A NOTE ABOUT USING YOUR OWN COMPUTERS:

- You are being asked to use your own computer for downloading software, attaching electronics to its USB ports, and using code to interact boards with your equipment.

- All parts you are using have their own protection. USB ports have built-in current protection, and the Arduino boards have an on-board thermal fuse, with a maximum of 500 milliamps total. This allows for some protection of equipment, and warnings are shown if you've attached wires incorrectly.

- When powered only with a USB connection , you will have very good protection for your computers for operating LEDs, buzzers, motors and sensors.

- The only known source of potential damage to arduino boards and computers are using external batteries and USB **at the same time, *and with a shorted connection***. This is very rare, but it can happen as described here.

- Anecdotally, our instructors can only recall 2 USB ports that ran into problems and were damaged, and both were due to large batteries connected to the board and to USB at the same time.   You can also search yourselves through various forums to see whether others have the same problem (adafruit, sparkfun, arduino).

- Should you have serious concerns regarding the use of your own laptop for work with Arduino boards, please talk to a course instructor.