

Booklet Sponsored by
Indiana Extension Homemakers Association
Education Focus Group
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Indiana Extension Homemakers Association

Get Online With Technology



Education Focus Group

2013-2014

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E-READERS

What is an e-reader?

- An e-reader (electronic reader) is a device for reading content, such as e-books, newspapers and documents. A standalone e-reader typically has wireless connectivity for downloading content and conducting other Web-based tasks. Popular dedicated e-readers include Amazon's Kindle and Sony Reader, Barnes and Noble Nook, and Kobo eReader Touch.
- A touch screen features a virtual keyboard for navigation and note taking and there's an LED light built in for reading in low light conditions.
- Mobile devices that can display text, such as smartphones and PDAs, can also function as e-readers.

REFERENCES

Resources:

Purchases
Service
Repair

UPPLIERS FOR RESOURCES:

1. "Big Box Stores
2. Office Business Suppy Stores
3. Mailers
4. Newspaper Advertisements
5. Newspaper Inserts
6. Phone Book Yellow Pages
Comnputer Consultants
Dealers
Service and Repair
7. Phone Company Offices or Stores
8. TV Suppliers and Advertisements
9. Word of Mouth

A tablet, or tablet PC, is a portable computer that uses a touchscreen as its primary input device. Most tablets are slightly smaller and weigh less than the average laptop. While some tablets include fold out keyboards, others, such as the Apple iPad and Motorola Xoom, only offer touchscreen input.

Since tablets do not use a traditional keyboard and mouse as their primary forms of input, the user interface of a tablet is different than a typical laptop. For example, instead of double-clicking to open a program, most applications open with a single tap. Instead of clicking on a scroll bar to scroll through a window, most tablet applications allow you to swipe up and down anywhere within a window to scroll through the content.

Since tablet PCs provide a different interface than traditional computers, they offer unique possibilities for graphics applications, games, and other programs. Because of their small form factor, they are extremely portable and can be easily stowed in a backpack or a briefcase. Still, because tablets lack a keyboard and mouse, some tasks such as typing documents and writing email messages, are more difficult on tablets than traditional computers. Therefore, tablets are generally seen as accessories to laptops and desktop computers rather than replacements.



AND DESKTOPS

The main difference between a desktop and laptop is their physical appearance, size, and weight. They also differ greatly in computing ability, although they both have an operating system such as Windows 7 or Mac OS X.

- **Appearance:** A desktop computer is typically encased in a tower, into which you plug a separate monitor, keyboard, and mouse. Some desktops have the brains of the computer incorporated into the monitor base.
- **A laptop has all its parts (including monitor, keyboard, mouse) in one unit and includes ports for plugging in peripherals such as a mouse, digital camera, MP3 player, or external CD/DVD drive (if the laptop doesn't have one).**
- **Power source:** A desktop computer is powered by plugging it into a wall outlet. A laptop contains a battery; you can run the laptop off of a charged battery, or plug the laptop into a wall outlet.



THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LAPTOPS AND NETBOOKS

Laptops and Netbooks are similar, except that netbooks are lighter in weight, smaller, and more limited in computing ability.

- **Weight:** Where laptops usually weigh in at about 4 to 7 pounds, netbooks weigh 2- pounds or-so.
- **Size:** Netbooks have much smaller screens and keyboards than laptops. Some seniors are a bit challenged by netbooks' tiny keyboards.
- **Ability:** Netbooks typically use the Windows 7 Starter operating system or something similar, which is not as powerful as the full Windows 7 OS laptops use. Still, netbooks can run almost any software a laptop can run, only perhaps more slowly (graphics-hungry games are the most notable exception here).
- **Less expensive:** Netbooks offer a lower price point than laptops at about \$250–\$400 and have pretty good battery life, but some seniors are a bit challenged by their tiny keyboard she most notable exception here).
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