Chromebook Prediction by Don Grim   November 2017

I am going to make a new prediction. Not all predictions become true. In the past, I predicted Beta (Betamax) would become the standard video tape but VHS (Video Home System) won that battle. I did predict Lionel Richie would become a big star when he left the Commodores to start his solo music career. I remember, at the time of my prediction in 1982, that my wife had not heard of him. I was right about the Lionel prediction!

My latest prediction is that the Google Chromebook computer is going to be a big success! I believe it is one of the best innovations of the computer age. What does it have going for it? I'll answer that with four "S" words, Security, Simple, Speed, and Sellable.

Security - Chromebooks have hardware (TPM Chip, lockable encrypted memory) that protects the computer. It has the preinstalled Chrome operating system (based on the Linux kernel) that is safe. It always has a copy of the operating system on the computer to switch over to in time of attack. It isolates attacks to a tab (called sandboxing) instead of the whole computer. You don't need to install virus protection software since the Chromebook automatically updates the computer for protection. Those updates don't interrupt you since they update on the other operating system on the computer, that switches over at a convenient time. Another added security is you are up and running in minutes if you change to another Chromebook, whether you change by choice or by a worn out Chromebook. You basically go to your settings and files, already saved on the cloud, and you're back in a flash. That is provided you get in to the habit of saving to the cloud (web). You should still copy important files (to a flash drive or something) just in case the cloud would fail on you.

Simple – As they say, less is more! It has just what you need but not more than you need. You can still do everything that many people do with computers, including web browsing, email, social network (Facebook), programs, games, and even documents (free Google Docs). A new computer user can learn a Chromebook much faster than a Windows or Mac computer, in less than a week (perhaps in a day) instead of weeks. Seniors will love the ease of use of the Chromebook! The Chrome operating system is small, yet has enough, without any

bloating or overhead like on certain operating systems. We won't name names!

Speed – Because it is simple and efficient, the Chromebook has speed. It zooms around. It powers on in seconds rather than minutes. So you can use it right away, even if it is powered off, and you get around quickly wherever you go.

Sellable – Chromebooks don't cost much to make so they don't cost much to buy. That is why schools, which always have a tight budget, are replacing laptop computers and tablets (iPads) with Chromebooks. Besides the advantage of the 4 "S" words described above, Chromebooks are associated with a form of Linux that allows the networking that schools need for computers.

I would not be surprised if Microsoft and Apple, for competition and survival purposes, will release their own copycat versions of the Chromebook. Since Google highlights their Chrome web browser for the Chromebook, perhaps Microsoft will release an "Explorerbook" and Apple will release a "Safaribook".

Maybe smart phones could adapt to the Chromebook innovative features for a less expensive smart phone. They could call it the "I Go For That" phone instead of the "I" phone!

The Chromebook is not for everybody. If you have certain software you prefer that is only available for a Windows or Mac computer, go with Windows or Mac for it. Although, because of the low price, you could supplement a Windows computer with a Chromebook, and be safer on the web with your Chromebook. If the Chromebook takes off like I imagine, perhaps there will be more and more software options for the Chromebook in the future!

In conclusion, I'm not just a chrome fan of the bumpers on cars in the 50's, along with their fins. I'm also a Chromebook fan! If the Chromebook doesn't become as popular as I predict, I guess I'll put some Beta tapes, 8-track tapes, and computer punch cards next to the Chromebook to make it look more obsolete, and play Lionel music in the background!