

Speed School Tablet PC Survey

A survey was sent to the 366 incoming freshmen for Fall 2007. This was the first class required to purchase a tablet. Here is a summary of the 60 responses (16% return rate).

Which tablet did you purchase?

Gateway 285/295.....	37%
Gateway E155	18%
HP Pavilion TX1XXX	15%
HP TC 4400	8%
Gateway C140X.....	7%
Lenovo ThinkPad X60/61.....	7%
Fujitsu Lifebook T4220.....	3%
Other.....	5%

Approximate price of purchase:

Lowest	\$1000
Average	\$1773
Highest.....	\$3300

How was tablet purchased?

Speed School Discount.....	66%
Retail Outlet	20%
Direct from vendor	14%

Which software from the Speed School package have you used?

Matlab	93%
MS Office	83%
Solid Edge	74%
Vista OS.....	70%
Mathcad	32%
Minitab	12%
LabView	5%

Helpfulness of having demos at orientation?

Helpful.....	61%
No opinion.....	22%
Not helpful.....	17%

Overall acquisition experience?

Scale (1:Poor; 5:Excellent)	2.6
Largest response	Poor: 29%

How often do you use your tablet in Speed classes?

Scale (1:Never; 5:Frequently)	3.3
Largest response	Frequently: 39%
Never	20%

How often do you use your tablet in A&S classes?

Scale (1:Never; 5:Frequently)	2.7
Largest response	Never: 35%
Frequently.....	20%

How often do you use your tablet outside of class?

Scale (1:Never; 5:Frequently)3.7
Largest responseFrequently: 43%
Never7%

Did you experience problems with having power for your tablet?

No65%
Yes.....35%

Classroom facilities equipped for tablet?

Scale (1:Poor; 5:Excellent)2.9
Largest responseAverage: 35%

Overall satisfaction with your tablet PC?

Scale (1:Very dissatisfied; 5:Very Satisfied)3.1
Largest responseSatisfied: 47%
Dissatisfied/very dissatisfied33%
Tablet with highest level of satisfaction.....Gateway E155 (73%)
Tablet with highest level of dissatisfactionHP Pavilion 1XXX (44%)

Overall satisfaction with software provide by tech fee?

Scale (1:Very dissatisfied; 5:Very Satisfied)3.9
Largest responseSatisfied: 45%
Dissatisfied/very dissatisfied8%

Satisfaction with amount of usage in classroom?

Scale (1:Very dissatisfied; 5:Very Satisfied)2.8
Largest responseSatisfied: 30%
Dissatisfied/very dissatisfied42%

Have you experienced any hardware problems with your tablet?

Yes.....58%
No42%
For those with repairsMean of 2 repairs with 1 week turn-around

Recommend continuation of mandatory tablet PC program?

No63%
Yes.....37%

Advantages of tablets:

1. I'd be hard pressed to find an advantage.
2. taking notes is much less strenuous. also much more convenient when you don't have to carry so many note books around.
3. Easy, one stop note taking
4. It's easier to take notes... sometimes.
5. dont have to go to library
6. easier to organize, less to carry around
7. Good for notes
8. Don't have to carry around paper and books (all on tablet.)
9. they have a good writing program that you can use to take notes in and keep things very well organized
10. Space saver (no binders). DyKnow/Powerpoint with marking ability.
11. notes
12. Ease of note taking, ease of research, convenience of having all notes in one place and ability to access internet anywhere.
13. For Dell: Lots of money from students For HP: Lots of money from students. For Gateway: Lots of money from students. For Students: Games and facebook in class.
14. Notes are in one place and they are easily organized. much less paper is needed. have internet in the class room (but this can also be a distraction)
15. I see none whatsoever!
16. good for taking notes if you don't have an HP tx1000
17. I love how you can take notes on the tablet. I use the tablet in everyone of my classes. It is very handy to have all your notes on your computer and not in seperate notebooks
18. Dyknow is great because there is no need to purchase a course pack and it is great being able to pay attention instead of try and take lots of notes.
19. you don't have to haul around a lot of paper; teachers can give you notes easily
20. note taking is easier, swivel monitor makes things nice
21. none i dont like it
22. Needed a laptop anyway Sometimes useful for homework if no paper is available (during road trips, in airports etc.)
23. Keeping notes organized during classes. They come in handy for artistic assignments I have had (Example: I had to draw a comic book for my english class and i used my tablet, it made it much easier). I also found it helpful with some games oddly enough.
24. They are convenient for those who *want* to use them. Onenote is a great peice of software.
25. Organization Efficiency of of notetaking Ease Cool technology
26. You are able to write notes and keep everything organized in one place if you chose to do so.
27. They help with calculus notes and are easy to carry around.
28. touchscreen, DyKnow, finger scan
29. It is convenient to carry around one computer, instead of notebooks and paper.
30. Having all your notes in one place DyKnow
31. show off the fact that your screen turns , that's it...NO PRACTICAL USES!
32. You can write on the screen, although I haven't used it for writing at all
33. Tablet function
34. interactive - but at what price
35. Longer Battery, Adjustable screen.
36. you can take notes on your computer instead of carrying a binder for each class
37. None
38. very useful and convenient
39. Easy notes Cool vanity item
40. good for taking notes and beig able to suppliment them with computer content
41. None we don't use them and that's 2000 dollars down the drain for absolutely no reason
42. Note-taking Up to date with the Technology implemented now in engineering
43. One can take notes electronically and access all notes ever taken. One can have constant access to Facebook.

