

Welcome to the Event Tech Podcast, where we explore the ever-evolving world of event technology every week. This show is brought to you by Endless Events, the event AV company that doesn't suck. Now, let's talk tech.

Brandt Krueger:

Hello, everybody, and welcome to another edition of the Event Tech Podcast. He is the obviously Will Curran of Endless Events.

Will Curran:

He is the strict Brandt Krueger of Event Technology Consulting.

Brandt Krueger:

Woohoo! All right. So, we're fresh off of a long roadshow as we're recording this. We had a lot of fun over at IMAX. I know that that Event Tech Podcast has already dropped. We'll get this one into the queue, but that's why my voice is a little rough is I definitely got a case of convention crud after the last week in Vegas. So, it's not true what they say. It's not true whatever happens in Vegas stays in Vegas when it comes to germs.

Will Curran:

That's so true.

Brandt Krueger:

So, just keep that in mind, people. I think that's a wise advice for all of us that you just need to keep that in mind.

Will Curran:

I should have named you the coffee, Brandt Krueger.

Brandt Krueger:

Yes, the coffee, the hoarse sprint Krueger, the rough voice Brandt Krueger. So, sorry if my dulcet tones aren't coined up to muster on this particular episode, but I think we'll muddle through, and I think it's a good one today because we've spent some time, Will, you and I talking about our favorite apps, and a lot of our favorite software. I mean, we went deep into our favorite apps and software, and Chrome extensions, and all the things that event pros can use to get stuff done either in their businesses or for their events.

Brandt Krueger:

So, I wanted to do the same thing. I've got a feeling and my voice is definitely doing the Bobby Brady as we're doing, "Hi, everybody. It's time for a change." I wanted to do the same thing for hardware.

Brandt Krueger:

You and I have both taken hardware journeys over the course of the last couple of years, and really honed in and tried to figure out exactly which hardware was going to be the best for us. So, I thought it was worth taking a moment going through hardware and talking about the pros and cons of all the various different types of hardware that's available for us to use as event professionals.

Brandt Krueger:

So, we're talking IOS versus Android. We're talking Mac versus Windows. We're talking form factor, whether it's a two-in-one flip back laptop or a desktop or all of these things. I thought it was worth just expanding on both of our little journeys, and then the pros and cons of each one of these things.

Will Curran:

I love it. I love it. I think there's so much to talk about, and I'm just like, my mind is racing about all the different pieces of hardware that we can talk about because you and I not only have found specific pieces of hardware like you said that we've really come in to our own, but also, yeah, things that we love like for example, headphones I think is something cool to talk about as well since we listen to a lot of podcasts. Obviously, if you're listening to this, you listen to a lot of podcasts, but also music, but also we do a lot of calls and things like that. I think there's going to be so much to talk about.

Will Curran:

I think we should really quickly talk a little bit about our journeys into where we are for our computers. So, Brandt, you have gone through a massive journey over the last year, two years since-

Brandt Krueger:

I have spent far too much money on hardware, but the good news is that there's a great market for selling things used these days, whether it's Craigslist or things like that. So, when I first went on my own a little over five years ago, I was still doing a lot of video editing. That was a goodly chunk of my job when I left my old company. So, I had this idea that that was going to be part of what I was doing.

Brandt Krueger:

So, the first thing I went out and bought was a MacBook Pro. I knew I was going to be on the road. I knew that they had enough memory, enough hardware behind it, enough chip strength as it were to be able to do basic video editing with a little bit of basic you want to do titles and all that kind of stuff.

Brandt Krueger:

So, that's where I started was the MacBook Pro. Very soon after after that happened is when I started playing around with iPads. So, I had one at work, and I was like, "Boy! I just miss that

thing." It's so convenient for just doing basic content consumption stuff, right? You want to be able to watch a movie, all those kinds of things.

Brandt Krueger:

So, where I wanted to start with this is that's where I started with my journey was iPads were I want to lean back and watch Netflix. MacBook Pros were for ... It was literally the pro version of the device, right? It was a high-end ... I think the thing was 2,500 bucks for not even a high, fully specked out MacBook Pro.

Brandt Krueger:

Now, over the course of the time that I've been doing that, and I think that's one of the things that we're going to emphasize repeatedly over this episode is that it really depends on what you're doing, right? It depends on what you need this hardware to do.

Brandt Krueger:

If you are doing video editing, and you are wanting to very quickly drop a bunch of videos here and add some titles and all that kind of stuff, the MacBook Bro, MacBook Pro, I love that, the MacBook Bro-

Will Curran:

Bro, Bra.

Brandt Krueger:

The MacBook Bra was really where it was at. You needed that kind of horsepower in order to be able to do that on the fly in a laptop form. Prior to that, you needed a desktop in order to be able to do it. For the quick and easy junk that we do onsite, a MacBook Pro is really basic and easy enough to do.

Brandt Krueger:

Here's what's amazing to me is over the course, just over the course of that five years, that landscape has already changed dramatically to the point where-

Will Curran:

Insanely.

Brandt Krueger:

... pretty much all the entry-level MacBooks, whether it's the MacBook Air, the MacBook nothing, where it's just a MacBook, the MacBook Pro, all of these things are pretty capable at handling basic video editing, cutting a couple of camera things together, lining it up, maybe doing a cross dissolve, all that kind of stuff.

Brandt Krueger:

So, what I discovered is I didn't need that beastly MacBook Pro. I was able, actually, to rock back to a MacBook nothing. So, it's the MacBook nothing of I believe the 2017 vintage is the last time they actually revved that, although I'm starting to get a tingle in the back of my head that actually in this most recent Mac announcement, I think they might have revved that finally.

Brandt Krueger:

Either way, I'm still running on a 2017 MacBook nothing. There's no touch bar, that little weird touch thing that's on the top of the keyboard, and I love it. It's light. You can slice meat. It's so thin. It actually still does basic video editing. It's my day-to-day everyday laptop. It's so much lighter than the MacBook Pro that I was lugging around.

Brandt Krueger:

Now, the downside is connectivity, right? The downside of it is it literally has two ports. It has a single USB 3, that's the newer roundy edge, doesn't matter if it's up right side up or right side down port, and a combination headphone input/output jack.

Brandt Krueger:

So, I'm in dongle hell. That is the downside is it is great what it makes up for in being lightweight and easy to grab and throw in the back is fantastic, but I have to then make sure, "Okay. If I'm speaking, I need to make sure I've got my VGA dongle, I've got my HDMI dongle."

Brandt Krueger:

Now, I've been able to overcome that and Lindsey and I talked about this on our travel episode. I do have the one dongle to rule them all, which it's a brick, but it's got a single USB C output on it, and then it's got an HDMI, and a VGA, and it's got a couple of regular USB ports on it. It's got basically everything that you need in one dongle output, including the ability to charge it, charge your laptop while it's plugged in.

Brandt Krueger:

So, that's ... Yeah. Go ahead.

Will Curran:

I was just going to say, speaking of dongle hell and how we've gotten to this point, I had a quickfire, a pro tip as we go along. Check out, I'll link it in the description, but there's a product called the Peak Design's Tech Pouch. I know you've seen I've busted it out a couple of times and asked me, "What the hell is that?" It comes with a really good organization tool for managing all those dongles and little things. We definitely are in this day and age where you have all these little things. You have to bring your headphone, adapter, all your charging cables, your little mini hard drives, things like that. The Tech Pouch becomes a great way to organize that-0

Brandt Krueger:

It's funny how we shift things from ... It used to be it was all built into the laptop, but now as the laptops have gotten skinnier and thinner, now we need to bring an extra bag of dongles and things like that. It's like, "Well, yeah, okay. I saved some things there, but then I didn't, but I get it, though. I get it," because usually when you're on the plane or whatever, you just want to bring out just the laptop. So, you don't need to bring this, that, the other, and that and the other, and that and the other, so that you know that stuff can at least live in your bag.

Brandt Krueger:

So, as far as if you're a Mac person, and that's the world that you live in, that's really where I personally have settled is that nice, that MacBook Air, it's not even the Air, it's just the MacBook nothing of 2017, still runs plenty fast. They're blowing them out super cheap all the time, and would probably get you through at least another couple of years.

Brandt Krueger:

If you've got the money and you want to go higher than that, of course, you always can, but that's it. For me, it's been a great size. It's super lightweight, and I've been very happy with it.

