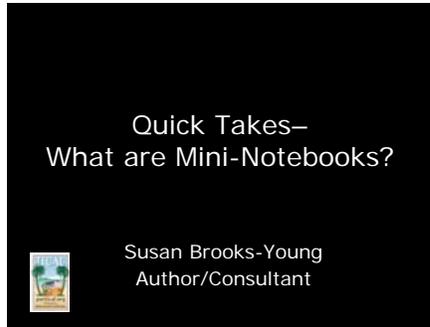
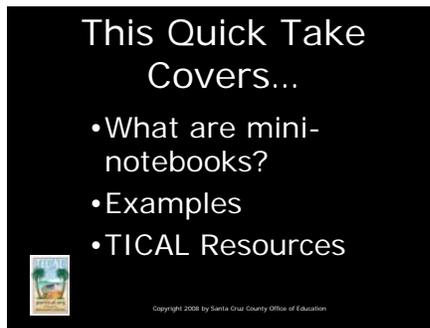


Slide 1



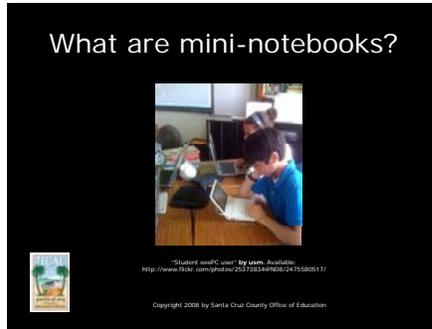
Hello! My name is Susan Brooks-Young. I spent 23 years working as a teacher and administrator in public and private education. Now I work with educators across the country on various aspects of technology use in schools. This is one of a series of Quick Take presentations that provides a brief overview of one emerging technology along with examples of how educators are using this tool and further information available in the TICAL Resources Database.

Slide 2



There is growing interest in establishing one-to-one computer initiatives in schools across the U.S. Unfortunately, cost and hardware management issues often get in the way. This Quick Take focuses on new computing devices called mini-notebooks, or Ultra Mobile PCs, that offer an affordable, practical solution for educators. We will answer the question, "What is a mini-notebook," view examples, and see a listing of resources found in the TICAL Resource Database.

Slide 3



Mini-notebooks, sometimes called Ultra Mobile PCs or UMPCs, first appeared in 2007. They are computing devices that look very much like small versions of conventional laptops. Built in wireless makes it possible to connect to the Internet, and most systems either come with pre-installed applications software such as word processing and spreadsheets, or have enough memory available to allow this software to be added. While not appropriate for intensive gaming or other memory-hungry activities, the mini-notebooks currently available are more than adequate for typical daily use by students and adults.

Slide 4

Pros	Cons
Affordable	Keyboards are less than full-size
Can run Linux and Windows operating systems	Battery-life on some models is short
Rugged, compact, lightweight construction	Drive space may be limited

The price of a mini-notebook ranges from about \$299 to \$800, with several falling between \$399 and \$499. The overall price is determined, in part, by whether the machine is running Linux, a free open source operating system, or a Windows operating system. Because schools are a target market for several mini-notebook manufacturers, these computers are built to withstand hard use by students. But low price and light weight require some tradeoffs. For example, to keep the device small keyboards are undersized (some more than others). Battery size impacts price and weight, as does hard drive space. The least expensive mini-notebooks have

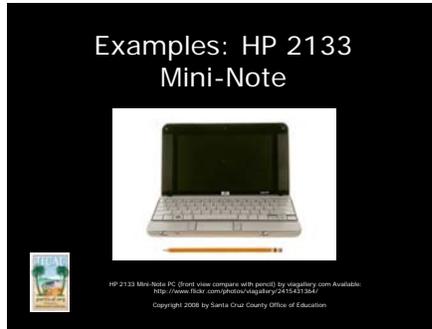
batteries that last about 3 hours and, in some cases, as little as 2 GB of storage. However, these limitations are small compared to the benefits of having use of a mini-computer.

Slide 5



Several hardware manufacturers are working on their own versions of mini-notebooks which are expected to be released throughout 2008. A current leader in the mini-notebook field is Asus' eeePC. This mini-notebook, which weighs about 2 lbs., is available in several models and prices begin as low as \$299. The eeePC can run either Linux or Windows XP and offers an interface that is so easy to use that even the least experienced students or educators will be up and running in a matter of minutes. The small keyboard is a bit of a challenge for adults, but the perfect size for students.

Slide 6



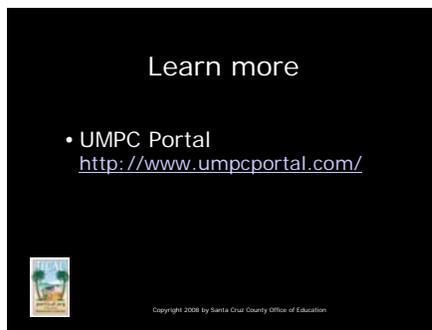
Hewlett Packard recently began shipping several models of the 2133 Mini-Note. These UMPCs are slightly heavier than the eeePC, weighing in at 2.5 lbs, but include at least a 120 GB hard drive, which accounts for the increased weight. The systems run either Linux or Windows Vista and the nearly full-sized keyboard is a great option for adults. Prices currently begin at just under \$500.

Slide 7



DELL, Acer, and other major hardware manufacturers have announced they, too will be releasing mini-notebooks in the near future. Many are targeting the education market and attempting to pack in as many features as possible while keeping pricing affordable.

Slide 8



This slide and the next show items found in the TICAL Resources Database that will give you more information about mini-notebooks. Here is a link to a blog site that provides general information and updates about mini-notebooks.

Slide 9

Learn more

- Asus' eeePC  
<http://eeepc.asus.com/global/>
- HP 2133 Mini-Note  
<http://h40059.www4.hp.com/hp2133/>



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This slide provides links to the specific mini-notebooks mentioned in this Quick Take.

Slide 10

Thank you!



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Mini-notebooks make one-to-one computing initiatives feasible for educators and students. At this stage of this game, this is a rapidly changing technology, so you'll want to keep an eye out for new devices and enhanced versions of earlier hardware. I hope this Quick Take inspires you to learn more about mini-notebooks.