

BUSINESS & CAREERS



iPad **OR** PlayBook?

Now is the time for lawyers to invest in a tablet device

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Has all the buzz around tablets set your head spinning? Not sure what to make of it all?

You're not alone. Early adopters define them in techspeak and leave the other 95 per cent of us to struggle with their jargon.

Don't let the techspeak discourage you — tablets are worth checking out.

What are tablets?

Essentially slate-like devices, their touch screens have proven intuitive enough to sell millions of tablets over the past year. Basic email, web surfing and social media, as well as entertainment and gaming, work well on tablets. Battery life tends to be stellar, and the whole package is far lighter than notebooks.

The biggest drawback? Unless you get a separate keyboard, you likely won't

write your next brief on a tablet. (I wrote drafts of three articles about the iPad using an iPad and Apple's Pages word processor, but I wouldn't want to handle revision on it.)

Three major players dominate today's tablet market: Apple, Google and Research in Motion.

Apple iPad

The market leader (no other tablet is even close at this point), the iPad has it all: great performance, thousands of apps, a wide selection of accessories, and a price point which competing tablet makers are struggling to meet.

While not necessarily failings, some people knock the iPad for:

- not including a USB port to handle things like external storage devices;
- Apple's "walled garden" (aka App Store) approach, in which Apple controls the applications you can put on your device.

BlackBerry PlayBook

BlackBerry fans (in other words, just about every lawyer I know) will at least check out the PlayBook. The larger screen, even if it's smaller than the iPad's, makes using applications far more pleasant, a less squinty experience.

A PlayBook won't give you email or PIM apps if you don't have a BlackBerry to tether it to, but the flip side of that limitation is that if you lose the PlayBook, you don't lose that information.

Less forgivable: while the PlayBook's screen is smaller and third-party apps scarcer, its price is comparable to the iPad's.

Google Android-based tablets

Google makes its Android phone and tablet operating systems free to hardware makers, so you can pick up models from Motorola (which, at press

time, Google is trying to buy), HTC, LG and others.

Android's selection of third-party tablet apps ought to compare to that for Apple in short order. Just don't get pirated apps — Android phone owners have already suffered malware attacks thanks to such indiscretions.

Tablet shopping: a primer

The first question many people ask is "Which tablet should I get?" Let me suggest a better one: "Can a tablet prove useful to me?" This second question leads to more questions which, once answered, provide the answer to the first.

So let's flesh out the second question.

What tablets can handle the tasks you perform daily?

If you only want to perform generic tasks like web browsing, email, calendaring and contact lookups, just about

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Tablet, laptop or netbook? Choice is yours

Tablets

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any tablet will do.

But if you use third-party applications like task managers, file sharing tools or document readers with annotation features, check the tablet's third-party application market.

Will the tablet operating system be around next year?

In August, tech titan Hewlett-Packard stopped producing HP TouchPads, only to start again. Since nobody but HP makes tablets run by WebOS (formerly of Palm Inc., which HP bought last year), expect the WebOS market — devices, third-party applications, support — to languish.

Will you show other people things on your tablet?

If you're going to share your screen, check out larger tablets.

Will the tablet work with other devices and applications you use?

Need to synchronize information with your computer, phone or Microsoft Exchange? Chances are there's an app for that. Check the tablet's app store to make sure.

Will IT support bless the device?

Probably. Partners and upper-level staff are demanding that firms support their devices. And many IT departments are wising up, realizing that they can't just say no anymore. Still, ask your IT people about the devices they currently support. While you're at it, get their opinions on the right device for you.

Do you need cellular access, or will Wi-Fi suffice?

If you can make do accessing the Internet using Wi-Fi hotspots (and not needing cellular access),

you save money in both the initial purchase price and by forgoing the cost of a data plan for your tablet.

Will the battery last all day?

Tablets ought to provide at least a full day's use on one charge.

Are you being overcharged?

The six models of the market-leading Apple iPad can be had for prices ranging from less than \$600 to less than \$1,000, taxes included. Other tablets should not be pricier.

Malware threats

Digital criminals have yet to truly target tablets, but if an August McAfee report entitled "McAfee Threats Report: Second Quarter 2011" is any indication, they're aiming for Android phones above all. ■



We want to hear from you!
Email us at: tlw@lexisnexis.ca

Laptops **VS.** netbooks

The current focus on flashy tablet devices takes away from the fact that they're meant to serve a purpose — your mobile computing needs. Remember, other devices may serve your needs just as well.

Laptops

Pros

They've been around for so long they're easy to overlook, but they're still mobile workhorses.

They're easy to tote, and since they work like desktop computers the learning curve isn't too steep. They support sophisticated applications and feature a physical keyboard, a must for creating long documents.

Cons

Laptops generally cost more than tablets, and desktops with equivalent technology. They're heavier and take longer to start than tablets.

Netbooks

Pros

Slightly smaller and less expensive than full-size laptops, netbooks handle everyday computing tasks with aplomb.

