Acer Aspire One series

Acer has been well renowned for its well established computer market. It has an excellent range of products ranging from PDAs to desktop computers. The collection has been expanded further with the release of the new netbook series, known currently as the Aspire One series. This series has an excellent product range, with our tests working on the Acer Aspire One A150X in white.

To start with, the appearance is absolutely wonderful. With respect to its smaller size, it looks very rich looking. Its shiny white on the outside, and on the inside it has a nice little white keyboard and is a silver design. The bottom seams to pass off well but is not as attractive as the other parts of the netbook. Acer has followed in the modern way of putting the wireless switch next to the touchpad. They have also put the touchpad buttons at the sides of the pad itself, which takes some getting used to. The keyboard looks attractive and is very active to type on, as I have used this netbook to type this article on. In comparison to HPs Pavilion dv6285ea notebook (which I also own), the keyboard is drastically better. The keyboard has a large size spacebar which makes it far easier to use, plus it has many functions to do various tasks, such as turn off the touchpad. The CrystalEye webcam is well concealed in the black rim around the 8.9" display. The netbook as a whole seems very small but still houses a great display ideal for working on.

The Aspire's Intel Atom N270 processor at 1.6GHz with a 533MHz FSB is very well prepared for the future. The CPU is very good at running Linux and we've tested it with Windows XP as well. This was the greatest of the Windows XP netbooks we saw for its price. The system came with a 5,400rpm 120GB hard disk or had the option of a 16GB solid state drive (SSD). The hard drive, although more battery consuming, seemed more appealing. When SSD drives decrease in price, and increase in capacity, we may consider them above HDDs, but until that day arises, HDDs will be absolutely fine. The Atom could easily run applications simultaneously and, being based on the Core 2 series, the system can even adapt to run Mac OSX*. The system comes with 512MB of RAM or, with our option can be upgraded to 1GB. The maximum RAM supported in this netbook is 1.5GB. The graphics card is decent, but only supports up to 8MB, it's like being back in 1990 again! This means that this netbook is unable to run Windows Vista without problems.

The netbook itself has no optical drive. There is only an 802.11g option for the wireless and no models feature Bluetooth. Some later models feature the 3G option and the SIM card slot is located behind the battery. There are three USB 2.0 ports around the system, along with an RJ-45 networking connector, a VGA connector, a microphone jack and headphone jack and two card readers. One card reader is used to increase the main storage of the system through use of SD only.

Conclusion

A very short article I'm afraid as I didn't have the time to complete it. Perhaps I will come back and edit it a bit in the future.

Design   Nice
Features   Very rich
Build   Decent
Performance   Very good
Price   Very good (£180 Linux; £250 Windows XP)