- Thank you all for having me
- My name is John Mazzarella
- I’m Assistant Vice Chancellor of IT Client Services

- This is a very special computer
- This is an IBM PERSONAL DATA E.X.P.
- This was a great computer when it was released 29 years ago in 1994
- But the real reason it’s special is because
- This is the oldest computer that’s currently active on the UMass Boston inventory today.
- This 29 year old computer is still on our books.
And it’s not alone.
- There are over 100 computers that are over 20 years old on our inventory
- and almost 5 thousand computers are over 8 years old
- I’m talking a lot about a computer’s age.
- But age isn’t the sole way to know if a computer is useful
- It’s a big clue for sure, but we have better information
To set the stage, there are currently 11 thousand, 7 hundred and 53 computers active in our inventory today.

Technically, my copy of the inventory spreadsheet is a few months out of date, I know they’ve been continuing to clean it up since then, but it’s close enough to convey the point.

What I had my team do earlier this year is to go through all 12 thousand entries on the spreadsheet and mark each one as, ok, is this specific make and model of a computer still viable as a university computer today.

Specifically what that means is, does the computer have new enough hardware to be compatible with currently supported versions of Windows and Mac operating systems.

If not, that means it’s not getting security patches and is a risk to be continuing to use.

In reality though, we know a lot of these 12 thousand computers aren’t being used, they’re piled in hallways and closets waiting to be surplussed.

So in doing this review, we now know that 6 thousand, 7 hundred and 10 computers do not meet these viability standards and should be retired and surplussed.
- Not just do we know the total number, but we now know down to the individual specific device which ones are viable or not I’ll explain more about why this is important later
- But first, I just need to highlight this slide. From our review of the inventory, more than half of all computers on campus needs to basically be thrown into the trash. So that’s the scope of the problem. Thousands of devices
What else is difficult about surplussing
- The process to get rid of old computers is a big component to how we got to this point
- Right now, it’s the computer’s owner or their department’s responsibility for coordinating
- ...the form itself is cumbersome to fill out
- ...And then some how the computers have to get to the service and supply building
- And what results from all these little inconveniences that build up is that the backlog of old computers builds up too
- And now we’re in the state we’re in
Tech Recycling Days

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<th>Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td>4/26 - UHall</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/3 - Wheatley</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/10 - McCormack</td>
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<td>5/17 - Campus Center</td>
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<td>(Skip commencement week)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/31 - Quinn</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/7 - Healey</td>
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- So that’s what IT wants to try to fix
- We want to try and get as many of these old computers off campus and off our books
- We’ll do that by making it as easy as possible for people to get rid of their old stuff, in two big ways
- First is, we’ll be visiting each building and setting up a drop off table in the lobby
- Here’s the schedule of when we’ll be in each
- Instead of having to coordinate a time to drop off devices, and then bring them all across campus
- Just bring them out to the lobby and we’ll transport them the rest of the way
- Second way we’re simplifying things is by simplifying the paperwork for the end user
- Someone will be able to drop off a computer at the table, we’ll scan the umb bar code and the person can just walk away
- The property form still needs to be filled out, but we’re going to do that for people
- That’s where that manual device viability review comes in handy. We scan the device, it looks up the entry in the inventory and tells us if it’s viable or not
- Then it pulls all the data out of the inventory to populate the property form automatically
- We’ll send the completed form back by docusign to sign off and then it’s just done
- This will be officially announced in one week on Tuesday the 18th, and we have a communications plan to resend the notice several times, as well as work with senior leadership to boost it down to their departments
- Tech Recycling Days is the first pass at trying to clean up this mess.
- We know we won’t get all the devices back through a voluntary process like this.
- So IT is also pretty far along on creating a formal Computer Lifecycle Policy.
- This is a description of the ideal state for how computers go from purchase to deployment to support to end of life surplussing.
2.E. The University requires the standard of “one computer per person”. Most employees should only need only one assigned computer to do all aspects of their job. For proper business and instructional continuity, and to enable the current hybrid work modalities in place on campus, employees who are approved for a hybrid schedule need their assigned computer to be a laptop which can be transported between campus and remote work locations. Specific positions which are required by their manager to be 100% on campus without any need for the ability to work remotely may be assigned a desktop computer instead of a laptop.

- This policy touches on a lot of things, but one section discusses, again an ideal of “One Computer per Person”
- Basically, the default should be that people only need one computer to do their job
- If they need more for some reason, that’s fine, but that should be the exception
- So our policy will set up this standard as well as an exception process
### Tech Recycling Days

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*Skip commencement week*

- We have no way to know how popular or not this will be
- All we can do is show up and see who comes to us
- But we’re hopeful this will take away a portion of the big numbers
- And it’ll also be the first step towards other future ways we’ll try to address this problem.
- Any Questions?