

Microsoft Surface Tablet with Windows RT

By Eric Moore

December 8, 2012

Windows RT is the version of Windows 8 made to run on the ARM-based processor

Hardware specifications of this particular device

- This system has a 1.30 GHz NVIDIA TEGRA 3 Quad Core CPU
- 10.6" HD touchscreen
- 32 GB of internal storage, expandable to 64 GB more with microSDXC card
- Wi-Fi connectivity
- Dimensions: 9.3 mm (0.37") thick, 676 g (1.5 lb.) in weight
- Priced at \$577.00 on Amazon.com (December 8, 2012)
- Ports: USB 2.0, micro HDMI, audio

Logging in

- User may create a traditional account with login name and password as in earlier versions of Windows, or
- Use a Microsoft account
 - Microsoft Wallet
 - Microsoft Passport
 - .NET Passport
 - Microsoft Passport Network
 - Windows Live ID
- Using a Microsoft login is the method promoted by Microsoft, as it connects the user's data including email and documents with the cloud, so that anything created from the account including Office files are accessible from any other Windows 8 device using one's Microsoft account credentials

Graphical interface

- Tiles rather than a Start menu
- Windows 8 apps are displayed as white icons on monochrome backgrounds
- Desktop apps are displayed as traditional icons within transparent tiles
- Normal tiles measure 150 x 150 pixels
- Live tiles measure 310 x 150 pixels
- Tiles may be repositioned by dragging them

Working with apps

- Search for apps by typing name in the Start screen
- Windows 8 apps consume entire screen
- Desktop apps still run in a window on the desktop
- Use Personalize to add icons to the desktop
- Desktop apps have a ribbon interface

Windows hotkeys

- Use the WIN key to toggle between the Start screen and desktop
- Use WIN+D to move to the desktop
- Use WIN+X to access the simplified Start menu

SkyDrive is a cloud-storage service

- 5 GB free, 20 GB for \$10/yr, 100 GB for \$50/yr
- SkyDrive is the default storage location for Office 2013

Different stores exist for apps, music, and videos