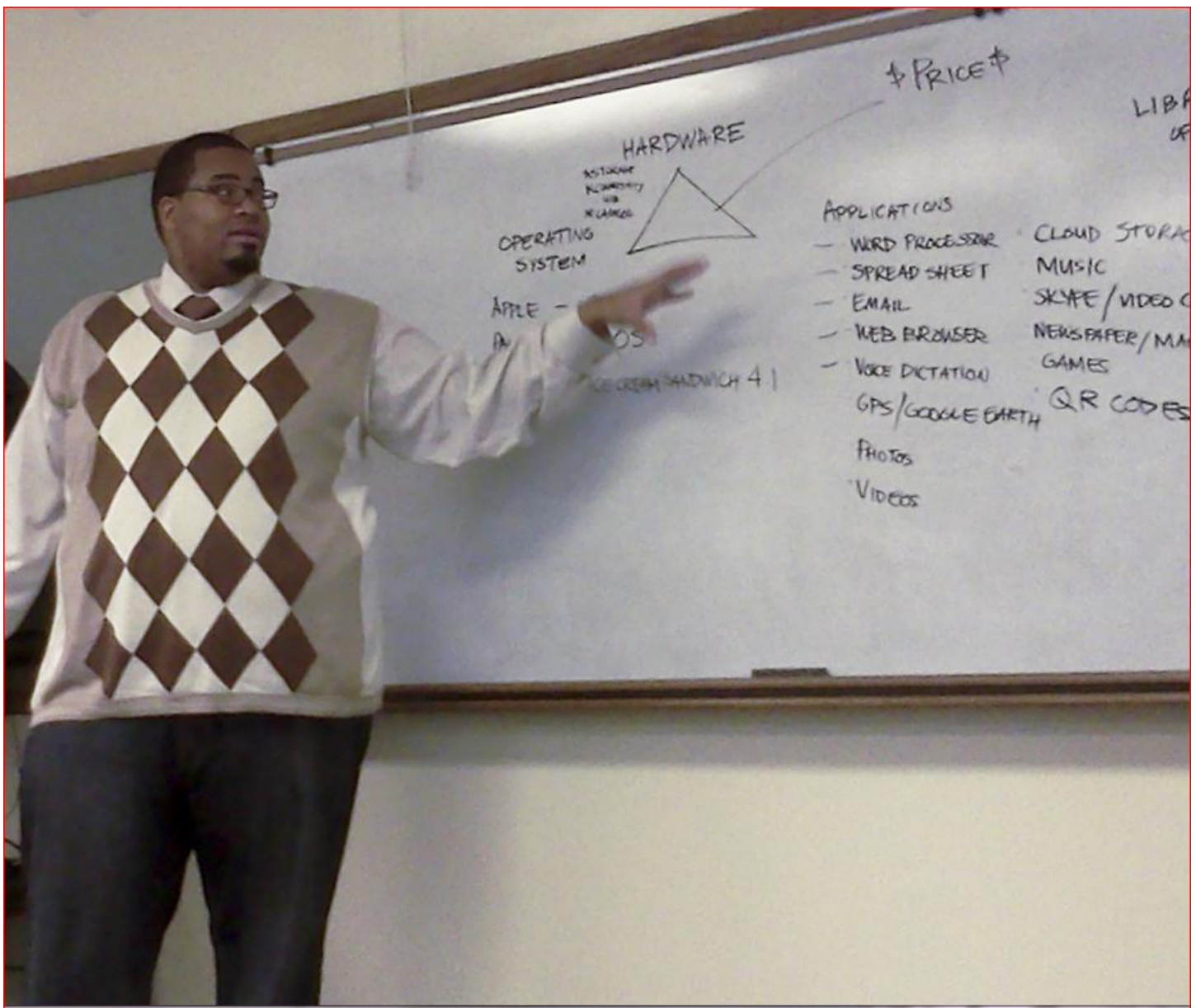


Carl Bulger presided.

