



Assessment Workstation Technical Specifications

As of September 11, 2015

The purpose of this document is to outline, for Agency IT staff, the workstation technical specifications needed for MnCHOICES Assessment users to conduct assessments, support planning, and who may also be running the SSIS application.

Listed below are two sets of workstation specifications for Assessment workstations.

- Table 1 outlines specifications for one for purchasing **new workstations**,
- Table 2 outlines specifications for purchasing **existing workstations**.

NOTES:

SSIS is providing technical support for ALL MnCHOICES users. SSIS is the Social Services Information System, a major DHS application that is used by county/tribal human services agencies for client case management. SSIS and DHS Continuing Care staff partner in the MnCHOICES implementation.

MnCHOICES mentors should submit help requests to the SSIS Help Desk. Please be sure to put MnCHOICES in the subject line.

Hardware and OS Considerations

- **SSIS is recommending 8GB of RAM for new workstation purchases, which is consistent with current DHS purchasing policy.** The additional RAM will improve performance across the board¹ and will extend the useful life of the workstation as new applications continue to consume more RAM. The cost of the additional 4GB of RAM is estimated to be less than \$40. SSIS will run acceptably using 4GB of RAM, and the SSIS Development Team is focused on managing the application's memory requirements and improving performance wherever possible, but more RAM will make all applications run better.
- **For new computer purchases, SSIS and MnCHOICES Assessment strongly recommend Windows 7 - 64 bit.** Memory usage is much better when using the 64 bit operating system², and both the SSIS and MnCHOICES Assessment applications will run better in this environment. If you are running a 32 bit operating system, do not purchase more than 4 MB of RAM – the O/S cannot use it³.
- **Tablets like an iPad or Windows-based Tablet are not supported by MnCHOICES Assessment.** SSIS has received several inquiries as to whether lead agencies will be able to use a tablet to access MnCHOICES. Lead agencies must use a laptop (in the field) to access MnCHOICES that meets or exceeds the specifications shown below.

The specifications contained in this document should be followed by MnCHOICES Agency IT staff as they have been prepared expressly for MnCHOICES Assessment users, who may also be running the SSIS application. These specs are derived from SSIS recommendations also stated in the SSIS document, *Workstation Technical Specifications for SSIS and MnCHOICES Assessment Applications*.

Table 1. New Workstation Specifications

Running MnCHOICES Assessment	Running MnCHOICES Assessment and SSIS
<p>Hardware</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • i5-2400 Processor, 3.1-3.4 GHz • 8 GB of RAM • 250 GB hard drive <p>Operating System Microsoft Windows 7 - 64 bit</p> <p>Software</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet Explorer 9 or higher • Silverlight version 5.1.1 or higher⁴ • Java Runtime version 6 or higher • Microsoft .NET Framework 4.5 Client Profile⁵ <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-speed Internet connection for initial setup 	<p>Hardware</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • i5-2400 Processor, 3.1-3.4 GHz • 8 GB of RAM • 250 GB hard drive • Network card compatible with county's local area network topology <p>Desktop Monitor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17" or 19" LCD or flat panel monitor <p>Note: Fiscal users should have 19" monitors because of the large displays for fiscal functions</p> <p>Operating System Microsoft Windows 7 - 64 bit</p> <p>Software</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet Explorer 9 or higher • Silverlight version 5.1.1 or higher⁴ • Java Runtime version 6 or higher • Microsoft .NET Framework 4.5 Client Profile⁵ <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-speed Internet connection for initial setup

Table 2. Existing Workstation Specifications

Running MnCHOICES Assessment	Running MnCHOICES Assessment and SSIS
<p>Hardware</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 GHz Processor • 4GB of RAM, 8 GB of RAM recommended³ • 16 GB available disk space <p>Operating System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Windows 7 - 32 bit or 64 bit <p>Software</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet Explorer 9 or higher • Silverlight version 5.1.1 or higher⁴ • Microsoft .NET Framework 4.0 Client Profile⁵ • Java Runtime version 6 or higher <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-speed Internet connection for initial setup • Ethernet card and wired connection for laptops 	<p>Hardware</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 GHz Processor • 4 GB of RAM, 8 GB of RAM recommended³ • 250 GB hard drive • Network card compatible with county's local area network topology <p>Desktop Monitor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17" or 19" LCD or flat panel monitor <p>Operating System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Windows 7 - 32 bit or 64 bit <p>Software</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet Explorer 9 or higher • Silverlight version 5.1.1 or higher⁴ • Microsoft .NET Framework 4.0 Client Profile⁶ • Java Runtime version 6 or higher <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-speed Internet connection for initial setup • Ethernet card and wired connection for laptops

¹ [Performance impact of 8 GB of RAM vs. 4 GB: http://blog.laptopmag.com/5-ways-to-supercharge-your-laptop-for-under-100](http://blog.laptopmag.com/5-ways-to-supercharge-your-laptop-for-under-100)

² Windows 7 - 32 bit vs. 64 bit comparison: <http://www.sevenforums.com/installation-setup/86886-32-bit-vs-64-bit-comparison.html>

³ 32 bit operating systems can only use 4 GB of RAM If you are running Windows XP or Windows 7 in 32 bit mode (referred to as X86), do not install more than 4 GB of RAM. Details at: [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/aa366778\(v-vs.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/aa366778(v-vs.85).aspx)

⁴ Silverlight installation instructions at: http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/agencywide/documents/pub/some_url.pdfhttp://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/agencywide/documents/pub/dhs16_171736.pdf

⁵ Microsoft .NET Framework Installation instructions at: http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/agencywide/documents/pub/dhs16_169332.pdf