Will Curran:

I've been done some crazy all over the place.

Brandt Krueger:

Well, that's one of the reason that I want to have this episode is that you started as a full-on Mac guy. You had the MacBook Pro. You were all in, and then over the course of, it felt like a month, but I know it was a little bit longer than that. You went from, "I sold the MacBook. I got ..." So, I want you to tell a little bit of that story of how you ... Like I said, you were full-on Mac, and now, you are completely the opposite.

Will Curran:

Totally. If it's okay, can I take everyone down history lane back to my first few years and stuff like that?

Brandt Krueger:

Absolutely.

Will Curran:

I don't think it's published anywhere, so I thought it was a pretty interesting story to tell. So, I've been really into computers growing up. Obviously, I don't think we didn't have a Mac in the household, mainly because they were expensive. So, we had PCs. My first computer ever that was mine was actually, I think I was 12, and it was something I was asking for for years and years and years, and it became my Christmas, birthday for the next six years of my life gift.

Brandt Krueger:

Oh, the combination Christmas birthday. That's when you know it's expensive.

Will Curran:

Exactly. Exactly. I don't know if it dates me. So, probably everyone's going to be like, "Wow! Will, you really-"

Brandt Krueger:

Go for it because I can always drop it.

Will Curran:

All right. Here we go. So, my first computer ever was a Gateway desktop.

Brandt Krueger:

Made in the fields of South Dakota.

Will Curran:

I just remember doing so much research on computers. At the time, this was before I could build my own computer, and that was mind-blowing idea building your own computer. Yeah. I remember looking it up and I wanted it primarily for video editing, but I wanted to do some gaming.

Will Curran:

I remember my parents actually I think ... I won't stay there a lot. They were so nice to give this to me, but I, definitely, I could have chose the most high-end one. I think they were willing to pay for that, but I was like, "I don't really need that much power," and they're probably like, "Thank God, but he's not getting the most top of the line thing as well."

Will Curran:

I remember going in the store to buy this computer, the Gateway Store, and they were playing the original Battlefield 1982 or whatever. The first Battlefield game was on there. That was mind-blowingly great graphics. Yeah. I remember that was my first computer. I had that for many years. It stayed in my bedroom, and that was when I really got into ... I was in the internet and doing those things, but when I could lock myself in the room and just not do homework and just be on the computer, I get so much stuff, and just got really, really into computers.

Will Curran:

Eventually, I realized that I needed a laptop, by needed, I wanted one. I think it was my freshman year of high school I think ... No. Right before that, my sister gave me her old Windows laptop that had a Celeron processor, and then I've got my own personal laptop, which was the Dell 700M I think was the name of the model, and it was so small. I think it was 10-inch screen, probably weighed as much as my desktop computer does now. It's crazy how light laptops are, but it was so small. That was my computer that really got me. That was when I started doing "business". I had the internet radio station. I turned into a DJ. I used that laptop to DJ for many, many years.

Will Curran:

We always at the Macs because they were so pretty, but they were expensive. I think the Dell at the time was a \$1,000 laptop and a MacBook, normal MacBook was 1,500, and I just couldn't justify whatever it was.

Will Curran:

So, I used that Dell for many years. I think it was until my senior year of high school, so probably four years. Gosh! Man, I get a new computer every year, and I can't imagine having anything here for four years now. The Dell laptop, I was on a DJ gig, and it went kaputs, mid-gig or it was the day before gig. I was like, "Well, I have a gig the next day, and I got to do this." For the first time ever, I personally think, "I maybe have bought the Dell with my own money," but I remember personally going and saying to my dad literally ... I remember I got home from school and I said, "Dad, I have gig tomorrow, and my laptop went kaputs. I got to get a new laptop. I'm going to go buy a Mac."

Will Curran:

I remember going down to the Chandler fashion mall, and going to the Apple store for the first time ever, and buying my first Mac, and it felt such an achievement. Paid for it with my own money and everything like that. It was white. It was glorious. This was when they were super duper thick, but it was a beautiful laptop, and I was so excited.

Will Curran:

That's when I was like, "Wow! Macs still work very underground," then I think. This is 2008-ish, May 2007-2008.

Brandt Krueger:

Oh, yeah, for a long time they were the underdogs. They're only the really super creative people had Mac.

Will Curran:

For sure. Definitely. Definitely. It made sense for me because I was doing the DJ-ing, and doing video production, way more video production. I think I was making YouTube videos at the time, and it just made sense. I remember that laptop was a glorious. I remember every software just ran so fast, but obviously, I probably, in hindsight, my old laptop probably was four years old. So, probably it's one of the reasons why it felt slow.

Will Curran:

At that point, I became a Mac user. I was blown away. I thought they were so great. I used that white MacBook for, let's see, that was freshman year of high school. Sophomore year of high school, we won the Edson Student Entrepreneur Initiative grant at ASU, and we started doing video DJ-ing, so I needed a laptop that could do video as well. So, I went and get a MacBook Pro. I think it was the middle range. I think that \$2,400 model that you were talking about, and

this one had all the ports before the touch bar, and this is one that black keyboards. I think it still had a CD drive or maybe they just gotten rid of the CD drive, one or the two.

Brandt Krueger:

Yeah. That was close. I don't think mine had one. I think they only did one generation there in the middle between touch bar and all that kind of stuff, where they had no CD drive.

Will Curran:

Okay. So, maybe I was right. That still had a CD drive then at that point. I got that MacBook, and that was when I was like, "Wow!" I made so many video edits on that. I DJ-ed, if you ask, a whopping 100,000 people with that laptop. It was a powerhouse laptop.

Brandt Krueger:

Tank. Those were tanks. They were absolutely amazing laptops.

Will Curran:

Absolutely amazing laptops. I used that for many years. I think I probably used it for probably, again, four or five years without any issues at all. What's interesting enough, too, is through this process, I'll talk about my phone journey, although I guess it doesn't really-

Brandt Krueger:

We'll get to the phone journey. Yeah. Oh, yeah, save it. We're still in laptop land.

Will Curran:

Yeah. So, went to MacBook and then used MacBooks. I remember I think very, very shortly afterwards that laptop, I think, yeah, four or five years I've used it, but I needed a separate laptop because I needed more power. I think went to get for the 15-inch MacBook Pro, and that's when they were super thin, right before the touch bar, a couple years maybe before the touch bar.

Will Curran:

Then I remember the touch bar announcement. I was remember I was in Vegas doing a show with Andrew Langdell, and we watched the announcement. We were like, "Wow! This is going to be so fast, so amazing." I remember I pre-ordered it in the airport the second it went live. That was the first time I was just like, "No, I'm not even going to look at reviews. I know it's going to be great. It's the next generation MacBook Pro." That's when I think I've made my mistake.

Will Curran:

At that point, again, I had iPhones, I had iPads, and I had iPods growing. I was a huge Apple fan. However, at this time, too, I was an Android user phone and people thought that was weird, but we can talk about that during later.

Will Curran:

I remember I bought that laptop, and I used it and I remember I just had these really weird issues. I never had it before with Apple laptop, and that's probably a full conversation, but I just started seeing all these weird things with it, and I was like, "Okay. Whatever. Maybe it's first generation, whatever," but then I noticed the next one came out. People are having the same issue.

Will Curran:

There was just a lot of things piling on that I didn't ever have with Apple products before. I think this might be the first time I'm saying this on recording, but I fell out of love with Apple. I just couldn't support the company for what they were doing. It was \$3,500. I think I got the top, top of the line 15-inch MacBook with dedicated graphics, everything like that. I was expecting it to be the best laptop I ever had, and it was going to get sourced on, and it was probably the worst laptop I ever had. It had so many issues with it. I just couldn't support them anymore.

Will Curran:

So, actually, this is about one we're doing the show over in Orlando together that I think I still had the MacBook. Oh, no, because right before the show in Orlando.

Brandt Krueger:

I got to interrupt for just one second because you're right at the moment, and I know where you're going, but right at this moment in time, I had started to think about getting a new laptop. What you're about to tell was actually what moved me to do it, but you were just talking about that you started to have hardware issues, and you started to see little bugs and things like that.

Brandt Krueger:

I was starting to see those things as well. I was starting to hear people talking about the keyboards, the new keyboards really sucking. So, I'm going to let you continue the story, but I just want to interject that I'm having a little bit of a parallel experience at this moment in time. So, go ahead.

