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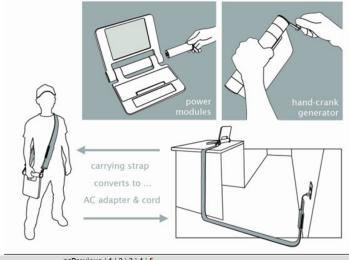


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# MIT's \$100 laptop

Power modules are intended to slide into the thick hinged section of the laptop, and a carry strap doubles as a cord for plugging the system into wall outlets.

Credit: MIT Media Lab



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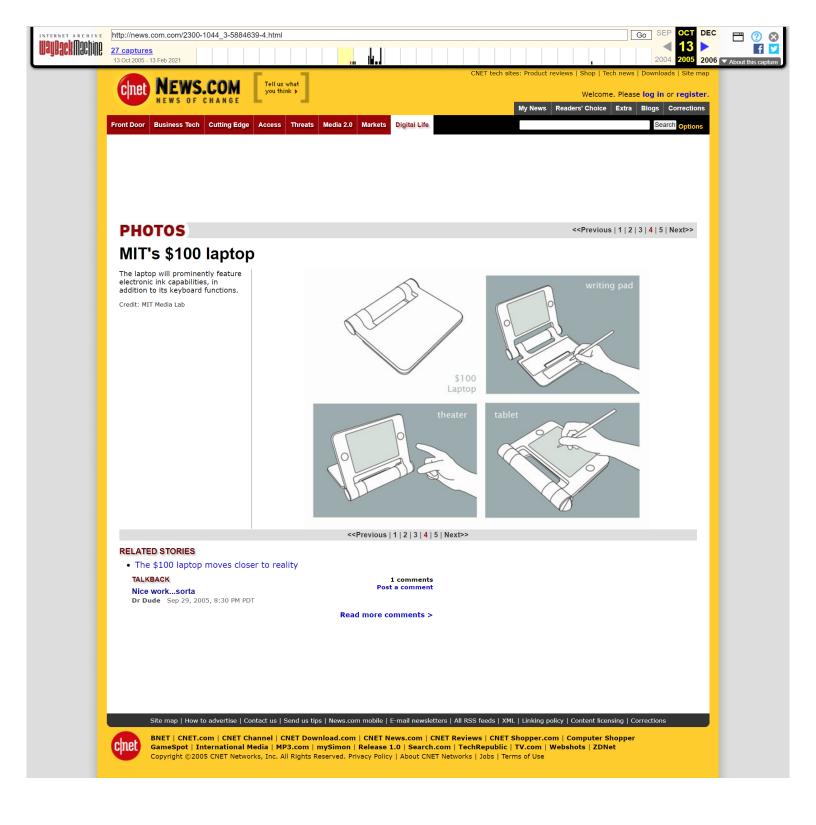
