

hokkaido *Life*

BUYING A COMPUTER

The links in these documents contain information to make your life in Hokkaido easier and more enjoyable. Access each link and add it to your favourites list.

If you don't already have a laptop or desktop, you'll need to find one; least you'll go insane. Your predecessor may be willing to sell you his or her old computer, or you might occasionally find a used one for sale on the HAJET LISTSERV or the [\[Hokkaido JET Forums\]](#).

Another avenue is to buy a new system. You can check out your local electronics store (Yodobashi Camera, Best Denki, and Bic Camera are the big stores in Sapporo). You could also check out [\[www.costco.co.jp\]](http://www.costco.co.jp) near Sapporo. Keep in mind that Japanese computer can be more expensive than what you're accustomed to back home.

A note of warning, however – if you buy a computer from a Japanese retailer, you can be 99.9% sure that the operating system will be in Japanese (i.e. all the menus and software included will be in Japanese). Of course, software that uses English will work on it, but the native language will still be in 日本語. Also the keyboard will have the Japanese layout, but will still most of the normal English layout (with a few annoying exceptions).

If you want a brand new system and are dead set against having everything come up only in Japanese though, there are several ways out. You can order from a great website called Prime PC at [\[www.primepc.jp\]](http://www.primepc.jp). They offer fully built customized PCs with English OS. You can also order parts to build your own, like I did. Their OEM English prices are a little high, so you could just order a PC without an OS and then order an OEM English OS from [\[www.newegg.com\]](http://www.newegg.com) and have someone ship it to you (buy some ram too as it's cheaper in the US if you know how to install it). I recommend Windows Vista Ultimate personally. Prime PC has notebooks with English keyboard layouts too, which will save much frustration for many of you.

Mac people should be able to get their computers in Sapporo at the larger stores or online at [\[www.apple.com/jp/\]](http://www.apple.com/jp/). The US site does not ship to Japan. The Mac OS X can switch user interfaces (like XP Pro or Vista Ultimate) from Japanese to English, so no worries there.

Dell Computer now has a Japanese operation, and while their Japanese website, [\[www.dell.co.jp\]](http://www.dell.co.jp), is completely in Japanese, they do have English customer support and can fit you out with an English OS. Call them on 044-556-6050 and press 5 for options in English. You'll be able to order an English layout keyboard as well at no extra charge. However, you'll need to get Vista Ultimate to change the OS language to English.

Also, if you need help with your computer or maybe need someone to upgrade it, ask on the [\[Hokkaido JET Forums\]](#) under 'Hokkaido Hardware/Software Helpers'.

JAPANESE FOR WINDOWS

Here is a tutorial for:

- Setting language for non-Unicode programs to Japanese in Windows XP/Vista.
- Setting up a Japanese input method to allow Japanese input in Windows XP/Vista.

In Windows XP

Language for non-Unicode programs (you probably won't need to do this unless you're running Japanese software).

1. Click on [Start] -> [Settings] -> [Control Panel]
2. Click on [Switch to Classic View] in the top left corner
3. Go into [Regional and Language Options]
4. Select the tab [Advanced]
5. Change the language to [Japanese]

Japanese input method (you don't need to do the above to do this)

1. Go to [Regional and Language Options] again (or if you're there already...)
2. Select the tab [Languages]
3. Click on [Details]
4. Click on [Add]
5. Add Japanese to your list
6. By default the combination to switch between inputs is Alt+Shift

In Windows Vista

Language for non-Unicode programs (you probably won't need to do this unless you're running Japanese software)

1. Click on [Start] -> [Settings] -> [Control Panel]
2. Click on [Classic View] in the top left corner
3. Go into [Regional and Language Options]
4. Select the tab [Administrative]
5. Click on [Change system locale...]
6. Change system locale to [Japanese]

Japanese input method (you don't need to do the above to do this)

1. Go to [Regional and Language Options] again (or if you're there already...)
2. Select the tab [Keyboard and Languages]
3. Click on [Change keyboards...]
4. Click on [Add]
5. Add Japanese (Microsoft IME if you don't know which to pick) to your list
6. By default the combination to switch between inputs is Alt+Shift

For OSX, see [<http://www.nixtechnica.blogspot.com/2007/05/how-to-easily-switch-between-different.html>]

As always, the official [hajat|forum](#) is where you will find all the answers to any questions you may have regarding life in Hokkaido.

HAJET kindly asks you to use paper wisely and only print this document if you really, really must. LOVE HOKKAIDO, LOVE THE ENVIRONMENT!

USEFUL RESOURCES

HAJET | Forum
Dell Japan
COSTCO
Newegg
Prime PC

www.hokkaidojets.org
www.dell.co.jp
www.costco.co.jp
www.newegg.com/store/
www.primepc.jp/goods_pc/

Apple Japan

www.apple.com/jp/

Hokkaido Association of Japan Exchange and Teaching
www.hajet.org

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