The
New York Society Library
Presents:

The Tiny, Portable Netbook

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Netbook Brands:

GENERAL:

Acer Netbook

$300-400 from Amazon.com
1.66 GHz, 1GB RAM, 160 GB HD,
Operating System: Windows 7 Starter
Colors: blue, red, white, silver, black

ASUS EEE Netbook

$290-360 from Amazon.com
1.66 GHz, 1GB RAM, 250 GB HD,
Operating System: Windows 7 Starter
Colors: blue, black, pink, white, silver

The History:

Netbooks came on the scene in late 2007, and were introduced as "companion devices" to regular desktop or laptop/notebook computer. They were meant for consumption (i.e. viewing web pages and online content) rather than creation (i.e. writing novels, editing pictures, etc). Hence, the name ('Net' for Internet).

Their modest price (around $300) and great performance & battery life appealed to people during the bad economy, and gave some much-needed income to PC manufacturers. In mid-2009, AT&T started offering free Netbooks to subscribers to their data plans.

Netbooks continue to grow in popularity. There are still some issues (smaller keyboard & screen, slower video buffering & some incompatibility with games and photo editing software), but these limitations don't bother many of the users.

General Specifications:

- 10" by 12" size - small enough to fit into a purse or briefcase
- 1" to 2" thick - great for travel
- Weighs less than three pounds
- $300 price range

- Intel Atom processor (introduced in March 2008)
- Solid-state hard drive (uses chips like a flash drive instead of cylinder drive)
- 80/160 GB Hard drive, with option to store more data online
- Wi-fi and webcam pre-installed on device
- No optical drive (i.e. no CD/DVD player built into the machine)

BRANDS:

Dell Netbook

$310-373 from Amazon.com
1.66 GHz, 1GB RAM, 160 GB HD,
Operating System: Windows 7 Starter
Colors: black, blue, red, white, green, pink

Gateway Netbook

$286-340 from Amazon.com
1.66 GHz, 1GB RAM, 160 GB HD,
Operating System: Windows 7 Starter
Colors: white, red, black

There are many different brands of Netbooks - the ones listed below (and on each of the pages) are just the major brands.

More information:

Visit Netbooks.com for a quick breakdown of each of these companies:
http://www.netbooks.com/2009/12/12/top-netbook-manufacturers-list/

Visit Wikipedia.org for a comparison chart of all major Netbooks:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_netbooks

OPERATING SYSTEMS:

HP Netbook

$300-400 from Amazon.com
1.66 GHz, 1GB RAM, 160 GB HD,
Operating System: Windows XP or 7
Colors: black & blue

Lenovo Netbook

$310-470 from Amazon.com
1.66 GHz, 1GB RAM, 160 GB HD,
Operating System: Windows 7 Starter
Colors: white, pink, black, floral sea

Main Operating Systems:

- <u>Microsoft</u>   - Windows XP, Vista & Windows 7
- <u>Linux</u>   - Ubuntu, Jolicloud, Mint, Easy Peasy, Xandros, etc
- <u>Mac OS X</u>   - Not supported but can be installed - "Hackintosh"
                               Trivia: Macintosh IPad designed to counter Netbook
- <u>Google Chrome OS</u>   - Coming Soon! http://www.chromium.org/chromium-os
- <u>Phoenix Hyperspace</u>   - Internet-only option: http://hyperspace.com/

Linux Desktops:

UBUNTU   *JOLICLOUD*   *MINT*   *EASY PEASY*   *XANDROS*

Additional Information:

Lifehacker tallied up the best Netbook operating Systems at:
http://lifehacker.com/5471394/five-best-netbook-operating-systems

1. Jolicloud   - Linux-based   Free
2. Windows 7   - Windows $165 for Home Premium
3. Ubuntu   - Linux   Free
4. OS X   - Mac $24
5. Linux Mint   - Linux   Free

MAXIMIZING POTENTIAL:

MSI Netbook

$450-600 from Amazon.com
1.66 GHz, 1GB RAM, 160 GB HD,
Operating System: Windows XP home
Colors: pink, white, black, gray, blue

Samsung Netbook

$310-500 from Amazon.com
1.66 GHz, 1GB RAM, 160 GB HD,
Operating System: Windows 7 Starter
Colors: red, blue, black, pink, white

Making the Most of Your Netbook:
Adapted from the article: http://lifehacker.com/5446092/
the-definitive-guide-to-making-the-most-of-your-netbook

Accept the Hardware Limitations and Tweak When Possible:

- Accept: 1024x600 pixel screen, a 160GB HDD, 1GB of RAM
- Tweak: Upgrade the 1GB of RAM to 2GB of RAM
- Add an external hard drive, mouse and/or CD/DVD drive
- Install the Royal Noir Windows Theme (slicker desktop)
  http://www.istartedsomething.com/20061029/royale-noir/

