

Amazon Fire TV Stick

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Television History

- Broadcast TV (Rabbit ears!)
- CATV (Community Access/Antenna TV)
- True cable
- First alternatives/competition (FiOS, Dish Network, DirectTV, etc.)
- Expanded web competition (YouTube, Netflix, Amazon Prime, etc.)
- Exploding streaming services competition
- Canceling Cable? True Cost of Cutting Cord
 - www.makeuseof.com/tag/cancelling-cable-true-cost-cutting-cord/

More Streaming Services

- **Amazon Prime**
- Sling TV
- Hulu
- Pandora
- Spotify
- Plex
- HBO Go
- Etc.!

Devices

- Smart TVs
- Phones/tablets
- Computers
- Roku, TiVo, MythTV
- Amazon TV Fire/Firestick (not identical)
- Game boxes
- DVD players
- Many others

Fun with Fire TV Stick Streaming

- Simple Quick Start Guide; 74 page manual(!)
- Bought from Amazon so pre-registered to me
- Connects to router; remote control sets up, enters information, account credentials)
- Wired/wireless (with adequate Internet service)
- Inexpensive devices (first Roku \$100, sticks now about \$50), no monthly fee
- Improvements (faster, new channels/features)

Amazon Fire TV Stick

- <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00GDQ0RMG>
- Compare alternatives
- Connects to TV HDMI port
- Processor/memory/storage – a computer!
- Remote control and remote app; use voice
- Mirrors phone/tablet to TV, fling apps
- Games
- **Amazon Prime huge content pipeline**

Trends/Details

- Unbundling media channels (good/bad?)
- Automatic software updates (good/bad?)
- Weekly Amazon newsletter (hard to cancel!)
- Support -- <http://tinyurl.com/qgwul98>
- Apps/games -- <http://tinyurl.com/qhmfmmh>
- VERY hard opening remote for batteries
- One more wasteful always-on power brick – use power strip on/off switch!

Introduction to Samsung Chromebook

- ...or, how I won/explored Chromebookland via Zagat/Google raffle...
- ...how it's built and what it does...
- ...where it differs from mainstream PCs...
- ...and how it helped during power failure...
- ...but isn't (yet) "strategic" against iPad.
- (Based on Jim Rhodes presentation!)

My System's Specifications

- Several years old; many vendors/models
- Operating System – Google Chrome
- Processor – Intel Atom X86 N570
1.66GHz Quad
- Model Number – XE500C21-A04US
- Display – 12.1” LED HD (1280x800)
- Memory – 2GB DDR3L
- Storage – 16GB SSD mSATA

Features (Vary!)

- Stereo speakers (1.5Wx2)
- Internal mic
- Web camera
- Wireless LAN 802.11a/b/g/n
- External VGA adapter
- HDMI or mini-USB video port
- Two USB ports
- 3-in-1 SD/SDHC/SDXC multi-card slot
- Earset / headset jack

Pluses

- Price - \$249 (varies!)
- Weight – 2.43lbs (varies!)
- Quick start/always on
- 7 Hour battery life
- 1 Year warranty parts & labor
- Little/no heat generated
- WiFi and 3G connectivity
- Multiple connection ports

Minuses

- Chronos Operating System
 - Runs Chrome browser
 - Runs Chromos apps (many free)
 - May lack important apps
- No VGA output
 - Chromebook to VGA dongle (maybe included)
- Non-standard keyboard (no Home/Del keys)

Standard Google Apps

- Chrome
- Store
- Get Help
- Google Search
- YouTube
- Gmail
- Google Calendar
- Google Maps
- Google Drive
- Google Docs
- Google Sheet
- Google Slides
- Google+
- Hangouts call
- Google Play Music/
Books/Film

Other Included Apps

- Games
- Calculator
- Camera
- Google Keep
- Chrome Repair
- Google Photo

Other Chromebooks

- ACER
- HP
- TOSHIBA
- Etc.
- Variations
 - Different processors
 - Larger hard drives and displays
 - More memory
 - Wide range of prices
 - Etc.

Summary -- Advantages

- Cost
- Weight (?)
- Battery life
- FAST boot and shutdown
- Automatic online backups and synchronization
- Brilliant instant video chat with domestic help
- Underlying Linux
- Dual connectivity (with paid 3G service)
- Multiple ports
- Simplicity in use, maintenance, support
- Not Windows or Microsoft!

Summary -- Disadvantages

- Designed for mostly online use (but improving)
- Clunky apps and may lack favorite apps
- New/different OS
- Non-standard keyboard
- 3G service rules and tied to carrier (SIM card?)
 - Can “Pay as you go” \$5/day w/300MB (hard stop!)
- Looks like PC but isn't!
- Requires learning/practice

Quotes and References

- Chromebook is like Gmail or Blogger: you give up some control and in return Mr. Google does behind-the-screen work for you. You'll never need tech support unless you have a hardware problem, in which case you fix it or get someone to fix it for you and you're as good as new. Being lazy, I'm happy to have Google do scut work for me.
- I can absolutely see Chromebook replacing my iPad mini; that's remarkable. I got first iPad first day it was available in spring 2010, and have used it and its successors daily since.
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- How to pick Best Laptop for Any Student (Cheap/fast/secure and work)
 - www.zdnet.com/article/chromebooks-in-school-how-to-pick-the-best-laptop-for-any-student/

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