many times several times few times not at all

CD/DVD burning software (e.g., Nero Burning ROM, Creative Easy CD Creator...)

many times several times few times not at all

Presentation software (e.g., Microsoft PowerPoint...)

many times several times few times not at all

Programming languages (e.g., C, Basic, Pascal...)

many times several times few times not at all

Text editors (e.g., Microsoft Word...)

many times several times few times not at all

Spreadsheets (e.g., Microsoft Excel...)

many times several times few times not at all

Internet browsers (e.g., Microsoft Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator, Firefox...)

many times several times few times not at all

Email software (e.g., Microsoft Outlook, Eudora Email...)

many times several times few times not at all

Synchronous communication programs – chat (e.g., IRC, ICQ, MS Messenger...)

many times several times few times not at all

Games

many times several times few times not at all

Educational applications (e.g., “Learning about my PC”, Microsoft Encarta...)

many times several times few times not at all

File sharing programs (e.g., eMule, eDonkey...)

many times several times few times not at all

The computer I use most frequently has:

Processor speed:

- 1MHz or less
- 2MHz or less
- 3MHz or less
- more than 3MHz

RAM capacity

- 128MB or less
- 256MB or less
- 512MB or less
- more than 512MHz

Hard Disk capacity

- 20GB or less
- 80GB or less
- 160GB or less
- more than 160GB

Screen Size

- 15" or less
- 17" or less
- 19" or less
- More than 19"

Internet access

- not at all
- slower than 56Kbps
- slower than 128Kbps
- faster than 128Kbps

I have access to and use a:

- printer
- scanner
- digital photo-camera
- handheld electronic organizer

I have faced difficulties

in understanding computer terminology

- many times several times few times not at all

when trying to learn new software

- many times several times few times not at all

when seeking information for the ways computers work

- many times several times few times not at all

by unreasonable computer halts

- many times several times few times not at all

when opening a computer file (it was damaged)

- many times several times few times not at all

when installing new software

- many times several times few times not at all

Please indicate up to four knowledge sources for the following knowledge fields. Complete the boxes by using numbers from the table of available sources. Please order the knowledge sources according to their importance.

Computer terminology

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Computer maintenance and operation

--	--	--	--

Office applications

--	--	--	--

Programming

--	--	--	--

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Books2. Magazines3. Internet4. ICT in School5. Family6. Friends7. Hands-on experience8. TV and radio9. Educational applications |
|--|

Select one or more goals of your computer usage

I have used the computer repeatedly in order to

- listen to music
- find information about my interests
- watch movies
- do my school homework
- copy music CDs
- learn about computers
- create CD collections of my favourite songs
- express my self artistically (draw pictures, compose music, edit movies, write poems etc)
- communicate with my friends through e-mail
- create print products (invitations, announcements, posters etc.)
- communicate with my friends through synchronous communication applications (ICQ, IRC, Windows Messenger...).
- organize notes about a course or book
- create personal homepage on the internet

Rate your knowledge about the following software applications on a scale between 1 and 5.

I consider my knowledge about

databases (e.g., Microsoft Access...)

not at all satisfactory (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) very satisfactory

web authoring tools (e.g., Macromedia Dreamweaver, Microsoft FrontPage...)

not at all satisfactory (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) very satisfactory

presentation software (e.g., Microsoft PowerPoint...)

not at all satisfactory (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) very satisfactory

programming language (e.g., C, Basic, Pascal...)

not at all satisfactory (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) very satisfactory

text editors (e.g., Microsoft Word...)

not at all satisfactory (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) very satisfactory

spreadsheets (e.g., Microsoft Excel...)

not at all satisfactory (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) very satisfactory

internet browsers (e.g., Microsoft Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator, Firefox...)

not at all satisfactory (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) very satisfactory

Email software (e.g., Microsoft Outlook, Eudora Email...)

not at all satisfactory (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) very satisfactory

Use the scale from 1 to 5 to indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

Many of my friends and relatives like using a computer

Strongly Disagree (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) Strongly Agree

My friends and relatives enjoy discussions about computer issues

Strongly Disagree (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) Strongly Agree

My friends and relatives are proficient computer users

Strongly Disagree (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) Strongly Agree

My friends and relatives use the computer intensively

Strongly Disagree (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) Strongly Agree

Until recently,

I primarily used a computer that I owned.

Strongly Disagree (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) *Strongly Agree*

I had the responsibility for my own computer's maintenance and operation processes.

Strongly Disagree (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) *Strongly Agree*

most times, I used the computer without the supervision of someone else.

Strongly Disagree (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) *Strongly Agree*

most times, I used computers for reasons imposed by others.

Strongly Disagree (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) *Strongly Agree*

Thank you for completing the questionnaire!