

What is an iPad?

The iPad is a tablet computer designed, developed and marketed by Apple primarily as a platform for audio-visual media including books, periodicals, movies, music, games, and web content. At about 1.5 pounds (680 grams), its size and weight fall between those of contemporary smart phones and laptop computers.

Test drive the iPad at Best Buy

		
Apple 16GB iPad With Wi-Fi	Apple 32GB iPad With Wi-Fi	Apple 64GB iPad With Wi-Fi & 3G
Our Price: \$549.99	Our Price: \$649.99	Our Price: \$879.99
★★★★☆ 3.6	★★★★★ 4.2	★★★★☆ 3.8
Quick View	Quick View	Quick View

These prices were as of January 14, 2011 from the Best Buy web site.

The iPad comes loaded with 12 next-generation multi-touch applications, including the Safari browser and redesigned Mail application. Also included are iPod and iTunes apps as well as YouTube, Maps, App Store, Notes, Calendar, Contacts and iBooks.

It's important to point out that the iPad isn't a computer.

It will communicate with a wireless Internet connection via built-in Wi-Fi. You would be subject to the same Wi-Fi hotspot limitations with this iPad model as you would a notebook computer. The Wi-Fi + 3G model allows you more freedom to browse the Internet and check e-mail. By utilizing similar wireless and cellular technology found in the iPhone, you can tap into the Internet using 3G service, but it'll cost you. If you go this route, not only will you pay an additional \$130 for the 3G-enabled device, *(you'll need to purchase one of two 3G data plans through AT&T. Plan on an additional \$15 or \$30 per month, depending on how much data you want. Regardless of which plan you choose, as of this writing,*

you don't have to lock into a contract. If you choose to, you can purchase 3G data sporadically, depending on how much you intend to use. This information and pricing is from the United States) If you do choose the Wi-Fi + 3G model, don't expect to be walking around holding the device up to your ear and calling your friends. Like with the iPhone and iPod Touch, you'll be able to access all your social networking sites and use e-mail on the run, but the iPad isn't a phone. When you pay for 3G service, it's for data only.

Like every other portable device in Apple's line, you can't replace the iPad's battery. Should you get to the end of the iPad battery's lifespan, which Apple estimates is around five years, you would send your device to Apple for a replacement at a cost of \$99. That may not be so bad, considering batteries are usually expensive for portable devices and five years is much longer than you'd get out of many batteries in other devices.