Chromebooks, Chromeboxes, and Raspberry Pis

Chromebooks (for public use)

A Chromebook is a portable personal computer running Chrome OS as its operating system. They are designed to be lightweight and start up in seconds. Chrome OS only provides the Google Chrome web browser, and relies on web applications to provide general-purpose computing functionality. Some of the web apps allow you to create and share documents, edit photos, and listen to music, and much more.

Our primary goal with the Chromebooks was to provide patrons with an ease-of-use public session computer they can use anywhere inside the library. It saves money by providing mobile computing stations compared to purchasing standard stationary desktop terminals.The Chromebooks can be purchased online through various vendors and can start as low as $199/Chromebook.

The Chromebooks for our libraries run a special service by Google called Google Enterprise. The service was purchased from and deployed by, Cumulus Global, a vendor that provides cloud computing solutions ($30 one time license fee per Chromebook).

Google Enterprise allows rules to be placed on the Chromebooks for added security and privacy according to the libraries' regulations. Changing these rules can be done from anywhere and is as easy to access by just logging into a Google Account.

Here are some of the rules:
-There is no need to log in with a Google Account
-Each individual session-time is set to 4 hours
-When it's logged off, the system wipes all data from it's previous session
-Control where each chromebook can print to
-Control WiFi networks each chromebook can connect to

Chromeboxes (currently for staff use, but soon will use for public computers)
-Very Similar to the Chromebooks.
-Built in WIFI and Bluetooth
-Can dual boot the machine (Linux or ChromeOS)
-We are installing a version of linux on the Chromeboxes for staff to have the ability to use our automation system client and other applications(Libre Office, Open office, Gimp, etc.)

-Fast and easy computer solution
-Cost effective (less than $200 per computer (4gb) attach to existing monitor with DVI/HDMI port, USB keyboard and mouse when available).
-Soon we will be utilizing Google Apps for Libraries.

Raspberry Pis (for catalog only computers, digital signs and Makerspace stand alone and with Arduino)
-Low power cost effective solution for catalog only computers with existing monitors (less than $60 per set up if connected to existing monitors with HDMI/DVI input and USB keyboards and mice.)
-Reliable, cost effective solution for digital signage (around $250 for 32" display, Raspberry PI and all the extras)
-Rapberry PI 2 is out now!

Places we purchase from:
Chromebooks - www.amazon.com
Chromeboxes - www.amazon.com and local distributor
Google Enterprize license to manage Chromebooks - http://www.cumulusglobal.com/
Raspberry Pi - http://www.mcmelectronics.com/
Cables, etc. - http://www.monoprice.com/

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