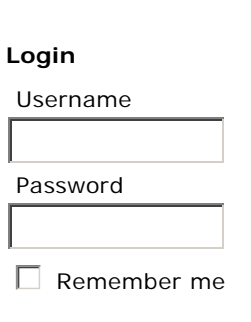


## Tablet PC Training Events



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### News & Links

- Tablet PC News
- Tablet PC Software News
- Tablet PC Web Links
- MSN Tablet PC Chat
- Historical Overview
- Inventing the Tablet PC
- Buy Tablet PCs

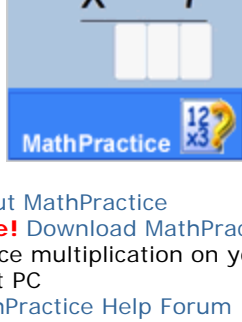
### General Info

- What are Tablet PCs?
- Acer TravelMate C100, C110, & C300 FAQs
- FIC SlateVision
- FIC SlateVision FAQs
- NEC Versa LitePad

### Tips

- Setting Up Your Tablet PC
- Turn Your Tablet PC Into A PhotoCopy Machine
- Teachers' Intro To Tablet PCs
- Tablet PC Tapping Tips
- Tablet PC Microsoft Journal Greeting Card Templates
- Drawing On A Tablet PC
- Tablet PC Music Musings
- Journal and OneNote Tips
- 5 Tips For Improving Handwriting Recognition
- More Tablet PC Tip News

### Tablet PC Software



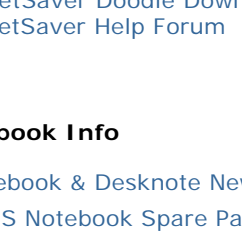
- About MathPractice
- Free! Download MathPractice - Practice multiplication on your Tablet PC
- MathPractice Help Forum



- Free! Download Wallpaper Gyro - Our Tablet PC wallpaper re-orienting utility.
- Wallpaper Gyro Help Forum



- About ShareKMC
- Free! Download ShareKMC - Utility to control your Tablet PC from your workstation
- ShareKMC Help Forum



- About TabletSaver
- Free! Download TabletSaver - Simple, ink-enabled screen saver
- TabletSaver Doodle Downloads
- TabletSaver Help Forum

### Notebook Info

- Notebook & Desknote News
- ASUS Notebook Spare Parts
- ECS Desknotes Help
- ASUS Degatto (D1) Overview

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- Design Tips
- System Help
- Frequently Asked Questions on many topics
- ASUS Motherboard Accessories & Spare Parts

### PC Buyers' Zone Before You Buy

- What Hardware Should I Use?
- Product Comparison Charts
- Product Opinions
- Protect Your Privacy

### General Info

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- Techie Weblog Links

#### Your Information

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#### TabletPCTalk.com



- Today's news
- Discussion Forums

#### TabletPCBbuzz.com



- Today's news
- Discussion Forums

#### Past Articles

- Tuesday, March 02**
  - Extending Computer Power & Display Space
- Monday, March 01**
  - Patient Care Includes Tablet PCs
- Sunday, February 29**
  - Tablet PC Demo Days
- Friday, February 27**
  - A Teacher on Tablets
  - The Braidly Tester
  - Tablet PC with "Florence" by Intel
  - Intel Technology, Economic Recovery Good for PC Growth
- Thursday, February 26**
  - A Few Last Thoughts
  - Tablet PC Mobility
  - Tablet PC Training. San Jose
- Wednesday, February 25**
  - Digital ink software for collecting and linking information on the Tablet PC
  - Exideas Released Version 2.0 of MessagEase for Tablet PCs
- Tuesday, February 24**
  - Messenger With Tablet PCs
  - Asustek likely to land OEM notebook orders from IBM
- Monday, February 23**
  - Microsoft Office System Webcast
  - Students Wanted: Electronic Textbook Evaluation Project - Summer Research
  - Session About Tablet PCs During UC Women's Leadership Conference
  - Wacom and Cross Pens for Tablet PCs Update
  - Oracle Plus Tablet PCs Equal Increased Productivity For Healthcare Workers
  - Healthcare Productivity Software Bundled With Tablet PC
- Sunday, February 22**
  - Photos From Demo 2004 & O'Reilly
- Friday, February 20**
  - UVM Student Excited About Tablet PCs
- Thursday, February 19**
  - Talking Tablet PCs at DEMO
- Wednesday, February 18**
  - Intel Unveils Next-Gen Notebooks
- Tuesday, February 17**
  - Making the ViewSonic Viewpad Run Linux

