

# Chromebooks, Echo, Firestick and More



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# What Are Chromebooks?

- Chromebooks require a paradigm shift.
- My first reaction was “I don’t want something so limited. I’ll just buy a Windows laptop.”
- Don’t be too quick to judge. They can be extremely useful!



# What Are Chromebooks?

- Basically a laptop with a different operating system.
  - Chromebooks represent only 2.8% of PC market.
  - Sales were only 1.9% in 2014.
  - That's an increase of 47% in one year.
  - Models are made by many manufacturers: Acer, HP, Samsung, Asus, etc.

# What Are Chromebooks?

- Chromebooks have a unique Operating System
  - Not Windows
  - Not Apple iOS
  - **Not Android!**
  - Runs Chrome OS

# Using a Chromebook

- Chrome operating system is easy to use.
- Everything runs through the Chrome browser.
- If you can use a browser, you can use a Chromebook.

# Chromebook Specifications

- **Chromebooks do not run Windows!**
- They boot in just a few seconds
- They have a battery life of 8 hours or so.
- They come in screen sizes from 10.1” to 14”  
(meant to be portable for travel, etc.)
- Screen is brighter than a comparable Windows laptop.

# Typical Specifications

- Typical Chromebooks from Manufacturers:
  - SSD of 16GB or 32GB
  - RAM of 2GB or 4GB
  - Celeron or Intel i3, i5 processor
  - SD card slot reads up to 128GB cards
  - Two USB ports
  - 1 HDMI port
  - 1 audio jack
  - May be touchscreen

# Chromebook Advantages

- Very thin profile so quite portable
- Almost Instant On
- Long Battery Life
- Read directly from your Camera's SD card
- Cheaper than a Windows laptop
  - Laptop makers pay MS for Windows OS
  - Windows laptops must have more memory and powerful CPU to run Windows
  - *Cheap Windows laptops really suck.*



# Chromebook Disadvantages

- Chromebooks don't run Windows so:
  - Can't run MS Office programs
  - Can't run Photoshop Elements
  - Can't run Skype (Google has Hangouts which is the same as Skype.)
  - Can't run Picasa (this is a Windows program.)

# Using a Chromebook

- Most useful when connected to wifi
- New data files, pictures, etc are stored on Google Drive or other Cloud Service.
  - Can be stored on Chromebook if you prefer
  - Can be stored on SD card if you prefer.
- Use Google Docs for word processing, etc.
- Great for email
- Great for surfing the web

# Using a Chromebook

- What if I'm not on Wifi?
  - View any pictures stored on SSD or SD card
  - Use Google Docs offline (previously downloaded)
  - Read books, movies or magazines that are downloaded
  - Use Google maps that have been downloaded