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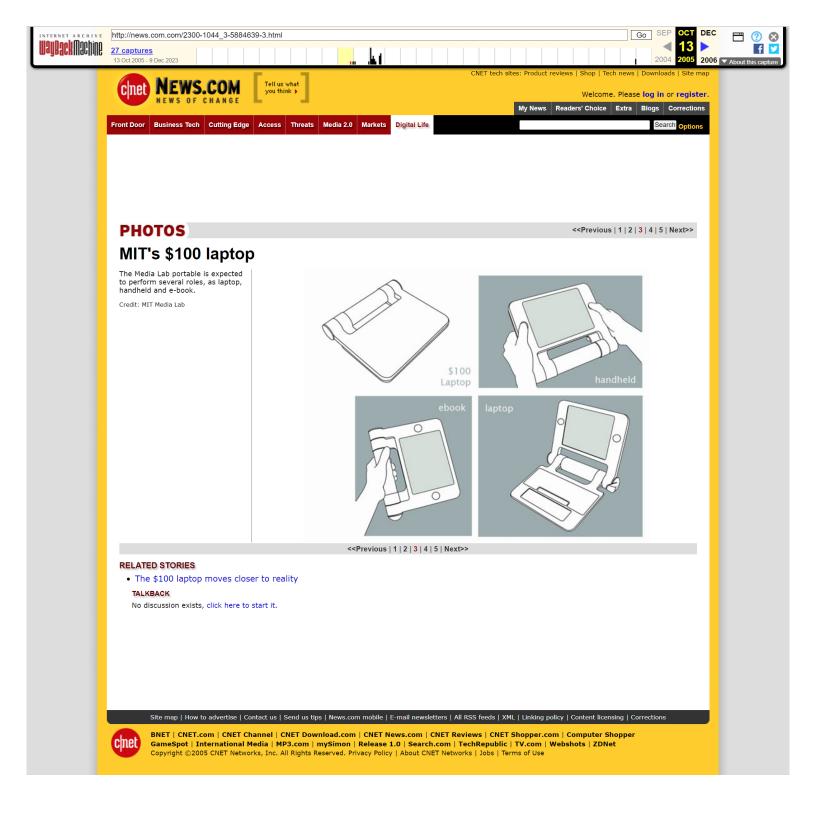
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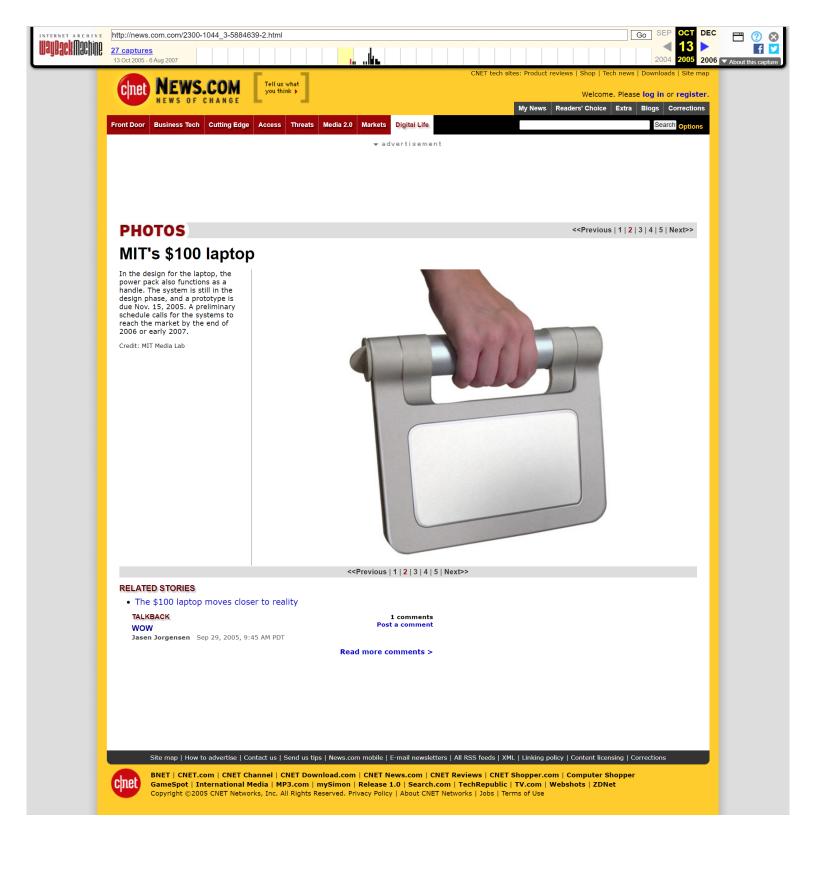
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# MIT's \$100 laptop

A research project at the MIT Media Lab has a plan for getting \$100 laptops in the hands of millions of people around the world. One notable feature is a hand crank for providing power in places where electricity is undependable or unavailable.

