

Why introduce tablets to your school?

Independent research found that using tablets in schools transformed the learning experience in a number of positive ways – including those we could not have predicted. The following are just a few of the benefits you can expect:

- **Students became more engaged:** Not only did the quality of learning improve, but there were unexpected improvements in attendance and behavior (some schools even closed their Behavior Units).
- **Cost savings:** A reduced need for printers and paper. Schools streamlining existing ICT practices. Who needs an entire room for computers if each student has their own tablet?
- **Greater collaboration:** Not only could tablets be picked up and moved around so students could more easily say “look at this” to parents and teachers, but kids could now easily message or e-mail teachers for extra support.

However, adopting tablets can also be a minefield.

Once the tablets are purchased, what type of Educational content would you like students to access and use? In addition, we found that **successful implementation requires both an existing and a long-term strategy.**

There can be further costs you need to consider. Also, can your Wi-Fi and Broadband cope with multiple devices being used at the same time? We'll help you figure out the most cost-effective solution for infrastructure, and for Technical Support.

Choosing a Tablet



Before purchasing tablets, you must consider a number of factors, for example WiFi, and insurance. But what should you take into account when choosing specific tablets for your students?

Price is obviously a main consideration, but must be balanced against tablet features (for example, you may be willing to pay more for extra memory, or robustness). Some of these features will be more important than others, depending on the needs of your students.

The Operating Platform: Apple, Android, or Windows?

There are three main operating platforms:

- 1) Android: Android is open-source. Because anyone can load an app, it has the highest number of free apps. Standards are improving following enhancements to the Play Store ecosystem and security settings. Tablets running older versions of Android cannot access Google Play, so look for "Jellybean" or "KitKat" versions.
- 2) Apple iOS: All apps must be authorized by Apple before they become available, which means less free apps. You may need support from your IT department with the set up (though set up is easier if you are using a suite of Apple products).
- 3) Microsoft Windows RT: This system is used with Windows Surface Tablets with Windows 8 systems, and Windows 'Metro' Mobile Devices.

Battery Life

The battery should last for a school day. There are some clever devices to combat battery drainage. For example, the Asus Transformer comes with a separate keyboard which includes a spare battery.

Internal Memory

Tablets come with internal memory – to compare, a tablet with 8GB will be able to hold about 1,750 music files, or 10,000 photos.

You can check whether you can add extra memory to your tablet by looking through the “SD Memory Card Expansion” of your tablet.

Styluses

Students may need a stylus for drawing or work that requires precise input.

Durability

Look for tablets with toughened glass. Also, since you will have looked into insurance before purchasing your tablets, check whether your policy has requirements with regard to durability and protective cases. iPads can only be taken to an Apple-certified repair-person, or else the warranty could be voided.

However, no matter how durable the tablet, if it is dropped and it lands on a corner, the glass will likely crack. A hard case is essential.

What Features help Prevent Access to Unsuitable Websites?

You can activate parental control on all types of tablets. Specialized Android apps are available for this purpose, and the iPad can be locked down for security.

The Best Screen Size for Students

Screen size is measured diagonally across the screen, and ranges from 6.1 inches upwards (27-32 inch tablets are still in development). Most schools opt for 7, 8, or 10 inches. Each has advantages and disadvantages:

- 1) 7-inch tablets (such as the Galaxy Tab 2 or the iPad mini) are easy to carry, quite rugged, with a good battery life and full access to apps. However, they are not recommended for presentations or viewing graphics.
- 2) 7.9 – 8-inch tablets have a good balance of battery life, and screen space.
- 3) Tablets above 9.7 inches (particularly 10”) are the best for viewing, but difficult to carry.

Screen Resolution

Good screen resolution is important if students will be watching HD media, or reading lots of text. A minimum of 720 vertical lines of resolution is recommended.

Screen Viewing Angles

Viewing angles are important if the content will be viewed in a group setting, or at odd angles. Can a teacher view the screen properly if they are sitting to the side of a student holding a tablet?

Screen Coatings

The screen coating should be durable enough to avoid scratches, and also ensure that the screen is easy to clean. However, no matter how good the coating, it's also a good idea to buy screen protectors as well since they are relatively cheap.

Make Sure the Tablet can integrate your Virtual Learning Environment

Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs) can be integrated into **Androidplatforms**. This means students can access resources such as links, blogs, comments, and feedback at home as well as school. Schools can also develop tailored educational content – our research shows that students and teachers are quite keen to do this.