Will Curran:

Totally. Totally. Totally. Yeah. I mean, issues I had, if anyone really cares, the issues I had is A, I'm a two-finger typer. So, occasionally, I bring in three fingers or four fingers, but my pinkies just sway everywhere. So, I found my pinkies would just hit the touch bar like crazy. Honestly, it's a personal problem, but then I just saw lots of software issues, random reboots. It was all over the place. So, I just was like, "Look, I don't want to give the maximum for this best laptop ever and it's not the best thing I've ever had."

Will Curran:

So, I was just like, "I got to support a company I think that's doing things a little bit crazier." I was starting to see all the stuff going on with Microsoft, and what they were working on the surface devices, and I was just like, "Look, I'm going to take a risk."

Will Curran:

I'm at this point where I don't have to do video editing to make money. I'm mainly answering emails and things like that, the Event Icons Podcast, and I was down to basically try something new. So, actually, yeah, I was between. I was doing a Warner Bros. event in New York City. I flew home for not even 12 hours, and then flew out to Orlando, do the show with you.

Will Curran:

Literally, my agenda was to literally land, repack my suitcase. I drove to meet up with my friend who was buying my MacBook Pro. I gave it to him. Then I literally took that money and drove to the Microsoft store in Chandler Fashion Center, ironic that I will be back there, and bought a Surface Pro, and the top of the line Surface Pro laptop. That's the one that converts, the keyboard detaches, and it's 10 inches or so. Obviously, I went from a 15-inch laptop to a 10-inch laptop, which is, oh, my God! Having a smaller laptop was crazy amazing, and I went completely Windows, and I was terrified.

Will Curran:

I actually created a spreadsheet of all the apps that I was using on Mac, what would be the Windows equivalent. That was actually the spreadsheet that sold me because I was like, "Wow! I'm only missing out on two apps, really, when it came to it." So, I made the deep dive back into Windows, and I've been Windows ever since.

Will Curran:

So, to give an idea of transition, and just to give you an idea of how much I was willing to get patience with Microsoft, this will be my last story, I promise, I bought the Surface Pro in September, and I really liked it. However, I had these weird issues where, A, I couldn't host Event Icons because my computer would just start chugging along, and sometimes randomly reboot. It was very weird.

Will Curran:

Eventually, I diagnosed it because seven months later, I finally brought it in the store. I was like, "Look, I've been having all these issues where it just randomly reboots. Sometimes it doesn't start, things like that."

Will Curran:

They're like, "Oh, yeah. It definitely shouldn't be doing that."

Will Curran:

I believe what happened is I had a faulty heat sink or a fan or something like that. It wasn't cooling it properly because it used to get really warm, too. I just never bothered to bring that because I was so busy. I was traveling so much. I never brought it in the store. Well, I brought it in the Microsoft Store. That was one reason why I couldn't support Apple anymore was that their service, I bring in my MacBook Pro and I'm like, "I'm having all these issue."

Will Curran:

They're like, "Okay. Cool. Do you want to buy another one?"

Will Curran:

I'm like, "No. I don't. I don't want to spend money. Fix this for me. Give me a new laptop. Do whatever you have to do."

Will Curran:

They would be like, "Oh, we'll repair it. It will be gone for four weeks."

Will Curran:

I was like, "I can't be without a laptop for four weeks."

Will Curran:

On the parallel side or the opposite side, I should say, I took the laptop into the Microsoft store, I said, "This is the issue I'm having."

Will Curran:

They said, "Yup. It definitely shouldn't be doing that."

Will Curran:

Five second diagnosis, they said, "Let's get you a new one. Do you want to do that?"

Will Curran:

I was like, "Well, at the time, I'm also really interested in the Surface Book 2, which came out right when I bought my Surface Pro. It's a little bit more power, a little bit bigger. I'm really interested in it. I just want to take a look."

Will Curran:

They're like, "Well, how about this? We'll just take the Surface Pro, whatever you paid for it, we'll credit it towards you buying a Surface Book 2."

Will Curran:

Not the value of where it was at at that point, the value which I bought initially. So, literally, I took all the money I'd spent on Surface Pro, got it credit towards the Surface Book and got a brand new laptop. That was, honestly, the moment I was like, "I can't go back to Apple anymore. Apple doesn't do that anymore."

Will Curran:

So, yeah. Now, I have a Surface Book 2. I love it. Big touch screen. You can use pen on it. It's a huge laptop, obviously, so it's big on the airplane tray, but when I'm onsite and I can bring up a site plot on a tablet that's 15 inches big.

Brandt Krueger:

It's worth talking about the form factors there for just a second because you mentioned a couple of difference. So, you went from a MacBook Pro, which is a traditional laptop with no touch screen but a weird touch bar, and yes or no, maybe hardware issues at the very least. At the very least, it didn't work for your workflow.

Brandt Krueger:

Now, when you say ... I know what you mean when you talk about the Surface Book and Surface Pro and all those kinds of things, but maybe you could just tell folks what those form factors are.

Will Curran:

Yeah. So, Surface Pro is, it's a tablet with a kickstand that has a cloth keyboard that attaches to the front of it. Let me see if I can try to figure out exactly what size-

Brandt Krueger:

It's around 13. Yeah.

Will Curran:

It's got a 12-inch ... Yeah, 12-13 inches in size, and everything is built into that tablet portion. The keyboard is just a keyboard. So, it's obviously top, heavy-weighted. All the ports are on like the tablet of that. The Surface Book is a little different. It has only a headphone jack on the tablet, and all the ports are on the base of the keyboard, but there's also a dedicated graphics card, a dedicated battery in there. However, when you detach it, the screen tablet is the computer. All the processors, RAM, everything is in there. So, it just becomes not as big of a dedicated graphics card, not as big of a batter. It doesn't have a kickstand, but, basically, that takes the form of a more traditional keyboard.

Will Curran:

So, if you like more traditional keyboard or you need just a little bit more power, Surface Book is good for that, but if you're honestly surfing the web, just taking notes, Surface Pro is amazing. In fact, I've had a couple of times this year where I'm like, "Man, I wish I had my Surface Pro as a daily driver." I don't know if I need as much power for the Surface Book again. So, I'm just waiting for this next couple of months because I think all the new stuff is there now.

Brandt Krueger:

Yeah. New Surface Pro is about to drop. So, yeah, easy way to remember or not easy way to remember, but a way to remember is the Surface Pro is more like a tablet with a detachable keyboard, and the Surface Book is more like a laptop with a detachable tablet. Yeah, detachable screen.

Will Curran:

Screen, yeah. Yeah, yeah. Exactly.

Brandt Krueger:

All the beef is in the lower section, and then when you detach it, yeah. Whereas with the tablet, all the beef is in the tablet, and you detach the keyboard.

Will Curran:

I was going to say I've come aside, too, with all of this, too, that I think made it really exciting for me, too. So, during this process of going to Surface Pro, I realized I was totally fine with Windows. I thought I was hating Windows, and I never bought a desktop computer because Mac desktops were really expensive to get the amount power I really wanted to have.

Will Curran:

So, in that time period, too, I also built my own Windows PC. So, I'm actually recording it and my home office is done on a Windows desktop PC, and I build probably the most powerful computer you could ever have for half the price of whatever that Mac Pro would have been.

Will Curran:

I was really, really happy with that, too. So, now, yeah, I have two Windows PCs, a desktop, and then the Surface Pro.

Brandt Krueger:

So, all of this that you just talked about was an inspiration then for me because, like I said, I was struggling a little bit. The MacBook Pro was heavy. So, this is what I alluded to when I broke in before is that I was like, "Okay. Well, yeah, maybe I should start looking around. I'm not doing a video editing anymore." That's where I started to hone in on the MacBook nothing.

Brandt Krueger:

The funny part of the story is that you were like, "Oh, yeah. I sold it, and I took the money."

Brandt Krueger:

I was like, "Oh, that's brilliant. I should just do that."

Brandt Krueger:

So, I was trying to sell my MacBook Pro, and I had it for \$800, and nothing was ... To be fair, at this point, it was pushing three, four years old, but it was a \$2,500 laptop when I got it.

Brandt Krueger:

I was like, "Come on. 800 bucks? It still works great."

