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Operating Systems

There are several types of operating systems at Sierra College. We have Microsoft Windows 3.1 to Microsoft XP. We also have Digital VMS and Macintosh 8.6 to 10.2. Now with this wide range of Operating systems at the college one would wonder if anything in the Information Technology Department ever gets done.

Each operating system is used for a specific purpose. The one Microsoft Windows 3.1 operating system is used by the phone PBX. The few Microsoft Windows 95 we have on campus are used for specific purposes as well. The Microsoft Windows 95 I have on my desk at Sierra College is used for tracking all of the call made from each phone at all 4 campuses of Sierra College. The Digital Alpha with the VMS operating system is for storing all of the records for Sierra College and those are student records, teacher records, and staff records. There are some teachers and some staff at Sierra College who are using Macintosh operating systems but those are a few compared to the rest of the campus who use a mixture of Microsoft Windows 98 and Microsoft Windows XP.

With the Macintosh computers on the campus only the Science Department teachers and Marketing Department are using this operating system because they have special needs when it come to software and the software only runs on a Macintosh operating system. For the most part 80% of the computers used at Sierra College are Microsoft Windows. Out of 80% only about 20% are Microsoft Windows 98 and the rest are Microsoft Windows XP. The Microsoft applications the college employee's uses the most is the Microsoft Office package. All of the servers we have at Sierra College are using a Microsoft operating system.

Some of the programs on the Digital Alpha server are used for typical collage applications like: available class, grade display, class load size, catalog information (description of class), print transcripts, print class room rosters, print teacher grade sheets, print attendance sheets, print current class schedule for each student, print registration appointment time, print records with holds on them, print student over loads, print student labels, print staff labels, print teacher labels. This are just a few of the programs on the Digital Alpha server using VMS as an operating system. At any one time we will have about 300 people logged into the two Digital Alpha servers.

With the size of our current Information Technology Department of 6 full time programmers, 2 MICRO/LAN workers, one Computer Operator, one Help Desk, one Network Administrator, and one LAN administrator. We do a pretty good job of keeping every thing up and running and we even have time to implement new technology into the network.