

iPad vs Kindle Fire

I still look at the iPad & other netbooks as more toys than tools. But I could see benefit of having one - for example when I head out to see my daughter in Washington DC in a couple of weeks, or on a motorcycle trip where I really don't want to take my laptop. Looking mostly to keep up with email, maybe do some internet browsing, and allow me to carry a few "books" without taking up space.

Considering iPad & Kindle Fire. Obviously, iPad has a lot more going for it in terms of storage & available apps. Yet it seems that for my limited purposes, the Kindle Fire might do just as well, and at a considerably smaller price.

Any thoughts?

Between those two, I would take the iPad.

You might also consider a Nook Tablet. It's essentially the same as the Fire, but better processor and it comes with an SD slot. The Kindle Fire limits the amount of storage for non-Amazon purchases to 1Gb and has no external memory option.

Sincerely,

Joshua C. Tisdale, Texas

Android Android Android!!!

Seriously, for the uses you described, the Fire would be excellent. Some web browsing, email, and books. Get the Fire. It's small, portable, and darn cheap. If you lose it or break it, no biggie.

I'll also point out that there are many other Android options that fit between the Fire and the iPad. The Fire is only 7", which might be a good or bad thing depending upon what you want (more portable, but less screen space).

The original Asus Transformer can be purchased for \$392 on Amazon (maybe cheaper other places). I have one, and I love it. 10.1" screen and every feature I need.

<http://www.amazon.com/Transformer-TF101-A1-10-1-Inch-Tablet-Separately/dp/B004U78J1G>

Plus, it recently had a meeting with the floor. Screen wouldn't display anything. I thought I was out \$400 (actually, I got mine using a coupon at Office Depot, so it was \$300). But Asus fixed it good as new for FREE. I had to do without it for about 2 weeks, but I lived. That service experience alone impressed the heck out of me. There was no visible damage; if there was, I bet they would've charged for the repair.

Anyway... for what you mentioned, I think you'd enjoy the Fire.

Andrew

Andrew Flusche, Virginia

The iPad, hands down. It is much more responsive than the Kindle products and allows much more customization.

As for whether it's a tool or a toy? It is only a toy if you make it so. It is a tremendously powerful tool. Depending on your practice areas you will find a wide assortment of applications that will make it go-to in your arsenal.

For instance, on the weekends I hardly ever need to boot up my primary computer, I can do most of my weekend reading of cases, blogs, and treatises right on the iPad, as well as mark them up. I get my work email on my iPad's native mail tool (it's copied from my Outlook mail), and I have access to my GMail and Yahoo mail accounts. Even my phone messages are forwarded to my iPad (as mail). I can read any number of newspapers (and magazines) both subscription and free.

And I can do actual work on my iPad. From managing office documents to using client spreadsheets, to working with PDFs and producing documents from scratch.

I am very sold on the iPad and I haven't even scratched the surface of it's utility.

I would recommend getting a 32Gb enabled for 3 G communication. If you can wait I would also suggest holding out until the new version is released in June, or thereabout.

Roger Traversa, Pennsylvania

How do you go about getting your phone messages sent as e-mail? Thanks!

David Rubin, Missouri

All are admirable options. I would recommend either of them over the fire. It's a really neat device, but it is Amazon's baby, and they've hamstrung it as mentioned by others. Even more so than iPad in that it lacks as big an app store. Also the limited memory which is dedicated to non-Amazon apps. I've also been told that to fully use the device as intended you need a premium Amazon service account called Prime which is upwards of \$80 a year. I lump the fire in with an Xbox over ps3. Why would I want to pay to play games online? Ps3 doesn't do that and neither does iPad or Android devices.

Clark V. Stewart, Alabama

As to whether it's a toy - I used mine to spring a girl from jail at 3am once where the release order never made it to the jail, and I was able to fax from email to the jail and get her out - all without leaving my bed using an iPad. It's utility is in how you use it. Mine's a beast by those standards. I even run my web page admin work from it.

Clark V. Stewart

I have a VoIP system from 8x8. I set it up to send my voice messages to me via email. It can send them as text, or .wav files, or both. I didn't like the quality of the text, so I just use the .wav file. But that rocks. I often see a message on my mobile devices before it is available on my phone (only a few seconds difference). On my phone or iPad I can listen to the message and then tap the highlighted phone number to call back. I'm still not comfortable with using my iPad as a phone (I yell at it even though it isn't required) but the capability is there, and I only have a wifi model. I imagine it works better with a 3G.

I used to use Vonage and they had a similar setup. I assume all VoIP providers can do this.

Roger Traversa

Often you get what you pay for. XBox Live costs more than PSN because it is a superior product. The user base is much larger, support from developers is better, and there is substantially more downloadable content available. Furthermore, XBox's exclusive content in some genres (Halo, and Gears of War in FPS games) is also substantially better than what's available for PS3.

Kindle Fire is a bit limited but it is meant to be a Kindle with some tablet capabilities, not a full-fledged tablet with a Kindle reader attached. Amazon Prime content is mostly unlimited access to movies and TV shows at no additional cost, but it basically just turns the Fire into a video player. The iPad (and more expensive Android Tablets) are full-fledged computers.

Kevin W. Grierson, Virginia

I can second the recommendation for the Asus Transformer. I got it mostly because I like new gadgets, but it is now my go-to computer when I'm at home. I hardly ever boot up the laptop any more, because the Transformer lets me do everything, or at least everything I do while at home -- web browsing, games, email, calendaring -- and it's easy and intuitive to use. The only caveat is that I wouldn't recommend any tablet (yet) for document creation (such as legal pleadings), but I'm sure that day will come.

Russell D. Gray, Utah

"Looking mostly to keep up with email, maybe do some internet browsing, and allow me to carry a few "books" without taking up space."

You can do all that with a Kindle Fire. It costs \$200. It's a fun toy; won't make you more productive. My Kindle is just for basic internet browsing, some emailing, listening to music, storing my books, and maybe a game here and there. That's about it. It's much easier to carry than a laptop.

I've never seen the utility of an iPad. They're expensive.

A. Jordan Rushie

Also, Amazon Prime is totally worth it. You get free two day shipping on everything. If you use Amazon as your primary source of getting office supplies, it pays for itself almost immediately.

You also get unlimited streaming video, which you can watch from you Kindle. I watched The Tudors over Christmas. Might even watch the entire Star Trek: The Next Generation.

In short, Kindle Fire is a great, cheap little tablet to watch movies, listen to music, browse the internet, basic email, etc. Just don't expect it to replace your laptop.

A. Jordan Rushie

Funny that you say that: we got our daughter (age 18, a freshman in college) a Kindle Fire for Christmas. After a few days of playing around with it she announced "I'll never be productive again!"

Michael A. Koenecke, Texas

What he said.

I love it for the free two day shipping. I rarely shop at brick & mortar stores.

If you have a Kindle (of any variety) and a Prime subscription, you get FREE new releases and lots of other titles through the Amazon Lending Library. It's a very cool benefit to being a Kindle owner + Prime subscriber. I've bought a couple books recently that I could've read for free if I owned a Kindle.

Lending Library:

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html/?docId=1000739811>

Andrew

Andrew Flusche

Who needs external memory when you have Dropbox?

I bought my ipad from the Apple.com store. It was refurbished, first generation. \$399. You don't need the top-of-the-line model. It does everything everyone else is describing.

Monica Elkinton, Alaska
