Windows 8? Why not try something SIMPLER?

Paul Lewis May 2013

Chromebook - Intro

An alternative to a Netbook or Tablet Computer

Quote From Slate.com

Posted Wednesday, March 6, 2013, at 6:43 PM

"The Laptop of the Future Nobody should buy Google's Chromebook Pixel today. But in five years, we all might have one."

http://www.slate.

com/articles/technology/technology/2013/03/google_s_chromebook_pixel_is_a_horrible_deal_today_in_five_years_we_all. html

Route Map ;-)

- What is a Chromebook?
- Why might you want one?
- Let's consider:
 - What do you WANT to do (on your computer)?
 - What do you HAVE to do
- What are the pros and cons?
- Fun Google animated lesson
- Possible next steps

What is a ChromeBook?

A comparatively simple computing device similar to Laptop / Netbook /Tablet

- Simple
- Inexpensive
- Compact

It's what a Netbook should have been ;-)

 An attractive option as a second computer particularly for travel
 (It's "just a browser" with a keyboard, screen and WiFi)



Features

- Light Weight 2.4 pounds
- Slim 0.7 inches
- 6.6 hours battery life
- Silent no fan
- Solid-state drive no hard disk drive issues
- Simple to use and maintain no operating system updates to manage
- Really FAST boot and recovery from sleep
- Currently sells at \$249.00

Specifications

- 11.6" (1366x768) display
- 0.7 inches thin 2.42
 lbs / 1.1 kg
- Over 6.5 hours of battery
- Samsung Exynos 5 Dual Processor
- 100 GB Google Drive Cloud Storage
- 16GB Solid State Drive

- Built-in dual band Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n
- VGA Camera
- 1x USB 3.0, 1x USB 2.0
- HDMI Port
- Bluetooth 3.0™
 Compatible
- 8 sec boot time ;-)

Why Might You Want One?

- Inexpensive compared to a laptop or iPad
- Lightweight
- Easy to use
- Easy to maintain
 - No antivirus
 - Updates are automatic
 - Backup is automatic
- Simpler than Windows 7 or 8 or iOS

The Browser - Old and New

Old Browser - Request -> Response Then

- the log-in thing
- the data base
- then
 - Flash
 - Ajax
 - JavaScript
 - o HTML5
- now the browser runs apps
- more to come....

Let's Compare

What you WANT to do What you HAVE to do

What Do You WANT To Do?

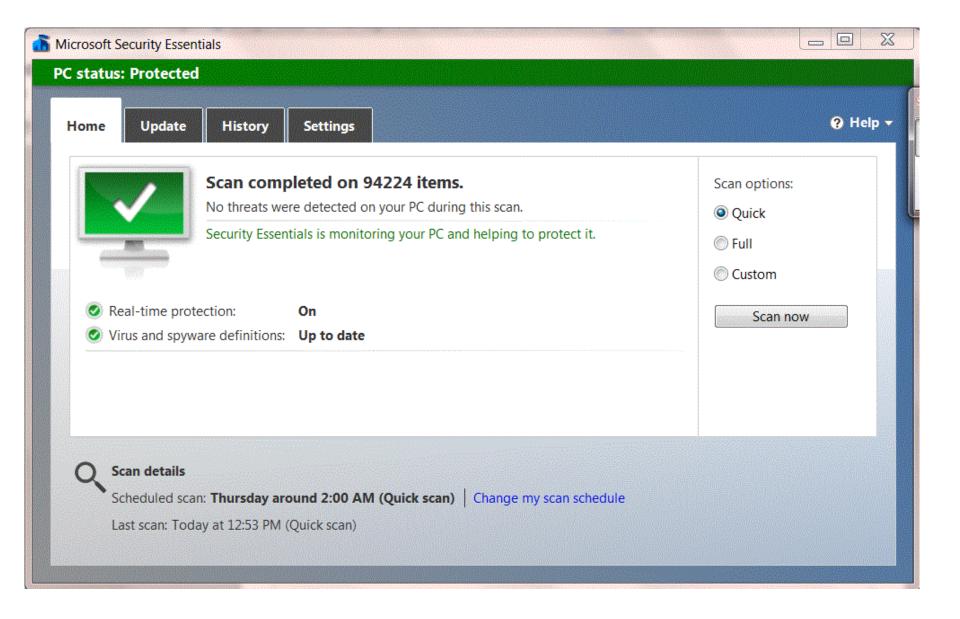
(with your computer)