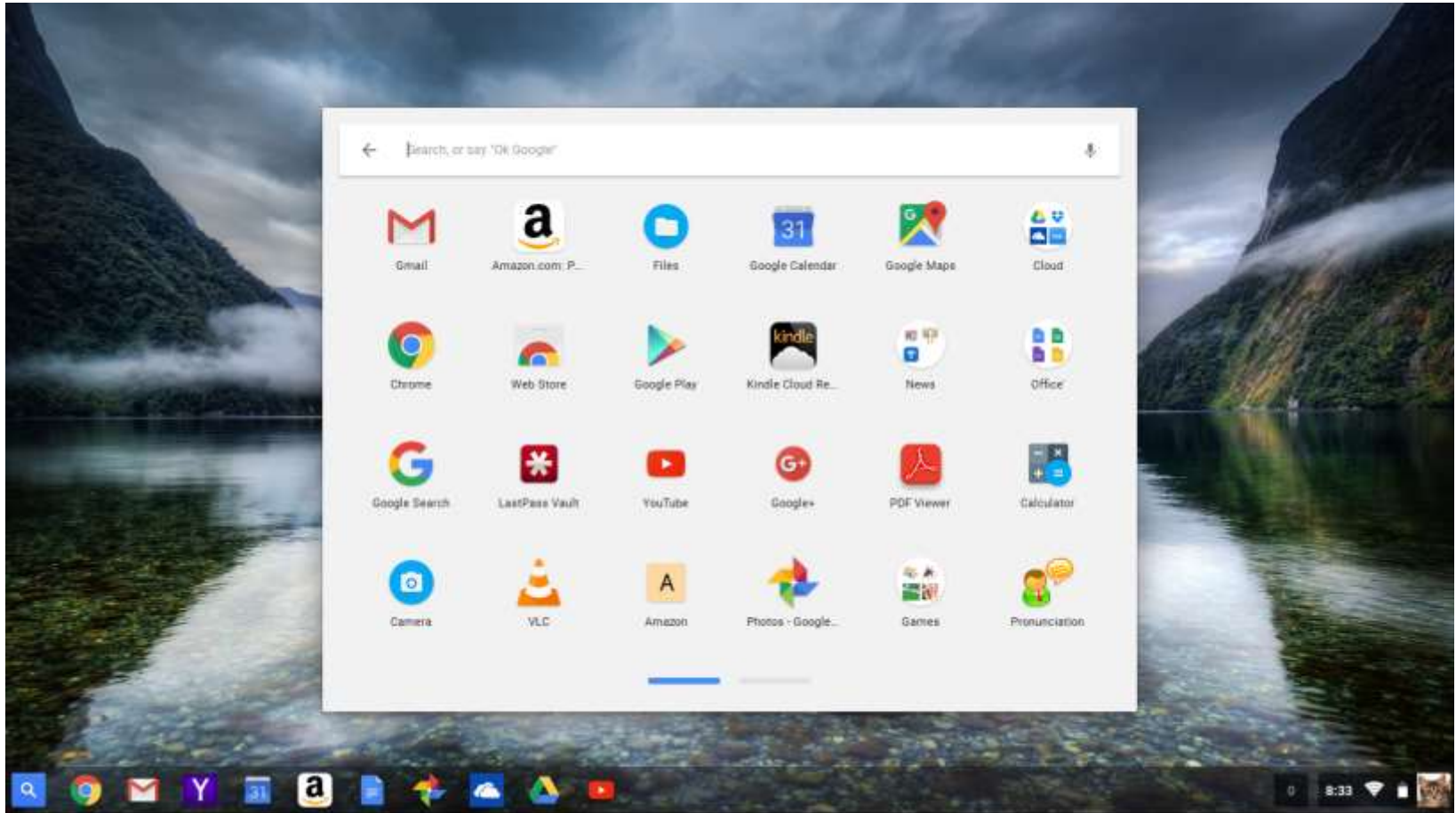
# Using a Chromebook

**Opening Screen. Notice there are no Desktop Icons!**



# Using a Chromebook

Icons are displayed in a separate box.



# Using a Chromebook

- Touchscreen is Nice
  - Still basically a mouse controlled computer
  - Can operate everything with touchscreen if needed.
  - Touchscreen is very nice when reading a book – just touch the screen for next page.

# Chromebook Pricing

- Start about \$150.
  - Acer Chromebook, 11.6-Inch, (Intel Celeron, 2GB, 16GB SSD, White)
- Go to \$500 or more:
  - Acer Chromebook (15.6-Inch, full HD, Intel Core i5, 4GB, 32GB SSD)

# Why Buy a Chromebook

- Great for a second computer around the house. Easily get email, access internet, etc.
- Perfect for travel.
  - Nice size
  - Watch movies and read books
  - Put in your camera SD card and upload photos to the cloud or Chromebook for backup.



# Questions About Chromebook?



# Firestick – What is it?

- Firestick is a piece of hardware that plugs into your TV's HDMI port
- Competitors are:
  - Apple TV
  - Chromecast
  - Roku



# Firestick – What Can it do?

- Firestick helps you access the internet quickly.
- Smart TV's have the same functionality but they are SLOW!
- Firestick is made by Amazon and focuses on Amazon library of movies, TV shows, etc.

# Firestick – Some Basics

- Firestick plugs into your HDMI port **and a wall socket.**
- Use your TV remote to change to the HDMI port.
- Use the Firestick remote to search movies, TV shows, music and more.

