

CONSORTIUM:



Di2Learn



For more details, visit:



www.di2learn.eu



@Di2learn2021



@di2learn

DISTANCE-DIGITAL TEACHING AND
LEARNING IN THE POST-COVID-19 ERA

Digital demands for distance learning



Co-funded by
the European Union

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This communication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

No. 2020-1-PL01-KA226-SCH-095530

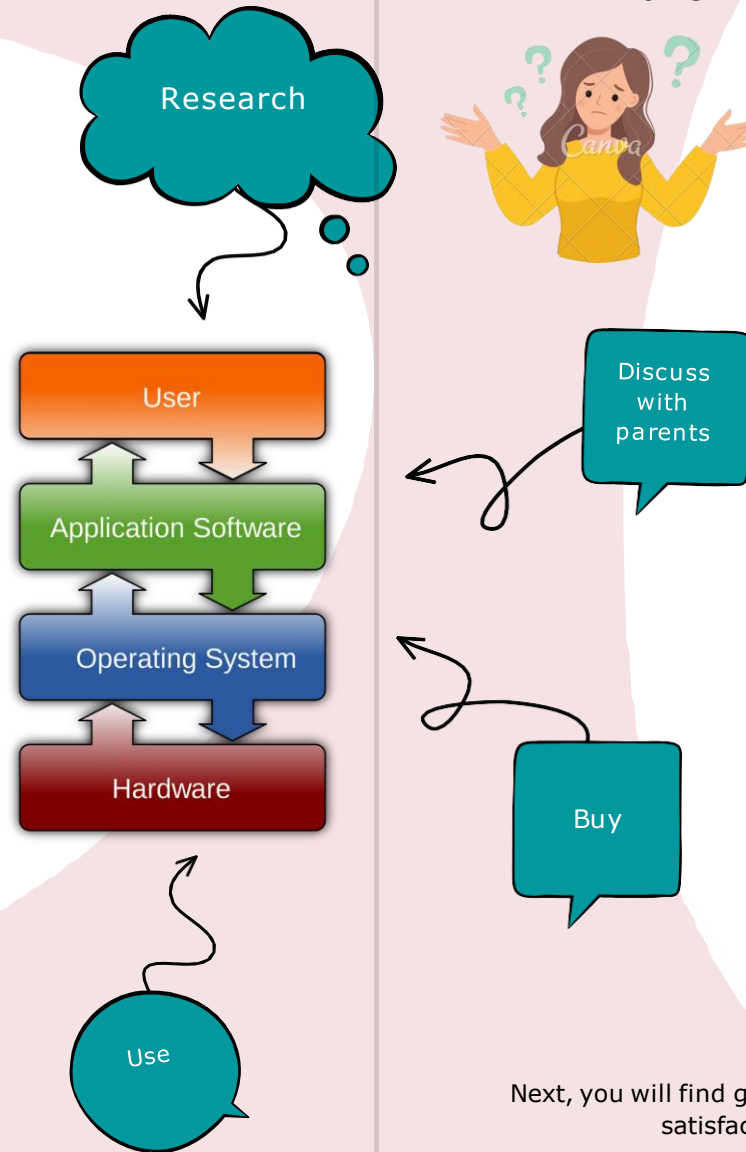
What is required for a smooth, proper distance learning experience?

In order to have an ideal distance learning experience, you need to collaborate with your teachers and parents in choosing the ideal hardware and software setup for you and your classmates.

Keep in mind that the adults around you may not be as tech-savvy as the younger generations - be patient, explain your needs and make sure they understand the new concepts.

If there is one thing that the pandemic taught us all is that we need to constantly adapt to the new rules in force. So, if you can, look into setup ideas used by other schools - hidden gems could be anywhere. You might just discover a great but not well-known software to use for school while chatting with friends.

Some teachers may already have a list of suggestions, based on their experience; make sure you meet the requirements, as to fully enjoy your distance learning experience.