- Email
- Search for information
- Create documents, text, spreadsheets, presentations
- Home banking
- Manage photos
- Manage and play music
- Buy stuff
- Video-chats Skype
- Read news

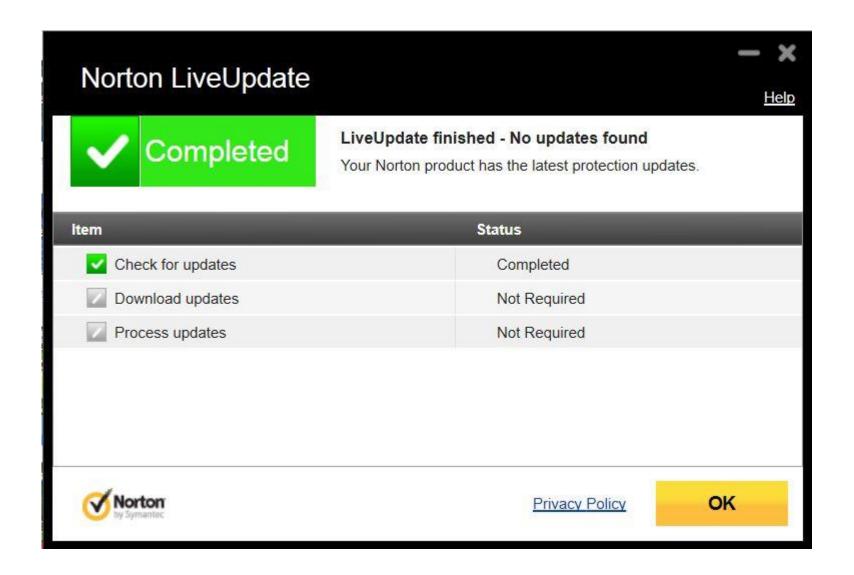
What Do You HAVE To Do?

- Manage anti-virus/anti-malware programs
- Keep windows up-to-date
- Keep all other programs up-to-date
- Select and install a few utilities e.g.
 - CCleaner
 - Malwarebytes
 - Winpatrol
 - Your favorite system optimizer thingy
- Make and protect backups
- Keep your systems and data synched**
- Keep track of your passwords