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# The \$100 laptop moves closer to reality

# By Mike Ricciuti

Staff Writer, CNET News.com

Published: September 28, 2005, 8:55 AM PDT

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CAMBRIDGE, Mass.--A low-cost computer for the masses moved one step closer to reality on Wednesday.

Nicholas Negroponte, the co-founder of the Media Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, detailed specifications for a \$100 windup-powered laptop targeted at children in developing nations.

Negroponte, who laid out his original proposal at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in January, said MIT and his nonprofit group, called One Laptop Per Child, is in discussions with five countries-Brazil, China, Thailand, Egypt and South Africa--to distribute up to 15 million test systems to children.



In addition, Massachusetts is working with MIT on a plan to distribute the laptops to schoolchildren, Negroponte said.

"This is the most important thing I have ever done in my life," Negroponte said on Wednesday during a presentation at Technology Review's Emerging Technologies Conference at MIT. "Reception has been incredible. The idea is simple. It's an education project. not a laptop

project. If we can make education better--particularly primary and secondary schools--it will be a better world."

He said a goal of the project is to make the low-cost PC idea a grassroots movement that will spread in popularity, like the Linux operating system or the Wikipedia free online encyclopedia. "This is open-source education. It's a big issue."

Negroponte said the idea is that governments will pay roughly \$100 for the laptops and will distribute them for free to students.

The proposed design of the machines calls for a 500MHz processor, 1GB of memory and an innovative dual-mode display that can be used in full-color mode, or in a black-and-white sunlight-readable mode. The display makes the laptop "both an electronic book and a laptop," he said.

One display design being considered is a flat, flexible printed display developed at MIT's Media Lab. Negroponte said the technology can be used to produce displays that cost roughly 10 cents per square inch. "The target is \$12 for a 12-inch display with near-zero power consumption," he said

Power for the new systems will be provided through either conventional electric current, batteries or by a windup crank attached to the side of the notebooks, since many countries targeted by the plan do not have power in remote areas, Negroponte said.

The machines, which will run a version of the Linux operating system, will also include other applications, some developed by MIT researchers, as well as country-specific software. "Software has gotten too fat and unreliable, so we started with Linux." he said.

For connectivity, the systems will be Wi-Fi- and cell phone-enabled, and will include four USB ports, along with built-in "mesh networking," a peer-to-peer concept that allows machines to share a single Internet connection.



"In emerging nations, the issue is not connectivity," Negroponte said.
"That was the issue, but there are many people working on it, (thanks to)
global competitiveness. But for education, the roadblock is the laptop."

Five companies are working with MIT to develop an initial 5 million to 15 million test units within the year: Google, Advanced Micro Devices, News Corp., Red Hat and BrightStar, Negroponte said. He said the current plan is to produce 100 million to 150 million units by 2007.

Negroponte admits that his goals are ambitious. Currently, the world production of laptops is just under 50 million, he said.

While the initial goal of the project is to work with governments, Negroponte said MIT is considering licensing the design or giving it to a third-party company to build commercial versions of the PC. "Those might be available for \$200, and \$20 or \$30 will come back to us to make the kids' laptops. We're still working on that," he said.

Others have launched low-cost PC ideas in the past, though MIT's project may be the most ambitious.

Last vear. Advanced Micro Devices announced plans for its Personal

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Internet Connector--a prototype with a price tag of at least \$185, with no display. And an Indian company called Novatium said it plans to offer a stripped-down home computer for about \$70 or \$75.

In addition, Microsoft's antipiracy-minded Steve Ballmer last year called for a move toward the \$100 PC for developing nations.



Education

Personal computers

Linux

# TALKBACK

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Ann Mccormick Oct 12, 2005, 9:30 AM PDT

# **And Another thing**

Zach Gierisch Oct 6, 2005, 7:38 AM PDT

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# ALTRUISTIC IDEA!

