# iPad (3rd generation)

iPad 3



Greece

Hungary

Iceland Ireland

Italy

Liechtenstein

Luxembourg

Macau

Mexico

Netherlands

New Zealand

Norway

Poland

Portugal

Slovakia

Slovenia

Spain

Sweden

Romania

April 20, 2012

South Korea

Brunei

Croatia

Cyprus

Dominican Republic

El Salvador

Guatemala

Malaysia

Panama

Saint Martin

Uruguay

Venezuela

April 27, 2012

Colombia

Estonia

India

Israel

Latvia

Lithuania

Montenegro

South Africa

Thailand

May 5, 2012

Turkey

May 11, 2012

Argentina

Aruba

Bolivia

Botswana

Brazil

Cambodia

Chile

Costa Rica

Curacao

Ecuador

French Guiana

Guadeloupe

Jamaica

Kenya

Madagascar

Malta

Martinique

Mauritius

Morocco

Peru

Taiwan

Tunisia

Vietnam

May 12, 2012

Bahrain

Egypt

Jordan

Kuwait

Qatar

Saudi Arabia

United Arab Emirates

May 25, 2012

Russia

May 29, 2012

Guam

	Philippines July 20, 2012 China	
Discontinued	October 23, 2012	
Units sold	3 million in first three days $^{[1]}$	
Operating system	Original: iOS 5.1 Last: Wi-Fi only model: iOS 9.3.5, released August 25, 2016 Wi-Fi + Cellular model: iOS 9.3.6, released July 22, 2019	
System on a chip	Apple A5X	
CPU	1 GHz <sup>[2]</sup> dual-core <u>ARM</u> <u>Cortex-A9</u>	
Memory	1 GB LPDDR2 RAM <sup>[2]</sup>	
Storage	16 GB, 32 GB, or 64 GB	
Display	9.7 inches (250 mm) 2,048 × 1,536 $\underline{px}$ color IPS LCD display at (264 $\underline{ppi}$ ) <sup>[3]</sup> with a $\underline{4:3}$ aspect ratio	
Graphics	PowerVR SGX543MP4	
Sound	Frequency response: 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz Audio Formats: HE-AAC (V1 and V2), AAC (8 to 320 kbps), Protected AAC (from iTunes Store), MP3 (8 to 320 kbps), MP3 VBR, Audible (formats 2, 3 & 4, AEA, AAX, and AAX+), ALAC, AIFF, and WAV <sup>[3]</sup>	
Input	Multi-touch touch screen, headset controls, proximity and ambient light sensors, 3 axis gyroscope, microphone, magnetometer,	

	accelerometer, Assisted  GPS + cellular Micro- SIM card tray (cellular model only)
Camera	Front: FaceTime 0.3  MP camera with VGA- quality photos and video Back: 5 MP iSight camera with 1080p video capture at 30 frame/s
Connectivity	All models: Wi-Fi (802.11a/b/g/n), Bluetooth 4.0, Apple 30- pin dock connector Wi-Fi + Cellular model (A1430): also includes GSM/EDGE (850, 900, 1800, 1900 MHz), UMTS/HSPA/HSPA+/DC HSDPA (850, 900, 1900 2100 MHz), LTE (700, 2100 MHz) Wi-Fi + Cellular model (A1403) on Verizon also includes EvDO Rev. A (800, 1900 MHz), GSM/EDGE (850, 900, 1800, 1900 MHz), UMTS/HSPA/HSPA+/DC HSDPA (850, 900, 1900 2100 MHz), and LTE (700 MHz)
Power	Internal rechargeable non-removable 3.7 V 43 W·h (11,560 mA·h) <sup>[2]</sup> lithium-ion polymer battery
Online services	iTunes Store, App Store MobileMe, iBookstore, Game Center, iCloud
Dimensions	9.50 in (241 mm) <i>(height)</i>

	7.31 in (186 mm) (width)	
	0.37 in (9.4 mm) (depth)	
Mass	Wi-Fi model: 1.44 lb	
	(650 g)	
	Wi-Fi + Cellular model:	
	1.46 lb (660 g)	
Predecessor	iPad 2	
Successor	iPad (4th generation)	
Website	www.apple.com/ipad/ (ht	
	tps://web.archive.org/we	
	b/20120721185643/htt	
	p://www.apple.com/ipa	
	d/) at the Wayback	
	Machine (archived July	
	21, 2012)	

The **iPad (3rd generation)**<sup>[4]</sup> (marketed as **The new iPad**, colloquially referred to as the **iPad 3**)<sup>[6][7][8]</sup> is a <u>tablet computer</u>, developed and marketed by <u>Apple Inc.</u> The third device in the <u>iPad</u> line of <u>tablets</u>, it added a <u>Retina Display</u>, the new <u>Apple A5X</u> chip with a <u>quad-core graphics processor</u>, a 5-megapixel camera, HD <u>1080p</u> video recording, <u>voice dictation</u>, and support for <u>LTE</u> networks in North America. It shipped with iOS 5, which also provides a platform for audio-visual media, including <u>electronic books</u>, periodicals, films, music, computer games, presentations and web browsing.

In the United States and Canada, nine variations of the third-generation iPad were offered, compared to six in the rest of the world, although some countries had only the <u>Wi-Fi</u> only model. Each variation was available with black or white front glass panels, with options for 16, 32, or 64 GB of storage. In North America, connectivity options were Wi-Fi only, Wi-Fi + 4G (LTE) on <u>Verizon</u>, <u>AT&T</u>, <u>Telus</u>, <u>Rogers</u>, or <u>Bell</u>. For the rest of the world outside North America, connectivity options are Wi-Fi only (on the Wi-Fi model) or Wi-Fi + 3G (on the Wi-Fi + Cellular model), with the latter unavailable in some countries, as 4G (LTE) connectivity for the device is not available outside North America. The Wi-Fi + Cellular model includes GPS capability.