PRESENTATION: The presenter was Christopher McInnis, the son-in-law of Joe Holmes. He is a skilled trainer, designer, and Cisco Authorized instructor with over 10 years' experience in Information Technology and the online learning sector. Christopher has travelled across the U.S. to train over 200 adult instructors in IT and has managed one of the largest Cisco Networking Academies in the country. Additionally, Christopher has trained youth & adults on video editing, music production, and mobile application development.



Chris focused on **tablets** and how to choose one that will fit our needs. Besides price we should consider the hardware features, the operating system, and the applications. Generally, there are two sizes of tablets: those with 9.7 – 10.1 inch touchscreens and those with approximately 7 inch touch screens. Touchscreens can have different form factors. Some may be much higher (wider) than they are wide (high). Most have an accelerometer allowing it to be rotated 90 degrees to switch the view automatically from portrait (landscape) to landscape (portrait). Some touchscreens are resistive, but most are capacitive. Resistive touchscreens are flexible enough to make contact with a conductor beneath where you press on the surface. Capacitive touchscreens sense the change in static charge induced by your fingers. Many tablets now have color LCD backlit LED touchscreens. Better touchscreens and operating systems allow you to use two fingers to zoom in-and-out.

The operating system will be iOS in Apple iPads, webOS in HP and Palm tablets, Android in Samson Galaxy tablets, Windows 8 in Microsoft's tablet that expected before Christmas and Playbook in Blackberry tablets. When considering Operating Systems, multitasking is one of the biggest differences: How easy is it to have multiple applications open and to quickly transition between them? Hardware comes into play here, because the speed of the processor and the amount of memory will have a big effect on multitasking. Google's Android OS comes in several versions. The latest are Honeycomb 3.1 and Ice Cream Sandwich 4.1, both excellent multitaskers.

The OS and the hardware determine whether you can easily connect with external devices. For example, some tablets allow you to input to the tablet with a wireless (Bluetooth) keyboard and output to a wireless printer, a desktop, a laptop, or a TV.

Memory specs are confusing. Most of these tablets have 1GB of RAM but the specs emphasize internal and external storage. They tend to have 8GB, 16GB, 32GB, or 64 GB of internal storage but not all of it is available for your own content; some of it is restricted to proprietary content and to apps store content. If there is a plug-in connector for a microSD chip, you can use that for extra personal storage. Also, some manufacturers offer free and paid storage on their servers ("in the cloud").

You can use the same charger to charge your cellphone, laptop, and tablet as long as it is not made by Apple. Apple's charger is proprietary to Apple products although you can charge an iPad via a computer's USB port. When buying a charger, buy one with a long cable so you

don't accidentally drag your device off the table or step on it if you have to place it on the floor to get it close enough to the electrical outlet. The charge on most tablet batteries will last seven to twelve hours. Those tablets that turn off the charger when the battery is fully charged will prolong the useable battery life. Normally, these batteries will last years. When they do fail, the tablet must be sent back to the manufacturer for battery replacement.

Some tablets have only WiFi connectivity; others have 3G or 4G wireless (cell phone tower) connectivity.

Applications for tablets, called "Apps", may cost as much as \$100 each, but most are \$5 or less. Many are only a dollar or free. Most tablet manufacturers have online app stores.

We listed applications that members thought they might want. They covered the same range as applications for laptop and desktop computers: Word processors, spreadsheet programs, Email clients, web browsers, voice dictation, ability to read newspapers and books, games, music, Skype/video chat, photos, videos, printer software, etc. As with smartphones many tablets have cameras, most have two, facilitating video conferencing and facial recognition. The camera facilitates reading QR codes on merchandise, allowing you to find where the same product can be bought for less. Tablets, also like smartphones, often have GPS tracking ability allowing interaction with Google Maps and traffic monitoring.

If you are prone to dropping things, it might be wise to buy a protective case (McGinnis likes leather cases made by Targus) and, when available, a tablet with a metal enclosure rather than a plastic one. Chris said that he has never dropped one of his tablets but one of his plastic ones has cracks around the edge, which he thinks was caused by the enclosed speakers when he played loud music!

