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## Is Windows 8 For You?

The "Consumer Preview" version of Windows 8 was released last month, as what used to be called a Beta release for public trial and feedback. The final release to computer manufacturers is anticipated this summer, with general retail availability in fall 2012.



Many reviews of Win8 are now online, which you can read for yourself. Our

opinion at OCS is guarded ... however, we know that by the end of the year all new Windows-based PCs, laptops, tablets and smart phones will come preinstalled with Win8 – so in order to be able to provide tech support related to our customer service we need to be familiar with what's coming.

It appears that Win8 will mark a dramatic departure, perhaps a sea change, from the familiarity and steady evolution we've seen in the past.

Microsoft previews make it clear that "legacy support" for those accustomed to using keyboards, trackpads and mice will be maintained in Win8 – but that's unclear in future versions. The focus seems to be shifting to touch-screens, with swiping and sliding gestures rather than mouse clicks.

For those familiar with iPhones and other touch-screen smart phones, as well as recent tablet computers, these terms will be familiar. For those devices, touch-screens are intuitive and work very well – but on laptops and desktops we're not so sure.

The new Win8 "Metro" desktop interface also seems heavily loaded toward games, entertainment and social networks like Facebook and Twitter. For those who favor these priorities, a touch-screen tablet with Win8 may be the best way to go.

However, most online reviews of the Consumer Preview indicate that Win8 is intended to be one-size-fits-all,

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The Windows 8 Metro display

See also <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows-8/consumer-preview>

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## Is Windows 8 For You?

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standardized for all devices. One reviewer states there is an option for switching to the traditional Windows desktop interface, but it must be selected each time you boot up.

For those who use computers primarily for business, design applications, news, research and legacy communication like email, it is hard to imagine leaving the mouse or trackpad behind on laptop and desktop computers (if that may be the ultimate future intent).

As always happens with the launch of a new operating system, users who don't want to upgrade won't have to. But sooner or later people will want or need a new computer, and that's where the choice disappears – it looks like 2012 will be the last year for an interface that has remained reasonably familiar since Windows was first introduced in 1985.

There may be some appeal in having each of your smart devices work in pretty much the same way, but only time will tell how well Win8 accomplishes that goal and how well it is received. But even if it flops, it's hard to imagine Microsoft reverting back to the legacy look in Windows 9 – like it or not, the "Metro" interface will likely be here to stay.

### Fan Mail



*"I want to thank you for the excellent service that your technician provided me this morning. He quickly solved my problems and I was on my way. It's great for us computer users that don't really understand them to have the service that your company always provides." -JW*

## Video Speed Trap Lurks in New iPad

Users Find the Superfast 4G Link Carries a Big Cost: Churning Through Data Limits in Mere Hours

That's the surprising headline of a recent Wall Street Journal Technology article ... surprising because of the misunder-

standing of bandwidth usage and limits it implies.

The story describes a new iPad 4G user who was dismayed at how quickly the faster speed used

Mobile Data Plans					
at&t			verizonwireless		
Data plan	Monthly cost	Cost for additional use	Data plan	Monthly cost	Cost for additional use
250 MB	\$14.99	\$14.99/250 MB	1 GB	\$20	\$20/1 GB
3 GB	\$30	\$10/1 GB	2 GB	\$30	\$10/1 GB
5 GB	\$50	\$10/1 GB	5 GB	\$50	\$10/1 GB
			10 GB	\$80	\$10/1 GB

Source: the companies The Wall Street Journal

up his monthly bandwidth allocation while streaming nonstop high-resolution video. Equally surprising is that the user claims to be a web developer, who should know better – his Verizon mobile data plan allows a mere 2GB per month.

"The iPad's new high-resolution screen and fast connection are specifically designed to spur greater use of online video – a long-stated goal for phone companies as well as technology purveyors such as Apple and Google," says the story.

"Telecom companies in particular are banking on mobile video to drum up demand for their new, fourth-generation networks and create new revenue streams as they adjust to the smartphone age."

(Note: Most OCS wireless users subscribe to our Basic Plan, which provides 12GB per month – see below.)

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Wireless Plan Types	Average Speeds			Monthly Usage <sup>1</sup>	Mailboxes	One-Time Fees		Monthly Service <sup>3</sup>
	Min	Typ	Max			Installation	Equipment Deposit <sup>2</sup>	
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>								
Basic	125K	500K	750K	12GB	5	100.00	100.00	49.95
Premium	250K	1M	1.5M	20GB	5			79.95
<b>BUSINESS</b>								
Business	375K	1.5M	2M	30GB	10			129.95
Professional	500K	2M	3M	35GB	25			159.95
Corporate	750K	3M	4M	45GB	30			199.95
Enterprise	1M	4M	5M	60GB	40			249.95
<b>MOUNTAINS</b>								
Alpine, Pierpoint, Camp Nelson	125K	375K	750K	8GB	5			69.95

1. Monthly usage is the allowed bandwidth per month. Surcharges apply for excess usage.
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