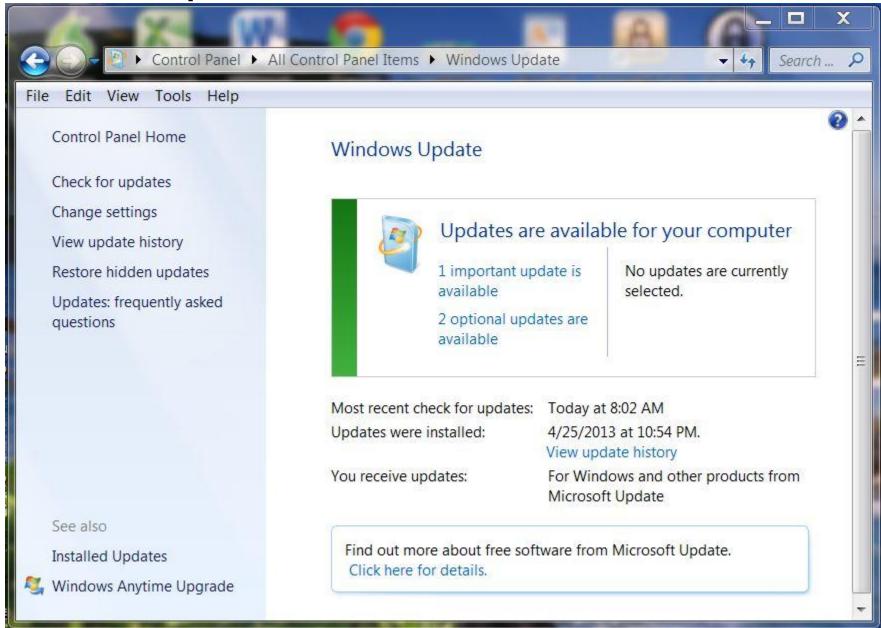
Microsoft Security Essentials



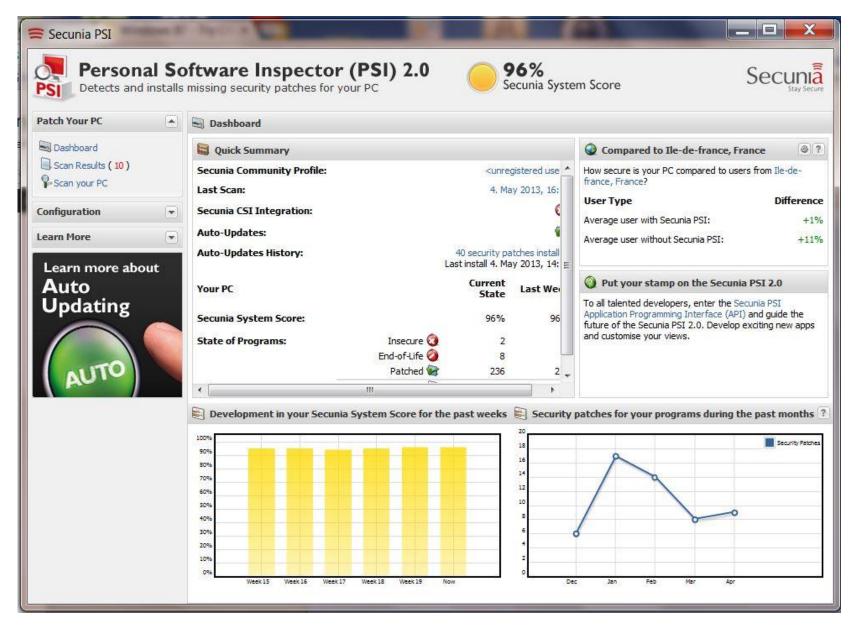
Norton Live Update



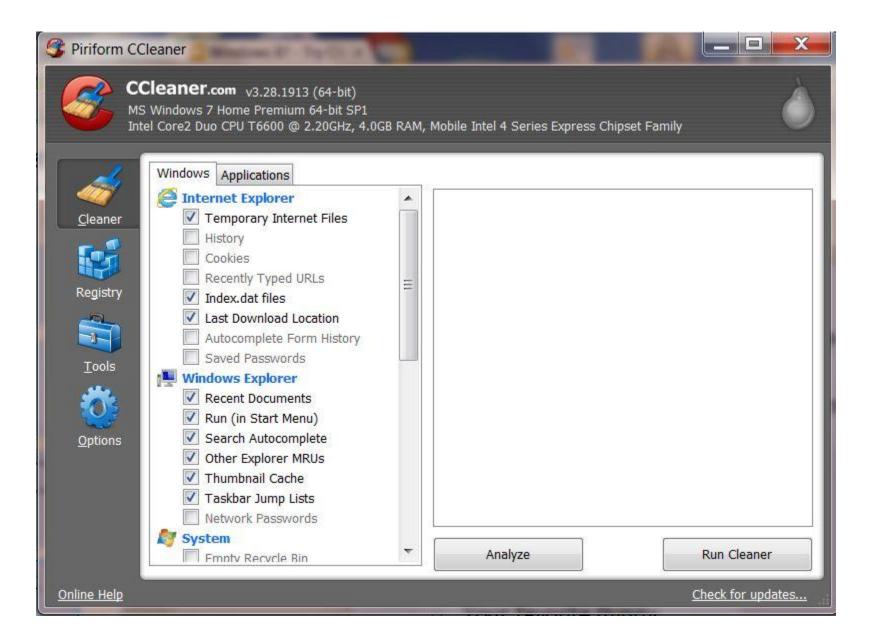
Windows Update



Secunia PSI



CCleaner



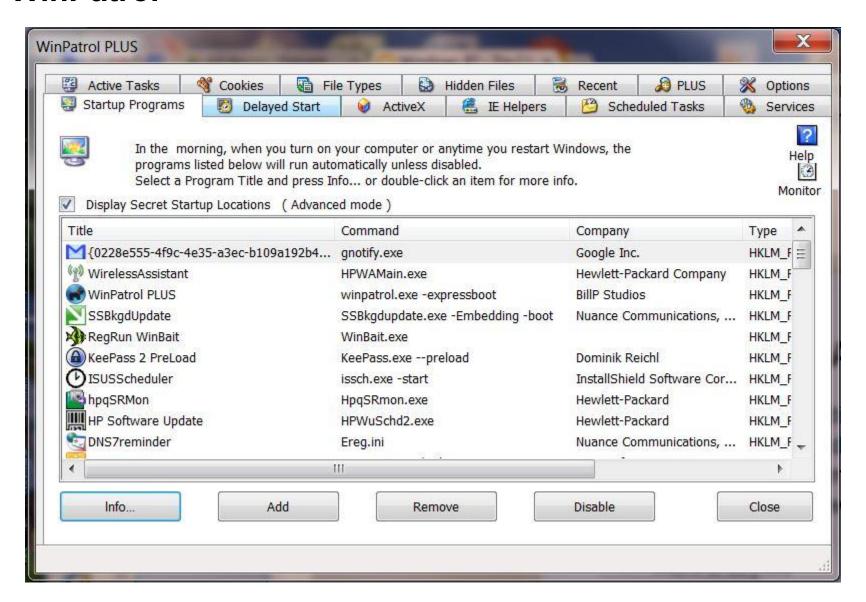
MalwareBytes



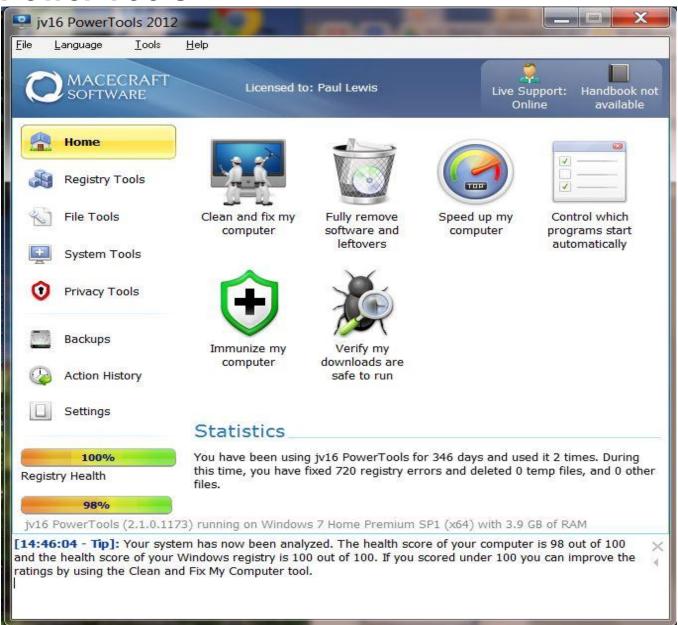
My Startup Items



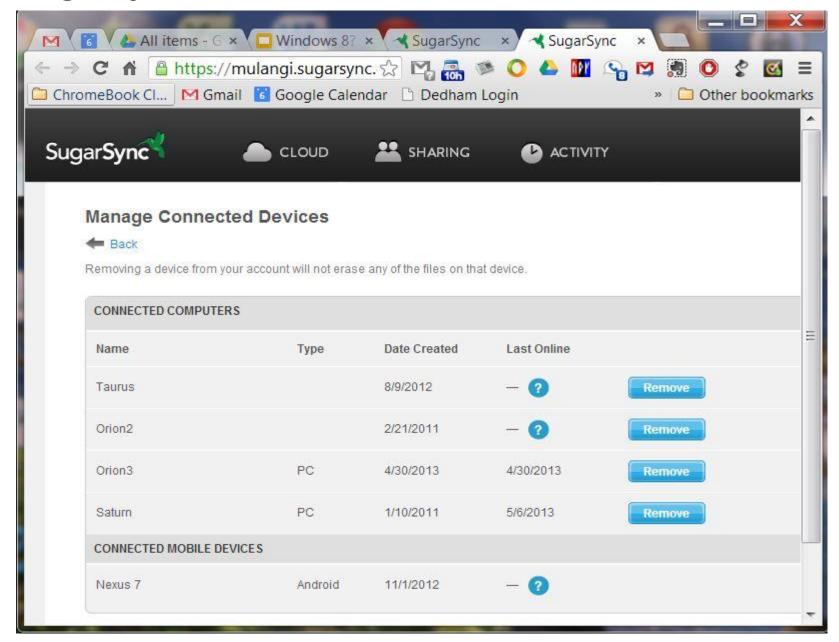
WinPatrol



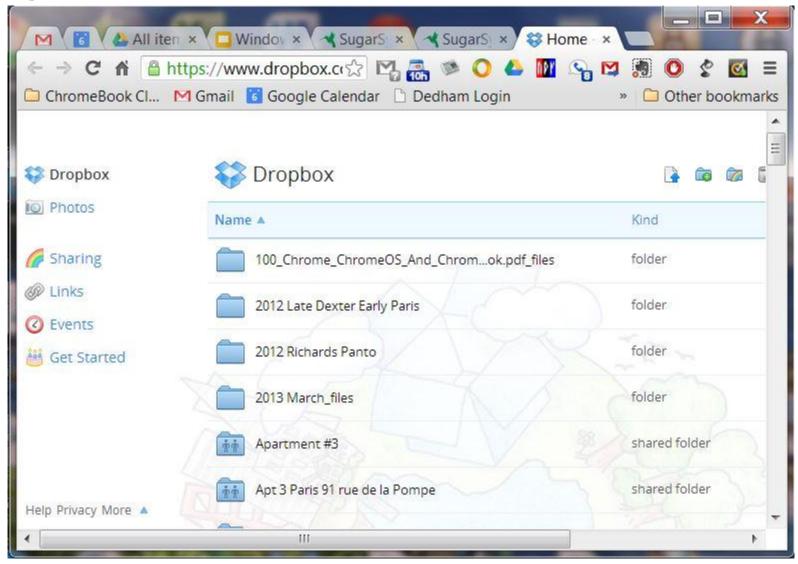
JV16 Power Tools



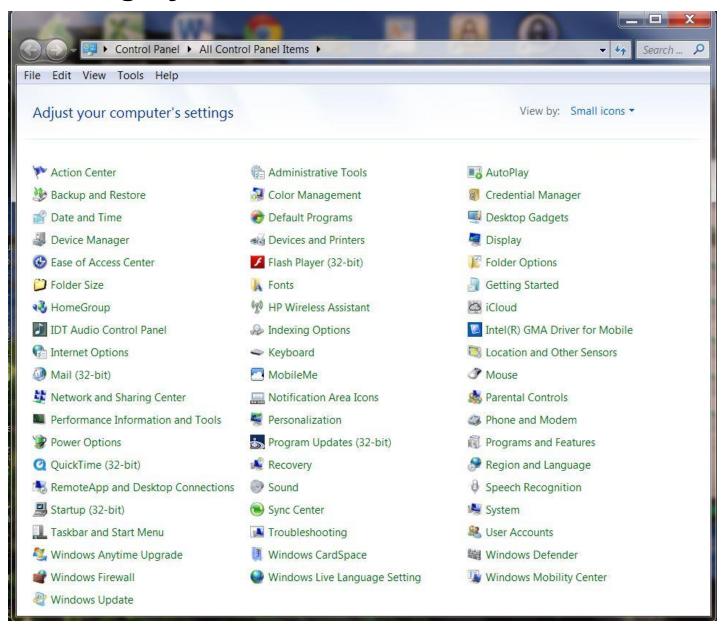
SugarSync



DropBox



The Mighty Control Panel



That's A LOT of Stuff To Take Care of

And THATS just ONE machine

What if you have more than ONE?

Read on.....

Do You Have More Than One Machine?

- Used to be unusual Now common
 - Desktop
 - Laptop
 - Tablet
 - Smart Phone
- Some like to keep them:
 - backed-up
 - synched (e.g. Email contacts calendar same on all machines)

