

EXHIBIT A

We Want A Dead Simple Web Tablet For \$200. Help Us Build It.



I'm tired of **waiting** ☹ - I want a dead simple and dirt cheap touch screen web tablet to surf the web. Nothing fancy like the **Dell latitude XT** ☹, which costs \$2,500. Just a Macbook Air-thin touch screen machine that runs Firefox and possibly Skype on top of a Linux kernel. It doesn't exist today, and as far as we can tell no one is creating one. So let's design it, build a few and then open source the specs so anyone can create them.

Comments

law - July 21st, 2008 at 1:39 pm PDT

awesome idea.

reply

Chris Banach - July 21st, 2008 at 2:50 pm PDT

Oh no!.... not Firefox!!! Opera-mini is a much better choice (there's already 45 millions cellphone users across the globe). It's WAY faster than Firefox and consumes much less RAM. Especially is you have only 500MB of RAM, Firefox is a terrible choice.

Do me a favor: opens 15 tabs in Firefox, with at least 5 of them with youtube pages. You will soon see RAM usage of FF climbing close to or above 600MB!!! While Opera will stick around 200MB.

reply

evofuse ☹ - July 21st, 2008 at 3:19 pm PDT

It's not FF doing that it's Flash causing the spike in RAM use.

Here's the basic idea: The machine is as thin as possible, runs low end hardware and has a single button for powering it on and off, headphone jacks, a built in camera for video, low end speakers, and a microphone. It will have Wifi, maybe one USB port, a built in battery, half a Gigabyte of RAM, a 4-Gigabyte solid state hard drive. Data input is primarily through an iPhone-like touch screen keyboard. It runs on linux and Firefox. It would be great to have it be built entirely on open source hardware, but including Skype for VOIP and video calls may be a nice touch, too.

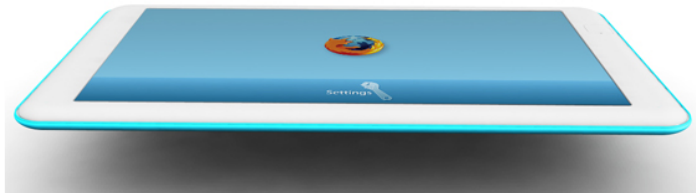
If all you are doing is running Firefox and Skype, you don't need a lot of hardware horsepower, which will keep the cost way down.

The idea is to turn it on, bypass any desktop interface, and go directly to Firefox running in a modified **Kiosk mode** that effectively turns the browser into the operating system for the device. Add Gears for offline syncing of Google docs, email, etc., and Skype for communication and you have a machine that will be almost as useful as a desktop but cheaper and more portable than any laptop or tablet PC.

It will also include a custom default home page with large buttons for bookmarked services - news, Meebo/Ebuddy for IM, Google Docs/Zoho for Office, Email, social networks, photo sites, YouTube, etc. Everything that you use every day.

We're working with a supply chain management company that says the basic machine we're looking to build can be created for just a few hundred dollars. They need us to write the software modifications to Linux and Firefox (more on that below) and spec the hardware. Then they run with it and can have a few prototypes built within a month.

What will we call it? The best name I can think of is the Firefox Tablet, but that will take a round of discussions with Mozilla.



It would more than half a gig of ram IMHO.

[reply](#)

Dirwin - July 21st, 2008 at 6:03 pm PDT

i got firefox with 19 tabs open to use 200mb of ram with a couple plugins running whats ur problem ?

5 were youtube others consisted of facebook myspace gmail logmein, wich uses a pane in the but proprietary hog pluggin and a bunch of other not google tabs, it ran stable at 208-211mb of ram mayb 2%cpu on vista premium, so i think it could easily work on linux

[reply](#)

Chris Banach - July 21st, 2008 at 10:12 pm PDT

FF vs Opera: it's a proven fact that Opera not only runs much faster than FF at launch (opens in 4 seconds with 5 tabs vs 9 seconds for FF with same tabs), just do the experiment before saying. Secondly, after thorough experiments, there's no doubt Opera uses significantly less RAM than FF, on average 30-40% less. Google FF vs Opera and do a little research, or best, just try it.

And Opera has a built-in email client and a great feature: Tab Sessions. FF looks really retarded to me after only a month using



Here's The Plan

We'll organize a small team of people to spec this out. First is the marketing document that just outlines what the machine will do - we have a first draft of that already and will post it soon. Then we'll spec out the hardware and get people to help write the customized Linux and Firefox code. Once we've completed the design we'll start to work with the supply chain company to get an idea on the cost of the machine (the goal is \$200), and hopefully build a few prototypes. Anyone who contributes significantly to the project would get one of those first prototypes. If everything works well, we'd then open source the design and software and let anyone build one that wants to.

The goal is to keep the machine very simple and very cheap. I think this will be a lot of fun, and it may just turn into an actual product that we can use to surf the web and talk to our friends.

We'll be coordinating the project [over at TechCrunchIT](#). Leave a comment there if you want to participate and we'll be in touch soon.

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[b](#) [Buzz up!](#)

referred to me after only 2 months using Opera.

[reply](#)

Emerald - April 27th, 2009 at 2:59 pm PDT

I just tried it. FireFox took under two seconds. Opera took five.

Interesting that the "just try it" didn't prove your point.

[reply](#)



Sebastian - July 21st, 2008 at 11:36 pm PDT

Are you sure you would use Opera Mini on a Tablet? I hope you were drunk when you wrote that, because I couldn't take anything serious you said, especially your way wrong numbers (which can easily be checked without "researching" on Google).

[reply](#)

AMB - July 22nd, 2008 at 1:45 am PDT

Firefox is an absolute must for its Adblock.

[reply](#)



Shane - July 22nd, 2008 at 4:43 am