The Litl Webbook: A more social computing device

By Rain Noe - November 5, 2009

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A laptop is, like cell phones and
MP3 players, a pretty solitary
device; you might show
something on any of these
things to your friends once in a
while, but 99% of the time it's
just you in front of it, or vice
versa.

LiTL Exhibit 2003

A Boston-based startup called Litl is releasing a laptop-like device called the Webbook that is, by virtue of its physical design, inherently more social. For starters, it's got a hinge that enables the keyboard to go all the way around, lending it the form factor of an easel.

With its screen exposed, the litl webbook is now ideal for passive or "lean back" web activity like enjoying photos, listening to music, or consuming news, weather, and other web content.

The litl was designed to enhance home web use, with a bright screen featuring a revolutionary 178-degree viewing "cone." Most traditional computers are designed for a single user, but the litl's unique screen technology allows a group of people to clearly view the screen at the same time.

The Webbook also has a scroll-wheel-type-thingy embedded in the hinge, so you can physically change internet "channels," but if you don't feel like using something as antiquated as a physical dial, there's a remote control as well.

Interestingly enough, the
device is basically OS-free, at
least from a user standpoint--
there's no logging in, because
the device is always on.
There's no hard drive to crash.
And it takes care of its own
maintenance, downloading
patches and implementing
them automatically.

Learn more about the $699
device here.

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RAIN NOE

I'm a lapsed
industrial designer. I
was born in NYC and
figured I'd die there,
but a few years ago I
abandoned New York
to live on a farm in
the countryside with

my wife. We have six
dogs.

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