

Netbook/Touchscreen Combo on the Menu

By Jan Howells, ARM

Looking for a laptop computer, handheld game device, e-book reader and video player? The innovative ARM powered

Touch Book is the perfect all-in-one second notebook, according to its developer. Because it is magnetic you can even remove the keyboard and put the tablet on the fridge to be used as a kitchen computer or as a digital photo frame! Simply slide the screen out of its keyboard dock and voila – it acts as a fully functional touch screen tablet. The Touch Book OS has two modes: one for use with keyboard and touchpad, and one for use as a standalone touch screen tablet. The innovative 3D interface is easy to use and does not require a stylus or a very skinny finger to operate accurately.



Fed up with running out of juice at a crucial scene in the movie you are watching? The multifaceted Touch Book, designed from scratch with power consumption in mind incorporates two batteries to ensure you are not left frustrated when you system bleeps out just as the action starts.

Extended battery life is part of the Touch Book's unique selling point. The Touch Book weighs in at less than 2 lbs (0.9 kg) and offers 10 to 15 hours of battery life in full netbook configuration via a battery in the screen and a separate battery in the base.

By utilizing the OMAP3430 applications processor from Texas Instruments, featuring an ARM core the Touch Book is always on, just like a cell phone. Users don't have to re-boot continually and it runs silently with no whirring fans or drives.

The OMAP3430 is the first applications processor in the industry to integrate the ARM® Cortex™-A8 superscalar microprocessor core, which is capable of delivering up to three times the performance of ARM11™ based processors. Combined with TI's technology in the OMAP3430, the ARM Cortex-A8 provides faster user interfaces and data access. It also provides entertainment applications with a boost, while maintaining extremely efficient power consumption.

Designed in a 65-nanometer (nm) CMOS process, TI's OMAP3430 operates at a higher frequency than previous generation OMAP processors while lowering the core voltage and adding power reduction features, according to TI. The OMAP3430 processor embeds Imagination Technologies' POWERVR SGX graphics core, and supports OpenGL ES 2.0 and OpenVG, providing serious graphics performance and advanced interface capabilities.

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