

# Determining Your Computer Resources

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There are a number of computer components that must meet certain requirements in order for your computer to perform effectively. This document explains how to check each to ensure they are sufficient.

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## Minimum Requirements

Requirements for PCs already owned, and for PCs that will be purchased:

	<u>Already Owned PC</u>	<u>New PC</u>
<b>Operating System</b>	Windows XP SP3 or Windows Vista	Windows 7
<b>Processor</b>	Pentium CPU 3.00 GHz or Equivalent	Pentium CPU Dual Core 3.00 GHz or Equivalent
<b>Memory</b>	2 GB RAM	4 GB RAM
<b>Web Browser</b>	Internet Explorer 7.0 or higher	Internet Explorer 7.0 or higher
<b>RDP Client Version*</b>	RDP 7.0	RDP 7.0
<b>Antivirus Product</b>	Each machine must have an antivirus product installed. The Court's product, Sophos, is available at no cost for those who wish to use it. Click this <a href="#">link</a> for more information.	

## Operating System

The minimum requirement for new computers is Windows 7, while existing computers can have either Windows XP SP3 (Service Pack 3) or Windows Vista.

To check the Operating System of your computer:

1. Click *Start > Control Panel > System*.
  - The Operation System will either be displayed under the “Windows edition” heading



Windows edition  
Windows 7 Professional  
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**OR** it will be listed under the “System” heading.



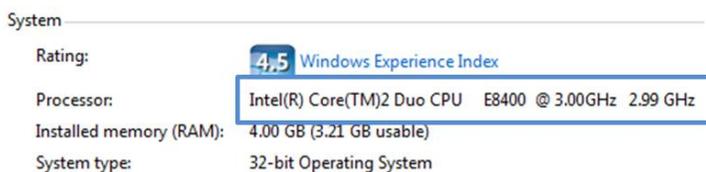
System:  
Microsoft Windows XP  
Professional  
Version 2002  
Service Pack 3

For computers with Windows XP, the Service Pack level must be “Service Pack 3”. If “Service Pack 1” or “Service Pack 2” is listed, perform Windows Updates until “Service Pack 3” is installed. Contact the Service Desk if additional assistance is required.

## Processor

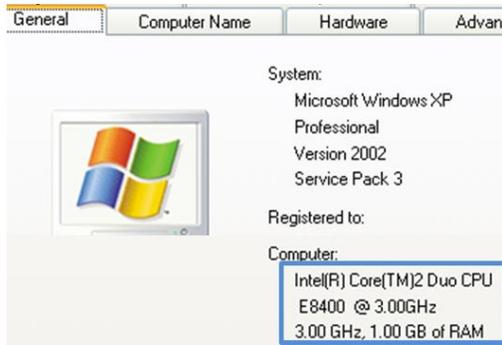
The minimum processor requirement for new computers is Pentium CPU Dual Core 3.00 GHz or Equivalent, while the requirement for existing computers is Pentium CPU 3.00 GHz or Equivalent.

1. Click *Start > Control Panel > System*.
  - The Processor will be listed under the “System” heading.



System  
Rating: 4.5 Windows Experience Index  
Processor: Intel(R) Core(TM)2 Duo CPU E8400 @ 3.00GHz 2.99 GHz  
Installed memory (RAM): 4.00 GB (3.21 GB usable)  
System type: 32-bit Operating System

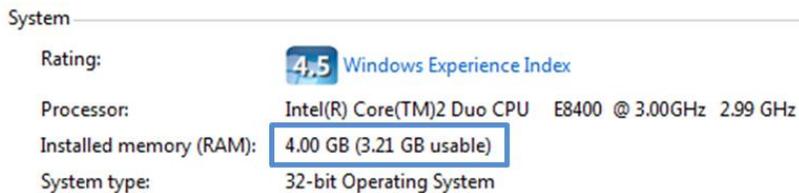
**OR** it will be listed under the General tab and the “Computer” heading.



## Memory

The minimum requirement for memory for new computers is 4 GB and 2 GB for existing computers.

1. Click *Start > Control Panel > System*.
  - The Processor will be listed under the “System” heading.



**OR** it will be listed under the General tab and the “Computer” heading.



## Web Browser

The minimum requirement for the web browser is Microsoft’s Internet Explorer 7.0 (IE7). The newest version of Microsoft’s web browser is 8 (IE8).

## RDP (Remote Desktop Protocol)

Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) is the communication platform that is used to connect your home computer to the Judicial Branch's servers. The newest version of RDP is 7.0 and that must be installed on your computer before trying to access RDS (Remote Desktop Services), which provides access to Outlook, Odyssey Assistant and other Branch applications.

RDP 7.0 must be installed for XP and Vista machines. It is included on Windows 7 machines.

If you are unsure of the RDP version on your machine, just install RDP 7.0 using the following links based on the Operating System you are using. Installing RDP 7.0 on machines that already have RDP 7.0 will not harm the computer.

[Windows XP SP3](#)

[Windows Vista SP2](#)

## Antivirus Product

Antivirus products are software programs that search hard drives for viruses and removes or quarantines any that are found. GAL employees are responsible for ensuring their computers are protected with one or more antivirus products. Popular antivirus products include Sophos' Endpoint Security, Symantec's Norton Antivirus, McAfee Antivirus, and Kaspersky Antivirus.

## Appendix: Glossary

**GHz (Gigahertz):** A measurement of speed, usually used in describing the speed of the computer processor. Basically, 1 GHz equals one billion instructions the computer can process per second.

Ten years ago, the average processor speed was around 500 MHz (megahertz). The average processor speed is now around 3 GHz, which is 3000 MHz.

**GB (Gigabyte):** A measurement of storage space usually used for hard drives and memory modules. One byte is capable of holding a single character. One gigabyte holds over a billion bytes.

	Number of bytes
Terabyte (TB)	1,099,511,627,776
Gigabyte (GB)	1,073,741,824
Megabyte (MB)	1,048,576
Kilobyte (KB)	1,024

**Operating System (OS):** The Operating System is the program that is responsible for receiving and translating data and requests from input devices like keyboards and mice. The OS also regulates processing requests to make sure that each request that is processed does not interfere with any other request. Examples of Operating Systems include Microsoft's Windows (XP, Vista, and Windows 7), Apple's Leopard, and The Open Group's UNIX operating system. ***Only Microsoft XP, Vista or Windows 7 can be used in the Judicial Branch.***

**Service Pack (SP):** An update to an operating system or program that corrects an existing problem or provides enhancements. In the case of Operating Systems, Microsoft releases Service Packs every few years to enhance the system and correct known issues. Each Service Pack is named in successive order. The first Service Pack is SP1; the second Service Pack is SP2, etc.

<b>OS</b>	<b>Current Service Pack</b>	<b>Support for Older Service Packs</b>
Windows XP	SP3	Support for SP2 ended July 13, 2010
Windows Vista	SP2	Support for SP1 ended April 13, 2010
Windows 7	None ( <i>SP1 will be available first half of 2011</i> )	

**Web Browser:** A software application used to locate and display internet web sites. ***Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE) is the web browser that is used in the Judicial Branch.***