Educational Content

Tablets are rapidly making their mark on the educational publishing industry, and on teaching. If students want to learn a subject, they are no longer limited to textbooks and worksheets, but can access what can sometimes seem like an infinite range of content. This content is accessed either through internet research, or apps. Teachers used to be the sole source of knowledge about what content should be used, but now see it as part of their job to encourage students to decide for themselves how they want to access and present their learning.

Reducing costs: Schools use free apps wherever possible. Also, by creating their own content, they aim to reduce both printing costs, and reliance on textbooks. Libraries do want to increase access to digital books, but feel restricted by the publishing industry's purchasing and lending terms.

How schools use tablet-based content

- 1) **Online Research:** Research is the most common use of tablets in our schools. Although students are quite proficient at independent research, teachers help students critically identify current, reliable, and relevant content. In this way, students develop the source discrimination skills they will need for higher education, or employment.
- 2) **Multi-purpose Apps:** Mind-mapping apps, word-processing apps, and video, photo and audio-recording facilities are popular since they can be used across subjects to present, explore and document learning.
- 3) **Subject-specific Apps:** These types of apps tend to be discovered through recommendation by teachers or students, or through app creation. However, they are usually replaced as students move to the next topic. There are apps for every conceivable subject – from French, through to maths, music, and general creativity.
- 4) **Content in the Cloud:** Some schools use web-based services (such as Google Apps or iCloud) to allow students to connect, collaborate and share at any time.
- 5) **Customizable Content:** Many teachers in schools created apps and resources tailored to the teaching approach of the school, and to different types of learner. Students can enjoy a variety of ways of acquiring knowledge. For example, if analyzing a literary work, they can read the e-book. They can then supplement this by working with screencasts. Screencasts are tutorials combining audio and interactive visual components (for example, "Show Me"). Students can also access material and worksheets via QR codes.

Teaching Practice

Tablets Improve Independent Learning

The degree to which independent learning is enhanced depends on the extent to which independence is embedded into the existing teaching.

In some schools, independent learning and problem-solving are stressed, and the tablets enhance this. Teachers are freed from their traditional position at the front of the classroom. With an overview of what students are doing on their tablets, teachers become facilitators of independent learning.

Tablets Enable Project-based Work

Longer learning sessions facilitate project-based work. For example, several of the schools extended their learning sessions to one and a half or two hours.

Tablets make it Easier to Do Research, if Digital Literacy is Taught First Students can look up information 'on the go' rather than teachers having to set aside time and organize access to computers.

Tablets Enhance Communication

With e-mails, instant messaging, and video chatting, students can work and ask questions from almost anywhere.

Also, by being able to communicate continuously with students, teachers can monitor progress, and support the learning process along the way, rather than merely assessing the result. We found that teachers are comfortable with this increased communication, though they do realize the importance of setting boundaries.

Tablets as "Toolboxes"

Tablets are integrated into learning, alongside and as part of traditional tools. For example, tablet apps are "just an easier way" to express, document, and organize learning.

Since their learning content comprises a number of features, tablets can help facilitate different styles of learning. Students who struggle with traditional ways of accessing and presenting knowledge are given alternative ways of working that are hosted on the same resource as everyone else.

The multiple features contained in a single tablet enables multi-tasking. For example, while preparing a presentation, students have many sites open, as well as e-mails and messaging apps. However, some students do struggle with multitasking, finding it difficult to concentrate.

Connectivity: WiFi & Broadband

Media-rich apps and web resources are undoubtedly the most engaging part of the tablet learning experience. It's essential that students be able to quickly and reliably access these resources. It's quite a different matter for a child not to be able to access a maths app during a lesson because of network problems.

This means that your school needs to have a realistic idea of the amount of broadband width needed, and the number of wireless access points required in order to avoid system overload. You also need to assess wireless providers for their knowledge of high-density education-related tablet schemes. The type of tablet you buy is also important since it needs to fit in with the wireless infrastructure you ultimately decide upon.

How Much Bandwidth Will my School Need?

You will definitely need a connection that provides more than 100mb (megabits) per second. For example, at one of our schools, anything less than 100mb/s would not have been sufficient since over 1000 devices on the network were simultaneously trying to access web-based apps. In other words, there was a high contention ratio (the number of users sharing a connection).

The IT department will also need to consider the existing switching infrastructure. This is the ability of the network to allocate resources so that users always have access to the maximum amount of bandwidth. You will need Gigabit Ethernet switches rather than the older Fast Ethernet.

How many "Wireless Access Points" Will My School Need?

Ideally, students should be able to use their tablets wherever they are in the school. This ability will depend on the number of wireless access points (WAP).

At home, you probably only have one WAP. The number of WAPs a school needs will depend on the number of devices, the types of apps used, the configuration of the building, and even the type of building materials used.

