

Chromebook/Linux “Show And Tell”  
ARC Meeting 2/9/2018

Summary: In search of a computer for a digital data capability with my “Go-Kit,” I have discovered that a Chromebook laptop loaded with Linux is a very good solution for a couple of reasons. The price and suitability are very hard to beat. Refurbished Chromebooks are now selling at prices between 50.00 to \$100.00, depending on overall condition; see the [Tanga website](#) for today’s prices. Conditions are classes A, B, and C, with C having the most signs of wear. At these prices, as dedicated ham computers, these Chromebook laptops are far less than other laptops in price and; for portability are less than Raspberry Pi based computers. Although, a Raspberry Pi computer is cheap; a case, a monitor, a keyboard, and required cabling can drive the total cost toward \$200.00, with little consideration given to suitability for an operational environment. Laptops are inherently more suited for operational environments. The Linux operating system is free along with an almost unlimited number of free applications. Thus, the Chromebook fitted with Linux is a very economical choice for a dedicated ham station, whether for a portable station or a fixed station. To use a Chromebook with Linux, software especially developed for that purpose must be used; Crouton and the Gallium OS are most popular. Many references are included below that describe how to run Linux on a Chromebook. However, before any modifications to a Chromebook are attempted, it is highly recommended that an image of the Chromebook be safely stored away in case it has to be restored to factory settings.

References

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