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## Welcome! Mark Gundrum

We have a new addition to our sales team, Mark Gundrum. Mark is an account executive whose primary focus is to market our Complete Care IT Support. He has a BS in Business Administration. Mark has a passion for sales and helping people, creating win-win situations for our customers and prospects. He is a Wisconsin native and a Green Bay Packers fan.

# Tablet Wars



**Scott  
Hirschfeld**

I wrote on the rise of the Android tablet back in January. In January, the iPad2 was the clear winner in the tablet marketplace, and there really wasn't a rival that came close. My recommendation at the time was that if you wanted a tablet, you stick with the Apple product. I also suggested that in 6 months or so there would be Android options that would rival the iPad2. That time has come!

Competitive Android products are on the market and it appears we are starting a full scale war for the top spot in the tablet market. There are a multitude of options, some being the much better choice. The hard core Apple lovers still hold to the iPad2 as the only option. This isn't surprising though as it seems at least some Apple users are nearly cultish in their adoration of anything Apple.

Even though I am enthusiastic about the Android lineup, there are some downsides that really stem from the upside of the open platform. First, since Google made the Android operating system "open for development", there is a new device from different manufacturers almost daily. This makes one feel as if the technology they buy is old before they get started. In addition, the open standard leaves some discretion to the manufacturer on how

they finish out the look and feel. This plethora of devices and this diversity of look and feel can be viewed as an upside, but all of the differences and choices are sometimes a bit overwhelming when choosing a product.

Even now, early in the product cycle, the choices are many. There are a couple of Android devices that I think stand out. These devices are in the same class as the iPad2. There is another group of Android tablets that fall in the lower cost category, but don't have the same feature set. These tablets may be suitable, depending on how you wish to use the device, but I am not addressing them here.

The first device that I like is from Samsung. They have had an Android 7" tablet on the market for some time. It is their new Samsung Galaxy Tab 10" running the latest Android Honeycomb version 3.1 that really shines. It weighs in at just 1.2lbs, which is even lighter than the iPad2. Samsung has done a great job at creating a device that passes the aesthetic test. It has that smooth, well-engineered feel. In addition, it boasts 3MP/2MP front and back facing cameras, far better than the iPad's 1MP/.03MP. It boasts a fast Tegra 2 processor like many of the new Android devices. It plays full 1080p video and its battery while watching video is purported



to last for around 9 hours.

Another Android device that is worth considering is the Motorola Xoom. It too is a 10.1 inch device. At present, it runs Android Honeycomb version 3.0. It is not quite as light as the Samsung model at 1.61lbs. It boasts 5MP/1.3MP cameras with a Tegra 2 processor, full 1080p video, and battery life similar to the Samsung.

These devices are somewhat personal, so simply looking at specifications on paper is not enough to make a choice. If you are considering one, I would recommend going to a store where you can explore the touch and feel, and then use the specs to assist in the decision. In addition, there are several charts available online that compare the specifications of the different models and make it easy to understand what you are getting with each unit.

One other interesting development in the market is that Microsoft, who originally developed the tablet platform years ago, has released information about Windows 8. It will be built on the same tile based interface as Windows Phone 7. It likely will have a tablet

presence and if done right could provide yet another choice for tablets. The advantage with the Windows alternative is the obvious -- application compatibility and device support. However, I wouldn't wait for Windows 8. There is not even a release date, and the word is that it will be at least the fall of 2012.

The tablet device is still in the middle of rapid development and change. Much like a cell phone, there will be a new device that does so much more in just a year or less after you buy yours. This probably won't change soon, so if the tablet type device has value to you, I wouldn't wait for things to settle down. Take a look at what is available, match it up to your needs, and get started!

Let me know what you think of the tablet. Do you plan to buy? If you have one, what is it, and how do you use it? I am about to make the jump. I am most interested in the ability to do handwriting recognition so that I can take notes during meetings, capture them, and not have to deal with paper. You can reach me by email at [scotth@ctaccess.com](mailto:scotth@ctaccess.com).

## EYE ON IT Industry Trends

Sonar - Mobile Profile for Networking

Sonar mobile app analyses your Foursquare, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn network to show you how you are connected to the people around you. It takes publicly available profile information to help you discover and connect with the people nearby. You can connect with friends of friends, twitter friends and followers, as well as business contacts. Use Sonar everywhere; conferences, events, cafes, bars, airports and parks. Send a message to make a real life connection.

One limitation of the app is people have to check in with Foursquare or Facebook Places for the app to work. People do not have to be using the app on their iPhone, just have checked in. Sonar will then identify how you connect with these individuals.

## Tips & Tricks

### Time-Saving Keyboard Shortcuts for Windows 7

#### Windows + Home

Minimize every open window on your desktop except the active window. Pressing the shortcut again restores all the minimized windows.

#### Windows + T

Works just like Alt + Tab to cycle through the thumbnails of your open programs via the Taskbar's peek menu

#### Windows + Shift + Left / Windows + Shift + Right

If you use more than one display, use this shortcut to easily move a window from one screen to the other.

#### Windows + L

Lock your computer or switch users

#### Windows + M

Minimizes everything

#### Windows + F

Search for a file or folder

#### Windows + number

Start the program pinned to the taskbar in the position indicated by the number or switch to that program

#### Alt + P

Activates a preview pane of your selected file.