However, having too many access points can increase "co-channel" interference. This affects performance, so you will need to look for solutions that will mitigate these effects.

How is WiFi linked with decisions about purchasing the actual tablets?

You need to get the wireless infrastructure in place, and then look at devices that fit into that infrastructure. The best way to do this is to check the device's wireless card.

ICT for Tablets in Education

Using tablets in the classroom is not just about choosing the appropriate device, or downloading apps and resources. What really count are educators maximizing the potential of tablets to revolutionize teaching and learning.

This “getting the most out of tablets” can depend largely on the extent to which your tablet manufacturer reflects the concept of “ICT for Education”. ICT stands for **Information and Communication Technology**. Teachers need training in not only the device, but new approaches using the tablet for teaching, and relevant educational resources. The ecosystems wrapped around the tablets of the “big three” (Microsoft, Google, and Apple) have different features which are discussed below.

Also, all three rely on cloud computing (where files are stored in the cloud instead of on local servers). Cloud computing is important when assessing IT cost since it can offer cheaper, more flexible subscription options instead of purchasing expensive software licenses upfront (for example, compare the cost of word processing software with the package offered by Google Apps for Education). Perhaps more importantly, cloud computing also offers significant benefits such as improved engagement and collaboration – due to the greater mobility afforded by cloud services.

Wide Horizons EClass Solution

Wide Horizons as a leading teaching technologies provider presents the most compatible educational package for android tablets.

No matter having your own tablets or purchasing new tablets, you are just one click from experiencing the new revolutionary way of teaching.

EClass package contains:

1) TabPilot: Tablet Control

TabPilot is a cloud-based management system that puts teachers in control of classroom tablets. TabPilot removes distractions by locking down tablets so that students see only teacher-selected apps and web links. Manage and distribute apps, web links, and content. Monitor student screens or freeze student tablets with a click. Ideal anywhere tablet lock-down is required.

2) NetSupport School: Classroom Instruction, Monitoring & Management

NetSupport School is the class-leading classroom software solution, providing teachers with the ability to instruct and visually/audibly monitor, as well as interact with their students, individually, as a pre-defined group or to the whole class.

3) Handwriting: Take Notes

For students to take notes and have a workbook for every subject using styluses which enhances old teaching days.

4) Stylus

Wide range of capacitive touch screen styluses to be used for writing.

Wide Horizons EClass Solution Pricings

EGP570 / Tablet including

- 1) TabPilot Launch and Lock for tablets.
- 2) TabPilot Control Tower 1 Year subscription (*).
- 3) NetSupport School.
- 4) Handwriting.
- 5) Stylus.
- 6) Training and Site Installations.

EGP 2100 / Tablet including

- 1) Huawei MediaPad 7 Youth Tablet.
- 2) Huawei Protective Stylish Case.
- 3) Huawei Screen Protector.
- 4) TabPilot Launch and Lock for tablets.
- 5) TabPilot Control Tower 1 Year subscription (*).
- 6) NetSupport School.
- 7) Handwriting.
- 8) Stylus.
- 9) Training and Site Installations.

EGP 1950 / Tablet including (More than 60 units)

- 1) Huawei MediaPad 7 Youth Tablet.
- 2) Huawei Protective Stylish Case.
- 3) Huawei Screen Protector.
- 4) TabPilot Launch and Lock for tablets.
- 5) TabPilot Control Tower 1 Year subscription (*).
- 6) NetSupport School.
- 7) Handwriting.
- 8) Stylus.
- 9) Training and Site Installations.
- 10) 50 % discount on purchasing **SchoolEveryWhere**.

(*) **TabPilot Control Tower** is a cloud based management system for the tablets with annual subscription from EGP 75 to 100 per tablet starting from the second year based on quantity purchased.

Huawei MediaPad 7 Youth Tablet Specifications

Size
Height: 193.4mm
Width: 120.6mm
Depth: 9.9mm
Weight: About 350g



Color	Black
Display	7" WSVGA (1024x600) TN
CPU	AP: Cortex-A9 Dual 1.6GHz Modem: Huawei Balong V3R2
Operating System	Android 4.1 + Huawei Emotion UI
Memory	RAM : 1GB Internal Storage: 4GB/8GB/16GB Extended : Up to 32GB microSD
Network	HSPA+ (up to 21Mbps DL / 5.76Mbps UL) HSPA / UMTS EDGE/GPRS/GSM
GPS	GPS/A-GPS
Connectivity	Wi-Fi: 802.11b/g/n
Sensors	Accelerometer
Camera	Front: 0.3Mp Rear: 3Mp
Audio	Built-in MIC, Speaker Audio formats: ogg / wav / wma / mid, midi / mp3 / 3gp(aac) / amr / ape / flac etc.
Video	Video formats: AVI, WMV, MP4, MKV, RM, RMVB, FLV, MOV, 3GP etc., up to 1080p@30fps
Cloud Service	Supported
Battery	Battery: 4100mAh Li-Po. Travel Charger: 100~240VAC @ 50/60Hz AC-In, 5V/2A DC-Out.
In the box	Standard: Charger, USB-microUSB Cable Optional: USB OTG Cable, Car Charger, Cover, Screen Protector, Earphone