## Bars, Booths, and Ballrooms at Comdex

Posted by: Lora on Wednesday, November 19, 2003 - 03:21 PM

We were in Las Vegas Sunday through Tuesday and in that short time period we spent most of our time meeting people in bars, booths, and ballrooms. Our goals were simple: learn even more about Tablet PCs: future notebook, desktop, and Tablet PC hardware; and future software. Instead of giving you a blow by blow in chronological order, I'll share with you some highlights.

We should have known as soon as more people than planned arrived at our Tablet PC gathering Sunday night that the Tablet PCs would also be as popular on the Comdex floor the next morning. It isn't just that I'm biased toward Tablet PCs, but it was obvious that two themes captured people's interest: Tablet PCs and Open Source. Anything Tablet PC was "shoving room" only, from the Tablet PC gathering to the Microsoft Pavilion Tablet PC Row to my conversations with notebook manufacturers interested in building Tablet PC. Tablet PCs weren't just on our minds, Tablet PC entered everyone's mind who walked by Tablet PC displays.

One observation is that companies that were actively demonstrating Tablet PC capabilities had more people surrounding them than booths where the Tablet PCs sat like a traditional notebook.

For instance, Electrovaya, though had one of the larger Tablet PC display areas on the general floor of the conference area, had fewer people. My guess is that it was because Electrovaya had its Tablet PCs set up as standard notebooks, and at least while I was standing there people didn't realize there was any pen input. When someone removed the slate style Tablet PC from the keyboard rest or when a passer-byer noticed someone else writing with a pen, people stopped to watch, touch, and ask questions.

Compare this presentation style to the Microsoft's end-cap for Office 2003 or Tatung's extremely large display of its Tablet PCs. Microsoft always had someone actively demonstrating how the Tablet PCs work with Office 2003. No desktops in sight. Tablet PCs were in Tablet mode, so keyboards were hidden. It was all pen and ink. So people randomly passing by would stop, gawk, and then start to interact. Granted, I bet the people running the demos were exhausted by the end of the day. Their activity level was entirely different from the stagnant Tablet PC displays.

Here are some of my notes. They are basic observations, bits of conversations, overheard conversations, and trends:

- All of the new Tablet PCs are very nice.
- Buyers will probably choose Tablet PCs based on personal preference of size, weight and durability, intended use, bundles, support, brand awareness, and price point over strictly performance. (Is this stating the obvious? Not really. Buyers have been concerned about performance of generation 1 Tablet PCs. This issue is now gone. Back to #1 -- all of the new Tablet PCs are nice.)
- Microsoft will release updates for Windows XP Tablet PC Edition early next summer (codename Lonestar). This update will be free to existing Tablet PC owners.
- See Peter's screenshots of Lonestar.
- Acer TravelMate C300 Tablet PC's primary advantage over 14.1" competition is the modular optical bay.

- Toshiba Portégé M200 and M205 Tablet PCs offer a higher resolution. This is good for people running in portrait mode, especially when filling out forms. The dock is very nice too.
- Fujitsu Lifebook 3010 has a nice keyboard.
- Electrovaya mentioned that it is exploring making batteries for some of the other Tablet PC manufacturers. (Most likely this will not include HP.)
- Tatung has an upcoming 14" display and 15" display. They're considering SXGA+ resolution. No commitment yet.
- Tatung 14" display will have Pentium M processor 1GHz. Will post specs separately. See picture on Loren's blog.

