

Microsoft Presents Surface Laptop

Written by Marco Attard
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After the Surface and Surface Book, Microsoft takes on a classic form factor with the Surface Laptop-- a MacBook-style premium laptop with no frills of the detachable variety.



Unveiled at a New York event, the Surface Book is aimed at students and the education sector. As such, it is a thin and light ultraportable, with a metal body and a keyboard area draped in Alcantara, a cloth-like material commonly used in cars. The backlit keyboard is similar to that found in the Surface Pro 4, while the touchscreen is a 13.5-inch PixelSense number with a 3:2 aspect ratio.

Inside the Surface Laptop are either Intel Core i5 or i7 CPUs, together with 4/8GB RAM and 128/256/512GB SSD storage. It is compatible with the Surface Dial, and Microsoft also offers a Surface Arc Bluetooth mouse. Since connectivity comes via single USB-C port an additional dock accessory allows one to charge the device while adding x2 HDMI, x1 ethernet and x4 USB 3.0 ports.

Oddly enough, the laptop does not actually a Windows 10 device-- instead it runs Windows 10 S, a stripped down version of the Microsoft OS akin to Chrome OS. Designed for low-end market and the education market, Windows 10 S runs specially packaged apps found in the Windows Store, supports all peripherals and streamlines the setup process.

Windows 10 S will be available for free for schools currently running Windows 10 Pro PCs, and all machines running on the Windows variant include a free subscription to Minecraft: Education Edition.

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The Surface Laptop ships from June 2017.

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