Brandt Krueger:

So, I was trying, and the more articles that I saw about people having problems with the new MacBook Pro, I went, "Wait a second."

Brandt Krueger:

So, literally, on my Craigslist ad opted to 1,000, and then said, "This is the last one with the good keyboard." The next day, I got people hit me up like, "Yes, I'll take it. I'll take it. I'll take it. I'll take it."

Brandt Krueger:

So, I was actually able to sell that laptop, which at that point, like I said, was three, almost four years old, and all of my dongles and all that kind of stuff that went with it, I was able to get \$1,200 for that whole package to someone who was willing to not upgrade to the latest and greatest because they were ... To be fair, like you said, that new MacBook Pro, the one that you pre-ordered probably was actually more expensive than the one that I just got because it added the touch bar, and all that kind of stuff.

Brandt Krueger:

So, literally, the same specs or the modern equipment or the same specs was going to cost me three grand to get the MacBook Pro. So, I wound up ... Yeah. So, I'm like, "Okay." So, for me then the problem that I had been running into was I couldn't go fully Mac. I couldn't go fully iPad. I did try that for a while, and I want to go into a little bit of some of the reasons for why each of those different works.

Brandt Krueger:

In the context of events, I mean, that's, obviously, why we're here, right? So, for me, personally, being a production person, we're dealing with PowerPoints all the time. As much as we hate PowerPoint, we're being handed them all the time on a USB stick. Okay. We need to combine these two.

Brandt Krueger:

For whatever reason, PowerPoint on the Mac just never works exactly the same. I won't say wrongly. It never works exactly the same as it did on PC. Of course, that's what most of the people in the business were all using is Windows PowerPoint.

Brandt Krueger:

So, I would have a Mac and I would bring it up, and it would work sort of. The links would work sort of or things would just move down a line or just not lineup exactly. It never looked exactly the same.

Brandt Krueger:

Meanwhile, Keynote was just gorgeous right? So, anytime, we do stuff with Keynote. So, I was in this weird place of like, "I need to have Apple because a lot of people are using Keynote. A lot of people, though, still use PowerPoint."

Brandt Krueger:

So, I was playing with, "Well, can I get by with just having an iPad?" What I really wanted, to be perfectly honest, was what was the Mac equipment of what you had in the Surface Book. I wanted a MacBook that I could just detach the screen and have an iPad. Well, they don't make that. That would almost be my ideal machine would be a MacBook that you can detach the screen and have an iPad.

Brandt Krueger:

So, I needed to have this foot in the Windows world. I even tried Chromebook for a while. So, I tried Chrome, and it works great with Google slides, but the biggest problem that I had with Chromebook is you can't do the combining of PowerPoints. So, if that's something that you do, that's not a good device for you.

Brandt Krueger:

So, one of the intentional things about Chrome is that each one of those tabs is a separate instance, and they don't intentionally don't share data between tabs very well. So, you could open up a PowerPoint in this tab using PowerPoint for web or whatever. You could open up a PowerPoint in that tab, but you couldn't easily cut and paste from one to the other. You had to use an arcane import slides thing, and even then, it didn't work very well.

Brandt Krueger:

So, I literally had bought this top of the line Samsung Chromebook, and I loved it. It was so lightweight, and it came with a pen, and had a touchscreen, and it was really, really good, except for the fact that it didn't do PowerPoint for crap.

Brandt Krueger:

So, it was one of those things that like, "Oh, I couldn't do that. All right. So, my Mac doesn't do it. Okay. The iPad doesn't do it. Great." So, I, literally, in addition to selling the MacBook Pro, I sold my iPad as well and got this Windows 2-in-1. So, when we talk 2-in-1, we mean it's the kind that can fold all the way over and become a tablet. So, it was this nice HP Spectre 2-in-1 desktop or laptop. That was my laptop for a solid year.

Brandt Krueger:

It was gorgeous. I mean, fantastic screen. It also came with a pen, but just never ... We could also spend an entire episode talking about my journey on handwriting recognition because that's a part of it for me. I'm a huge handwritten notes guy, and the iPad Pro, when it first came out, was the first device ever that was capable of taking my chicken-scratch handwriting and converting it to text in any way that was meaningfully good.

Brandt Krueger:

So, there was a brief period of time where I was flirting with that. This HP did it okay, and it gave me a window into that world of, "Hey, it can be a laptop. Hey, it can be a tablet." So, I actually worked my way all the way back around to where you started on your journey, and came back

to a Surface Pro, which is the tablet where the keyboard detaches, the Windows tablet where the keyboard detaches.

Brandt Krueger:

That has been a fantastic device to the point where my iPad has actually just become my Minecraft iPad because that's where I play with ... That's about all I do with it is play Minecraft with my kids on my iPad because the handwriting recognition is fantastic, the touchscreen is great. It has some Windows quirks. I'm not going to lie, right? Every device at this point has some quirks, but it's been really solid. I've really been enjoying that.

Brandt Krueger:

So, for me, I'm settling down into this two device world, where my backpack is still so much lighter than when I was carrying around the MacBook Pro, where I've got the Windows device, my Surface Pro, where if I need to throw some PowerPoints together and things like that, and it's going to look proper, I can do it, but it's also lightweight, and easy to use. Then I've got that MacBook nothing.

Brandt Krueger:

Those two things weigh less than what I was lugging around with my MacBook Pro. So, I've been very happy. Then I still have the iPad. So, from time-to-time, I'll throw that in the backpack as well.

Brandt Krueger:

So, for me, that's where things really ... That's where we go back to this idea of really talking about what do you need it for. So, I want to take just a moment and summarize a little bit of that journey because I think it's important, and it goes back to what I said at the offset, which is it really matters what it is that you're wanting to do with your hardware.

Brandt Krueger:

So, for me, I have to deal with PowerPoints all the time, specifically not one at a time, where we're trying to combine PowerPoints into a single master or those kinds of things. If I'm just opening it up to view it, just so that I can follow along or something like that when I'm show calling, the Mac is fine, the Chromebook is fine, the iPad, even, is fine for those types of purposes.

Brandt Krueger:

Anytime you're trying to do massive copying of slides from one thing to another, that's when you really do need that Windows machine, whether that's a Surface Pro, which handles that just fine. Then your journey of, "Okay. Now, I need to be able to do live streaming and things like that," where you need maybe a dedicated graphics card, that's when you need to book up a little bit and go to something that's more of a Surface Book Pro or just a regular Windows beefy laptop.

Brandt Krueger:

I mean, you can get amazing gaming laptops now for 1,500 bucks. So, depending on what you need it for, really, that's what it boils down to, but if you as the event professional out there, if you don't need Windows for some reason because your world isn't an Office world, where you're working in Microsoft Office or something along those lines, especially if you're just a sole proprietor or something along those lines, a Chromebook is going to be fantastic. You're not having to deal with all the weird bugs and viruses and things like that for updates, and then the next step up from that is if you're a Mac person, then you can look seriously at the MacBook nothing or one of the other options out there as well.

Brandt Krueger:

So, unless you're doing video editing, unless you're doing constant graphics intensive applications, any of these low-level things is probably going to be just fine for your purposes. I always advice not going with the cheapest model. I mean, some of the cheapest, cheapest, cheapest Chromebooks out there are you get what you pay for, but you're certainly going to be happy with something in the \$900 range, \$1,000 range, somewhere in there.

Brandt Krueger:

Same with the MacBooks. I mean, I honestly think I got my MacBook nothing for \$990. So, literally, for what I was going to pay for that new MacBook Pro I got both my MacBook nothing and that HP Spectre, I got both of them for under the cost of what I was going to pay for that MacBook Pro.

Will Curran:

I love it. I love it. I think it's always, too, one thing I think that taught me, too, through this whole process is I felt like there was only one solution for so long, but then willing to go and try and experiment, try different things. Seeing your journey made me realize-

Brandt Krueger:

It's just try it. Just try it.

Will Curran:

Try different things out. Don't just settle into, well, yeah. Exactly. Exactly. Like you said, there's always a used market. There's always somebody who's willing ... I was so surprised. I was like, "Someone's not going to buy this MacBook Pro. Who buys used laptop?" So many people wanted to buy my MacBook from me and buy it secondary market. I just had to post on Facebook really, really quickly.

