

## WHAT KIND OF HARDWARE WILL I NEED TO CONNECT TO THE NETWORK?

Many computers now come with Ethernet cards installed, if your computer does not have one, they are easy to buy and install. You will need to confirm what type of network card is needed in your computer. To do this it is necessary to open the case of the computer and look at what type of expansion slots are available on the motherboard. To view the motherboard, usually involves unscrewing the back of the case and removing the cover of your computer. See your computer documentation for details in removing the case cover.

### WILL I NEED A PCI OR ISA NETWORK CARD?

The motherboard in your computer will determine what type of network card you will need. The current standard of motherboards may support both types of cards, but PCI is the most common. The motherboard will have expansion slots that allow a network card to be fitted in the board. Below are examples of the two types of expansion slots you will encounter.



#### PCI EXPANSION SLOT (MORE COMMON)

The photo to the left shows two open PCI slots. PCI slot will be white and noticeably shorter than an ISA slot. If this is the type of slot available, you will need a PCI network card. (Available at the bookstore)



#### ISA EXPANSION SLOT (ON SOME OLDER COMPUTERS)

The photo to the left shows two open ISA slots. An ISA slot will be black and noticeably longer than a PCI slot. If this is the type of slot available, you will need an ISA network card. (Available at the bookstore)

## WHAT HARDWARE DO I NEED FOR A MACINTOSH?

Most Macintosh computers made since about 1996 will have a built-in Ethernet card. On the back of the computer look for this symbol <•••>. It should be next to a connector that looks like a large phone jack, or it may be next to trapezoid shaped plug. If you have **only** the trapezoid shaped plug, you will need an Ethernet Transceiver. Otherwise, your computer is ready to be connected to the Truman network.

### WHAT ABOUT A PATCH CABLE?

A patch cable will be a colored network cable with connectors on both ends that look like large telephone connectors. One end will connect into the installed network card and the other end will connect into the network outlet in the wall. The patch cable maybe called a CAT 5 or category 5 cable, and it should have RJ-45 connectors. (Available at the bookstore)

## WHAT BRAND OF NETWORK CARD SHOULD I GET?

We have had good results with 3Com brand cards. Most cards available in stores will work, but a good rule of thumb is to not get the cheapest one.

## HOW DO I INSTALL THE NETWORK CARD?

Your network card will come with detailed instructions and software. Follow the procedures that have been included with the network card for installation and software setup.



### HOW DO I PLUG INTO THE NETWORK?

Truman's Network outlets look like large blue telephone outlets. IT Services marks the ports with a small colored tag to indicate to which network the port is connected. Ethernet ports are marked with yellow tags and token-ring ports are marked with green tags. If the tag is white, or not present, contact IT Services to inquire about the status of the port. Plug one end of patch cable into the network card and the other into the yellow Ethernet port.

## CHECK LIST:

If you have the following three things, you are ready to connect your computer to Truman's network.

- Ethernet Card:  Built-in     PCI Slot     ISA Slot
- Patch Cable:  Long enough to reach from port to computer?
- Ethernet Port:  Does it have a yellow tab next to it?

If you need assistance installing your network card, contact the service desk in your residence hall or the IT Service Center at x4544.