Litl Webbook Re-Defines Computing

Laptop-like device provides entertainment and education for the whole family.

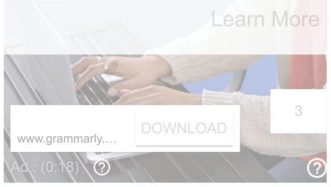
By ERIC M. STRAUSS
December 11, 2009, 10:14 AM • 4 min read

Dec. 14, 2009— -- The litl webbook packs as much power as many of the laptops available today, but the tiny Boston-based company that designed the litl is offering a whole new way to use a computer.

It is not a laptop -- it's an Internet device. In a refreshing approach, the manufacturer has concentrated on simplicity over features.

Advertisement

AD



Litl webbook is an ideal first computer for the kids, a fun digital appliance for the kitchen or a simple to use device for the elderly.

The operating system is completely unique to litl. It's been written from the ground up (2 ½ years in the making) instead of being tweaked for the past 30 years like the Windows and Mac OS.

When users turn on the webbook, they are presented with an easy-to-navigate main page. Instead of menus or a desktop littered with folders, the

Top Stories

Florida building collapse: at least 3 dead, 99 others missing
Jun 24, 9:33 PM

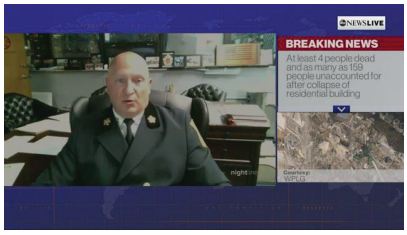
PHOTOS: Scores missing after Florida building collapse
37 minutes ago

Surfside building collapse latest: 159 still unaccounted for as death toll rises
2 hours ago

Daytona Beach police officer shot in the head, suspect still at large
Jun 24, 12:05 PM

Survivors recount horror of building collapse: 'We knew it was a race against time'
1 hour ago

ABC News Live



24/7 coverage of breaking news and live events

LiTL Exhibit 2006
HP Inc. v. LiTL
IPR2024-00404

screen immediately displays the most popular applications. For example, a Web browser and search box are built right in to the user interface.

It is truly an Internet computer and it uses online services most people are already familiar with, such as Gmail, Youtube, Flickr, Facebook and Twitter, and common Internet standards like RSS.

Litl Offers Simplicity But Not Without Sacrifice

Users are presented with a option to add a "card" or a widget to services they enjoy and all the data is kept on the Internet and pulled down to the computer whenever it is turned on. Techies refer to this as "cloud computing," because all the data is stored remotely.

"As everything from music and photos to e-mail and social networking moves online, it's clear that the Web is transforming personal computing. And yet, most homes are still using computers and software based on thinking from more than 30 years ago," explained Litl's founder and CEO John Chuang. "We knew that to really meet the needs of home users – from kids to parents and grandparents – we needed to design an entirely new system that would make the web engaging, entertaining and fun."

Software updates (they call them "treatments") are done remotely while you sleep, and your settings and data are constantly being backed up. If your Litl is lost or broken you won't lose any of your data.

However, you will give up a lot of control for all this simplicity. The litl won't run intense DVD-based video games or any additional software that other computers can. No watching movies from a DVD either. But, then again, that is not what this computer is designed for.

Flip the Litl Into Easel Mode to Display Weather, Photos and More

In addition to the hassle-free, scaled-back custom operating system the litl also has two interesting display options that set it apart from traditional laptops. The screen flips around into easel mode allowing the full 12-inch screen to display the local weather, a multimedia slideshow, or anything else while hiding the keyboard.

The integrated HDMI port allows you to connect the litl to any HDTV to watch anything from YouTube videos to stunning photos on your big screen TV.

A cute little key on the lower left of the keyboard, with the litl logo in script, is the way you bring the computer all the way home. It takes you back to the main screen where you can choose which widget you want to access next.

Using a litl is a lot of fun if you can get past the concept of what it's not.

This will really only be good as a second computer for a busy household. You will not be able to run intense computational scientific software , but you will have fun surfing the Web, sharing photos and enjoying other widgets, such as the built-in egg timer. The company also offers an unprecedented 2-year money back guarantee.

The litl is available for $699 on the company's Web site.

Comments (0)

Before You Go

Wall Street Legend Says Buy TaaS Now
Empire Financial Research | Sponsored

Boston: Startup Is Changing the Way People Retire
SmartAsset | Sponsored

Massachusetts Launches New Policy For Cars Used Less Than 50 Miles/Day
Walletgenius | Sponsored

These Cars Are So Loaded It's Hard to Believe They're So Cheap
Luxury SUVs | Search Ads | Sponsored

Skip the Hassle - Upgrade to the World's Smartest CPAP Without Visiting the Doctor
The Easy Blog by Breatheeasy.com | Sponsored

7 Mistakes Comfortable Retirees Know to Avoid
SmartAsset | Sponsored

Western drought brings another woe: voracious grasshoppers

Prosecutors say Colorado father killed son because of photos

If You Have More Than $1,000 in Your Checking Account, Make These 5 Moves
thepennyhoarder.com | Sponsored

Refrigerate Any Room in 2 Minutes
ArticAir | Sponsored

Little-Known Trick For Gutters
LeafFilter Partner | Sponsored

Massachusetts: Say Bye To Expensive Solar Panels If You Live Near Boston
Energy Bill Cruncher Solar Quotes | Sponsored

New Senior Apartments in Boston (Take A Look At The Prices)
Senior Living | Search Ads | Sponsored

'A gaping hole of rubble:' Thankful survivor recounts rescue

11-year-old boy, dad shot while sitting in car in violent attack caught on video

New Cadillac's Finally On Sale
All Things Auto | Search Ads | Sponsored

Massachusetts: Senior Drivers Are in For a Big Surprise
The Rate Chopper | Sponsored

If You Spend Time on Your Computer, this Strategy Game is a Must-Have. No Install.
Forge Of Empires | Sponsored

Soccer game kept woman away from condo wing that collapsed

John McAfee, embattled software developer, found dead in Spanish jail

Jury Finds Roundup Responsible For Lymphoma | Bayer To Pay $10 Billion
National Injury Bureau | Sponsored

23 People Who Ended Up Marrying Their Celebrity Crush
POPSUGAR | Sponsored

If Your Dog Eats Dry Food, Do This Every Day
Ultimate Pet Nutrition | Sponsored

Judge appeals skeptical over effort to dismiss Dominion suit

Rudy Giuliani suspended from practice of law in New York

62 Year-Old Fitness Legend Finds "Fountain of Agelessness" By Eating These 4 Foods Daily
Power Life By Tony Horton | Sponsored

Massachusetts Brings No Cost Solar to These Zip Codes
Home Solar USA | Sponsored

Clint Eastwood Is Nearing 100 & This Is The House He Lives In Today
Invest Goddess | Sponsored

ABC News Network | Privacy Policy | Your CA Privacy Rights | Children's Online Privacy Policy | Interest-Based Ads | About Nielsen Measurement | Terms of Use | Do Not Sell My Info | Contact Us

Copyright © 2021 ABC News Internet Ventures. All rights reserved.