Will Curran:

So, I think it's definitely one of those things where try out what you think is good, and find what works well for you, and also it's really funny. I think there's a whole Mac versus Windows mentality. I give a lot of crap to Mac users all the time mainly just because I'm all down with the established trends, things like that, but I think it's one of those things where don't be pressured

into that's, "Oh, that's the only way to do it," because if you like it and you work fast on it, do that.

Will Curran:

However, if you don't like it, get out of it as soon as possible. I think that goes to show with also just the idea of adopting the newest version of it. I think far too often, we end up just staying inside of technology for so long just because that's the way it's been. I don't think it will be that big of a difference, but in reality, go try the newest thing and realize how much quicker it is. If it makes your profit faster-

Brandt Krueger:

It's exactly it. Workflow is a huge part of it. So, I tried that Chromebook on gigs, and I really wanted to love it. I really did, but it didn't work for me, but that being said, for the vast majority of people, it's a great place to start. Try it. Take it out on a gig. See how it works for you. See if you can live your life in Google Docs or even if you are an Office person, there's fully online versions of Office that are virtually identical to the "real" versions of it.

Brandt Krueger:

So, it's really important to try these things. We got to break out. This is something that it's big in economics is this idea of the sunk cost fallacy, where it's like, "Well, I guess that's my laptop for the next two years because I bought it." Yeah, but if you hate it, just get rid of it and try something different. You've already spent the money. You don't get the money back, but there are options where sometimes you can get some of the money back, whether that's selling it on the used market or in the instance of my Chromebook, I got it at Best Buy and there's a 90-day return policy.

Brandt Krueger:

So, I just brought it back, and I bought my ... As long as I bought the next laptop from them, like you said, they didn't care. They were like, "Oh, yeah. Cool. We can do that," because they knew I was buying a more expensive laptop than what I had originally purchased, so they were smart enough to figure that out.

Brandt Krueger:

Same with your Surface Book Pro or your, yeah, Surface Book. Microsoft really needs to work on these naming conventions. Is it Surface Book Pro or Surface Book?

Will Curran:

Yeah, Surface Pro to the Surface Book. I was going to say the same thing. Also, not only look at your written return policies and that, but, for example, I just thought I would ask. I would say, "Hey, I'm interested in a Surface Book upgrade," and it just took for me to ask. There's companies out there that really want to earn your business, and that's also a big portion of the decision process, obviously, like I said. It's weighed me 100%, but if you're not liking something,

go back and change it if you don't like it immediately like you've said because far too often, we end up getting stuck into what we do because, "Oh, yeah," it's the only thing we can do.

Will Curran:

You'd be really surprised how often the sales people, people want to help out. If they aren't willing to help out, you'd also be surprised how often if you tell them, "I own the company. I need my laptop to do work," how often they're willing to flex to be like, "Okay. This person is not just trying to pull a fast one. They really legitimately want this," and yeah, they want to keep you as a customer.

Brandt Krueger:

So, I want to spend a moment before we move in to mobile world just talking a little bit about these form factors. So, whether it's laptop versus 2-in-1, versus tablet, it's one of those things that, again, is probably worth experimenting with, what works for you, how much do you travel. You and I, we travel all the flipping time. So, for me, going much more lightweight was I was all about. As soon as I started going down to 13-inch laptops from 15-inch and 17-inch laptops, my back was just like, "Oh, thank you. Thank you so much," from not having to carry my MacBook Pro and an iPad and all the dongles, and all the stuff that goes along with it.

Brandt Krueger:

So, I think there really is something to be said for being aware of how much you travel, how much are you actually going to be lugging these things around. I think that also factors into desktop versus laptops. Can I get away with just having a laptop? Now, you said you built your own fully massive beastly PC that you could possibly build, but you're doing stuff.

Brandt Krueger:

For anybody that doesn't know, Will literally has a production studio in his apartment. It's ridiculous. It's absolutely off the chain awesome with the lights and the video cameras and all that kind of stuff all feeding into this LED lit up beastly desktop PC. It's not even desktop. It's a floortop. Let's be honest.

Brandt Krueger:

So, again, if you need that, then great. That's an option for you. For me, personally, I've been able to get by with just docking my laptop. So, from day one, in the beginning, it was a cost savings thing. It's like, "Well, I'll just buy the really big Mac Pro, and that will be my desktop and my travel."

Brandt Krueger:

So, for the last five plus years, I've been able to just plug in using a dock or something like that my laptop, and then that's also my travel laptop. So, depending, again, on what you're doing, you might not need a desktop, and a laptop, and an iPad, and all those kinds of things. Whereas ... So, you've got a desktop, and I'm certainly able to get it by. We're podcasting, recording, and all the kind of stuff that we're doing perfectly happily on that laptop.

Will Curran:

Yeah. I definitely agree 100% because you'd be really surprised what you can pull off on there. I think in the next year, it's going to be really interesting to see where I go on the computer world because, like I said, I'm interested in that Surface Pro form factor. I am always debating the idea of maybe I need to go some device that is smaller, that I only use for email, and I start giving up responsibilities for things like video editing, and graphic design, and things like that. That's always a question.

Will Curran:

Even my desktop side of things, one of the reasons why I built a desktop PC on my own is I want to do virtual reality, and that's really ... You have to build a PC to be able to do that. With my studio now being crowded with lights and all these set pieces and things like that, I'm looking at, "Okay. I moved my VR set up into my living room, and now I move my computer back and forth whenever I want to play VR." So, I'm looking at, "Okay. Maybe I need to build a second PC for just the office."

Will Curran:

Honestly, one of the things I'm debating right now is they're almost the same price for me to build out a size of a computer I want and the graphics card I want is almost the same price for me to buy the Surface Studio, which is the cool laid down one, where it's almost like easel and things like that. That's something I'm playing around with a lot.

Will Curran:

Will I do it? I don't know, but I'm playing around with the idea just that when I have the ability to use a pen, I realize I end up using it really well to explain things on site shows and things like that. That's one of the reason I love the form factor of the tablet and the PC. The Surface Pro is just, the ability to draw on screen is game-changing.

Brandt Krueger:

I'll be honest is I love my iPad. Like I said, though, I've been using it less and less because there's something to be said for having a fully functional Windows PC in my tablet. One of the nice things that Microsoft learned early on sometimes to its detriment was that you just want Windows to be Windows. So, that's why Windows 8 was a mess because they were trying to push things too quickly to mobile and, "Oh, we want it touch-friendly first," so the big goofy icons and things like that while still underneath the hood it was a desktop operating system, but I've been really liking how when I need it to be that's a tablet, and when I need it to be, it's also everything that Windows can provide.

Brandt Krueger:

One of the things that's a little frustrating sometimes is the split between Mac OS and IOS that there's just, "Oh, man! If I was just back on my laptop, I'd be able to do this. Why can't I do this

on my iPad?" versus the other way around, "I just wish I could just detach the screen of my laptop and have it be an iPad."

Brandt Krueger:

Even though those two operating systems are getting closer and closer and closer, Windows launched full on into, "We're going to have our mobile operating system be the same as our desktop operating system and just tweak it depending on whether you're in tablet mode versus desktop mode."

Brandt Krueger:

So, I think there's definitely something to be said for that, and why I'm starting to move away from iPad land is I just want a device that does everything that I want it to do when I want it to do it.

Will Curran:

Totally. Well, I think that's a great parallel transition into phones, and the conversation about our phones because they're separate device, and we want them to do more and more. So, we are both currently Android users. However, weren't ... Have you ever had an iPhone?

Brandt Krueger:

I have never had an iPhone, but I had for a very long time.

Will Curran:

Okay. I think I've talked about this before. Most people surprise us. I had an iPhone. I had the first iPhone. I thought it was a game-changing device, but when the OG-droid came out, the flip out keyboard, the ability to multitask, that changed it for me. I haven't had ... This new iPhone 11 Pro, seeing the camera and seeing its power, it's really exciting, but there is a device that is more exciting I'm sure that we'll talk about as well. Both Android users. So, I'm curious to know what you're using now, why you picked it, and then maybe we can talk about-

Brandt Krueger:

Much like you. I'm going to go back in time a little bit, and work my way up through my progression because I think that explains how I landed where I landed. So, when cellphones first came out, they were the original bricks and incredibly expensive. As soon as they moved down to something that more everyone could have, the flip phones that you could actually fit in your pocket, the candy bar phones, all of those old school OG cellphones, I was really into Motorola very early on.