Example

Common Computer Cluster

Desktop	Main Laptop	Old Laptop	Tablet	Smart Phone
My Docs	My Docs	My Docs		
Photos	Photos			
Music		Music		Music
Email	Email	Email	Email	Email
Contacts	Contacts	Contacts	Contacts	Contacts
Calendar	Calendar	Calendar	Calendar	Calendar
Bookmarks	Bookmarks	Bookmarks	Bookmarks	
Password Mgr	Password Mgr		Password Mgr	Password Mgr

One Solution (en passant ;-)

- Initially I had:
 - each system backed up separately
 - they each had different parts of my data
 - not too convenient
- Then:
 - I set them up to merge and synchronize
 - that's very convenient
- So
 - They are all backed up to the cloud
 - AND I have a copy at home on another machine
 - that's very convenient

Cloud Backup and Sync Service (en passant ;-)

- SugarSync (5GB free)
- Go here:
 - https://www.sugarsync.com/referral?
 rf=fpi9o8a4y33yr&utm_source=website&utm_medium=web&utm_cam paign=referral&shareEvent=5168955
 - OR in Tiny URL:
 - http://tinyurl.com/PaulsSugarSync
- Compare to:
 - Dropbox
 - Carbonite
 - A.N Other

Today, We've Come to Accept as Inevitable

- Antivirus software,
- Locally installed applications with their own separate updaters
- System optimization tools (CCleaner, WinPatrol, RegClean, Secunia PST, Soluto, etc, etc etc)
- Huge control panels settings going back to Windows 3.1,
- Drivers for compatibility with 20 year old printers,
- 20 system tray programs running when you boot up your new Windows laptop,
- A huge user-visible file system that allows you to dig into your C:\Windows\System32 folder

Windows ;-(

- Windows is an enterprise-capable OS As individuals, do we need that?
- What do we really need in a second computer considering:
 - What we WANT to do
 - What we HAVE to do
- Maybe Windows IS OVERKILL

Enter GOOGLE CHROMEBOOK

Many spend most of their computer time

- On the Internet
- Using a browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome)

Even if you don't use a browser most of the time,

- Much of what the average person does on their computer can be done in a browser and
- Chrome addresses Backup and Sync requirements

The Google - Chromebook Argument

Windows Complexity is:(for most of us)

- Unnecessary
- Outdated
- Clunky

Google "argues" for a simpler approach

A Chromebook is Google's vision of the future

http://beta.fool.com/markhibben/2013/04/10/googles-chromebook-strategy/29944/

So What is Chromebook / ChromeOS

A Chromebook is a low-power processor running:

- A simplified secure OS (basic Linux)
- A very fast and powerful browser Chrome

Because the browser is so powerful it is able to run full-featured web-based applications:

So.....

