

# Databyte Brief

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CYPRESS SYSTEMS INC.



## Cost of Replacement VS Cost of Maintenance



Written by Matthew Cochrane

With business growth remaining stagnant for most businesses owners are looking to maximize their IT investment while improving productivity. We often come across the question of “is this PC worth repairing”, and the answers may surprise you. Since this is a question I am often asked, let me share some of my own insights into this question, along with some recent data compiled by TechAisle.



Over the past 3 years while Windows Vista was Microsoft’s new operating system, Windows XP was still the predominant choice when purchasing a new business PC. Many businesses including many of our customers preferred to stick with Windows XP as it required less training and often allowed them to delay purchasing updated versions of their applications. Even today 74% of Microsoft’s business customers are still using Windows XP. Unfortunately Microsoft’s mainstream support for Windows XP has come to an end so updates will be few and far between. Windows 7 Professional Upgrades cost over \$200 for the license alone and you have to reinstall all of your applications anyways. The justification for spending \$350+ to upgrade your functional 3 year old system becomes hard to justify.

Here are some other statistics as compiled by TechAisle in March 2010 :

-  The average cost to repair PCs greater than three years old is \$326, which is 1.28 times the cost to repair a computer manufactured less than three years ago.
-  If you’re upgrading that PC (say from Windows XP Home to Windows 7 Home Premium), add another \$99 on average, bringing the grand total for upgrading and repairing an older PC to \$425.

To make it even worse, most three-year old PCs are out of warranty — that’ll cost you another \$120, to make the average total upgrade cost \$545.

If those numbers aren’t intimidating enough consider this; moving parts are the most likely component to fail. Hard drives are typically carry 3 year warranties because that is their expected reliable life when run under average conditions. If you are operating your computer in an enclosed area where heat is likely to build up, your hard drive may fail even sooner. Data recovery expenses run in the thousands of dollars, so unless you are regularly backing up your system (and we strongly recommend you do) this adds up to an even greater risk.

The choice to simply replace an older system as opposed to simply upgrading it becomes clear. Improved productivity due to increased performance is merely icing on the cake once you realize how expensive the system you already own can be. We can help ensure that your employees remain productive without waiting for a machine that is too slow or too unreliable for your business needs.

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## Move Over Google Street View: It's Microsoft's Turn!

Written by Mason Vonnahme

Many of you are quite familiar with Google’s Street View. If you are not, Street View, is simply a Google Maps feature that allows the user to move, “virtually”, down desired streets. It is very handy, but it does have its limitations. Moving along the street virtually happens by one 360 degree photographic bubble to another. The problem lies when viewing one “bubble”, you can hardly see what’s in the next bubble. Furthermore, zooming doesn’t help much so you much constantly switch to the next bubble – step by step, click by click. This might not only ruin all the fun, but also can become very disorienting.

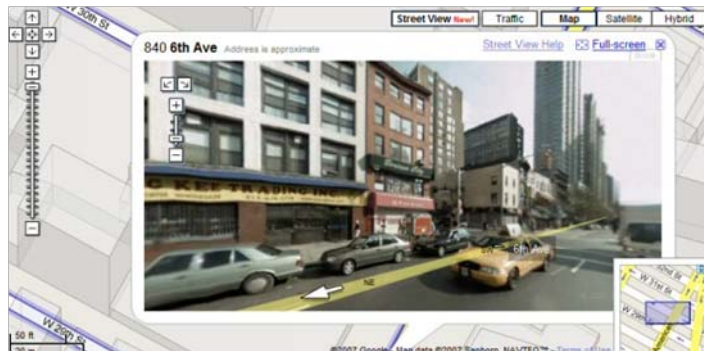


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## Move Over Google Street View: It's Microsoft's Turn!

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The folks at Microsoft seem to have found a solution to these problems and named it Slide Street. Slide Street technology "stitches" the bubbles together into a large strip for easy zooming and moving along the street. What this produces is a multi-perspective street side panorama. Above and below the Street Slide view, information such as street names, signs, and building addresses which makes locating your destination much easier.