Brandt Krueger:

The thing that really appealed to me is all of the after market stuff you could do. So, you could get the phone, but you could completely go on to the internet, which was still pretty new at that point, too, and immediately buy a new soft rubbery case for it, and all that kind of stuff very early on compared to a lot of the other phone manufacturers, where you just buy the game.

Brandt Krueger:

I was also very early into the idea of what's now called jailbreaking or rooting your phone. So, I was totally doing things where I was being able to download and play games on my old Motorola flip phone before you were supposed to be able to do that. So, "Oh, cool! I could just plug this in, and then jack this up, and then I could download this bejeweled game or whatever long before you could actually do that legitimately.

Brandt Krueger:

So, I was definitely coming up through the hacker side of things of make it your own, make it all yours, do what you want to do with it. So, no doubt, when the original iPhone came out, it was absolutely a game-changer, but what really frustrated me when I was looking at them comparing them and being like ... was how locked down it was. It was like, "You can't do this, and you can't do this, and you can't do this, and you can't do this. Well, I want to be able to do this. Well, you can't. I want to be able to do this. Well, you can't."

Brandt Krueger:

So, immediately, it was all about what I couldn't do as opposed to what I could do for me. So, I went to the really dark side right towards the end of my old dumb phone working my way into smartphone is everyone in my company was going Blackberry. So, everybody was using Blackberry Messenger, and everybody was using Blackberry. So, it was really a company-wide thing that, "Hey, if you're going to get a new phone, make sure you get a Blackberry."

Brandt Krueger:

Well, they came out with the Blackberry Storm, which is one of the most maligned cellphones of all time. Really, people really hated this thing because what they tried to do is take the touch screen of the iPad, but they left the clicking of the old Blackberry keyboard. So, it literally clicked. So, it physically click as you touch the thing. People hated it. I thought it was okay. I didn't hate it.

Brandt Krueger:

So, I came up, continuing now with this idea that you could download and change things, and if you didn't like that, you fix that, if you like that, change that because the Blackberry was also very customizable. So, for me, it was a much more natural route into Android being able to go through, change my settings. You don't like white? Great. Change it black. You don't like this? Change it to this. You don't like that? Change ... If none of that works, you could still go down the route of rooting and ramming, and really changing all the things you did.

Brandt Krueger:

So, that's where I came up through on the cellphone side. So, for me, it was just more about customizability, customization and the ability to really make my phone my own.

Will Curran:

Yeah. I mean, that was for me in the beginning, too, is just the customization, but now, to be honest, I use stock Android, and I don't really change that much about it. I used to like Nova launcher and all those crazy things. For me, it's just ... I've really just enjoyed the experience. Now, I'm really heavily in the Google ecosystem. So, I think that's one reason why I've stuck with it.

Will Curran:

Honestly, I went from ... I mean, this is my phone history, flip phone, iPhone, OG Droid, which is the first Android phone other than the LG one that came out under T-Mobile. I went to Droid Bionic, which was promising something really cool, which is the idea of putting your phone into a screen and keyboard and turns into a laptop. I was so excited about that, but we'll talk about that a little bit later, especially about the feature phones. I don't know if Brandt even knows what I'm getting very, very soon.

Brandt Krueger:

Oh, boy!

Will Curran:

I think he has an idea now that I've said that. So, I went to Droid Bionic, then I went to I think the Samsung S6 or something like that, whatever it was at that time, then the Note, and then I got the Note before the Note that exploded. I wanted the Note that exploded then it exploded, so I didn't get it. I think that's when I switched from the Note is to the OG Pixel, the first Pixel, Pixel 1, got the Pixel 2 the day ... and then I think I got OG Pixel the day it came out, the Pixel 2 the day it came out, Pixel 3 the day it came out. I actually went from Pixel XL for the first two, now I'm to the normal Pixel because I like the smaller phone, but we'll definitely talk about what phone. I think it's going to be a really controversial conversation that you and I are going to have about what I'm about to get next.

Brandt Krueger:

I had the Motorola-

Will Curran:

Droid.

Brandt Krueger:

Droid, yeah, Droid, and it was a fantastic phone, by the way. I remember when that one was starting to die and I'm looking at my next phone because I was like, "Oh, boy! These new phones, they're so big." I literally got out a tape measure and measured the 3.5-inch screen that was on my Droid, and looked the 4-inch screen on the Samsung Galaxy S3. I was like, "Oh, boy! Is that going to be too big? That's just ridiculously big," the 4-inch screen that's on the Samsung.

Brandt Krueger:

So, I remember just doing that and being like ... So, now, we're talking about 6-inch phones and 7-inch phones. It's absolutely ridiculous. I just want to say, by the way, I still have a Samsung Galaxy S3 that is working perfectly. It is still getting updates, thanks to the online ... That's the other thing that I love about the Android community is that there are people that are willing to put in the work and time and effort to keep these old phones running even though the manufacturers aren't, and the carriers aren't. They're just hobbyists.

Brandt Krueger:

Honestly, every time I fire it up because I've used for a couple of my kids now as this baby's first cellphone, it's a great phone. It's a great phone. The S3 is of great size with a great screen, and it's a little frustrating to me to be perfectly honest how fast the update cycle has gotten that it's like this is still a really good phone.

Brandt Krueger:

The lengths and the efforts that people are going to to make sure that it's still running the most recent version of Android that has all the security patches and things like that, it's a Herculean effort to do. It really shouldn't be that way. So, sorry to get on your soapbox there for a second, but it just crossed my mind. It's like this is still a really ... I'm literally holding it in my hand right now. It's a gorgeous screen with amazing ... The plastic is barely starting to fleck in a couple of places. It had a removable battery. So, when you ran out of battery, you could just swap out and add a new one. All of this stuff that you just can't do anymore. It's like, "Wow! This was a really good device."

Brandt Krueger:

It had wireless charging, so you could do the mat charging. So, here we are now, it's the S10, and it's got none of that. Basically, you can't swap out the battery. So, I do get a little frustrated sometimes with how quick the upgrade cycle has gotten.

Will Curran:

Totally. I mean, there's new stuff coming all over. For a while, we didn't see any innovation. Now, luckily, we're seeing some crazy innovations starting to happen, but it was definitely for a while, nothing really changed. Honestly, I almost debated getting the Pixel 3 because it felt like it wasn't just, just barely wasn't good like a big enough change, but I ended up saying, "Obviously, I always want the newest greatest thing." Honestly, I almost talked to myself, too, "Am I even get the Pixel 4 when it comes out?" That we'll save for the next phone conversation that we'll about in just quite a little bit, but, yeah, it is crazy how fast phones have been changing recently.

Brandt Krueger:

Yeah. Before you end me with where it is that you're going, we should probably talk about like we did the laptops, the pros and cons of each of the-

Will Curran:

For sure. For sure.

Brandt Krueger:

... each of the platforms. So, for me, Android means versatility. It means customization. It means being able to really make this phone my own that every time I bump in to a, "Man, I wish it did this," all I have to do is do a Google search on how do I make Android phone do this, and there's 50 different ways to do it or there's an app that you can download to do it or worst case scenario, in the early days, like I said, you would have to root your phone, and basically hack it in order to do that, but more and more and more, I haven't had to do that in a really long time. I haven't had to root my phone and probably three plus over that years where I'm able to just do the customization that I want it to do.

Brandt Krueger:

Now, IOS has gotten better. It's gotten way better. It used to be so locked down. If you wanted to do that, tough. You wanted a new keyboard, nope. There's only the one camera app. there's only the one keyboard. there's only the one browser. There's only the one all of that. there's still a lot of that there, but there are benefits to that as well, right? I mean, the benefits of IOS are that it's locked down, are the fact that it's a closed ecosystem and it's not open to everything. There's benefits to that as well.

Will Curran:

I mean, my pros for Android before I think that we get into the pros of IOS, too, a little bit more, for me, the pro for why I have Android is because it's not Apple. For me, honestly, I find that it syncs to all my ... I'm heavy Gmail, heavy Google calendar. I don't have to worry about having an extra email app, extra calendar app I'm not using, and I have no other Apple products. So, I have zero ecosystem to be latched on to. I don't care about iMessage at all.

