



Windows 8 and BYOD, embrace the trend

Microsoft® has not only acknowledged the age of consumerization and the 'bring your own device' (BYOD) trend, but is offering a closer union of mobile devices and traditional client desktops with Windows® 8.



Windows 8 for the desktop and mobile form factor (that's tablet in geek-speak) will be cross-platform. That means a unified end-user experience will be provided from the Windows 8 mobile phone, to tablet, to desktop. All of this is a good thing for those interested in BYOD, as users often move back and forth between their personal mobile device and business desktop during the day. IT departments will also have an easier time managing Windows 8 BYOD devices because of their IT-friendly features.

Mobility devices that are entering the market and workplace need to strike a balance between security and usability. To meet this need, Dell's new Windows 8 devices have been designed from the ground up with BYOD in mind. They embrace both the personal and professional needs of end users and IT needs. Neil Hand, vice president of Dell's personal computing products group stated at a recent event that, "Users need freedom. Businesses need control and management. The proliferation of devices is helping explode the amount of data for the consumer and business professional." The new portfolio includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- The XPS™ 12 is a state-of-the-art convertible Ultrabook™ that is made for the professional to bring to work. It converts from laptop into a tablet by just flipping the hinge for the versatility that an end user needs, but is durably designed with a rigid, reinforced frame and Corning® Gorilla® Glass so it can stand up to the work world. And it's available with custom configuration service and optional Dell ProSupport™ to make IT's job easier.
- The XPS 10 tablet, which is optimized for Windows® RT, integrates easily with your software management and IT systems, with full access to support and networking options. Plus, it's business-ready right out of the box with built-in Office 2013 RT, video collaboration tool and a mobile keyboard that extends battery life.
- The Latitude™ 6430u Ultrabook provides professionals with the features business demands that also include 10 hours of battery life, wireless docking and device management capabilities to warm the hearts of IT administrators.
- The Latitude 10 is focused primarily around the business user. This new device offers up to 18 hours of battery life (batteries can be swapped out), a docking solution for the office and extended storage capabilities.

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For those running Microsoft System Center, the manageability of Windows 8 devices is easier with the release of a new service pack. This is significant because it will address management of not only your Windows desktop clients and servers, but now Windows 8 phone and Windows RT for tablets. If you want to use the cloud in your business, you may be interested in Microsoft's cloud management solution, Windows Intune. If you are running iOS and Android devices, Windows Intune and Microsoft System Center can manage these devices as well via Exchange ActiveSync (EAS).

There are some other enhancements and new offerings that Windows 8 introduces to the IT professional.

- **Need to use a non-work tablet or laptop?** No problem! Windows To Go is a portable yet fully manageable Windows 8 desktop environment for business users. The whole thing exists on a bootable external USB stick that will work with any Windows or Windows 8 PC. This will allow IT organizations to enable BYOD as well as providing temporary staff access to the corporate environment without compromising security.
- **Speaking of security,** Windows 8 and AppLocker can reduce data access issues by restricting access to apps and files to specific users or groups. AppLocker has been around since Windows 7 but has been refreshed for Windows 8.
- **Ubiquitous data access** is becoming easier with DirectAccess in Windows 8. DirectAccess is an alternative for remote PCs to connect to your IT infrastructure without having to use a VPN. The main advantage of DirectAccess is that it allows admins to fully manage the connecting PC by policy. In addition, IT administrators can keep these users' laptops and tablets in compliance by applying the latest policies and software updates. DirectAccess is a part of Windows 7; however the technology has been refined with Windows 8.
- **BranchCache** is a new technology with Windows 8. BranchCache lets user's cache web content and files from a central server, especially Windows Server 2012. This reduces the amount of WAN traffic on your IT infrastructure.

- **Unified applications** across the Windows 8 ecosystem will be much more prevalent. This is due in part to Microsoft streamlining its API architecture. Another critical component of this unification is support for HTML v5. This new standard is intended to give web apps the ability to work on the latest OS but still function on previous OS, e.g. Windows 7.



Why should you, the IT professional, be considering an upgrade to Windows 8 and new devices? New Windows 8 notebooks, tablets and convertibles from Dell offer your corporate users the choices and user experience they want. And, Windows 8 offers IT security and management options that they require in order to provide a seamless experience no matter what device people are using. This will enhance productivity, reduce device management time and give users the best possible experience.

