

## Laptop / Smartphone

### An amateur view: ARE WE BEING CONNED ?

This discussion paper, written for the next Rex Club IT meeting, is presented by Mike Johnson. His IT knowledge and experience is, as you know, very limited and so all statements and conclusions need testing.

For years Mike, and no doubt many others, have been puzzling over improving their IT scope and capability. Our IT needs are quite limited and equipment costs need to be reasonable. We appear to be at a watershed currently, so now is the time for some serious research.

### PART I - GENERAL

Most of us have a desktop or laptop and also a mobile – some smarter than others! Some of us have a tablet (e.g. Apple iPad) for portability. Thus this analysis applies to all of us. Those who live active lives, often away from the home central processor, can justifiably opt for a smartphone (away) and a laptop (home), each serving largely different purposes. But it costs money....thus speaketh the accountant.

A **Computerworld** article below emphasises the current situation:

## **Why smartphones should replace laptops**

By [Mike Elgan](#)

Contributing Columnist, Computerworld

Microsoft's "Always Connected PCs" involve one desktop operating system running on one ARM mobile chipset.

But the implications are mind-blowing when you consider that the Always Connected PC platform sets the stage for all major desktop operating systems to run on all major ARM chipsets.

And it raises questions. Such as:

- Could Windows 10 Pro be made to run natively on all high-end Android phones?
- Could macOS High Sierra be made to run on the iPhone X?
- Could an Android phone turn into a Chromebook in desktop mode and also run the Android apps on the phone in desktop mode?

The answer to all these questions, of course, is yes.

The problem is that Microsoft doesn't want you running Windows on an Android phone. Apple doesn't want you replacing your MacBook Pro or iMac with an iPhone — it wants you to buy both.

On the other hand, Google does want you using your Android phone as a Chromebook.

And most importantly, Microsoft does want to become a player in the smartphone business — sort of.

Microsoft's CEO Satya Nadella said a few months ago, "I'm sure we'll make more phones, but they will not look like phones that are there today."

If you follow the rumors, sightings, cryptic comments by Microsoft executives and other developments, it appears that Microsoft may be working on reinventing the smartphone rather than coming out with yet another smartphone.

The rumors all point to a Windows 10 pen-based foldable tablet that runs on an ARM chipset.

The idea is that it would be a phone when folded, about the size of a large smartphone. But when unfolded, the dual screens would be the size of a small tablet.

It would run Windows 10 on mobile processors, as the Always Connected PC systems do.

And given Microsoft's Continuum project, it should also plug into peripherals and replace a desktop.

Such a product would enable Microsoft to compete in the smartphone space with a product that is not a smartphone.

Whether Microsoft comes out with its folding phablet or not, it's clear that the ability to run desktops from a smartphone is ready for mainstream adoption.

Now that Windows 10 Pro is running on ARM, now that Chromebooks run Android, now that the latest iPhone costs over \$1,000, I think it's reasonable to say that the world is ready for smartphones that replace laptops and desktops.

As smartphones become more powerful and secure (with better biometric security), the demand for very expensive smartphones grows. However, with all that spending on smartphones, the appetite for a separate laptop diminishes.

We already carry a supercomputer in our pockets. And all we really need on the desktop is a big screen, full-size keyboard and maybe a mouse or trackpad with which to interact with our smartphones. We also need a desktop operating system running on those phones.

I know, I know. Developers, Photoshop users and other power users can't use a smartphone for their work. But the majority of users can.

I believe the industry is ready for smartphones that replace laptops. Are you?

The conclusions seem to be:

\*Only one central processor is needed. The purposes of laptops and smartphones are increasingly merging and the programs and software are very similar with much duplication.

\*Why pay twice over for one central processor? Two processors are more expensive than one. It gets worse; many of us have partners with smartphones, tablets and laptops – all with central processors.

\*Smartphones are king. Thus the laptop must plug into the smartphone, the central processor.

\*The computer market is in a state of confusion and there is no clear integration path for an amateur to follow:

1. In general terms Microsoft and Apple do not want to merge the laptop and the smartphone when the market supports the concept of separate processors and two or more continuous hefty investments.
2. Interface hardware exists to link the laptop and smartphone, but this introduces more complication and confusion and is unlikely to exist for much longer(?)

## DISCUSS

### PART 2 – THE BACKWOODSMAN

Mike Johnson has for decades used a Dell desktop Windows computer and printer plus a mobile which is not smart. This kit is reasonably adequate for his simple needs, as all his IT work is done from home.

BUT:

(a) A desktop is a clumsy clutter of hardware and a large screen laptop would be a better alternative.

(b) Clearly the smartphone has become the top dog and must surely be developed to control a simple, integrated system for all IT needs.

(c) Modern folk increasingly use IT capability when on the move and MJ needs to update.

The list is long and growing fast – position and route finding, where to find numerous services, carpark fees, purchases and many other uses.

(d) Any upgrade needs to be very simple to use.

So the time has come for some action.

Needed: one supplier (not Apple), a large screen laptop (plus a keyboard and printer) which are controlled by and plug directly into a smartphone, which is the processor – an integrated system.

The web has been searched for solutions. The clutter is like the tower of Babel and, for the reasons indicated by the *Computerworld* article above, the solutions appear to be not fully developed at present and there is a lot of interface hardware.

Microsoft and Apple need to grow up and provide one comprehensive processor, with cost savings.

## HELP !