Example of a Google Street View image



Example of Microsoft's Slide which, as you can see, shows much more detail and a much larger panoramic view.

There is still quite a bit of work to be done with Microsoft's Slide Street and there is no word when it will be implemented into Bing Maps, but keep your eyes open in the near future.

A demo can be found at :

[http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/kopf/street\\_slide/index.html](http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/kopf/street_slide/index.html)

## What To Consider When Purchasing A Netbook, Apple iPad or Blackberry Playbook

Written by Patrick Cook

Many of us are looking for some sort of mobile device to fill the niche between full-fledged computer and a laptop. There are times when a user needs to be connected to roam the internet or just to check emails and does not need the bulk of a laptop to lug around. Thankfully this market is booming as of late with more choices than ever for a consumer to choose from.

Advances in performance, power requirements, storage capacities and screen technologies have allowed portable device manufacturers to offer a slew of products with feature sets that were previously unavailable until just recently. Let's take a quick look at some of the core features that are available and what you should focus on when selecting a device.

First and foremost, any device you choose should match your needs as closely as possible and not the other way around. With so many options this is much easier and attainable goal than years past. If your principal interaction with a mobile device will be email then you will want to select a product that has the best user experience in handling email. Great hardware does not make up for a poor user interface.

While there are many devices, three stand out from the rest of the pack. Let's take a brief look at some of these devices:

**Netbooks:** Today's netbooks are no bigger than a standard A4 size paper and about an inch thin to note. Netbook dimensions average around 10" x 7" x 1.05". The size of netbooks is the first eye catcher for many and often times triggers consumer curiosity. They are interestingly lightweight, weighing anywhere between 1.5 pounds to only three pounds max. Average screen sizes of netbooks range from eight to 12 inches. Most netbooks are based on Intel's ATOM processor which allows these systems to have a long battery life while compromising on performance. Current generation netbooks are usually pre-installed with Windows 7 Starter Edition. This version of Windows does not have the ability to use the new Windows 7 Aero user interface due to performance and hardware limitations. While not nearly as powerful as a standard laptop they are a great alternative due to their size and weight. Cost ranges between \$300.00 to \$400.00 from any of the numerous manufacturers. Buyers should be aware that netbooks are almost always cost prohibitive to repair from a hardware perspective.

**Apple iPad:** Apple has changed the portable landscape with the release of its tablet based computer the iPad. The iPad sports a 9.7-inch touchscreen, it is 0.5 inches thick and weighs just 1.5 pounds.

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The unit was the first device from Apple to utilize their new proprietary A4 processor. It comes in six models - 16GB, 32GB, and 64GB, with or without 3G connectivity. All models offer WiFi. While not a true laptop replacement the iPad's is able to suit most of the day to day requirements of a casual user such as email, web browsing and web app access. The lack of a physical keyboard does impose some limitations but the devices excellent interface allows a user to quickly adapt. When leveraged with the wealth of iTunes Store applications the iPad becomes a worthy contender. Cost for Apple's iPad range from \$499-\$829 depending on what model you choose.

**Blackberry Playbook:** RIM (makers of the Blackberry) have brought some heat to the portable computer market with the impending release of their tablet device known as the Playbook. RIM has set the bar even higher based on the Playbooks impressive specifications. The device is slated to have a 7-inch WSVGA LCD full-multi-touch screen with 1024X600 resolution, 1 GHz dual-core processor, 1 GB Ram support, Dual HD cameras (front camera is 3Mp, rear camera is 5Mp), HD video recording at 1080p, HDMI video output, Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR, Micro USB and Micro HDMI connection, Support MPEG, MP3, WMV and DivX playback, Full Flash support. The device will sport a true multi-tasking operating system. This mobile device while being smaller than Apple's iPad will be considerably more powerful and extensible.

