

# Technology Update

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## Smart Phones

In the current smartphone market, the end user has a plethora of options from which to choose. The first step in your selection of a smartphone will be deciding what platform best suits your needs. There are three major players in the smartphone game as far as operating systems are concerned: Android, BlackBerry, and the iPhone.

When talking about phones, Android has become a bit of an ambiguous term. When someone says they have an Android phone, they are both talking about the physical device and making a reference to the operating system on the phone. There are many different



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manufacturers of Android-powered devices whereas the BlackBerry and iPhone devices have only one manufacturer. This allows the Android operating system to be offered to a wider variety of users as the user gets a decision in what hardware they would like to have. With the other operating systems, the user is at the mercy of what the manufacturer decides to include in its latest revision of the device. It would seem that it is this reason that Android-powered devices are very quickly eating into the market share previously

held by Apple and Research In Motion.

All in all, the decision for a smartphone comes down to what it will be used for. BlackBerry devices are usually aimed at more business-oriented customers; iPhones are geared towards those that need their phone to be an iPod; and Android-powered devices are geared towards the power user who needs all of the aforementioned features in one device.

*“a no brainer with all the advantages of being smaller, faster, more durable, and quieter with less power usage.”*

## Latest PC & Notebook Technology

I'm sure by now everyone has heard of Solid State Drives (SSD). They were created with the intent to be direct substitutes for standard hard disks in your PC. A SSD drive is made entirely from memory chips and controller, which means no moving parts, therefore the SSD perfect fit for all kinds of computing hardware applications.

The other benefits of the SSD include faster access

times over standard conventional hard drives. This performance increase is not dependant on the other hardware in your PC; therefore it could potentially breathe new life into that older PC for a minimal investment.

If you're doing any mobile computing it almost becomes a no brainer with all the advantages of being smaller, faster, more durable, and quieter with

less power usage. The best thing conventional hard disks have over the SSD is sheer size and a cheaper price point. The gap that standard drives have had over the SSD is quickly closing with recent advancements in size and price. The technology is mature enough now that SSD should be strongly considered for that new PC or for that existing PC that could use a performance increase.

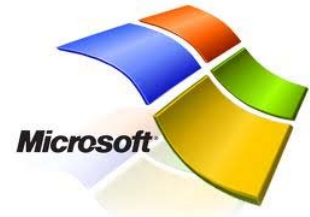
## Latest OS & MS app products

In the spring of this year Microsoft released the next revision of their small business server operating systems, Microsoft Small Business Server 2011. Microsoft has updated the included technologies and based the server on their Windows Server 2008 R2.

The two biggest applications with the Small Business Server are Microsoft Exchange 2010 and Microsoft Sharepoint Foundation 2010. These two applications make managing e-mail and sharing documents even easier. Microsoft Exchange Server 2010 adds more mail archiving

features and makes it even easier to link mobile devices like cell phones and tablets into your mail servers for push e-mail and calendar and contact synchronization.

Microsoft Sharepoint Foundation 2010 is a major refresh of Microsoft's Collaboration Software to enable file sharing, discussion forums, and more to allow all your employees access to data from the office, home, and on the road.



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## Choosing a Tablet

When purchasing a tablet you want to make sure that you have a tablet that is going to work for your business and your own personal needs. Each tablet is built to meet different needs and to do different functions. First thing to do is to ask yourself do we really need a tablet? Tablets aren't really filling any true needs right now-they are neither replacements for full-fledged computers nor smartphones. Yes, many of them of them have

mobile service features, but currently none of them make phone calls via a mobile provider. They are basically lightweight versions of laptops in every sense.

Another thing that needs to be considered is Wi-Fi only vs. Cellular Models. Most tablets come in a Wi-Fi only model or with the option to pay by the month for 3G (or eventually, 4G) always-on cellular service from a provider like AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, or

Verizon Wireless.

Finally, head to your local electronics store to get hands-on time with some different tablets, so you can see which feels and works the best for you.

After considering all of these things, you should be able to buy a tablet with confidence.