Litl Webbook Beats ChromeOS, Becomes First Cloud Computer

NOVEMBER 16, 2009

(https://netdna.coolthings.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/litl1.jpg)

Looks like someone beat Google's ChromeOS to a pure "cloud-based netbook." An upstart company from Boston recently introduced the Litl, which rightfully makes the claim of being the world's very first "webbook" (yes, that's a new category they coined themselves).

Sporting guts no better (actually, it's worse) than your standard EeePC or AspireOne, the smallish computer takes the stripping down even further. There's no hard disk, with an onboard 2GB of flash memory acting as the only integrated storage.

LiTL Exhibit 2002
DELL v. LiTL
IPR2024-00480

(https://netdna.coolthings.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/litl2.jpg)

The Litl looks to use the cloud for saving data, access to which is naturally bundled with the machine's overall price. While the company protests at being called a netbook, it's tough to deny given the specs: 1.6GHz Intel Atom CPU, 1GB of RAM, Wi-Fi, webcam, mic and speakers. Oh yeah, there's an HDMI out too, but the details reveal nothing about the GPU, so how well you can use that remains a question mark.

Physically, it looks exciting, toting a 12.1-inch display that can open past 180 degrees, allowing you to prop it on a table like an overpowered LCD frame (in case you just want to watch a streaming video or a slideshow). There's no complicated OS running inside, either. Like Google's much-talked about ChromeOS, everything happens within the confines of a browser, for which the company designed a good amount of apps on their own.

If you have no need past web apps (assuming it can run the gamut of Ajax, Flash, HTML5 and such), feeds and other online content, the Litl sounds like an excellent machine to swipe the plastic for. That is, until you hear about the price: $700 (with an optional remote for $19).

Honestly, the reason I want a "web-only" netbook is because I can (presumably) buy it for cheap. This thing, though, is just $300 shy of the cheapest MacBook. I guess we'll have to wait for the first ChromeOS PC then. Sigh.

[Litl (http://litl.com/)]

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Hi Noel,

You're quite right about us being the first cloud-based webbook. The alternatives are all vaporware at present.

About the price: firstly, you're wrong about our hardware being on the level of those cheapie netbooks. We have the best lcd on the market for its size – it's amazingly bright (you can watch it in sunshine) and the viewing angle is so wide you can view this thing from almost anywhere in the room. Our casing and keyboard are both high quality also. We've only cut hardware where we don't need it. We didn't need a high powered cpu and our users won't need local storage in the device.

Secondly, we're a premium product and quite up front about being a designer item for the home. We've put a lot of work and money into both the UI and the industrial design, and it shows. Just look at it. This is a stylish, high quality device. You get what you pay for.

The other point to note is our webbook is part of a bigger picture: we're building a new platform for our users to access web content, with customized applications (our channels) that turn multiple interfaces for selected webapps and streaming content into one interface – ours. We want utmost simplicity.

Our user experience will keep getting richer with time via our update system which upgrades and maintains your software while you sleep. New channels and features will continue to appear on your litl webbook.

Finally, our platform is being built to keep friends and families in touch using our device linking and sharing features.

There's a lot to litl. Check out litl.com

November 19, 2009 (https://www.coolthings.com/litl-webbook-beats-chromeos-becomes-first-cloud-computer/#comment-2188)

Mark in CA

Reply (/litl-webbook-beats-chromeos-becomes-first-cloud-computer/?replytocom=2188#respond)

The Litl Webbook is based on Ubuntu. The only GPU that makes sense for this machine is the nVidia ION. For a more detailed description of what's under the hood, go here: http://blogs.gnome.org/lucasr/2009/11/04/litl-webbook-some-technical-comments/ (http://blogs.gnome.org/lucasr/2009/11/04/litl-webbook-some-technical-comments/)

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