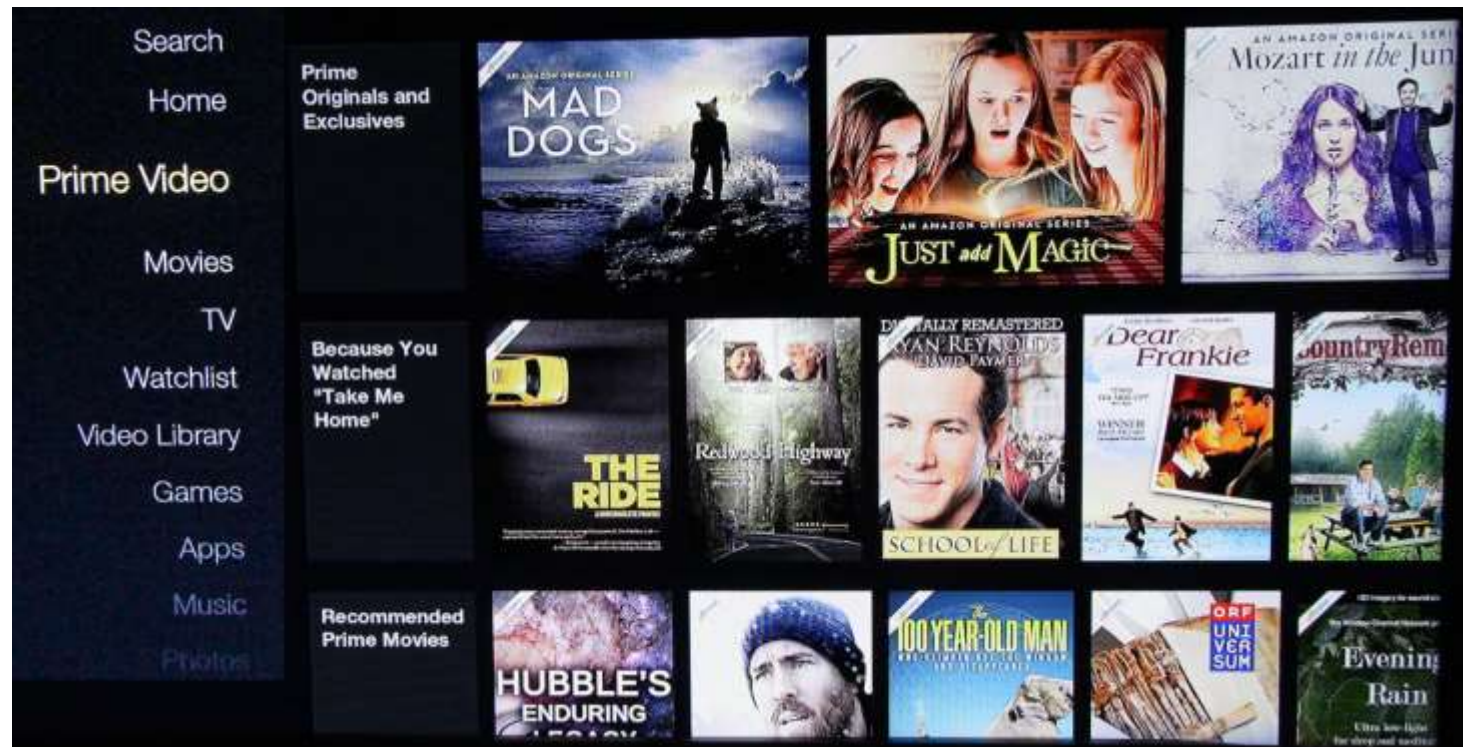
# Firestick – Switching Ports



No Matter Which Device You Use, You Have to Switch Your TV to the Right Port!

# Firestick – Menu of Offerings

- Once You Are on the Right Port, Use Your Firestick Remote.



# Firestick – Menu of Offerings

- Select and watch TV and Movies
  - Amazon Prime Members have a large library of free stuff
- Play music from your Amazon Library
- Listen to various radio broadcasts via iHeart
- Show photos stored in Amazon Cloud
- Play Games
- All of the other major movie and music services are available, including Netflix, Hulu Plus, YouTube, Sling TV, Twitch, and HBO Go

# Firestick – What Does it Cost?

- Basic Firestick is now \$35.
- Firestick with voice remote is \$40.
  - Use search function through voice.
  - Find a particular movie, etc.
- Fire TV is \$99
  - Supports 4K TV
  - Interacts with Alexa for Voice Remote



# Firestick – Should I Buy One?

- If you are an Amazon Prime Member, then YES! It makes using Prime Video much easier.
- If you don't have a Smart TV but have an HDMI port, then Yes.
- If you have a Smart TV and are not an Amazon Prime Member then consider Apple TV, Roku or Chromecast.

# Echo – A Unique Device



- Small Tower
- Connected to Power Outlet
- WiFi to the Internet

# Echo – A Unique Device

- Echo is like Apple's SIRI. Ask it a question and it will answer.
- Interacts with Google Calendar
- Interacts with Music stored on Amazon Music Library
- Shopping lists. (Create and playback.)
- Weather and News
- Order stuff from Amazon (No surprise here)

# Echo – A Unique Device

- Sports schedules and scores
- Music
  - Pandora
  - Amazon Music Library
  - What song is that?
- Movie times and where showing
- Audible Audiobooks
- Clever functions like “Play Jeopardy”

# Echo – Is It Practical?

- Echo costs \$180. Sold through Amazon only.
- Very good speaker enclosed.
- Echo can hear you from across the room and is always listening for the word “Alexa”
- Amazon plans to increase functionality like Connected Home.
- Works with Fire TV.
- It’s unlike any other “gadget.”
- Do we use it everyday – Not Really.