Chris listed his favorite 7 inch tablets:

#1 Samsung Galaxy Tab 7 Plus (\$300) Android OS; 1GB RAM;16GB/32GB ROM; plus up to 32GB microSD; 1.2GHz dual core processor; 2MP front/3MP rear cameras; full HD (1080) video playback.

#2 Barnes & Noble Nook Tablet \$199 for 512MB RAM/8GB ROM; \$249 for 1GB RAM/16GB memory both expandable to 32GB with microSD; Android OS; 1GHz dual core processor; no camera; WiFi only; 1024x600 resolution (169 ppi) touchscreen color display

#3 Kindle Fire \$199 for 512MB RAM, 8GB ROM/\$249 for 1GB RAM, 32GB ROM memory; expandable up to 32MB with microSD plus free Amazon Cloud storage; Android OS; dual core 1.2GHz processor; no camera; WiFi only; 1024 x 600 pixel resolution (169 ppi) touchscreen color display.

9.7-10.1 inch tablets Chris favors:

#1 Apple iPad The new iPad went on sale the day after Chris' talk, so the original iPad is will not be available much longer. But this has dropped the MSRP of the iPad2 to \$399. There are several improvements over the iPad2: higher screen resolution (which they call Retina) of 2048 x 1536 (264 pixels/inch) vs. 1024 x 768 (132 pixels/inch); 1080p vs 720p HD videos; 5 Megapixel camera; a quad core A5x processor instead of a dual core A5 processor, both 1GHz; and the availability of Wi-Fi plus 4G instead of Wi-Fi plus 3G connectivity. On the negative side is a 10 degree F increase in temperature to 116F at one corner of the tablet.

MSRPs:

	New iPad	iPad2
Wi-Fi 16GB	\$499	\$399
Wi-Fi 32GB	\$599	
Wi-Fi 64GB	\$699	
Wi-Fi + 4G 16GB	\$629	Wi-Fi + 3G 16GB \$529
Wi-Fi + 4G 32GB	\$729	
Wi-Fi + 4G 64GB	\$829	

#2 Asus Transformer Prime \$399 - \$499 (This is laptop with a removable monitor that becomes a touchpad tablet.) One of these was demonstrated by the team from Office Depot at our

January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Android OS, 1 GHz dual core processor, 16/32GB memory, 5MP/1.2MP front/rear cameras, WiFi.

#3 Samsung Galaxy Tab 8.9 (\$399) Android OS; 16GB memory; 1 GHz dual core processor; 2MP/3MP front/rear cameras; and, WiFi only. or

Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1 (\$548 for 16GB to \$699 for 32GB); Android OS; 1GHz processor; 3MP/2MP front/rear cameras; and WiFi, 3G, or 4G

#4 Motorola Xoom 2 (\$399), or the Motorola Xyborg 4GLTE (sold through Verizon); Android OS; 16/32GB memory; 1 GHz dual core processor; 5MP/2MP front/rear cameras; WiFi only for the Xoom2; 4G for the Verizon version.

Chris recommends that we go to a store that sells tablets and spend an hour or two trying the various tablets to see if they have the operating systems, hardware, and features that you want and can easily use. Don't go directly to a salesman. Try them out. Wait to see if a sales person offers help and advice. Judge his knowledge and competence. Probably the only places nearby that sell Apple products are the Best Buy in Annapolis and the Annapolis Apple Store. All tablets, their features and specs, prices, and outlets are available on-line.

[www.DealNews.com](http://www.DealNews.com) and [www.SlickDeals.net](http://www.SlickDeals.net)

Chris recommends that you checkout prices for new, refurbished, and used tablets on the following websites: [www.DealNews.com](http://www.DealNews.com) and [www.SlickDeals.net](http://www.SlickDeals.net) .

You can email Chris at [ChristopherMcInnis@yahoo.com](mailto:ChristopherMcInnis@yahoo.com)

Not mentioned by Chris or any of the manufacturer websites is another use for tablets demonstrated in this 30 second movie: <http://www.wimp.com/dadipad/>

The photo of Christopher McInnis is courtesy of Dennis Edgington.