Rommel Lina Oct 1, 2005, 6:00 PM PDT

# I want a \$100 laptop!

Eric Daddy e Oct 1, 2005, 12:33 PM PDT

# Replace textbooks with the laptop

Brian Mcclimans Sep 30, 2005, 5:33 PM PDT

# This Could Be An Even Better Idea!

Sheldon Britton Sep 30, 2005, 6:37 AM PDT

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# What about American Kids?

Ian Scrude Sep 29, 2005, 5:57 PM PDT

# first rename it the Edu-Tab.

Elvis Sobers Sep 29, 2005, 5:19 PM PDT

# They can use Portable DVD player as shell

Shailesh Gala Sep 29, 2005, 12:42 PM PDT

# one more thing

John Satchell Sep 29, 2005, 12:09 PM PDT

John Satchell Sep 29, 2005, 12:04 PM PDT

# Poor nations children need a school and a teacher first!

Gibson Elliot Sep 29, 2005, 9:18 AM PDT

# Even So!

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# That's right, but

Donald Duquet Sep 29, 2005, 6:36 AM PDT

# Amazing...

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# **Cooper Union Students**

**Jesse Dewald** Sep 28, 2005, 11:08 PM PDT

# Still way too expensive for the billion poorest people in the world.

Bill Sundling Sep 28, 2005, 4:46 PM PDT

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# Apple steps up iPod 'tax' effort



Sales of devices that connect to the portable music players are reportedly yielding a royalty of about 10 percent.
• Photos: Paying to play

with the iPod

# When your cookie crumbles



Check Point's Dean Ocampo savs most people remain unaware of just how vulnerable their Web browsers



Convertible laptops

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# Extra: Wikipedia founder admits quality problems



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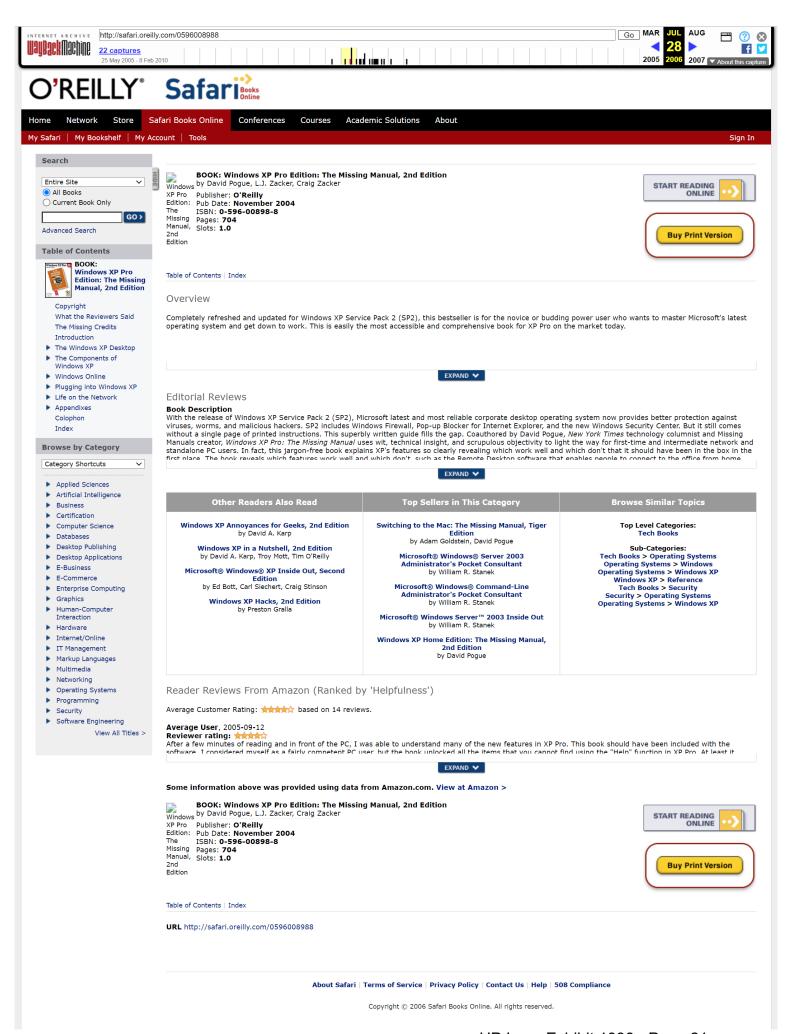
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Windows XP Home Edition: The Missing Manual (2nd Edition) by David Pogue

