



this issue

Rise of the Android Tablet **P.1**

Why the Ipad? **P.2**

Thanksgiving Shout Out!

A BIG THANK YOU to all who participated in our Thanksgiving Food Drive! This was our best year yet, thanks to your generous donations. We were able to deliver the donations to the New Berlin Food Pantry in time for the Thanksgiving rush. Thank you for sharing with us in thankfulness, by giving back to our community.



**Scott
Hirschfeld**

Rise of the Android Tablet

Once again, Apple has set the bar. They have now added the iPad to their list of defining products that have changed a whole category of devices. Tablet computers have been around for a long time. They are used in commercial businesses and are well respected in their niche, but until the iPad released, there was little glamour to them, and they were not even a consideration for a home user.

Each time Apple hits the target with a new product, everyone rushes to catch up. We have seen this with the iPod and with the iPhone. Google's Android OS allowed phone vendors to respond to the iPhone, and it appears that once again the devices built on the Android platform will be the likely challenger to the iPad.

The real question is, what does the Android tablet have to offer, and is it ready to compete? Right now this whole market is in flux. Many companies are trying to produce a device that beats the iPad on price and produces similar functionality. And, many of them were scrambling to be ready for the Christmas season. If you are poised to purchase, you may want to think again.

To fully understand the Android tablet, it is important to know that the Android OS was developed for the single purpose of smartphones. Google did not see the tablet as a market for the OS, and thus geared it toward a maximum of a 5" screen. Vendors who have developed Android tablets to this point in December of 2010 have created extensions or customizations to make the OS work on 7" and 10" screens.

The interesting news is that Google has begun working on a new version of the Android OS geared specifically for tablets. This OS is slated for release during the first quarter of 2011, and code named "Honeycomb", but expected to be officially released as Android 3.0. It is rumored to run well on the newest tablet type processors, and most critics think devices built on it are likely to quickly compete with the iPad.

Understanding this, we realize that any current Android tablet device is operating at a slight disadvantage. Some are running Android 1.6 which is clearly substandard, and others are running Android 2.2, which was not meant for a tablet device either.

In addition to the OS software

being at a disadvantage when pitted against the iPad, the hardware in many cases is lacking. One of the main disadvantages is that most of the lower cost models that have been released by “noname” Chinese manufacturers work on a resistive touchscreen. This touchscreen is not as responsive as a capacitive one like the iPad has. If you are used to using a high quality touchscreen phone, or have worked with the iPad, you will be very disappointed in the performance of the touchscreen in these low cost models.

The richness of the tablet experience is really all about web access, and “apps”. Many of the low cost Android tablets are built on substandard processing power. This produces a very slow reaction when opening a program, or even browsing the web. Many of the lower cost units also do not point to the real Android market, but to a substitute that is very limited and often has mostly Chinese language applications and games.

In spite of these deficiencies on the low cost units, there are some devices that are fairly well reviewed. These include the Archos 7 and 10, plus the Samsung Galaxy Tab. These devices do still have some flaws, but they are the best units in this class right now. The drawback of the best

rated device, the Samsung Galaxy Tab, is that it is similar in price to the iPad, so if you purpose in looking at the Android tablets was price, the advantage is not there with this device.

The good news is that Android is an excellent operating system. It has taken over the smartphone market, and even reviewers who were very loyal to the iPhone are impressed with the Android phone. I believe we will see the same thing happen with the release of the new Android 3.0 Honeycomb OS. Gradually developers will begin to create tablet devices that really do compete with the iPad. Prices will come down, the product will improve, and the Android tablet will be a great device.

My recommendation for now is that if you really want a tablet device, go with the iPad. However, if you can wait until the second quarter of next year, the tablet landscape will be quite different. There are over 30 Android tablet devices slated for release by different makers over the next 6 months. The best device for you may be the new Android if you wait until then.

To discuss implementing a formal proactive technology solution please contact Scott Hirschfeld at 262-789-8210 or scotth@ctaccess.com.

Gary C. Eide



Gary Eide, our founder and president passed away in December. He will be dearly missed by all of us who knew him well. He was father of 11 children, pastor of a local church, avid technology enthusiast, a good friend, and so much more. Some of you worked with Gary closely over the years. If you have a good story or memory we would enjoy hearing it, so please share it with us in an email or phone call.

TECH TIPS Why the Ipad?

Why would I want an iPad or Android Tablet anyway? I get this question fairly often, and many are surprised that it will work with corporate email and even allow remote connectivity.

I find that most iPad owners use their device for a mixture of business and pleasure. It is a great, quick easy device to browse the web, read your email, view simple attachments, or update your linked-in profile. If you install the right application, you can even log onto your work computer remotely.

It is attractive, because it is a much more casual device. It is more like sitting down with a book than working on your laptop. No long boot time, no big keyboard, just a simple touchscreen.

For more personal use, people use it for games, working with photos, social networking, book reading, texting, audio and video. The possibilities are really quite broad. Playing with new features and applications can become addictive because there are so many. Even the non tech-savvy tend to sound like geeks in their enthusiasm for the new things they can do with their iPad!