**June, 2017 Issue #1: Windows10 S**

You may have heard that Microsoft recently announced a new version of Windows, named "Windows 10 S". The IT pundits immediately jumped on the bandwagon as to what the "S" means, and in this issue I'll attempt to sort out what it is, and what it means, minus the "punditry". But first, a step back in time…

**Remember Windows RT?** If you don't remember it, don't fret: only about 9 or so people currently residing on Earth remember it. Set the Time Machine to January 2012. Windows RT was Microsoft's big gambit to break from the past, the past being all versions of Windows and Office from the original versions up to and including today's versions. It was the "slimmed-down", lightweight operating system designed to work with an "App Store" containing similarly lightweight versions of Word, Excel, Powerpoint, etc.

The problem was Windows RT was ahead of its time (for Windows users), and the "App Store" had too few apps to be attractive. No Apps means nothing for consumers to buy, and it failed in the consumer market. Worse, there was no way an IT department could control the devices, a giant no-no for business - especially in finance and banking, where control of devices is a requirement. So it failed miserably in the business market too.

With a couple million WindowsRT laptops stuck in inventory, Microsoft tried to re-market to the default bargain bin for any company: they offered them at half-price to schools. Schools did not want them for the same reasons consumers and business rejected them: no education apps and no controls. Microsoft ended up writing off the whole thing for a billion dollars, and most WindowsRT devices ended up in the crusher and recycled.

**Microsoft learned their lesson and retreated.** Fast Forward to 2017, and they are back with a re-tooled version carrying the "Windows 10 S" nameplate. Why? They must do it to survive – for two reasons: #1) Google's "App Suite" and Chromebooks are eating into Microsoft's (and Apple's) market share. #2) Microsoft still has a burning desire to rid itself of ancient code – the base code of Windows 10 is almost 27 years old, and that of Office almost as old. Old, tired code is a giant pain to maintain, and the support costs are killing them. Since "The Cloud" is now a well-established method to provide computing power to any low-cost device, Microsoft can take another run at building a new lightweight OS and rid itself of old code once and for all. We'll see.

---

**A NEW FEATURE: Handy Gadget of the Month**

This month, I sing the praises of the "**Work EZ Adjustable Laptop Stand**" by UnCaged Ergonomics. If you follow workplace trends, sitting all day at a computer has become the "new smoking": bad for your health. The trend is towards standing workspaces, and better ergonomics while seated. If you use a laptop daily, you might want to check this gadget out. It elevates your laptop in a set of infinitely adjustable angles and positions, including sitting on the sofa or a bed. That kind of defeats the purpose of standing, but if you have to sit, at least have good posture. This gadget delivers on that promise – I have tried a few other brands, and none have the flexibility and stability that the "Work EZ Adjustable Laptop Stand" has. Recommended!

-If you liked this new feature, drop me a line at john@medofficsystems.com and let me know.

---

-John Becker