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# **Editorial Reviews**

# **Book Description**

With the release of Windows XP Service Pack 2 (SP2), Microsoft latest and most reliable corporate desktop operating system now provides better protection against viruses, worms, and malicious hackers. SP2 includes Windows Firewall, Pop-up Blocker for Internet Explorer, and the new Windows Security Center. But it still comes without a single page of printed instructions. This superbly written guide fills the gap. Coauthored by David Pogue, New York Times technology columnist and Missing Manuals creator, Windows XP Pro: The Missing Manual uses wit, technical insight, and scrupulous objectivity to light the way for first-time and intermediate network and standalone PC users. In fact, this jargon-free book explains XP's features so clearly revealing which work well and which don't that it should have been in the box in the first place. The book reveals which features work well and which don't, such as the Remote Desktop software that enables people to connect to the office from home, the encryption file system that protects sensitive information, and the Windows Messenger that enables real-time text, voice and video communication. Contents include:

- Getting started. The book's early chapters cover using menus, finding lost files, reducing window clutter, and taming the new, multi-column Start menu.
- Mastering the network. Special chapters help you navigate the corporate network, dial in from the road, and even set up your own small-office (peer-to-peer) network, step by step.
- Understanding security. User accounts, file encryption, and the NTFS file system keep your private files private, while still offering network access to coworkers you specify.
- Flying the Net. This book demystifies Outlook Express 6 for email, Internet Explorer 6 for Web browsing, and the new Windows Messenger for voice, chat, and video conferencing.

Windows XP Pro: The Missing Manual isn't for system administrators or OS theory geeks; it's for the novice or budding power user who wants to master the machine and get down to work. Yet, anyone who uses XP Pro (including hardcore techies) will find this new system much easier-- and more fun--to digest with this new Missing Manual.

# **Product Details**

Paperback: 704 pages

Publisher: Pogue Press; 2 edition (January 1, 2004)

Language: English ISBN-10: 0596008988 ISBN-13: 978-0596008987

**Product Dimensions:**  $9.2 \times 7 \times 1.4$  inches

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53 of 54 people found the following review helpful:

\*\*\* Superbly written for non-nerds, January 19, 2004

Reviewer: Chris Taylor (Portland, OR) - See all my reviews

This is by far the most understandable XP Pro book I've found. It takes the position that there's nothing wrong with witty, polished prose in technical writing. In fact, the excellence of the writing makes learning far less of a chore than you find in geekier books.

As for the gripes by previous reviewers: Good grief! It says right on the cover that the book "isn't for system administrators or OS theory geeks; it's for the novice or budding power user." It's clearly intended for people new to XP Pro, or even intermediate users who'd like a crystal-clear explanation of, say, understanding how file encryption is different in XP Pro and XP Home, or how to dial into your PC from the road using a laptop, or how to set up a home network, step by step.

(And to whoever wrote that you can find the same information in the online help--get real!! Microsoft's online help for XP Pro is opaque, humorless, loaded with jargon, and free of illustrations. And above all, it NEVER mentions bugs and problems and workarounds, as this book does.)

Bottom line: If you're a network administrator, it's true that you'll be much happier with a much thicker, more technical (and dry-as-dust) book.

But if you're a home user, or maybe you've been issued an XP Pro box at work and you want to get the most out of it, this book presents a complete, entertaining, and easily understood a picture of the beast they call Windows XP Professional. HIGHLY recommended.