Chromebook is:

- Very secure no antivirus required
- Automatic system updates every re-boot
- No system backup required
- Automatic data backup no manual data backup required
- Self-syncing to other Chrome browsers with Google Drive
- Free pre-installed productivity software (Docs, spreadsheets, presentation)
- Many other free apps

Common Questions/Answers

- Will it work without an Internet connection?
 - Sort-of
 - Anyway, how often do you use a computer WITHOUT an Internet connection?
- Will it run Microsoft Office? No! But!
 You CAN run Microsoft Office Web Apps
- Will it run all those other programs I like? Naa :-(
- More FAQs and Links
 - http://www.chromium.org/chromium-os
 - http://support.google.com/chromeos/?hl=en
 - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntLPcVAyNPE

A quick overview of Chrome OS

Watch This:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QRO3gKj3qw

Possible Next Steps - etc

Try using Google Chrome browser - exclusively

Run Chrome OS on your current computer by booting it from a USB drive

If you really like to "twiddle" install a full Linux distribution alongside Chrome OS - then you'll have a plethora of free full-featured programs

Ending Quotes - 1

For all its advantages, a Chromebook really shines as a secondary PC.

Many people could get by with a Chromebook 95% of the time, but there's that 5% of the time when you may want to play a Windows game, use a desktop application, or do something else.

If you can embrace the limitations, you may be fine ditching your Windows PC for a Chromebook — but perhaps that's a drastic step (for some) at the moment.

Ending Quotes - 2

A Chromebook feels like what a netbook should have been. Netbooks promised simple, portable, lightweight computers with keyboards for accessing the Internet, but they were bogged down with Windows, antivirus software, a pile of system tray programs running at startup, and all that other junk.

They were also just too small to be useful. In comparison to netbooks, a Chromebook's software is more streamlined and its hardware is more optimal for the task at hand.

http://www.howtogeek.com/161662/living-with-a-chromebook-can-you-live-with-just-a-chrome-browser/? utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=280413

Useful Links

- Good introduction to Chromebook concepts

 http://www.howtogeek.com/161662/living-with-a-chromebook-can-you-live-with-just-a-chrome-browser/?utm source=newsletter&utm medium=email&utm campaign=280413
- Chromebook Pixel a real threat to Microsoft

 http://www.techradar.com/news/mobile-computing/laptops/chromebook-just-got-serious-microsoft-has-to-feel-the-threat-1132946
 http://ask.slashdot.org/story/13/02/27/2259209/ask-slashdot-can-quickoffice-on-chromebooks-topple-microsofts-office
- Surprising things the Chrome browser can do http://www.howtogeek.com/141625/10-things-you-didnt-know-your-web-browser-could-do-yet/
- List of ChromeOS Apps http://support.google.com/chromeos/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=1056325
- Offline-enabled Apps
 https://chrome.google.com/webstore/category/collection/offline_enabled
- Running Windows apps (you can't) Use Remote Desktop http://www.howtogeek.com/142146/how-to-use-google-chrome-to-remotely-access-your-computer/
- Hidden Features of Chrome

 http://www.howtogeek.com/104631/find-hidden-features-on-chromes-internal-chrome-pages/

For the Geeks

Google Native Client (NaCl) is a sandboxing technology for running a subset of Intel x86 or ARM native code using software-based fault isolation.[1] It is proposed for safely running native code from a web browser, allowing webbased applications to run at near-native speeds,[2] which aligns well with Google's plans withChrome OS. It may also be used for securing browser plugins, and in the future parts of other applications or full applications.[3]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Native_Client

After all, the Pixel has an advantage that the Macbook Air and Lenovo Carbon can't match: Other than charging it up, the Pixel requires zero maintenance. You never have to back it up; everything you do on it is, by definition, always backed up. You never have to worry about keeping it up to date—it always just is. Syncing comes for free, too: Switch from one Chromebook to another and all your stuff is there. Sure, you can make your regular laptop do these kinds of things, but they're not baked in. A Chromebook means never having to worry about anything. Once you get past the absence of actual programs, that could be a big inducement.

http://www.slate.