Will Curran:

The only reason I care about iMessage is when I'm on a thread with iMessage people and they all start hearting messages and it says, "This person loved this message. This person laughed at this message." I'm like, "Dang it! Guys, don't you realize I have a green bubble?"

Will Curran:

So, I do definitely think ... I think their device is overall are the best devices, for sure. You just know it's going to be fine. You know you're going to have a good enough camera. There's not a lot of necessarily pure compromises on it. Yeah, iMessage is pretty awesome. Honestly, the number one thing downgrade I think on Android that I run into all the time is I want to be able to text from my computer. Honestly, for those who have Android and use Android message as a default app, you can log in to a web version of it to message and you text from your phone, but you have to be on the same WiFi or you have to be both be on the network and, also, you have to scan a QR code.

Will Curran:

So, a lot of times, it logs out for some reason or it loses remembrance that I was trying to text from my computer. I have to go find my computer, but the reason why I'm texting from my computer is because I don't want to use my phone. So, I have to take it off the charger, bring it over to the computer, put it back on the charger. That's so annoying. Honestly, if I could have iMessage for Android, game-changing, for sure.

Will Curran:

So, I'm just waiting for some easy app that stays logged in, that allows me text. Luckily, I think what's interesting is that and, again, props to Microsoft for this is that they're figuring out ways to integrate with Android and be this agnostic player. I think you can also do this on Macs, too, but if you have an Android phone, they have this app called Your Phone. Literally, it does what iMessage does. It allows you to text from your computer. It doesn't, obviously, use WiFi. You still have to have your phone, being able to text on your phone, so it has to be connected.

Will Curran:

I think that we're getting in this age where someone's going to figure out a way to make it so we can do this, and I think there's big strategies to be made in RCS, which is Real Communication Standard or something like that. We'll link it down below, which is Android's desire to make like an iMessage that goes across IOS, Android, all together. I love it.

Will Curran:

So, I think there's a lot of really interesting things happening, for sure, when it comes to everything, but for me, also, I just find that I'm also so early in the early adopters queue. I'm just really teasing out this phone I'm going to get. I'm just going to make you be so interested. I'm so early in the early adopters queue that I think that that's one reason I like Android, too, is that I'm going to get something crazy bleeding edge that is going to take a while to be perfected. It's not going to be perfect, but I can say, "Wow! Look at this."

Will Curran:

The whole idea of having my assistant voice activated from my phone was first on Google. The night shot mode, the nighttime visibility is finally coming to IOS, but that was first on Android. I just love having those newest, hottest, craziest, coolest things. I think that's one of the reasons why I love it, for sure.

Brandt Krueger:

Totally agree. I think just to summarize this section much like we did with the laptops, so if you want customizable and bleeding edge, and amazing new features on a regular basis, and this Wild West stuff, then you're going to lean more towards Android. If you just want it to work and you're okay with not having the latest and greatest, and you just want it to work, that's more Apple land. Occasionally, yes, they do have ... I'm not going to sit here and pretend that they don't have features that Android doesn't because they do. The animoji stuff on Apple is really, really cool, but that's not hardcore, got-to-have-it-for-work stuff. That's just a nice perk when you want to text your younger relatives with things like that.

Brandt Krueger:

By the way, the Samsung version of that is awful if you have a beard. It's just absolutely awful because it smooths skins over the beard. So, I think that's the easiest way to break it down is once again, easy to use, not very customizable, you go more IOS and iPhone. If you really like knots and bolts and being on the bleeding edge, and living out on the Wild West a little bit, then you're going to lean more towards Android, and also cheap, right?

Brandt Krueger:

That's a factor as well is that sometimes you just need what's the cheapest phone. Man, it's funny that the lower-end iPhone 11 is what? 699, I want to say, that they just announced, and they're still selling the other one for I want to say, the eight or the XR for 599. So, if you want to get in on the newest Apple, your 599, 699. Otherwise, you're upwards of 1,000 bucks.

Brandt Krueger:

So, whereas on the other hand, if you want to get in on the latest low-end Androids, you're a couple of hundred bucks. Two certain extent, buyer beware, you get what you pay for in all of those things, but I've been very happy with the Pixel 3A, which I got on sale I think for 299 at the time, which is an amazing phone, and it has a headphone jack. I'm not going to say. I'm just saying. It has a headphone jack.

Will Curran:

I don't really miss my headphone jack. Only once-

Brandt Krueger:

Yeah, except for the other day when you were like, "Hey, I forgot my dongles for the headphones."

Will Curran:

Yeah, I do. I do. Thanks for bringing that up.

Brandt Krueger:

It's my pleasure. All right. So, we've teased it enough, I think. So, that's the summary on phone is, once again, Apple is this nice, happy, little ecosystem that you're giving up some customization, you're giving up a little of the Wild West, but if you want to live out on the edge, you can join us in the Android land. All right. So, you've teased it enough. What are you looking at for your new phone?

Will Curran:

Okay. So, I mean, obviously, I've been on Pixel land for the last three phones in a row. I'm really happy with it, but I actually want to see based on all the teases I've given if you can guess what phone I really want to get.

Brandt Krueger:

I'm not feeling Apple because you don't have enough of the ecosystem. So, I'm going to go out and say One Plus.

Will Curran:

Oh, interesting. Okay, or Huawei.

Brandt Krueger:

... or Huawei.

Will Curran:

Okay. Interesting. Yeah. I will say I don't think I'm ready based on all the stuff going on if I'm ready to have a Huawei phone. Also, I don't think my carrier support any of the Huawei phones. So, that's really interesting.

Brandt Krueger:

They do. You just have to smuggle them in in a coat. They're supposed to be amazing. That's the really crappy thing is that they're supposed to be absolutely amazing devices, but-

Will Curran:

No. So, you're wrong on both counts. I think that this might actually be a crazy surprise. So, I really want this device. I honestly might have had it in my hand right now.

Brandt Krueger:

Oh, oh, oh. Can I guess again? Is that super light phone where it doesn't do anything?

Will Curran:

Oh, my God! What's it called? Yeah, the ... Oh, it's got a name of an old device, too, so everyone's confused by it. No. I definitely empower user. Early adopter queue. I'm so surprised. I dropped so many hints on it. Anyone out there, if you're listening right now, feel free to drop in the comments and tweet me and let me know if you guess this before I say it. So, pause now, tweet me, and let me know what you think it's going to be before I tell you guys.

Will Curran:

Honestly, I was going to just do Pixel 4 again just because I was down for it. Obviously, the announcement hasn't happened at the time of us recording this now, but maybe it might sway me if it doesn't happen, but the issue is, reason why it's not my hand right now is that it got delayed. I'm dropping more hints. If you haven't quite figured out yet.

Brandt Krueger:

Is it the fold?

Will Curran:

Yeah. I really want to get the fold.

Brandt Krueger:
What?

Will Curran:

So, it's been delayed. They have some issues. This week, they released it in South Korea and UK, that might be dating when we're recording this episode. At the time, they haven't announced the US dates, but the phones have been selling out like crazy. I originally was like, "Okay. I'm really interested in this device. I'm going to wait till the reviews come out," but all the reviews are like, "Look, they fixed all the issues. We don't know longterm what's it going to look like, and that is a risk I'm taking as an early adopter to take on this device, but the fold is a phone that goes from this more candy bar style and folds open into a tablet using a foldable LED screen, OLED screen.

Will Curran:

So, if you haven't seen it yet, go check it out. It's super duper cool. It's all these folding devices that are coming out, and that's one reason why I'm interested in this device is it's so bleeding edge, and I want to try this crazy form factor. Like I said, obviously, I've been craving for something that transforms for a while from the Droid Bionic into a laptop. This turns from a phone into a tablet.

Will Curran:

I, originally, actually really like the Huawei version more, the Mate X. However. It doesn't seem like it's ever going to come to the US. I won't ever really use it on a carrier. Also, I think it hasn't been announced when it's coming out yet, too. So, I'm willing, again, I love supporting companies that are doing good things, and putting my dollars where I support this. I want to support Samsung for taking a leap and doing it. I know the second version is going to be better. I know I'm probably going to regret it once I buy it. The version that's going to come out is going to be better, and I am willing to risk that there might be issues with dust and water getting into it or breaking.