Disadvantages of tablets:

1. The text limit in this box would probably prevent me from listing all the disadvantages.
2. heavy some times, cables needed, software issues, expensive
3. Internet accessibility in class. distracting
4. It's expensive, Vista is an abomination, a NORMAL laptop would work fine assuming we don't HAVE to take written notes on it...
5. money, distraction during class
6. can easily get distracted with having a tablet and trying to take notes
7. A huge rip-off WE are poor college students, and these tablets are really expensive. You can get the same hardware w/o tablet functions for \$1000 less.
8. Heavy! If it messes up and all your notes are stored on your tablet, you're SOL.
9. not as good as a college-ruled notebook that you handwrite things in because in order to look at your notes from class your computer must be on
10. Distraction. Reliance on power outlets (need a few more in EH Auditorium on ground maybe). If it crashes you lose your works.
11. n/a
12. They are a constant theft threat.
13. They are expensive. I could play my pokemon emulator on a much cheaper regular notebook.
14. Dependent on the functionality of the computer. For example if the tablet crashes you could lose all notes. also dependent on having a power source.
15. They cost double the amount of a similarly equipped laptop. They haven't been used in class - granted computers are used, but the tablet capability wasn't necessary. Students could have gotten away with just a laptop. Pens for them cost a lot If you take notes on them and they crash, you're just out of luck.
16. Price
17. My tablet doesn't have the graphic capabilities I wanted for certain games. I have no school related disadvantages to using a tablet.
18. They don't have a lot of processor power so they are useless for most other programs.
19. cost; if your computer crashes you could lose all your assignments/notes
20. screen problems
21. hardware is bad. i dont use the pen feature, and the computer is built for the pen so i cannot maximize the hardware for things that i like.
22. Expensive, unnecessary, not used in class, way too much to spend when tuition is so high, fewer support options than normal laptops, more expensive than normal laptops, people with laptops don't pay attention in class, if classes forced you to use them then a broken tablet could hurt your grades, just not needed very much, delivery took a long time and replacement parts take just as long to arrive (Gateway made me wait 6 weeks for a replacement stylus)
23. None.
24. All of the tablets have very little computing power. They are excessively prone to malfunction. Stuck with MS software. Crappy companies like fujitsu offer little to no customer support or repair services (for computers under warranty). Ohh and they're FREAKING EXPENSIVE!!!
25. none that I can think of, except maybe cost
26. If you do not choose to keep notes in it you didn't need it for school. I and many friends have had many problems with software and the actual tablet construction itself. I like the ability to write on it, but it was not needed and if given a choice I would chose a regular laptop.
27. They are pretty costly.
28. easy to damage, uses alot of battery in class
29. The price, do not actually have to use the tablet function for anything! The only thing I use it for is notes, and that's because I paid for it so I might as well use it. No teachers require it, or even use its unique functionality.
30. cost, sometimes hard to keep charge, any problems that cause the tablet to not function means you lose all your notes
31. only available with windows...vista sucks! it didn't always work right. it was never actually necessary to use a tablet in class.
32. Cost more than a normal computer, am I right?

33. Tablet technology is relatively new and not perfectly integrated with some operating systems and programs.
34. expensive burdensome
35. Non that i can think of
36. EAC was the only class that made the tablet worth using. EAC was also the only class that had enough power outlets to use it.
37. mine is prone to hardware issues
38. Distraction in classes Poor planning Poor quality Most teachers don't use We have done nothing that has required a tablet.
39. everything that i've done on my tablet i could have done with a normal notebook pc. the most capable tablet pc's on the market now still don't have the computing power of my two year old notebook and the tablet costs more. there aren't enough tablet freindly programs, this was way way too soon to start requiring tablets
40. Don't use them and expensive
41. weight of carrying it around
42. Cost, cost, cost! Reliability issues. Pens sometimes frustratingly inaccurate. No power, no access to notes.

