

The imminent netbook explosion

Netbook sales have enjoyed healthy growth over recent years, but in order to maintain that momentum, they'll need to offer new features and capabilities. How will the category change? What operating system will dominate? Will the App Store model for selling software find a foothold in the small notebook field?

As netbook sales continue to grow, hardware and software vendors are battling to exploit this relatively new market.

Intel released a beta software development kit (SDK) in early December for developers who create applications for netbooks based on its Atom chip. These apps will run in the Microsoft Windows and Moblin operating systems. Meanwhile, Google has promised a new netbook operating system (OS) in time for holiday sales next year, while computer vendors such as Asus, Dell and Lenovo are jostling to get their slice of the networking pie.

Generally, vendors are positioning the netbook as a second computer -- not as powerful as one's main desktop or hefty notebook, but certainly less expensive and easier to tote around while on the go. Google is also positioning it as a gaming device. Will consumers accept a "less is often good enough" proposition, or will they demand more?

In what directions will the netbook category go over the next few years?

Read the full article [here](#).

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