

Tablet Evaluation Criteria

To make a long story short, here is a list of criteria for you to consider before buying a tablet:

- 1) **COST** - If you can afford an iPad or Galaxy, you don't really have to look for anything else. It is a huge market, with tablets ranging from \$50 to more than \$1000.
- 2) **CONNECTIVITY** - Going for a \$130 tablet from an unknown manufacturer? Check the connectivity? Is it only Wi-Fi or is it Wi-Fi & 3G ? More than likely, the least expensive tablet will have only Wi-Fi and no option for connecting to the PC or other devices via blue-tooth.
- 3) **PROCESSOR** - In today's market, anything less than 1GHz is not worth considering. Your applications will respond slowly and you will be unhappy when performing multiple tasks.
- 4) **DISPLAY** - I look for a sharp, bright display. I prefer high resolution HD screens. If the screen is not good, you will regret your decision to compromise on the display.
- 5) **SIZE** – Bigger is better when it comes to using a tablet. The 10” screen is good to use but somewhat more bulky to carry. Videos and movies look excellent on a 10” screen. At the same time, 7” displays are almost as nice to use as the 10” and more convenient if you need to carry a lot of other stuff. It comes down to your personal preference and how you are going to use the tablet.
- 6) **WARRANTY** – Some of the less known tablets have questionable warranty support. It helps to have a big name company behind the warranty if you have a problem. Expect a 1 year warranty on most tablets.
- 7) **STORAGE** - 16GB is plenty of storage and I prefer to have the option of expandable memory via a memory card slot. Plug-in Micro SD memory cards are a lot cheaper than the cost of the next higher level memory configuration from the manufacturer. 16GB Micro SD memory card costs less than \$20, the same 16GB memory upgrade from the manufacturer is \$100.
- 8) **ACCESSORIES** - Are you getting any accessories along with your tablet? Most come with a charger and perhaps a USB cable to connect it to your PC. Carry cases are nice to protect the tablet. Bluetooth keyboards are another nice option if you plan to type a lot.
- 9) **DUAL CAMERA** - Front facing camera will range from 5MP to 8MP. The rear facing camera will range from 1.2MP to 3MP. These are fairly standard on all tablets. Dual cameras allow you to use the Skype video option to see your contacts.
- 10) **OPERATING SYSTEM** - Check the version of OS on the tablet. Do not buy an outdated version as applications (apps) may not run. For Android tablets - Honeycomb (ver. 3.0+) is what you want. Any Android OS less than ver. 3.0 are meant for smart phones and will not utilize the full capability of the tablet. Android Froyo 2.2 and Gingerbread 2.3 are popular on the less expensive tablet brands. For the iPad, it works on iOS 4. There are tablets which work on windows as well. The ACER Iconia W500 comes with Windows 7.
- 11) **NAMES OF SOME GOOD TABLETS** – Samsung Galaxy, Apple iPad, Acer Iconia Tab A500, HTC Flyer, Blackberry Playbook, Motorola, Xoom, Asus Eee Pad Transformer, Toshiba Thrive, Lenovo IdeaPad, LG Gslate, Amazon Kindle Fire, Barnes & Noble Nook Tablet.
- 12) **WHERE CAN I BUY** - There are lots stores and websites that sell tablets. Staples, Target, Office Max, Wal-Mart, Best Buy, HHGregg all sell tablets. On the internet, look at Amazon.com, TigerDirect.com, Newegg.com. Look for the best price and check their customer reviews. Be careful buying from an internet store just because they have the lowest price. Many of the less known internet stores sell refurbished equipment so make sure you are getting what you expect.