50 of 55 people found the following review helpful:

\*\*\* THE FINE MANUAL THAT "MISSED" IN EVERY 'XP' PACKAGE, January 19, 2003

Reviewer: reviewer (Zurich, Switzerland.) - See all my reviews

The best quality of this book is that it combined the best of everything: it harnessed the best aspects of a step-by-step method with that of a detailed exposure. A welcomed combination! It is a hard-to-resist text if your goal is to conquer "Windows XP Professional" without any skin-pain.

This is one of the few books that presented a well-balanced information: not too much, but never too little. Everything about it is comprehensive. Its authority is unquestionable. Indeed, this is the type of manual that users would have loved Microsoft to include in their 'XP' package.

Only if Mr Gates would listen to us!

# **Customer Reviews**

Write an online review and share your thoughts with other customers.

8 of 12 people found the following review helpful:

\*\*\* Average User, September 12, 2005

Reviewer: Review

REAL NAME"

After a few minutes of reading and in front of the PC, I was able to understand many of the new features in XP Pro. This book should have been included with the software. I considered myself as a fairly competent PC user, but the book unlocked all the items that you cannot find using the "Help" function in XP Pro. At least it seems that way to me! I highly recommend this purchase for ALL PC users.

 $27\ \mbox{of}\ 28\ \mbox{people}$  found the following review helpful:

\*\*\*\* He's Right, It Should Have Been In the Box, January 23, 2005

Reviewer: <u>John Matlock "Gunny"</u> (Winnemucca, NV) - <u>See all my reviews</u>

TOP 10 REVIEWER REAL NAMET

The title is right! This is the book that should have been included in the basic box with XP Pro. It is set at just the right level for the average user trying to come up to speed

on a new operating system. While the basic user interface is more or less the same as the previous windows operating systems, the underlying code structure is based on NT rather than the older DOS/Windows.

This book isn't for system administrators or advanced readers. It's aimed at the average user who wants to master the machine well enough to get down to work or to look up something without having to call for support. It is basically crystal-clear, jargon-free (well, computers are still the subject, how about nearly jargon-free).

This edition is up to date to include Service Pack 2, which changed a number of screens and philosophies in the security area.

14 of 19 people found the following review helpful:

\*\*\*\* connecting to the Internet, January 18, 2005

Reviewer: W Boudville (US) - See all my reviews

TOP 50 REVIEWER REAL NAMET

The very latest from David Pogue's eponymous publishing house [and O'Reilly]. The book goes into myriad useful tips on best using Microsoft's XP Professional. A very stable operating system, unlike some earlier efforts by Microsoft. Replete with attractive consumer level utilities. The book does go into system type aids, like showing the full power of the start menu, taskbar and control panel. All to the good. But somewhat prosaic.

I suspect what is more germane to most users are things like getting onto the Internet and all that that implies. The authors go into explaining how to get the most out of Internet Explorer. And setting up your email and doing instant messaging. For many of us, browsing and email will take up much of our usage, with chat perhaps a close third. The reality is that the computer's power is often as a connection to the greater world. Which is why though these chapters are only a fraction of the book, you may want to head here first and read slowly. Understanding them may be the most productive part of the book for you.

10 of 25 people found the following review helpful:

\*\*\* MISSING MANUEL MISSED, August 12, 2004

Reviewer: **B Ardell Young** (Camden, SC United States) - See all my reviews

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Master Network Administration: A guide by T. Brok

REAL NAME™

Customer Discussions Beta (What's this?)

I expected more from this book since the title implies more information that has not been available. I didn't see anything in the book that was new.

It is not a bad manuel but there are several books that provide the same information. Perhaps, the problem with the book is the title because it leads one to think it will include more than it actually delivers.

If you do not have a good reference book on Windows XP Professional, you would not go wrong with this book.

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