

## Welcome! Mark Truesdell

We have a new addition to our CT sales team, Mark Truesdell. He comes to CT from a 21 year career in print marketing. He loves continuously learning and helping organizations become more efficient through elegant use of technology. In his spare time, he enjoys writing and performing live music with his wife Candice, as well as gardening, reading, art, travel and yoga.

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## Windows 8 Preview



**Scott  
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In September, Microsoft released the first real preview of their proposed Windows 8 platform. Though the product is not slated to officially release for over a year, this first look at the new product is creating a stir among reviewers. In fact,

the November 2011 edition of PCWorld says “The last time Microsoft made such dramatic changes to the way its operating system looks and functions, along with wholesale revisions to the underlying technology, was over 16 years ago, with Windows 95”. This is a pretty strong statement considering we have transitioned through Windows 98, Windows NT 4.0, Windows Millennium, Windows XP, Windows Vista, and finally Windows 7 since then.

What is causing the stir? Microsoft has retooled their entire user interface to create a very tablet-like user interface. Much like their current Windows phone interface, everything is controlled by visual touch-based tiles. The whole look and feel is different, and even the underlying programming is different. This is part of the reason for the early preview developer’s release. They want developers to start programming their applications to take advantage of the changes.

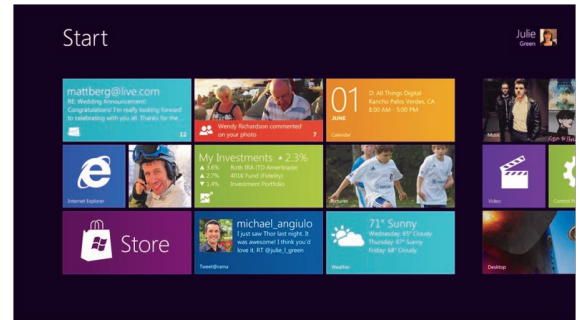
Lets take a closer look at 10 features of Windows 8, what we know about so far.

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### Tiles

No more icons. The new “metro” interface is comprised of tiles. Microsoft refers to them as a mosaic. Each tile can provide more information than an icon, with photos, etc. For instance, the weather application displays the current weather without even opening the application.

### Touch and Swipe

The entire operating system is optimized for touchscreen. Tapping, swiping, and dragging with ones fingers provides smooth control over the whole environment. This OS will run Microsoft’s new slates, and tablets, but will also be their normal PC desktop operating system. So putting touchscreens on desktops may have some advantage. However, everyone will be glad to know you can still use the mouse and keyboard.





## Slide Side Bar

Most applications that are optimized for Windows 8 run in a full-screen mode with very little menu controls. If you want to control the application, you swipe a side bar over and a context sensitive menu appears for device control and similar features.

## Application and Screen Snapping

The display of tiles and features is controlled much like a tablet by swiping from screen to screen. For instance, if you have 5 applications running, you simply swipe across the screen to move from one application to then next. In addition, you can control what application appears where on the screen by swiping half way and snapping the application in place. If you are watching a movie, and want to browse the Internet at the same time, you can swipe the internet to cover ¼ of your screen and leave the movie on the other ¾.

## Touch Keyboard

Windows 8 includes a touch keyboard for tablet users, or for those who wish to use some other touch display. It has a “thumbs mode” for texters, who prefer to type with their thumbs.

## Windows Store

Many applications will be delivered through the Windows Store. It still remains to be seen how this will all play out, but Microsoft is already using the Windows Store for their phone interface.

## Single Sign-on Dream

Microsoft's ultimate vision is that users would sign on with their Windows Live ID and then have access to a similar user experience across all of their Windows 8 machines. This means that whatever applications you install on your Windows 8 desktop would automatically be available from your Windows tablet, Windows phone, or laptop. It remains to be seen whether this will be accomplished in the new OS.

## Cloud Integration

As with successive releases of Windows, integration with cloud offerings is more tight than ever. So sharing storage, collaborating, or sharing photos in the cloud is even easier

## Virtualization

For us techier users, Microsoft's Hyper-V will be built-in, with the ability to run an entire Windows 8 install directly from a USB device. In addition, both VHD and ISO files are directly mountable without extra software.

## Backwards Compatibility

With all these new features, the concern might be whether old applications will work. Microsoft is providing assurances that everything that will run on Windows 7 will also work on Windows 8. In addition, there might be concerns over hardware, and as of right now, it appears that Windows 8 may even require less resources than Windows 7.

It is a little early to make any real judgment call about Windows 8 with the official release date unknown and not expected for over a year. There are many things we don't know, like cost, how many different flavors, real hardware requirements, and many others. However, it is still interesting to see where Microsoft is headed, and that it is such a huge change from Windows 7. Like most reviewers, I like what I see. With the massive growth of touchscreen devices like smartphones and tablets, updating to a very touch-based OS seems like a logical path. It will be interesting to see how they deliver over the course of the next year, but this preview looks great!

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## EYE ON IT Industry Trends

### Old Smartphones

What can you do with your old Smartphone besides throw them in the drawer?

**Emergency phone.** A deactivated smartphone or any cell phone will still work to call 911, it won't, however, transmit its location.

**MP3 player.** Since you may not mind abusing your old cell phone, taking it places where you don't want your iPod to go (biking, rock climbing etc.) may make perfect sense. Or handing it over to your kids to listen to as well.

**Games.** Many phones have quite a load of games on them. If it still gets WiFi, you'll have access to even more.

**More portable storage.** Most phones have at least a couple of gigabytes' of on-board storage making your phone a data-storage unit for transporting large files and backing up important documents.

If these don't appeal to you, there is always the option of recycling or selling your old smartphone, instead of letting it sit in your desk drawer.

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