Preview of Windows 8 and Surface
By Jamie Leben
September 8, 2012

- What is Windows 8?
    - A group of four operating systems designed to run multiple platforms with a single interface style
- Who might want Windows 8 and Why?
    - Users looking for improved performance, security, consistent interface between platforms (PC, tablet, phone)
- Where do you get Windows 8?
    - Download, retail disk; Windows RT comes with ARM devices
- When is it available?
    - October 26, 2012
- How much?
    - Around $40
- Hardware Requirements:
    - Core 2 Duo 7400
    - 4GB RAM
    - 1024x768 resolution minimum
- Install and setup
    - Create or use an email account to sign in—preferably a Live account for sync and Skydrive
- Performance and compatibility
    - Fast boot and shutdown
    - More resource-efficient than Windows 7
    - Windows 8 for IA-32 and x64 processors runs most software compatible with previous versions of Windows, with the same restrictions as Windows 7: 64-bit Windows 8 runs 64-bit and 32-bit software while 32-bit Windows 8 will be able to run 32-bit and 16-bit software (although some 16-bit software may require compatibility settings to be applied, or not work at all).
- Windows RT, a version of Windows 8 for systems with ARM processors, only supports applications included with the system (such as a special version of Office 2013), supplied through Windows Update, or applications acquired through the Windows Store. Windows RT does not support running existing IA-32 or x64 desktop applications to ensure the quality of apps available on ARM.[105]
- Metro-style applications can either be cross-compatible between Windows 8 and Windows RT, or compiled to support a specific architecture.
- Versions
    - From http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_8: Windows 8 is available in four major editions: Windows 8, Windows 8 Pro, Windows 8 Enterprise, and Windows RT. The first three have almost the same hardware requirements as that of Windows 7. The latter, however, runs on tablet computers with ARM architecture and has different hardware requirements. Hardware vendors who wish to receive Microsoft's certification for such devices need to adhere to a list of certification requirements.

Windows 8 Enterprise and Windows RT will not be available at retail outlets as disc(s) that can be installed; Windows RT will only be available pre-installed on devices designed for it, such devices will be sold at retail.

- Tour
  - o Start Menu
    - ▪ "Metro style" app
      - • Demonstrate IE start vs. desktop
    - ▪ Search from start
    - ▪ Sync of settings from prior installs
    - ▪ Live content tiles
  - o Desktop
    - ▪ Start hotspot in lower left
  - o Charms
  - o Taskbar upper left, alt+tab, swipe from left
  - o Apps
    - ▪ Metro style apps primarily available through apps store- search "store"
    - ▪ Designed to be touch friendly
    - ▪ Can run full screen or docked to the side
    - ▪ Metro style apps are "sandboxed" for increased security
  - o Internet Explorer 10 is included as both desktop program and as a touch-optimized app. The latter does not support plugins or ActiveX components, but includes a version of Adobe Flash Player that is optimized for touch and low power usage and works only on sites included on a whitelist.
  - o File Explorer includes a ribbon toolbar
  - o X-box Live integration: games and achievements move across platforms
  - o Two new recovery functions are included, Refresh and Reset. Refresh restores all Windows files to their original state while keeping settings, files, and apps, while reset takes the computer back to factory default condition.
  - o Charms> Setting> Change PC Settings> (tour: general for refresh and Restore)
  - o Storage Spaces allows users to combine different sized hard disks into virtual drives and specify mirroring, parity, or no redundancy on a folder-by-folder basis.
  - o Family Safety is intended to allow parents to protect their children on the Internet, as well as monitor and control their PC and Internet activities and usage.
  - o Windows Defender now has anti-virus capabilities, similar to those of Microsoft Security Essentials. It is intended to replace the Security Essentials package and function as the default anti-virus program.
  - o File History, a function similar to Mac OS X's Time Machine, replaces the "Previous Versions" and Backup and Restore features on Windows 8. File History automatically creates incremental backups of files stored in Libraries and user-specified folders to an external storage device (such as a secondary hard drive, Storage Space, or network share).
- Microsoft Surface http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_surface
  - o Tablet style devices with keyboard covers
  - o Two versions
    - ▪ Win RT available Oct 26, 2012, pricing like similar ARM tablets- $500??
      - • Metro style apps only
      - • Windows RT will include Microsoft Office 2013 RT for free
    - ▪ Win 8 Pro Jan 2013, comparable to ultrabooks $800??
      - • Runs standard windows apps