

Chrome OS Gets Upgrades, Chromebox

Written by Marco Attard
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Google celebrates the first birthday of Chrome OS with a triad of announcements-- the improved Samsung Series 5 550 Chromebook, the first Mac Mini-style "Chromebox," and general improvements on the OS itself.



Like previous models, the Series 5 550 carries a 12.1" (with 1280x800 resolution) display, x2 USB ports and weighs 1.4kg. It also has a dual-core Intel Atom CPU, 4GB of RAM and 16GB of storage (boosted via SD card slot and Google cloud-based storage).

Connectivity comes through either wifi or 3G, and Samsung says it even improved the trackpad.

Even more interesting is the Chromebox-- a Chrome OS-powered mini desktop PC with a 1.9GHz Atom processor, x6 USB ports, x2 DisplayPort++ connectors (compatible with HDMI, DVI and VGA) and Bluetooth connectivity for wireless keyboards.

The 2 devices do manage to make life on Chrome OS even more tempting-- especially since the OS now has a new desktop-style UI, remote access functions, an improved media player and built-in photo editor and uploader.

Google should be roll out more Chrome OS improvements next month (in time for the Google I/O conference), including Google Drive integration, a native Microsoft Office document viewer and offline document editing and storage.

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Is Chrome OS ready to challenge Windows or OS X? Probably not, but it looks like Google is not giving up on its PC dreams just yet...

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