

MEDIA RELEASE



Dell helps Bond Uni students take on the world

Bond University has continued its role as an educational pace-setter by providing its students with the most advanced computer labs in Australia.

The University recently upgraded to Dell OptiPlex Pentium desktops to optimise its leading edge computer facilities and enable students take advantage of emerging technologies such as the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Bond has been running a core computer course attended by all students, since 1989 and boasts the highest student-to-computer ratio - eight to one. All students will soon have access to the 87 Dell 90MHz OptiPlex computers currently being installed by the University.

The first systems have been installed in the teaching labs, with the lecture theatres to follow. Each computer is fully networked, has Internet access while in lecture theatres, has a CD ROM drive and sound card installed and can be linked to large screens.

In their first semester, all students are required to take the core computing and data skills course aimed at preparing students for the use of computing in their other subjects.

In the teaching labs, students learn how to use word processing, spreadsheets, database and presentation graphics programs, as well as how to 'surf' the Internet.

“For fast Internet access and use of software such as PowerPoint, PageMaker and Microsoft Office, we needed sophisticated hardware which is why we chose to upgrade to Dell Pentium machines,” said John Oglethorpe, computer services manager.

The teaching labs also accommodate more specialised use by students in the University’s highly regarded business, accounting, law and journalism courses.

The business core subject requires that business students take part in a computer simulation exercise in which students perform as a company director, making business decisions and buying and selling stock.

Journalism students are generating an innovative daily newspaper for all students and staff which is received by e-mail. They have created their own Web page and key material into PC’s in a pseudo-newsroom which is then transferred to a Web page.

Having been taught to write HTML code, students are developing their own home pages for the Web using Netscape. Graduates are able to buy the Web site when they leave, enabling them to advertise their qualifications. Students in residence are also provided with Internet connection for their own computers.

Dell OptiPlex systems will also be available for student use in the general purpose computer room, while the humanities lab will use them to run language programs.

The University has been using a mixture of IBM PS2’s and Commodore 486’s, all of which will be upgraded to Dell OptiPlex Pentium systems. One of its two Macintosh labs will also be converted to a Dell PC lab.

Mr Oglethorpe said the University was selecting hardware on the basis of quality and lifespan. Dell computers were purchased following an indepth evaluation last year.

“Our PC purchase last year was governed by price but with the latest price performance of Dell computers, we were able to buy upmarket machines,” he said.

While Dell was not the cheapest, it performed well compared to the other brands, especially in terms of quality control, maintenance standards, sales and support," said Mr Oglethorpe.

"Bond University users have been impressed with its speed, screen clarity, ergonomics and ease of configuration, with Dell preloading required software," he said.

Dell Computer pioneered the direct marketing of PCs in Australia as well as providing a comprehensive range of innovative customer service and technical support offerings. A Fortune 500 company, Dell is one of the top five PC companies in the world with current revenues of \$US4 billion.

For further information:

Dell Computer - 1800 810 676

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Dell Worldwide Web server, at <http://www.us.dell.com/>.

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Lindsay Davis - MACRO Communication - (02)439 3655

