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Tip:

Why the iPad will fail and help Windows 7 to succeed

by Mike Halsey (MVP) on January 28, 2010 in Discussion | 300 Comments

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Yesterday Apple finally launched its much hyped iPad to the world, presumably avoiding the rumoured name iSlate after realising how much of gift it would have been to journalists. Apple products do tend to create a huge amount of anticipation and good will but on this occasion it's, if you read around the internet, a case of OOH! OOH! OOH! oh!

So why will the iPad fail and what's this rubbish I'm pedalling about it helping sales of Windows 7? This is simple. Quite simply this time Apple have got it wrong. All the tech press is saying the same thing and comments made by readers of those websites are echoing, mostly anyway, their sentiments.

The iPad is nothing more than a large iPod Touch. It's lacking a 16:9 screen and while the bezel has to be of a reasonable size to allow for holding the device with your hand without your thumb poking the screen all the time, it's simply too big. Finally those few people who've already used it are saying that having a standard keyboard on a device that you can't rest easily on your lap and that is intended to be used one-handed is lunacy. Just look at the curved corner keyboards Microsoft introduced with the tablet editions of Windows to see how they should have done it.

If all of this isn't enough to cause the iPad to fail then the price will certainly put everybody else off. With a starting price tag of \$500 it's simply too expensive, twice the price of a better specification netbook and the same price as significantly better laptops. At this price it's unique selling points of multi-touch and... erm... whatever the others are, are simply not enough to win hearts and minds.

However...



For one reason or another, and I have no idea why this turned out to be such a coincidence, certain other companies such as MSI and Dell chose today to release details of their own forthcoming tablet devices, and both look gorgeous, especially the Dell (pictured).

These devices are similarly specified to the iPad and run everything from Windows 7 to Google Android, but the big difference will be in the price. They will all undercut Apple considerably and provide tablets for the price

of a netbook, the price they should be.

This is excellent news FOR Windows 7. Firstly this new type of device, obviously based on something that's been around since 2002 but we'll skip lightly over that one, is a very interesting form-factor that, now popularised will enable just about everybody to produce a clone tablet.

This will help sales of Windows 7 because of its multi-touch facilities and, in turn, should tempt a very many XP and Vista laptop owners to upgrade to a tablet. Let's face it there are thousands of people who, if a device such as this had been available five years ago, would never have bought a full

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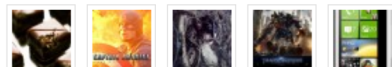
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laptop.

The knock-on repercussions for all this will be enormous. It will help people move away from the troublesome Internet Explorer 6, help boost the hardware industries of the world as we move out of recession. It'll create jobs and wealth and so much more.

All this will have come about because Apple have done the R&D and released a product that's been instantly derided as ugly and not what people want. If I were Steve Ballmer today, I'd be splashing out on an extra skiing holiday.

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Rdowell

I have been reading a lot of these websites that claimed the iPad would fail even before it came out and have to laugh at the way they all tried to drag the iPad down. Most of the claims are based around a closed system, with limited access to flash, but it seems that all these commentators missed the boat when it came to what the iPad was all about. It is about appealing to the large group of people out there who really only want something that works right out of the box. They don't want to worry about installing drivers, messing with widgets or customising their device to the 'n' degree. My only question to most of them is that in hindsight, do they feel daft for slating a product that has done the complete opposite of what they told us?

As a side note, I love the fact that the advert at the top of the screen is for an iPad app...oh the irony...

08/09/2011 01:14 AM

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Oscar peterson

Lol. This stuff is gold.

07/10/2011 02:19 AM

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Andyle604

A year and a half later and the iPad is BY FAR the most desired tablet on the market.

suck it Windows =)

07/06/2011 09:59 AM

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Anonymous

history proved you wrong.

06/25/2011 02:05 PM

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guest

Ouch....

05/20/2011 08:09 PM

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Account765

Can you admit you were wrong?

05/20/2011 05:03 AM

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iPad user

Really amusing ... stumbled over this stupid ramblings of an article while searching a CHS reader for my iPad so I don't have to read the tools docs in the ugly Windows Help window. Its enough suffering using the tool on Windows already ...

04/23/2011 06:41 PM

Like Reply



His Shadow

I will never tire of the fact that this miserable article and pathetic crap just like it will be on the internet practically forever, so we can constantly remind ourselves of just how terrible the state of tech journalism was, is and continues to be...

03/12/2011 09:34 PM 2 Likes

Like Reply



Abeworld

Toby,

To me, its not just that he made wrong predictions based on uneducated guesses. He has written numerous articles about Win 7 and clearly loves it. Here his bias towards Win clearly shows up. And that, as an expert or a writer, is completely inexcusable. thousands of people wrote about iPad win or fail predictions, but those were just commenters. You have to be more level-headed and unbiased to be a blogger on a website which a lot of people read. Its a basic question about maturity in thought.

01/19/2011 03:53 PM 1 Like

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DelphiKnight

loooooooooooooo Mike! :)))

01/19/2011 03:50 PM

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