The mobile device market is booming at present. Apple's success with the iPad has not gone unnoticed. RIM's tablet device offering was the first among many upcoming offerings from competitors in the mobile arena. Consumers can also expect to see a deluge of competing products based on Google's Android mobile operating system to further add to the mix of available devices in the coming months. Whichever mobile device you ultimately select, Cypress Systems, Inc. can assist in setup, installation and user education.



Device	Netbook	Apple Ipad	Blackberry Playbook
Platform (O.S.)	Windows 7 Starter Edition	iOS 3.2.2 (4.2 in November)	BB Tablet OS
Processor	Atom	1GHz Apple A4 (ARMv7)	1GHz dual-core Cortex A9
Internal Storage	Varies by Model	16GB/32GB/64GB	16GB/32GB (Unconfirmed)
Cellular Data	N/A	3G Optional (GSM)	3G & 4G Promised for Future
WiFi	Yes	Yes	Yes
Display size	8 to 12 Inches	9.7 Inches	7 Inches
Display resolution	Varies by Model	1024 x 768	1024 x 600
Pixel Density	N/A	133	170
Adobe Flash Support	Various Versions Supported	Not Supported	Only Version 10.1 Supported
Primary camera	No Camera	No Camera	3MP Front, 5MP Rear
Graphic's	Varies by Model	PowerVR SGX 535	Unknown
RAM	Varies by Model	256MB	1GB
Connectivity	802.11 g/n, RJ45 Network	802.11 a/b/g/n, Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR	802.11 a/b/g/n, Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
GPS	N/A	3G Model Only	None
Weight	1.5 to 3 lbs	1.5 to 1.6 lbs	0.9 lbs
Dimensions (H x W x D)	10" x 7" x 1.05"	9.56" x 7.47" x 0.5"	5.1" x 7.6" x 0.4"



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### Services:

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- ✦ Maintenance/Service Plans
- ✦ Dental Practice Management
- ✦ Legal Practice Management
- ✦ Property Management Applications

## The *Green* Scene: *E-Waste Recycling*

Written by Stephanie Longoria Podesta

E-waste is a popular name for electronic products nearing the end of their “useful life”. The discarding of electronics is one of the fastest growing segments of our nation’s waste stream. E-waste (computers, copiers, fax machines, printers, etc.) contain metals, plastic, and toxic materials that should be reclaimed and properly disposed of rather than be put into a landfill. Businesses can be liable for improperly disposing of E-waste products due to EPA regulation prohibiting the improper disposal of known hazardous materials. By recycling your computer you can help reduce the demand for raw materials which will allow us to conserve our natural resources and keep harmful materials out of the environment. According to Wasting and Recycling in the United States 2000, “On a per-ton basis, sorting and processing recyclables alone sustains ten times more jobs than land filling or incineration. Some recycling-based paper mills and recycled plastic product manufacturers employ 60 times more workers on a per-ton basis than do landfills. Each recycling step a community takes locally means more jobs, more business expenditures on supplies and services, and more money circulating in the local economy through spending and tax payments.” Many of the components in recycled systems may be reused to provide computer systems for nonprofit organizations and under-served families that have a need for various technologies.



Cypress Systems, Inc has partnered with ComputerCorps and can now accept E-waste products for recycling. ComputerCorps is an internationally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing access to computer technology and skills training for under-served families, while eliminating electronic waste from our nations landfills. ComputerCorps receives donations of computer equipment; computers, monitors, printers, fax machines, copiers, components and parts from individuals, businesses and community organizations. The donated equipment is then assessed and sorted by technicians for usability as a whole or for parts. Volunteer staff will disassemble, test, repair, upgrade and reassemble the equipment to create refurbished computers, printers, and monitors. Unusable parts are recycled or sold as scrap in order to reduce landfill waste. Non-usable or surplus items are auctioned or sold to generate revenue to purchase parts and pay for any overhead costs.

For more information and links to help you go *Green*, please visit [www.cypsys.com/green.html](http://www.cypsys.com/green.html).