Xbox One vs Xbox 360

You approach the slick dark box sitting on your counter. As you pop it open you can smell the fresh black paint covered on all the components. The first item your hands reach for is the long, rectangular camera. Next comes a soft headset, along with a wireless ergonomic controller. After removing multiple wires, extracting the all-too-familiar power converter, and striping off protective cardboard and plastic wraps, you get what you came here for. Your hands lift the last component from its dark coffin, and a low thud resonates as this “bad boy” is rightfully placed on your counter. This Xbox One screams for game night.

This ritual is all too familiar, as some of us have once done the same for the Xbox 360. But is it worth the upgrade? Or is one being too materialistic? These are some of the questions that the veteran Xbox fans have come to ask since the release of the whopping $500 Xbox One. There are a variety of differences from the Xbox 360 to the Xbox One. Some distinctions are subtle, while others prove vast.

Picking up the new Xbox One controller you will notice a much steeper angle in the handles. The 360’s controller handles point toward the body, while the newer handles seem to point into the controller at 45° angle. This creates a slightly awkward but manageable grip. The most noticeable improvement are the trigger buttons. There is little to no friction while pressing the new triggers, and they are slightly enlarged compared to the 360’s. This makes it easy when playing games that require reflexes.

After powering up the new system with the touch a finger, the user will be greeted with a new interface. In contrast to the Xbox 360, the new user interface will let you breeze from one activity to the next. It shows you your recent activity, like movies, games, and apps. Also if a user walks into the room, the Kinect camera will automatically recognize that individual, and sign into their profile (provided nobody else is signed in at the moment). If another person is signed in, the other individual just has to say “Xbox, show myself” and like magic the system switches to that user’s profile. The user just has to talk to the system to perform the task they wish, whether it be playing games, browsing the web, watching movies, or video chatting. The new Kinect camera easily complements this interface, allowing all tasks to be seamless by just talking to the system. It also can record you when you wish, take pictures, zoom in to your body while video chatting, and detect heart rates (Marc & Yusuf, 2013). All this time the user probably hasn’t noticed any sound from the Xbox, its bigger size allows the internal fans to relax a bit instead of running full speed like its predecessor. The Xbox One packs its final punch in its hardware. The new flagship system is equipped with more ram (8 GB vs 512 MB), a faster processor (8 core vs 3 core), and an improved graphics card. This makes games look more vibrant, increases polygon count, and brings about better shading, lighting, and special effects.

The Xbox One isn’t shy in its new features, but it’s also not shy in its price tag. Compared to the Xbox One, the Xbox 360 isn’t nearly as much at only $250 (With the Kinect included). There are also a few edges that the 360 has over the new version. First is the 360’s market, there are a vast amount of games in the Xbox 360 market that the Xbox One just cannot compare to. The systems physical size is smaller and its games are cheaper. The 360’s hard drive is removable, while the Xbox One has it built in. Not only are there more games, but there are even more of them coming out for the 360. Among those 360 games are a spectrum of Kinect games that are good for the whole family. As you can see going from the Xbox 360 to the Xbox One isn’t exactly a linear upgrade. (Travis, 2014)

For a product that is cheap, family oriented, and a good “bang for your buck” the Xbox 360 would be good to keep in mind. It may not have all the new gadgets or functionalities of Microsoft’s new system, but it will get you where you need to go. On the other hand, you could sacrifice around $500 for the Xbox One. This would give you all the Kinect features, the new pc-like interface, enhanced graphics, a slick new controller, and a more refined gaming experience.

References

Marc, W., & Yusuf, M. (Nov. 8, 2013). Xbox One: Interface Demo. YouTube. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mc4pyTA1PF8>

Travis, P. (2014). Xbox 360 Vs Xbox One: What Still Matters. GottaBeMobile. Retrieved from <http://www.gottabemobile.com/2014/08/10/xbox-360-vs-xbox-one-what-still-matters/>