Products Warranty Terms & Conditions

- 1) Wide Horizons warrants that, during the Warranty Period, the Product will, with normal use and service, be free from faulty parts, manufacture or workmanship.
- 2) Wide Horizons excludes all liability in respect of the Product for any other loss which is not reasonably foreseeable from a failure of this Product, which may include liability for negligence, loss of tape/card, loss of images, loss of expenditure associated with the Product and loss of enjoyment.
- 3) The Warranty Period for Wide Horizons products are as follows:
 - Product Warranty Period (from date of purchase)
 - Personal Computer parts – 15 months
 - Ebeam active boards - 7 years
 - Switches, Routers and Access Points - 12 months
 - Time Management and Access Control Fingerprint devices - 15 months
 - Projector Products (excluding projector lamps) and standard project accessories - 12 months
 - Projector Lamps - 180 days
 - IP/Network Video Cameras - 12 months
 - CCTV Cameras - 12 months
 - DVR and NVR - 18 months
 - All other products and their standard accessories - 12 months
- 4) This warranty is valid only for Products that are purchased new and unused.
- 5) The Customer must provide the original proof of purchase which demonstrates compliance with the above conditions to receive any services under this warranty.
- 6) This warranty only applies where a defect has arisen, wholly or substantially, as a result of faulty manufacture, parts or workmanship during the Warranty Period.
- 7) The warranty does not apply where damage is caused by other factors, including without limitation:
 - Normal wear and tear.
 - Abuse, mishandling, accident or failure to follow operating instructions.
 - Leaking batteries.
 - Exposure to liquid or infiltration of foreign particles.
 - Servicing or modification of the Product other than by Wide Horizons, or their authorized service agents.
 - Use of the Product with unsuitable ink or toner.
 - Use of the Product with other accessories, attachments, product supplies, parts or devices (including batteries, tapes/cards, lenses and flash attachments) that do not conform to Wide Horizons specifications.
 - Shipment or other transit.
- 8) This warranty does not cover:
 - The replacement of any consumables such as print heads, drums, lamps, film, ink and toner cartridges and paper.
 - Rubber rollers in scanners.
 - Software included with products.
 - Repair or replacement of any Product damaged during transit to or from Wide Horizons.
 - Any loss or consequential damage incurred while the Product is being repaired.
 - This warranty is to be read together with any benefits that Wide Horizons may provide to a consumer under statute.

- 9) Instructions for making a warranty claim are included in the enclosed materials. If the warranty claim is not accepted:
 - Wide Horizons will inform the Customer.
 - If requested to do so by the Customer, Wide Horizons will repair the Product provided, you pay the standard charges for such repair.
 - If applicable the Customer will be responsible for all costs associated with collection of the Product from Wide Horizons.
- 10) Making a warranty claim
 - You must inform Wide Horizons as soon as the warranty claim arises.
 - You must provide to Wide Horizons your original proof of purchase and a description of the fault (including image samples and any other relevant material if and when requested).
 - Our customer care team will carry out trouble shooting with you to see if we can get your product up and running again.
 - If your product problem cannot be rectified over the phone, then Wide Horizons will organize it to be collected, you must pay for all packing, freight and insurance costs for transit of the Product to Wide Horizons **and in some cases** a replacement model will be delivered to you upon receipt. Ownership of the faulty product will pass to Wide Horizons upon receipt by Wide Horizons or its agents. Replacement products will be the same and/or equivalent product model, subject to availability.

Payment Terms & Conditions

- 1) All prices are excluded from sales tax unless stated contrary.
- 2) Wide Horizons accept several payment methods according to type of product, quantity and customer's payment history.
 - PIA: Payment in advance
 - COD: Cash on delivery
 - Stage Payment: Payment of agreed amounts at stage
- 3) You will be informed about your payment method through Wide Horizons sales personnel.

Delivery Terms & Conditions

- 1) All products are delivered at customer's place within 72 hours from purchase order unless stated contrary.
- 2) Time of delivery may vary according to stock, shipment and quantities ordered.
- 3) For those products requiring installation, installation time will be mentioned in the proposed offer or invoice.