Linux - Minimum Hardware Threshold

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Purchasing a CSCS Device

If you would like to purchase a new CSCS laptop/desktop device to run Linux, our recommended standard specification is:

CSCS Type	Model	Specifications
Standard Laptop	Dell Latitude 5430	i5-1245U 10 Core, 16GB, M.2 256GB SSD
Performance Laptop	Dell Latitude 7430	i7-1245U 10 Core, 16GB, M.2 512GB SSD
Standard Desktop	Dell OptiPlex 7090 MFF	i5-10600, 16GB RAM, M.2 512GB SSD

If you prefer to order a different model or specification, it should be for Linux at least:

- A minimum Intel Core i5 8th generation processor, or equivalent
- A minimum of 16GB RAM
- A minimum 256GB SSD
- TPM v2.0 compatible
- A business grade model, such as:
    - Dell - Latitude, Precision, OpiPlex,
    - Lenovo - ThinkPad, Mobile Workstation, Think Centre, Think Station
    - HP - Zbook, Elite, Pro Book, ProDesk, Z series
    - ASUS - ExpertBook, ExpertCentre, Pro series
- Must be running at least Ubuntu 20.04/5.15+ kernel

Adding a non-CSCS Device to CSCS Support

If you already have a laptop/desktop PC that you have purchased, that you would like to add onto CSCS support, the minimum hardware threshold for any Linux device:

- A minimum Intel Core i5 8th Generation processor ie. i5-8xxx series or newer
- A minimum of 8GB RAM, preferred 16GB RAM
- A minimum 256GB SSD
- TPM v2.0 compatible
- Must be running at least Ubuntu 20.04/5.15+ kernel

 Note: If the device has been purchased through a University supplier, it should be purchased with a 5 year warranty

Age of Devices on CSCS Support

From 01/07/2022, CSCS has updated its approach with regards to the age of devices on CSCS support. This is to ensure we are able to provide ongoing protection for your files, data & devices at the appropriate level, which is not possible when running older devices & operating systems.

- *For now, if you have an older device, CSCS will continue to support it. However, we shall be in contact with you to let you know that you should start scheduling it's replacement.*
- *CSCS expect to work with our customers over the next few years to gradually remove all these older devices from CSCS support, so that by 2025 we shall no longer support devices older than 5 years old & we expect departments to be able to manage hardware replacements on a 5 year cycle, thereafter.*
- *Please note, however, if an older device has a hardware failure, needs a hardware upgrade or requires a rebuild to fix an issue, CSCS will likely advise you that the device needs to be replaced instead. If that is not possible then the device will likely be removed from CSCS support.*