Subject: ECE 1111: Temple's Computer Recycling Center (CRC) and second monitors
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Every semester I am surprised that students are not aware of Temple's CRC:

https://its.temple.edu/lab/computer-recycling-center

You can find many great deals on used computer equipment.

Screen real estate is very important to your productivity as a programmer. For example, in ECE 1111, you will regularly see me use two or three windows (source code, command line, data resources). At home, I keep email/calendar/browser on one screen, code development on a second screen, and windows showing code output on a third screen.

I strongly recommend students get at least a second monitor. You can purchase monitors very inexpensively from Temple's CRC, and they are yours to keep.

I use Dell monitors purchased through the CRC and low-end generic monitors purchased from Best Buy. Usually you can pay about $25 from the CRC and about $100 from Best Buy. I actually use one 22" monitor and on HDTV plus my 15" laptop screen at home. At work if you find your way to my office you will see another 22" monitor and a 52" HDTV. (This lets me watch Netflix while programming 🙂

Either way, at these prices, there is no reason you shouldn't have a second or third monitor. In fact, I am contemplating adding a fourth monitor at home – you can never have enough screens 🙂

–Joe