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Purchasing a refurbished tablet can be a worthwhile investment as it allows you to acquire a high quality, portable device at a lower expense than if you were to buy it new. It is important to consider upgrade options when looking at refurbished tablets, as you may be able to buy a more sophisticated model for the same price as a new, lower-end model.

With the proper information about the different types of available tablets, you'll have no trouble selecting a tablet that fits your needs and preferences. Most tablet owners are casual users who are not looking for high-end options and simply need the basic features to do what they want.

Regardless of the type of tablet you are buying and whether you are buying new or refurbished, you should keep the following factors in mind as you make your purchasing decision.

Is a tablet right for me?

The following factors all play a role in a person's decision to purchase a tablet:

- *Portability.* There is no question that tablets are more portable than even the smallest netbooks and laptops. They are easy to fit into small purses and bags.
- *Battery life.* While usage does affect battery life for any tablet, typically tablets have significantly longer battery life than laptops, eliminating the need to carry around a charger and look for outlets throughout the day.
- *Apps.* App stands for application. They are software applications or programs. Apps are not a replacement for high-end, specialized software. However, for many users, they are more than adequate for completing daily online tasks.

How to buy a tablet

It is important to keep in mind that virtually every tablet on the market today is easy to use and requires little training to get up and running. It is also important to remember that virtually every tablet features an HD screen, which means that resolution is premium quality. Consider the following components of a tablet device before you make a purchase to ensure that you are getting the technology that best suits your needs and preferences.

- *Operating system (OS).* The most prominent platform choices for tablets are iOS Apple platforms and Android platforms. There are also some tablets available that have Windows RT and Windows 8. Apple continues

- to offer simpler interfaces and more apps than Android, but the systems are largely comparable.
- *Size.* Tablets range from 7 inches to 11.5 inches. Typically they weigh anywhere from 1.2 to 1.6 pounds with even the larger tablets fitting easily into carrying cases and backpacks.
 - *Resolution.* Nearly all of the newest tablet models feature HD. People who are looking for devices geared for internet browsing, reading, and video viewing should consider the Kindle Fire. Those who are looking for devices that are geared for both productivity and entertainment should consider more powerful options such as Google Nexus 10 and the top of the line iPads.
 - *Downloading content.* Content is available for download through iTunes, Google Play, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon, which makes for a multitude of options for any tablet device. iTunes remains a popular choice for many users, although those who have Amazon Prime memberships often opt for devices such as Kindles that allow for easy Amazon access.
 - *Capacity.* Tablet storage runs from 8GB to 128GB. It is important to consider what types of files you will be storing on your tablet and whether or not you will be using cloud storage. People who are interested in extra storage should consider tablets that have an SD card slot, which will allow for the option for additional storage.
 - *4G vs. Wi-Fi.* 4G stands for Fourth Generation Network and offers high rates for data transfer and communication. Wi-Fi stands for Wireless Facility. It is a LAN network with a short connectivity range. If you already have a wireless router at home, it is very easy to connect a tablet with Wi-Fi to the internet. Many folks purchase tablets without thinking about the added expense of internet access. Data-sharing plans available through cell phone companies can be a simple solution for cutting costs. Other people use mobile hotspot functionality so that a smartphone can serve as a hotspot for a tablet.

Tablet terminology

- *Screen size.* Tablet screen size is measured as the diagonal length of the display.
- *Multi-touch.* Multi-touch displays or touch pads have sensors for two or more contact points, which allows for a range of functionality from zooming or pinching to starting predefined programs.
- *Application Programs (Apps).* Apps are available for download through specific online app stores to provide extra applications and tools for a tablet.
- *Browser.* A browser is an app that allows for users to view and interact with information available online.
- *Flash player.* Adobe Flash Player is a browser-based, cross-platform application runtime that allows for extensive, uninterrupted viewing of rich content, applications, and videos. It is compatible with most operating

systems and browsers.

Cost

Tablets range in cost from \$200 to \$1,200. Screen size and storage largely determine the cost for specific devices. Those who need a significant amount of storage for audio and video will be looking at higher costs. Some people opt to use cloud storage in order to cut down on their tablet storage. Android tablets are a great choice for people who are looking for a solid, inexpensive option while iPads are a great choice for those who want top-notch design and app performance.

Why buy a refurbished tablet?

- *Save money.* One reason that people explore refurbished tablet options is because they are interested in saving money. A good deal on a refurbished piece of technology can save a user up to 50 percent of the retail price. It can be worth spending a little extra time to find a refurbished deal in order to save the money.
- *Good working order.* A refurbished tablet goes through a check process to ensure that everything is working properly. For example, if a tablet needs a new battery, someone will test out the new battery before putting it back on the market. When you buy refurbished tablets, you never run the risk of purchasing items that do not work.
- *Use money saved to purchase additional features.* Some people purchase a tablet with the intention of purchasing accessories in the near future such as on-board speakers, extra battery life, and multitasking abilities. Purchasing a refurbished tablet can offset the cost of these extra features.

Tips for buying a refurbished tablet

- *Research common manufacturer faults.* Some tablets have inherent flaws that present themselves after only a few months of use, typically after the warranty has expired. These flaws may not be apparent during the refurbishment process. It is always best practice to research potential flaws for specific models before making purchases.
- *Battery.* Confirm the unit's capacity to hold a charge before making a purchase or you may end up adding the cost of a new battery to your tablet.
- *Warranty.* It is considered best practice to choose a refurbished tablet that comes with a 30, 60, or 90 day warranty. Sometimes extended warranties are available as well.

Purchasing a tablet that stops working after a short period of time or after the warranty has expired will negate the money-saving factor of purchasing a refurbished item. The bottom line for purchasing any refurbished tablet is that you

should take your time to research specific items before buying to ensure that you are getting a high quality device that will last a long time.

Where can you buy refurbished tablets?

The most popular places to purchase refurbished tablets include eBay.com, Best Buy, Rakuten.com (formerly Buy.com), Geeks.com, and specialty retailers, such as Tech for Less. Specialized retailers know the technology retail business inside and out and ensure that all of their products are high quality. Their large inventory allows users to select the tablet devices that fit their personal needs and preferences.

It is important to keep in mind that not all companies have the same standards as Tech for Less. Many people find great value in shopping with a leader in the industry, such as Tech for Less, which has been offering high quality refurbished items to more than a million customers since 2001.

Why buy refurbished tablets from Tech for Less?

- *Large selection.* Tech for Less offers hundreds of well-known brand name tablets with advanced search options that allow you to find exactly what you need. Search by condition, brand, price, and more. Instead of choosing less known options in order to save a little money, you can get those top of the line items without breaking the bank.
- *Quality control.* All Tech for Less refurbished tablets go through an inspection process to ensure that they are in good working order before they are shipped off to customers.
- *Price.* Tech for Less is able to purchase inventory in bulk and keep their prices competitive.
- *Guarantee.* All Tech for Less purchases come with a 30 day money back guarantee.
- *Customer service.* The knowledgeable, friendly staff assists customers with questions that they have through the entire purchasing process from decision making to post-arrival.
- *Return policy.* On the rare occasions when refurbished tablet purchases do not work out, customers can return their items within 90 days for full refunds or product replacements.