- Gateway M275E Tablet PC display is smooth. Disparity is slight near edges of display, so you can actually draw a straight line clear to the edge. Don't get that interference that see with some of the other (generation 1) models. The optical drive is fixed, but it's at least a combo drive.
- ASUS S5N and M5N notebooks -- will definitely have to add as soon as available. S5N has external optical drive and M5N has internal optical drive. Both are sub-notebooks. Support Pentium M processor 1.4GHz - 1.7GHz, 855GME chipset. Would be good Tablet PC size.
- ASUS MyPal A620BT Pocket PC -- watched a movie on it -- display is clear and smooth. ASUS Bluetooth GPS is a perfect size. It uses a Li Rechargeable battery. Can it be modified for USB to use with Tablet PC? Will find out.
- Elitegroup G900 Desktop Replacement -- to be released late spring / early summer. Supports Intel Pentium 4 processor, 800MHz SB, up to 3.2GHz. 17" wide screen display with ATI Mobility Radeon 9600 128MB. Speakers on side. Heavy unit, but is meant to be a desktop. Includes TV tuner and remote control.
- Gigabyte N501 notebook is ready for Dothan. 15" display, Centrino Technology, 5 hour battery life, 2.8kg.

- Gigabyte N201 notebook looks just like a Tablet PC. Nice 12" display size. 1.55kg. 4 cell battery.
- 64-bit supporting motherboards by ASUS and Gigabyte look solid.
- The days of the vintage desktop style computer is numbered. Desktop processors are being integrated into small systems similar to the old portable computer style or old laptop.
- Desktop motherboard and desktop case manufacturers are starting to realize they need to consider alternative designs to remain competitive.
- The AMD / PC Magazine geek contest where people were assembling desktop systems seemed archaic compared with product on display with booths. Overheard people commenting on it too. People appear to expect AMD to improve mobile line. Will it happen?

- Was told by a Tablet PC manufacturer that if the cost of Microsoft Windows XP Tablet PC edition was slightly lower that they would shift all their notebooks over to Tablet PCs and stop making "traditional notebooks".
- Resellers want to be able to be competitive with Tablet PCs. Manufacturers are recognizing that the distribution system needs to be addressed and improved. Open conversations about "how".
- The first "Open Source" area at Comdex was a hit. Companies had been there individually, but this was as group. Bigger impact. KDE very happy about interest. Was not just hype.
- Check out Kwallet in KDE 3.2. Layne interviewed George Staikos and Matthew Stakios at KDE booth.
- OpenOffice.org is excited to learn that a college in Oregon is switching over to its product, as well as a police center.

- "Is Comdex dead?" Heard that a lot usually followed up with, "Will CES be better?" I don't think it's dead, but there are some issues that Comdex and CES will both have to address. The number of people in Tablet PC and Open Source areas was crowded, whereas the other areas was like going to the LA County or California State Fair -- you could walk by, stop and look if you want, but otherwise places had a hard time drawing people in.
- "Is that another Tablet PC?" People are confused about the digital pens that you can use on standard paper that then saves image to desktop versus a Tablet PC. They're also confused about Smart Displays versus Tablet PCs.
- Housewife loved the Electrovaya Tablet PC once she saw she could use a pen.
- Component manufacturers, like ASUS, Gigabyte, Abit, Maxtor, etc. were in ballrooms at hotels and not on the conference floor. This is a less expensive alternative and they could have larger space. If Comdex is going to continue this needs to be addressed.
- What is the deal with wireless Internet access? Tried to connect during lunch and the company wanted just under \$5 for an hour use in conference center Food Court. Fine for companies with expense accounts, but definitely not good for encouraging use. Heard several complaints in multiple areas about wireless access. Bellagio has it right. Other hotels and the conference center need to improve if they're going to keep technology-oriented people coming to Las Vegas.

- Wacom/Cross Executive pens for the Tablet PC look great! How come we couldn't find the guy passing out the pens? lol Linda from TabletPC2.com got one.
- Software, software, software -- people know they need it to DO something with the technology. The hardware is up to speed, now need new software.
- People don't seem to expect a "killer Tablet PC" application, but people do expect to expand uses in their own field. For example, once a physician's consultant saw that his client could use fill out a form using a pen on a Tablet PC he knew he could sell the product to his client. Keep matching appropriate software with appropriate markets.
- Smartphones and camera phones were everywhere. Not on display, but in use. Saw the most people snapping pictures of the seal robot with camera phones. (Very cute, by the way. We took pictures and will post later.)
- Microsoft Tablet PC Team Blogs in ink! www.inklog.com They'll post more information on TabletPC.com later.

