

Bryley Tips and Information

December 2012

1. Why business users might consider an Ultrabook over a Tablet

It seems that tablet computers are in the news daily, from Apple's iPad (iOS) to Microsoft's Surface (Windows RT) to Samsung's Galaxy (Droid). I like a tablet for viewing, but typing on a bare tablet is not the same as using a full keyboard. Also, compatibility with office-productivity applications is limited on most tablets.

Ultrabooks are not getting the same press, but for those who want that keyboard and a few ports with their computer, ultrabooks are smaller, thinner, and lighter than notebook computers; they come with Microsoft Windows 8 (or can be legally downgraded to Windows 7) for full compatibility with your office applications.

Tablets have a clear advantage on weight, price, and screen resolution; perfect for viewing (inexpensively) movies, reading books, checking reports, etc. Ultrabooks usually have greater storage capacity and can support legacy items like DVDs, making them a better replacement for your notebook or desktop computer.

Basically, it comes down to usage and preference; both ultrabooks and tablets continue to evolve, taking features from one another. There are more tablets out there, but ultrabooks, many now with the touch-screen capabilities of Windows 8, are evolving and coming on strong.

InformationWeek has an informative article [**Tablet Vs. Ultrabook: 10 Ways to Choose**](#) by Jeff Bertolucci on choosing between a tablet and an ultrabook

ComputerWorld has the article [**3 Windows 8 ultrabooks: Lightweight and powerful**](#) by Brian Nadel who briefly compares ultrabooks (favorably) to tablets before reviewing ultrabook models from HP, Sony, and Toshiba.

2. Microsoft's new (old) SharePoint

Microsoft SharePoint, currently version 2013, has been around since 2001; it is a document-management/collaboration and web-application tool designed to store, share, and synchronize important content. It is closely aligned with the Microsoft Office suite and SharePoint Online is a component of Microsoft Office 365.

SharePoint Foundation (formerly known as SharePoint Services) is included within Windows Server; it is an entry-level freebie suitable for internal use. SharePoint Server 2013, the full-blown product, can be purchased separately and should be deployed on its own Windows-based server (or virtual server).

Deployments have been brisk; to date, millions of SharePoint-based sites, both SharePoint Foundation and SharePoint Server, have been launched.

Large and medium-sized organizations deploy SharePoint Server to provide both internal and external collaboration. Including SharePoint Server within Microsoft Office 365 has put it within the financial reach of smaller organizations.

Primary SharePoint components and their function:

- Site – A collection of work-related content (documents, images, etc.)
- List – A collection of pieces of information, usually with the same properties
- Library – A governed list of documents, pictures, etc. stored in SharePoint
- Page – Location to upload/download content: Wiki, Web-Part, or Publishing
- Community – A unit for collaboration and communication
- Composite – Integrated collections of data, documents, and processes

Although SharePoint is easier to use than ever, it is a large, complex environment that should be approached with some experience and a well-defined plan.

ComputerWorld has the article [SharePoint 2010 Cheat Sheet](#) by Jonathan Hassell. (SharePoint Server 2013 came out about a week after his article released in December of 2012.)

3. Bryley Basics: Getting you informed in 100 words or less

I have been using Windows 8 with Office 2013 over the past two weeks; I like most features, but find some items a bit challenging:

- The default Windows 8 start page is an ever-changing wall of content; the news feeds are interesting, but slightly distracting. Once I customized this page and got used to it, it is actually a bit quicker to use than Windows 7. (I moved my applications to the left-hand side and added the app "ToDo".)
- Compatibility is good, but most of our applications are of recent vintage.
- To me, the Windows 8 boot-up seems significantly faster than Windows 7.
- I could not shut-down until Tom, a Bryley engineer, took me to Settings on the far right where the Power icon is located.

I'll reveal more on Windows 8 and Office 2013 in future issues.

4. Announcements, news, and events

- [Garin Livingstone joins Microsoft Certification Program](#) – Garin studied and passed the Microsoft Windows 7, Configuring exam (680), which makes him a member of the Microsoft Certification Program and puts him on the path to become a Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate.
- [New Bryley Systems website](#) – Bryley Systems debuts its new website on January 1st; check us out at www.Bryley.com.



- Survey Winner – Our survey-response winner from last month is Marilyn of Accumet Engineering who was randomly picked from a group of survey respondents.

Our winner received a \$10 gift certificate.

- Bryley Referral Program – Those that refer Bryley Systems to a potential client automatically receive a thank-you card with a \$10 gift certificate.

If the referral results in a new client for Bryley Systems, we also offer your choice of one of these two options:

- Two hours of computer assistance from a Bryley tech; a \$200 value, or
- A \$100 gift card.

If you wish to refer a client, friend, or prospect to Bryley Systems, please contact us at 978.562.6077 or email Ideas@Bryley.com.

- Newsletter – “Like” Bryley Systems in Facebook

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Client service

If you have questions about, or issues with, our client service or response, please contact Beverley Denio, Client-Service Manager, at 978.562.6077 x201, or Gavin Livingstone, President, at 978.562.6077 x215. (Respective email addresses are BDenio@Bryley.com and GLivingstone@Bryley.com.)

Bryley’s Client-Service Portal

Over the past years, Bryley has made significant investments in our business systems and infrastructure to enable real-time communications regarding the timeliness and quality of services we deliver. A result is that client-service requests (with resulting service tickets) may now be added, viewed, or updated through our Client-Service Portal.

This real-time environment is available 24 x 7 at www.Bryley.com by selecting “Login” from the upper-right corner of our home-page. Registered users may perform these functions:

- View the current status and details of their service tickets
- Enter new service requests
- Review invoices
- View reports

To use this capability, please contact Beverley at 978.562.6077 x201 to setup a username and password. Training is also available at no charge.



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