



ANTHOLOGY

Anthology
System Requirements

Anthology System Recommendations

Anthology, Inc. makes the following recommendations to businesses interested in purchasing the Anthology software. These recommendations are made based on our knowledge of hardware, networking, the Anthology products and the systems we sell.

Anthology Inc. cannot guarantee the quality, workmanship, stability or compatibility of system components not purchased from Anthology, nor those turnkey systems modified after the sale. We make no endorsement of systems other than those we sell, nor guarantee that they will perform to your satisfaction. In general, we caution our customers against buying “gray market” hardware and to be careful above all of buying cheap hardware that is assembled for home use. Reputable dealers such as Dell are a good source for business class systems. Machines built by a local dealer should use dependable, well known components meant for business class machines.

It’s important to consider the value of your investment early on as the system will likely be put to intensive use for thousands of hours over the next several years. Low end hardware will be limited on needed resources and could fail sooner, causing many headaches for you and your staff.

System Recommendations

Anthology’s recommendations are based on current industry standards and as such will change as the industry changes. Computer systems that meet or exceed Anthology’s recommended specifications are known to perform well within acceptable standards. The minimum requirements listed within this document are meant as a reference point when evaluating existing computer systems. Anthology products will install and function on computers that do not meet these specifications; however system performance, stability and reliability may become a factor if you decide to use systems below our recommended specifications.

It is important to use “business class” computers in your system, not less expensive units intended for home use. A good indicator is the version of Windows installed: business class units come with Win 10 or 11 Professional, where computers intended for home use usually come with Home Premium. Further, Home Premium lacks some of the functionality needed for business level networking.

Recommended specifications for Servers

- Business-class computer
- Windows 10 or 11 Professional

- Processor: At least Intel Core i5 or greater. If you expect to be using the server for many other functions such as web page hosting, email server, etc. or will have a large network a higher processor may be desirable.
- RAM: for a standard 3 user system, 8 GB of ram. For systems with 4-6 users, 8-10 16 GB ram, for much larger systems at least 32 GB of ram.
- 500 GB Hard Disk Drive or larger
- Ethernet 1000 network card or greater

Recommended specifications for workstations

- Business-class computer
- Windows 10 or 11 Professional
- Processor: At least Intel Core i5 or greater.
- 8GB RAM or greater
- 500 GB Hard Disk Drive or larger
- Ethernet 1000 network card

Dedicated Servers

Anthology recommends a dedicated server for any system with more than 3 workstations. Systems with more than 5 users should consider Anthology Private Cloud. Please refer to the document titled “Dedicated Servers and Visual Anthology” for more detail on dedicated servers.

Network Recommendations

Your network is the linking system that allows for the transfer of data between computers and ultimately the people who use this information. These may be simple peer-to-peer networks or very complex systems involving many components and requiring expert installation and maintenance.

If you have an existing store location with network cabling older than 5+ years please consider having the cabling tested. Many older network cable installations are not capable of running at the newer 1000 mb (1 gig) speeds. Cat5 cable is only able to run at 100 mg, whereas Cat5E or Cat6 is able to run at the preferred 1gig speed. Networking equipment should be capable of 1gig network speed. Note that Improperly installed cable and cable damage are among the leading causes of network and program instability. Poorly configured or defective networking equipment will lead to hours of headaches.

Choosing a technician

- There is no substitute for a professional, credentialed, local technician. Please remember that Anthology tech support does not cover network configuration or troubleshooting.

- Your technician should understand your business and apply reasonable solutions to security concerns. Many times technicians will “lock down” a system so tightly that it becomes difficult to use and may cause permissions problems on the network.
- Your technician should be willing to help you understand how to perform routine maintenance on the system. This would include minor troubleshooting.

Network component recommendations

- Anthology does not support “wireless” networks except on Anthology Private Cloud systems. These systems have come a long way in recent years but based on the demands large databases make on a network wireless networks are not sufficient, nor stable enough at this time.
- Professional installation for new network is recommended as network cable is delicate. We recommend the use of Cat6 or higher network cabling.
- Older network cabling should be examined and signal tested by local professional to verify condition.
- Routers/Switches – we recommend the use of routers or switches over hubs as they offer better control over bandwidth allocation and more security features.
- Do not try to use your internet router as the network hub; separate units will enhance network stability. Ideally the store will have a Cable/DSL modem that in turn is connected to a gigabit switch that hosts the workstation connections.

Internet Access & Network Security

With so much of everyday life being conducted over the internet and with the ever-present threat of hackers, viruses, spyware and malware, network security must be a concern. Choose well known security programs and make sure the necessary “Exclusions” or “Exceptions” are configured as well. Please refer to document “SYS Windows Security and Anti-Virus Software” on the Customer Zone for details.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the product you use. Anthology tech support cannot be responsible for supporting these 3rd party products. Know that some products have their own firewall build into them, while most modern routers also have firewalls built right into their hardware as well.

Internet

- Dialup, wireless or satellite connections are not recommended for heavy use.
- DSL should be tested for signal strength and stability. Often stores find they must put signal filters and boosters to improve signal quality.
- Each machine on the LAN should have reputable anti-virus and anti-malware/spyware products loaded.
- Technicians must balance network performance vs. system protection.

System Support & Maintenance

Computer systems are generally covered by their manufacturer's warranties. You should familiarize yourself with the warranties of the manufacturer that you purchase your systems from. Please review the Customer Zone document titled "Anthology Maintenance Contract" to understand what type of support is covered by Anthology. Reconfiguring or reformatting systems is not covered by the standard maintenance contract. Anthology Consulting Services can be hired on a billable basis.

The system is the responsibility of the user to maintain on a regular basis. Improperly maintained systems can be problematic. Refer to the document titled "SYS Recommended System Maintenance Schedule" for a list of suggestions on hardware/operating system maintenance.

Other Important Information

To share the Anthology folder on the file server, you must turn off "Simple File Sharing" so that you can apply full permissions. Your local technician should be able to help with this, or Anthology Consulting Services can assist on a billable basis. This type of assistance must be arranged in advance.

We also do not recommend using the following features- Fast User Switching, Roaming Profiles, Screen Saver forcing users to login, or Power Savers parking/hibernating the drive.

You should also consider having some sort of anti-virus or anti-spyware product along with a hardware or software firewall. There are dozens of security products out there that can give you varying levels of protection.

You may wish to consider the following items/options for your system as well, we highly recommend the following:

- Battery backup / uninterruptible power supply (UPS) units for each machine
- Backup software should be schedulable and work across a network

Lastly, it is best to have Windows Updates set only to notify but not automatically install or scheduled to run after hours. The same notify or evening scheduling should be done with other Security type software. Allowing various updates to run during business hours can cause undue lag on the network. Be sure to schedule monthly or quarterly computer maintenance for recommended tasks such as disk defragmentation, temporary file deletion, and disk-checking.

Note: For more information on setting up Anthology on a non-turnkey system supplied by you, please see our document "Non-Turnkey system Setup and Installation."