Strip Your Netbook of Bloat:

- Uninstall all the programs you don't use
- Keep your startup fast (start -> run -> msconfig)
- Keep an eye out for Spyware

Learn to Love Full-Screen Mode and Keyboard Shortcuts:

- Firefox/IE/Opera/Chrome: **F11** (press again to return to normal view)
- Microsoft Office: **ALT+V+U** (press ESC to return to normal view)
- Adobe Acrobat: **View -> Full Screen** (press ESC to return to normal view)

EBOOKS:

Sony Netbook

$440-500 from Amazon.com
1.66 GHz, 1GB RAM, 250 GB HD,
Operating System: Windows 7 Starter
Colors: brown, pink, white, blue, black

Toshiba Netbook

$450-600 from Amazon.com
1.66 GHz, 1GB RAM, 160 GB HD,
Operating System: Windows XP home
Colors: pink, white, black, gray, blue

Read E-Books on your Netbook
Adapted from: http://lifehacker.com/5468581/
turn-your-netbook-into-a-feature+rich-e+book-reader

Because of the small size and long battery life, Netbooks can also function as portable e-book readers. Here are a few tips and tricks to get you started.

Hardware:
- Rotate the Screen   CTRL+ALT+RIGHT with EeeRotate
- Adjust the Screen Brightness   decrease to lowest setting
- Use Special Power-Saving Mode   Settings -> Power Manager -> 5 minutes

Software:
- Kindle for PC: http://www.amazon.com/gp/kindle/pc
- Adobe Acrobat Reader: http://get.adobe.com/reader/
- Calibre: http://calibre-ebook.com/
- Mobipocket Reader Desktop: http://www.mobipocket.com

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- Online Books Page: http://digital.library.upenn.edu/books/ (PDF)

WORD-OF-MOUTH:

From me (Ingrid - Systems):

"I'd love to hear from everyone about their make/model and what works and doesn't work for you. Feel free to be honest - my dad was spluttering about the small keyboard and jumping text, but he loved the portability and graphing options…"

From Brandi (Circulation):

"I agree with your dad about netbooks. I do like that my Eee has a button at the top of my keyboard to turn off the touchpad while I am typing. That has proven dead useful to avoid the pointer jumping around in the text through accidental forearm brushings of the pad surface. I love how lightweight my Eee is and the portability. My storage space on the thing is amazing, bigger than my husband's almost-brand-new, top-of-the-line desktop."

From Matt (Cataloging & Systems):

"I haven't used a netbook other than the library's, but a friend of mine who is in grad school has an EEE netbook and finds it really useful for portability to lectures, meetings, library work, travel, and fieldwork. When he is at home, he often wires it through his television in order to have a more large-screen experience (I can't remember if he also uses an external keyboard/mouse). I wouldn't want a netbook to be my main computer for extended home use, but it works for him because he's on the go a lot. "

From Peri (Cataloging):

"I've got a similar opinion to your dad. Super portable, but the keyboard feels a little crammed. Great for basic computing, mostly use mine for internet and school papers, and some photo stuff. Haven't had the need for a CD drive, yet! (not sure how long that will last). I have the asus eee also and have had it for almost a year, but I'm starting to see it slow down a bit and I'm concerned about how long it will last. Also, the price was a big plus for me."

From Sara (Events):

"My netbook is a Dell 910 Mini, for which I have a USB CD/DVD player, a big ol' portable hard drive that I use with both it and my desktop, and a Verizon MyFi portable internet hotspot. I used it as my only home computer from June to December of last year. It boots up and runs reasonably quickly. The screen size and proportion are really nice--I've watched widescreen movies on there several times while traveling, and it's small, but very crisp--at least as good as any of those dedicated portable DVD players. The keyboard is small, but I don't find the key size daunting; I just have to get used to curling my hand under for the Shift/Alt/Ctrl keys rather than reaching out for them, if that makes sense. I've typed many lengthy documents on it without distress. It's true that it has very little capacity, though this isn't a problem if you just instantly dump everything off onto the portable hard drive. Its streaming internet video quality is a little inconsistent (sometimes big pauses to buffer), and I've never been sure whether that's my wireless signal or its processing speed. Speed of downloading is not strikingly slow. It won't take any complicated programs--forget putting a graphic design program on there--but MS Works etc. are great. I use both Firefox and Chrome on it."

NOTES:

New York Society Library

Netbooks

Thursday, May 6, 2010 at 10:00 AM

NAME
(optional):_____

1. Was this workshop worthwhile?

2. Do you feel more comfortable with Netbooks?

3. Was the printed handout useful?

4. What would you like to have seen covered more? Less?

5. Would you be interested in additional workshops?

6. Any other comments? (please use back of paper)