Some of the most important questions to which you and your parents will have to answer to are the following:



Can't I just use a tablet or my smartphone?
Tablets work for younger students who don't have to do a lot of typing. As you get older, on the other hand, you will be doing significant amounts of typing, and having a full keyboard is definitely better than trying to type on a tablet.

Prices are higher, what should I do?
Because of the high demand with so many people continuing to work remotely from home as well as the number of students planning for online courses this fall, prices are on the rise. Don't be surprised if the price tag on any given model is a bit more than you were expecting given all these economic forces at play during the pandemic.

Decision point: PC/Windows or Apple/Mac OS?
Most standard PC/Windows laptops come with a lower price tag than Apple, but you also have to be much more proactive around protecting the device from computer viruses and malware attacks. Apple does a better job of making sure you rarely have to worry about those kinds of problems.

Does computer provider / brand matter?
Some brands are known for making better machines than others. The most reliable brands are considered to be Apple, Dell, HP, Lenovo, Microsoft, Acer, Samsung, and Asus. In general, any mid-range machine from these brands is going to offer as much computing power as high school students need.

What about software? Which should I download or buy?
The best thing to do is set up a Google account so you have not only a Gmail account for email, but also free access to key Google apps such as Google Docs for word processing (writing papers and assignments), Google Sheets for spreadsheets, and both Google Slides and YouTube for presentations.

Next, you will find general recommended system specs, ideal for a satisfactory distance learning experience.

Keep in mind that, depending on the specific tools used in certain classes, system requirements could increase or decrease.

Suggested hardware for distance learning

1

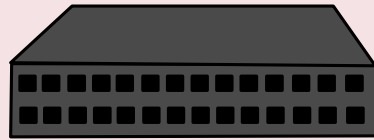
RAM memory: at least 4 GB of memory if you use only a few lightweight programs at a time, 8 GB for heavier productivity tasks.

3

Battery life: for flexibility to learn on the go, something in the range of 5-10 hours is more than adequate

5

Audio and video: while headset preferences are many times cosmetic, you should opt for high-quality earphones with a noise-cancellation microphone; webcam: at least 720p, 30 fps should be suitable for most situations



2

Processor: Intel Core i3 for basic programs needed for distance learning, Intel Core i5 or i7 for more demanding tasks

4

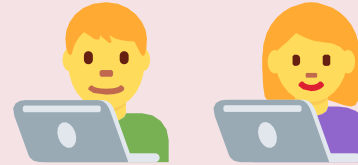
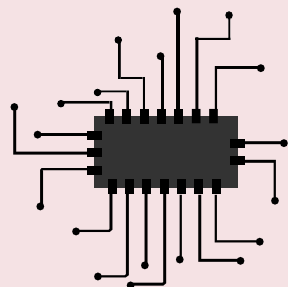
Hard Drive size: for general use, 250 GB hard drive or higher; your safest bet is getting a 500GB – 1TB hard drive for storing your files

6

Screen size: for learning purposes, a screen size in the range of 13-15 inches should be sufficient.

7

Internet connection: depends on how many other users are in your house; 50 Mbps - Good for 2-4 people and 5-7 devices. 100 Mbps can handle 2-3 video streams plus some extra online activity. 100 Mbps - Good for 4-6 people and up to 10 devices.



Suggested software for distance learning

2

Presentation software: Microsoft Powerpoint or OpenOffice Impress or Apple Keynote for simple to medium complexity presentations, Prezi for more advanced users

4

Multimedia software: Movavi Video Suite, VLC Media, KMPlayer, PotPlayer, Kodi (Formerly XBMC), VidMate, iTunes, Windows Media Player.

6

Other tools and platforms: the Google suite (Docs, Classroom, Gmail etc.), Zoom, Microsoft Teams, BookWidgets, WorldWall, Canva, Animaker

1

Recommended Operating Systems:
Windows: 7 or newer
MAC: OS X v10.7 or higher
Linux: Ubuntu

3

Web browsers: Firefox, Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Apple Safari, Opera

5

Document editing and viewing: Microsoft Word, OpenOffice Writer, Zoho Writer, LibreOffice Writer, WPS Office Writer, Adobe Reader, Calibre Library