Will Curran:

However, I've backed smaller companies for crazier ideas, and that's obviously had some issues. I've noticed whenever I back a company doing a crazy idea and it's a big company, they always, always reward you by having your back. If the device fails, they will take it back, they will fix it, and they actually I think as part of buying it, you get this care plus thing for a year. If there's any issues at all, they'll just replace it for free, no questions asked.

Will Curran:

So, that's why I'm really interested in doing it. So, I'm literally ... I will probably do it when we finished recording this. I will Google search and see if the US launch dates happened because literally they haven't announced it, and I'm literally clawing to get this pre-ordered to give it a try.

Will Curran:

I hope that I get it. Obviously, we'll see if I end up actually getting it, and I'll probably maybe have a conversation about it, and talk about it a little bit more, but I'm excited to see what it might do for my workflow because now, I can take my phone, fold it out, maybe I keep a little small keyboard with me, and I can answer emails really quick, and it might replace more of my laptop on there as well. So, we'll see, but I'm-

Brandt Krueger:

I can't wait to find out, dude. I'm so happy that you're doing it, so that I don't have to. No. That's fantastic. I'll be honest with you. When the first iPad came out, I was like, "Nah," but as soon as the iPad 2 came out, I was like, "Oh. Oh, I want. Oh, I want." That's something that Apple's always been really good at is just charging out and refining things, and making it cleaner. I don't know that they would ever come out with something like this, but I know Microsoft is talking about it.

Brandt Krueger:

So, Microsoft wasn't the first person to come out with a tablet where you could detach the keyboard and all that kind of stuff either, neither was Apple. So, yeah, I like this idea.

Brandt Krueger:

I want to say it was one of the battle star Galactica spin-offs. They had this folding paper, where the kid unfolded a paper, almost like origami, and then that was the tablet screen. I love that idea. In our conversations, I've always been a huge proponent of display technology and where that's going, and the ability. I just have this vision of just slap on display wherever we want it.

Brandt Krueger:

So, it's stuff like this. It's stuff like this that is pushing that forward. These bendable displays, these foldable displays, that's what's pushing that technology forward just like it was the OLED screens of phones that pushed forward the OLED screens of televisions and things like that. We start with these small things. So, kudos to you for backing new technology, the one that I don't have to, and yet can still reap all of the benefits from.

Will Curran:

Totally. Totally. That's why I want to give it a try is I'm all about using ... I mean, the Bionic. Bionic was a hoard phone. It was slow. It had a lot of issues, but now look at it. Now, look at all the Galaxy devices that literally you can hook it into a computer or into a device and you can use it as a computer. That's what I'm also excited about the fold. Talk about transformative is that, literally, all you need is one little single cable, and you can turn any monitor, any computer and use it as a computer. It's super duper cool.

Will Curran:

Again, that's the future we're going to have, I think, eventually, is that you're talking about one device. You can't get down to one computer. Imagine if we got down to one device as your phone, your computer, everything together as one.

Brandt Krueger:

Yeah. I think we'll get there at some point. We're going way off the deep end on this one, but I think it will be the slab in your pocket that then you just swipe it, and now it's your desktop. It's all just living in the cloud, and you're just swiping, literally, you're swiping what you're doing from one device to another.

Brandt Krueger:

So, it's not so much ... It's not living on the device because of the increased speeds and things like that. It's like, "Okay. I want it over here. Now, I want it over here. Now, I want it in my pocket," and all of those kinds of things. So, I think that's definitely where we're headed, but that is a discussion for another day, my friend.

Brandt Krueger:

All right. Anything else we need to round out in this hardware discussion? I think we hit most of the high points.

Will Curran:

Yeah. I think we're all good. I think this is definitely more like a personal conversation to get people thinking, but I mean, a lot of times, too, I mean, if you aren't really thinking about these sort of things, if you are playing with some sort of technology for your events, I mean, to bring it full circle, is to think about this is the same kind of conversation people are having about their platforms and where do you want to have it hosted on, "Is it on an Android app? Is it on an IOS app? Are you having a Windows?" all these things like that.

Will Curran:

Also, just think about this, too, from your personal workflow side. Everybody has a different opinion of how they're going to do it. Find what works best for you and die hard, live it, like it till you die. I mean, that's one reason why I'm willing to put money up for such an expensive phone. I want to try something new.

Brandt Krueger:

Well, honestly, that's why I wanted to have this conversation is I knew that we both had personal journeys on this, but it's worth talking about the fact that it really is all about your workflow and what works for you. I just wanted to share a little bit about how we landed on the things that we landed, and why.

Brandt Krueger:

I think we also hit a lot of the high points of, "Okay. These are the overall. This is why we do this," but I think if folks could walk away with one thing from this episode, for me, it would be

don't be afraid to try stuff. I get it. Things are expensive and we don't want to just waste our money, but at the same time, you don't want to be stuck in the same old workflow.

Brandt Krueger:

Don't be afraid to try stuff and see, "Oh, my goodness! This works so much better." If you're just wanting to get into some new technology, don't be afraid to look at Chrome. Think about what you're doing. 99% of what I do is in Chrome. If it wasn't for that 1% of having to deal with PowerPoint, I probably could get by with a Chromebook and be perfectly happy with that Chromebook that I had from Samsung.

Brandt Krueger:

If it wasn't for the fact that I really enjoy having a fully customizable phone, I could probably be perfectly happy with an iPhone. Every year, I'll be honest with you, every year, I get tempted to buy it. The Apple distortion field gets rolling and it's like, "Oh, it's the latest iPhone ever. We've put it into a blank white room and it looks amazing."

Brandt Krueger:

So, it gets rolling, and I feel like it ... So, for me, that's why I wanted to have this episode and to just talk about how making sure that it's really important that you're willing to take risks on your workflow, which I know sounds like a really hard thing to do.

Will Curran:

Totally. Totally. I love it.

Brandt Krueger:

All right, man. Let's close.

Will Curran:

Let's fold this episode up.

Brandt Krueger:

We'll fold it up as it were, and just put it in our back pocket. We want to thank all of you out there for listening. You know what? I was going through, I was looking at the iTunes reviews. We need some more recent reviews. So, please take a moment, take the 30 seconds to write us whether that's three stars, four stars, five stars, certainly hope it's in the four or five-star range. If it's not, reach out. Tell us what we can be doing better, eventtechpodcast@helloendless.com or use the [#eventtechpodcast](https://twitter.com/eventtechpodcast). Really do.

Brandt Krueger:

Literally, one of the comments on there was, "Wish you guys would do more Q&A." Okay. Let's do more Q&A. Tell us what you want to know. Give us the cue, we'll give you the egg. Give us the egg, we'll give you the cue. So, love it, love it, love it. Please, please do reach out to us. We

want to know what you're into, what you want to know more about, and we're more than happy to tailor this content for you.

Brandt Krueger:

You can find out more, of course, at eventtechpodcast.com. There, you're going to find all the show notes, the links to all the resources shared, the transcripts. Amazing, amazing stuff being done on all the podcast platforms. It's been fun to watch Pocket Casts and Google Podcast, and iTunes start to transform over the course of the time that we've been doing it.

Brandt Krueger:

So, whatever your favorite podcast app, please be sure to subscribe to us there, so that we can be beamed into your house on a weekly basis. That's all I've got to say. Will, thanks so much for joining me. Really appreciate it, man.

Will Curran:

Thanks for always having the awesome conversation and letting me share my vulnerability about buying a really fragile phone.

Brandt Krueger:

Oh, I almost forgot. I almost forgot. I just got to throw this in here at the end. You talked about your first computer. My first computer was a ... This is so old school that I just got to get it out there. The oldsters about us will know what it is. The youngsters amongst you will not. It was the Timex Sinclair TS1000 was the first computer that I had, and it had a whopping 2K of RAM, but don't worry, don't worry, ladies and gentlemen, you could buy the optional 16K module to really get that sucker humming.

Brandt Krueger:

So, that was where I did. By the way, one of the cool things ... I'll just throw this out there real quick. I had forgotten that it was \$99.

Will Curran:

Wow!

Brandt Krueger:

I mean, you want to talk about ... That was a full-on PC in 1970 ... that was available for under \$100. It feels like we've been chasing that under \$100 PC ever since. So, Timex Sinclair 1000, all you all out there feeling old, join me there with the 16K upgrade. Thank you so much for joining us on this edition of the Event Tech Podcast.

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Will Curran:
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