- Integration of Tablet PCs into Bill Gates' keynote was smooth. It is consistent with acceptance of product line.
- Tablet PC booths were squished in Microsoft Pavilion. If companies had more space, then I wonder how many more people would have crammed in there? I expect tens more per booth.
- Manufacturers still pay more attention to "review" sites than they do to system builder / reseller channel in hopes of improving sales.
- Ask a question 3 times to desktop component manufacturers, and get a different answer the third time. Example: Q: "How well are these selling?" A: "Good" Q: "Really, you're selling these?" A: "Yes. It's good. Better than it was." Q: "No, you're selling as many as you need to?" A: "No. No, we're not. We aren't even up to full production."
- Several whitebook notebook manufacturers are interested in offering Tablet PCs. Their primary hurdle is Microsoft Windows XP Tablet PC Edition licensing. Since US system builders complete units (add processor, memory, hard drive, and software), they cannot get a license for the operating system.

- Same complaints about Microsoft Windows XP Media Center Edition. An example is the Elitegroup G900 Desktop Replacement designed for Windows XP Media Center. Even though Elitegroup will sell tens of thousands of units through the distribution channel, most of their system builders will only buy a few units each and will not qualify for licensing directly through Microsoft. Several other manufacturers expressed concern about this direction too. This disrupts a large proportion of their potential sales.

- Viewsonic's V1250 Tablet PC looks like a good convertible unit for small business people, schools, and general use.
- Viewsonic V1250 is a big change from Viewsonic's prior product. Specs: Pentium M processor 1GHz; supports up to 768MB of memory; 30GB hard drive; 1GA resolution; 12.1" display; Microsoft Windows XP Tablet PC Edition; MP3 playback; 2 USB 2.0 ports; programmable buttons; 3.9 lbs
- Viewsonic V1250 dock is simple. Power button is next to dock release button. Both buttons are large and easy to use.
- Many people are attracted to the Toshiba Portégé M200 Tablet PC. Toshiba hopes to ship this month. Shipments will be limited this year. Mass production quantities available after new year.
- Heard multiple times that companies are hoping for big, Day-After-Thanksgiving sales.

- Just to repeat -- most importantly, **the changes to Microsoft Windows XP Tablet PC Edition will be free upgrades to existing Tablet PC owners.** The upgrade will be available through Microsoft sometime around June. It will work on the first and second generation Tablet PCs.

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Bars, Booths, and Ballrooms at Comdex | Login/Create an account | 3 Comments

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**Re: Bars, Booths, and Ballrooms at Comdex** (Score: 0) by Anonymous on Nov 20, 2003 - 06:01 AM  
Thanks for the great Tablet recap. I want one, but not at their present price point.

Three years ago, when I was the IT guide on About.com, I penned an article of "What I want for Christmas". It was essentially a Tablet PC inside of a leather portfolio with a keyboard on the left side. And, I specified a price of less than \$1K.

I've been in the computer biz for close to 40 years; I've had computers in my home dating back to the TI-99. But I am price sensitive. Until my purchase of a Toshiba notebook (\$900 after rebates) in August, my last brand name computer was a Trash 80 -- and I bought that used.

If MS is serious about the Tablet, it needs to lower its license fees to lower the cost and then the niche will take off. Last August, I'd have bought a Tablet if I could have found one for \$1K. (I'd have paid a \$100 premium over what I did pay for the Toshiba).

DC Stultz

[ Reply to this ]

- Re: Bars, Booths, and Ballrooms at Comdex by Lora on Nov 20, 2003 - 11:07 AM

**Re: Bars, Booths, and Ballrooms at Comdex (Score: 1) by Lora** (techsupport@esc-tech.com) on Nov 20, 2003 - 11:10 AM  
(User info | Send a message) http://www.ESCstore.com

47. Tatung made a deal with Walmart to offer a lower end Tablet PC to consumers. (Eek. What will this do to Tatung resellers?)

[ Reply to this ]