

Bridging the Digital Divide with the Intel Compute Stick

See how a PC that fits in the palm of your hand can help today's educators and administrators transform learning for students.

What if you could turn a display, TV or monitor into a fully functional opportunity for 21st Century learning? Intel Education wanted to know. That's why—in the summer of 2015—Intel Education gave away ten Intel Compute Sticks to teachers and administrators across the country. We were impressed at how readily the winners were willing to experiment with this innovative technology to serve up class content and education apps in a convenient new way.

Debbie Bordelon—IT Director of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Elementary School in Destrehan, Louisiana—loves her Intel Compute Stick and, after experimenting with the device at home, is planning on how to best use it in her school. Debbie plans on using it with her school's smart board: thereby eliminating the need for a laptop connection. Another teacher, Laurie McNeil—Math Intervention Specialist at Medfield Elementary in Medfield, Massachusetts—will use her Intel Compute Stick as a student computer: utilizing a monitor and wireless keyboard with touchpad. Laurie plans on having her students use the device for math games and working with the school's new math program, enVisionMATH, as it has a number of online components. "We have hand-me-down computers in our math lab," Laurie says, "so my kids are going to love this Intel Compute Stick!"



Intel Compute Stick Quick Stats

Transforms HDMI-ready TVs or monitors into fully functional computers to bring curriculum to life

Size: 103 mm x 37 mm x 12 mm

Processor: Quad-core Intel® Atom™ processor

Operating systems: Windows 8.1, Windows® 10 or Ubuntu 14.04 LTS.

Memory: (Windows version) 2 GB memory; (Ubuntu version) 1 GB memory

Storage: (Windows version) 32 GB; (Ubuntu version) 8 GB

Graphics: Intel HD Graphics

Security: McAfee® Antivirus Plus

Connectivity: Wi-Fi and Bluetooth

Ports: USB 2.0 port to connect peripherals and micro SD card slot for additional storage.

Gioya De Souza-Fennelly is an instructor at Teachers College, Columbia University. She teaches STEM/Physical Science Curriculum and Methods to pre-service science teachers. One of her grad students is using the Intel Compute Stick for a field trip activity assignment: detailing how to take middle school kids on a science-focused tour of New York City. Gioya sat down with her IT person who explained how easily the Intel Compute Stick could be incorporated into her curriculum and methodologies at Columbia University. “One of my students brought in a wireless mouse and keyboard and we used it in class,” Gioya says. “Technology is often not available in our class, so we could simply hook the Intel Compute Stick to our television and continue learning: uninterrupted!”

Tim Davis is Principal at Walkerton Elementary School in Walkerton, Indiana. After morning announcements, Tim surveys the school—stopping by each room to view the interactions between teachers and students—takes care of any disciplinary issues as they arise, and catches up on emails and clerical work in the afternoon.

When Tim first tried the Intel Compute Stick, he enlisted the help of one of his most tech-savvy teachers. “He showed me how simple the device was: just plug it in, type in a password and you’ve turned your TV or monitor into a working computer!” Tim explains. “I used it later on for a staff meeting in a room where we had a TV but didn’t have a computer. Teachers loved the device as I used it to put up the agenda for the meeting, and then go to various web sites that I wanted them to see. It was much better than doing a PowerPoint and just giving them the web sites to view on their own. It is VERY easy to use: even for a 56 year-old with not a lot of computer skills!”

Before using the Intel Compute Stick, Tim wasn’t sure how it actually worked so he was a little skeptical. Would it really be an actual computer or would it be fairly limited? But after using it with a wireless keyboard and mouse, he realized that most anything was possible with the device.



“In our school, I see the Intel Compute Stick being used on a much larger scale than with our present white boards,” Tim says. “I envision classrooms going to 50” or larger TVs and using the Intel Compute Stick to pull up websites, online content or programs to be used in the class. Presently, teachers do this at their desks through computers connected to whiteboards. Unfortunately, it’s impossible for teachers to use their computers when the whiteboard is on. The Intel Compute Stick allows teachers to move about the room—with a wireless keyboard—and be able to interact more with students.”