Recommendations to incoming freshmen/administration:

1. larger screens mean less stylist sencativity
2. Get a regular laptop and forget about writing on the screen, it is useless, expensive, and insures you get a slower laptop... Nothing we have done so far has required a tablet instead of a regular laptop.
3. Tablets are a waste of money.
4. DO NOT GET THE GATEWAY 285 TABLET!! IT'S TERRIBLE!
5. For the tablet program to be more successful, students need to be taught the functions and programs of the tablet to use it for general education classes. ENGR 101-205 (including 150) use tablet well. Not a fan of DyKnow. Dr. xxxx (CECS) used powerpoints slides and used the markup feature to teach. As long as the students can download the powerpoints then they can switch back and forth between units (a problem in ENGR 101,102 so far). Professors will not have to worry about doing all the work because PP does not use a server to transfer handwriting (students are capable of writing objectives and filling slides).
6. Don't buy a tablet.
7. If the administration is going to continue using tablets encourage more professors to make use of the tablet. Also remodel more class rooms to have more outlets since some batteries last not even 2 hours.
8. Don't require tablets, just require regular laptops. Students would be able to have better machines for less money and I haven't seen any true advantages of tablets versus a regular computer.
9. DO NOT RECOMMEND THE HP TX1000 TABLET PC. IT IS TERRIBLE!!!
10. Teach the students how to use and catagorize One Note at the beginning of the semester; not the last week of GES. For freshman I would say that everyone should just try using their tablet in every class for at least a couple days to see if they like using the tablet compared to regular pen and papter.
11. Make more classes use Dyknow, make tablets optional, because you can still do everything with the tablet in notebook mode, (I did due to my pen not working consistently). The ability to write on screen is cool but not really all that useful.
12. I am happy with my tablet, but I don't think it should be required. It is possible to learn most non-computer the material without using the tablet. Therefore the tablet is just an extra that puts a dent in your wallet even if you prefer to learn off paper.
13. avoid touch screens
14. let them get what ever computer they want as long it will run the programs you require
15. I don't think it is a good idea for tablets to be mandatory. I really haven't used it in class very much because I can replace most of its functions with a piece of paper. Having a laptop in class is just a distraction and it makes it harder to pay attention. They are also very expensive, and combined with rapidly rising tuition the expense can be a pretty big burden. Mandatory laptops would be more sensible, and I can see an argument for them, but mandatory tablets are too expensive and are not necessary. It is possible to run all of the software needed for my classes on a regular laptop without a tablet screen. My advice to incoming freshmen would be not to buy one because I have only used it a couple of times in class. Despite the fact that it is mandatory it would be easy to go the entire year without one without anyone noticing. I don't mean to sound rude or harsh, but those are my feelings on the matter.

16. Don't be afraid to pay the few extra dollars for a nice tablet over an o.k. tablet. Direct purchasing from the IT store is an excellent idea.
17. don't REQUIRE tablets. it's not worth it we never used strickly tablet functionality in classes ever. They should also realize that the "mandatory" tablet program isn't exactly mandatory. i know people who still don't have tablets and i regret my descision to buy one everyday.
18. Get a larger battery or an extra one. I did, and have been happy with it.
19. It is unnessary to require tablets for incoming freshman.
20. none
21. small screens are easier to carry and handle
22. I would not go with Gateway. They have the worst customer service, they lie, hang up on you, do not send out replacement parts when they say they will. I had to have a Professor talk to them in order to get my computer replaced after 11 problems, including a complete motherbored replacement. That is absolutely ridiculous, and I can't believe that Speed still has an account with them after the numerous problems people have had. I expect more from an institution that recommends a product.
23. DO NO REQUIRE TABLETS! THEY ARE NOT A NECESSITY! I'D HAVE RATHER BOUGHT A MAC!
24. I personally do not believe the tablet PC's should have been mandatory. Many people would have been better off with a "typical" notebook.
25. why don't you try getting your faculty to acknowledge their presence and attempt to use them rather than just having purchased a \$1500+ pad of paper.
26. Dont give up on it because it made a mistake or you dont get it right away.
27. To administration: Teach freshman how to use tablets in GES before the end of their 1st semester so they can actually know how to use the tablet part of their computer.
28. Don't go into engineering.
29. SCRAP THE PROGRAM Note: This program would have been good had all the teachers got on board. We have done NOTHING that has required a tablet PC. I could have done everything that has been assigned with a normal laptop or desktop. At no time during my freshman year have I had to use the tablet function on my laptop. Dyknow can be utilized with a normal laptop, as can OneNote and Journal. I feel that most students overspent on their Tablet and did not get enough memory and other hardware needs because that just drove the price up even more. This whole program has been a huge ***** in my opinion. With that said, I think the program is salvagable, but I'm not going to hold my breath.
30. Freshman: Try to get away with using a regular notebook, you can buy a good notebook computer for the ammount of bad tablet. Admin: Using a new technology when it first comes out is never a good idea, especially when it runs on Windows. Allow students to use regular notebooks for a few years and then switch back to tablets when all of the bugs have been worked out and there are more tablet friendly programs.
31. Help pay for tablets...
32. Don't buy one even if mandatory you won't use them
33. Better service from the tablet providers
34. Get the cheapest tablet you can because no professors or courses require the use of a tablet.