

UPDATE ON COMPUTING FACILITIES

When the Trottier building opened, the University donated over \$1M for computer equipment including lab equipment, computers, printers, and other purchases. Because the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering does not have funds to service, maintain, or replace these machines, the University decided to hand over the management of computers in the open areas, to the Engineering Microcomputing Facilities (EMF).

PRINTING SERVICES

All printers in the Trottier building are maintained and serviced by ECE, and a student in the Faculty of Engineering can create an ECE account for printing, deposit money into his or her account, and then print from anywhere in the building. The money collected will in turn be used by ECE to maintain and service the building's printers. Therefore, please note that problems relating to the printing services are handled by ECE.

SOFTWARE

The EMF has received and installed Cadence, Code 5 (optics) and Pspice, and Altera Quartus IV. The latest version of Matlab is also available on all machines. Requests for other relevant software on the EMF Machines should be sent to: emf.support@mcgill.ca

NUMBER OF MACHINES

This year, the Department of ECE replaced 48 new PCs in the Software Engineering and the Software Validation labs. These new machines will help run the latest software used in the Software Engineering Program. Please note that since EMF controls all machines in the "open" areas, questions regarding machines in these spaces should be forwarded to EMF.

PILOT LAPTOP PROGRAM

The new Pilot Laptop Program (PLP) (<http://www.mcgill.ca/emf/laptop/>) will decrease the load on the computers in the Trottier building, allowing more students to connect to McGill's network either through the wireless network or (at a later date) via the Ethernet cables.

BUILDING ACCESS

Access to the Trottier Building is currently restricted to ECSE students, between the hours of 8:00 pm and 6:00 am, but the closed labs will be soon available round the clock, to students registered in that particular course. Card readers are being installed at the entrance of each of these labs so that students not registered in the course will not be able to gain access to those rooms and machines. Engineering students from other departments will continue to have access to computers in the open areas.

Study rooms are overseen by ExCESS and can only be booked by ECSE students. Additionally, in mid-November, break out rooms on the 4th floor will be available to ECSE students.