Cons

They're cheaper for several reasons. For one, they're made with older technology, so they're slower and rarely have as much hard disk or memory capacity as laptops. They also have no optical drives and cramped keyboards and screens. And their slight low-price advantage can't hold given the coming competition from tablets.



JUDICIAL VACANCY ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE PARRY SOUND BILINGUAL POSITION

The Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee advises the Attorney General of Ontario on the appointment of Judges to the Ontario Court of Justice, and invites applications for a bilingual judicial position in Parry Sound.

This appointment involves presiding over family and criminal law matters and could also involve travel within or beyond the regional boundaries as assigned by the Regional Senior Justice and/or the Chief Justice.

The minimum requirement to apply to be a Judge in the Ontario Court of Justice is **ten years completed** membership as a barrister and solicitor at the Bar of one of the Provinces or Territories of Canada.

All candidates must apply either by submitting 14 copies of the **current** (Jan 2011) completed Judicial Candidate Information Form in the first instance or by a short letter (14 copies) if the current form has been submitted within the **previous 12 months**. **Should you wish to change any information in your application, you must send in 14 copies of a fully revised Judicial Candidate Information Form.**

If you wish to apply and need a current Judicial Candidate Information Form, or if you would like further information, please contact:

Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee
Tel: (416) 326-4060. Fax: (416) 212-7316
Website: www.ontariocourts.on.ca/jaac/en/

All applications, either sent by courier, mail or hand delivery, **must** be sent to:

Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee
c/o Ministry of Government Services Mail Delivery
77 Wellesley Street West, Room M2B-88
Macdonald Block, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1N3

Applications must be on the current prescribed form and must be **TYPEWRITTEN** or **COMPUTER GENERATED** and **RECEIVED BY 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 30, 2011**. **CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE 14 COPIES OF THEIR APPLICATION FORM OR LETTER**. A Fax copy will be accepted only if 14 copies of the application or letter are sent concurrently by overnight courier. Applications received after this date **WILL NOT** be considered.

The Judiciary of the Ontario Court of Justice should reasonably reflect the diversity of the population it serves. Applications from members of equality-seeking groups are encouraged.



POSTE À POURVOIR AU SEIN DE LA MAGISTRATURE COUR DE JUSTICE DE L'ONTARIO PARRY SOUND POSTE BILINGUE

Le Comité consultatif sur les nominations à la magistrature conseille le Procureur général de l'Ontario sur les nominations de juges à la Cour de justice de l'Ontario et invite les personnes intéressées à présenter leur demande au poste de juge bilingue à Parry Sound.

Cette nomination comprend la présidence de questions mettant en cause des instances de droit de la famille et de droit criminel et pourrait exiger des déplacements à l'intérieur ou au-delà des limites régionales, selon les directives du juge principal régional et / ou du juge en chef.

Pour pouvoir poser sa candidature à un poste de juge à la Cour de justice de l'Ontario, il faut, comme condition minimale, avoir été inscrit comme avocat-plaidant et procureur au barreau de l'une des provinces ou de l'un des territoires du Canada **pendant au moins dix ans**.

Tous les candidats et candidates doivent poser leur candidature soit, dans le premier cas, en présentant le Formulaire de renseignements sur le candidat/la candidate à la magistrature **courant** (jan 2011), soit en envoyant une courte lettre (en 14 exemplaires) si le formulaire courant a été présenté au cours des **12 mois précédents**. **En cas de changements à apporter à un formulaire déjà envoyé, le candidat ou la candidate doit envoyer à nouveau 14 exemplaires du formulaire de renseignements corrigé.**

Si vous voulez poser votre candidature et que vous avez besoin d'un Formulaire de renseignements sur le candidat/la candidate à la magistrature courant, ou encore si vous souhaitez obtenir de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec :

Comité consultatif sur les nominations à la magistrature
Téléphone : (416) 326-4060 Télécopieur : (416) 212-7316
Site Web : www.ontariocourts.on.ca/jaac/fr/

Toutes les demandes envoyées par service de messagerie, par la poste ou en main propre **doivent** être soumises à l'adresse suivante :

Comité consultatif sur les nominations à la magistrature
a/s Ministère des Services gouvernementaux - Services de distribution du courrier
77, rue Wellesley Ouest, salle M2B-88
Édifice Macdonald, Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1N3

Les demandes de candidature doivent être déposées par l'entremise du formulaire prescrit courant et **DACTYLOGRAPHIÉES** ou **CRÉÉES PAR ORDINATEUR** et **reçues au plus tard à 16 h 30 le vendredi 30 septembre 2011**. **LES CANDIDATS ET CANDIDATES DOIVENT FOURNIR 14 EXEMPLAIRES DE LEUR FORMULAIRE OU DE LEUR LETTRE DE CANDIDATURE**. Une télécopie ne sera acceptée que si 14 exemplaires du formulaire ou de la lettre de candidature sont également envoyés par service de messagerie de 24 heures. On n'accordera **AUCUNE** considération aux candidatures reçues après cette date.

La magistrature provinciale doit refléter raisonnablement la diversité de la population qu'elle sert. Nous encourageons les membres de groupes de promotion de l'égalité à présenter une demande.