Initially, the cellular version was titled and marketed worldwide as the "Wi-Fi + 4G" model, but due to regional differences in classification of 4G (LTE) connectivity outside of North America, Apple later rebranded and altered their marketing to call this the "Wi-Fi + Cellular" model. [11][12][13]

The tablet was released in ten countries on March 16,  $2012.^{\boxed{[14]}}$  It gained mostly positive reviews, earning praise for its Retina display, processor and 4G (LTE) capabilities. $^{\boxed{[15][16][17][18][19]}}$  However, controversy arose when the  $\underline{\text{LTE}}$  incompatibilities became known. $^{\boxed{[20]}}$  Three million units were sold in the first three days. $^{\boxed{[1][21]}}$ 

After only seven months (221 days) of official availability, the third-generation iPad was discontinued on October 23, 2012, following the announcement of the <u>fourth-generation iPad</u>. The third-generation iPad had the shortest lifespan of any <u>iOS</u> product. [22] It is also the last iPad to support the 30-pin dock connector, as the <u>fourth-generation iPad</u> and later use the <u>Lightning connector</u>.

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### History

Speculation about the product began shortly after Apple released the <u>iPad 2</u>, which featured front and back cameras as well as a dual-core Apple A5 processor. Speculation increased after news of a 2,048-by-1,536 <u>pixel</u> screen leaked. During this time, the tablet was called the "iPad 3", a colloquial name sometimes still used after the release. On February 9, 2012, <u>John Paczkowski</u> of <u>All Things Digital</u> stated that "Apple's not holding an event in February—strange, unusual or otherwise. But it is holding one in March—to launch its next iPad." Another common rumor at the time was that the tablet would have an <u>Apple A6</u> processor. [25][26]

On February 29, 2012, Apple announced a media event scheduled for March 7, 2012, at the <u>Yerba Buena Center for the Arts</u>. The company did not predisclose the subject of the event, but analysts widely expected the event to announce a new version of the iPad. [27][28][29][30] The announcement affected the tablet resale market positively. [31]

At the event, Apple CEO  $\underline{\text{Tim Cook}}$  introduced  $\underline{\text{iOS 5.1}}$ , a Japanese version of Siri, and the third-generation  $\underline{\text{Apple TV}}$  before the third-generation iPad.  $\underline{^{[32]}}$  Cook claimed that the new product would be one of the main contributors to the emerging "post-PC world"—a world in which digital life would not be tied to the PC.  $\underline{^{[33]}}$ 

The March 16, 2012, release included eight countries including Australia, Canada, Japan, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States. The March 23, 2012, release included many European countries, Mexico and Macau. The April 20, 2012, release added a dozen countries including South Korea and Malaysia. The April 27, 2012, release added nine more countries, including India and South Africa. May 2012 releases added 31 countries, including Brazil and Turkey. [37]

On October 23, 2012, upon the announcement of the <u>fourth-generation iPad</u>, the third-generation iPad was discontinued. [22] In response to criticism from its owners, the return policy of select Apple Stores was briefly extended to thirty days to allow customers to exchange the third-generation model for the fourth-generation

### **Features**

#### **Software**

The third-generation iPad shipped with <u>iOS 5.1</u>, which was released on March 7, 2012. [39] It can act as a <u>hotspot</u> with some carriers, sharing its internet connection over Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, or USB, providing that it is a Wi-Fi + Cellular model. [40] It can also access the <u>App Store</u>, a digital <u>application distribution</u> platform for iOS developed and maintained by Apple. The service allows users to browse and download <u>applications</u> from the <u>iTunes Store</u> that were developed with <u>Xcode</u> and the <u>iOS SDK</u> and were published through Apple. From the App Store, <u>GarageBand</u>, <u>iMovie</u>, <u>iPhoto</u>, and the <u>iWork</u> apps (Pages, <u>Keynote</u>, and <u>Numbers</u>) are available.

The iPad comes with several pre-installed applications, including <u>Safari</u>, Mail, Photos, Videos, YouTube, Music, iTunes, App Store, Maps, Notes, Calendar, <u>Game Center</u>, Photo Booth, and Contacts. <u>[42]</u> Like all <u>iOS</u> devices, the iPad can sync content and other data with a Mac or PC using iTunes, although iOS 5 and later can be managed and backed up without a computer. Although the tablet is not designed to make phone calls over a cellular network, users can use a headset or the built-in speaker and microphone and place phone calls over Wi-Fi or cellular using a <u>VoIP</u> application, such as <u>Skype</u>. <u>[43]</u> The device has <u>dictation</u>, using the same voice recognition technology as the <u>iPhone 4S</u>. The user speaks and the iPad types what they say on the screen provided that the iPad is connected to a Wi-Fi or cellular network.

The third-generation device has an optional <u>iBooks</u> application, which displays books and other <u>EPUB</u>-format content downloaded from the iBookstore. Several major book publishers including <u>Penguin Books</u>, <u>HarperCollins</u>, <u>Simon & Schuster</u> and <u>Macmillan</u> have committed to publishing books for the device. Despite being a direct competitor to both the <u>Amazon Kindle</u> and <u>Barnes & Noble Nook</u>, both Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble offer e-reader apps for the iPad. [47][48]

On September 19, 2012, <u>iOS 6</u>, which contains 200 new features, was released. The iOS 6 update includes new features such as <u>Apple Maps</u>, which replaced a mapping application operated by Google, Facebook integration and the ability to operate Siri on the third-generation iPad. [49]

The third-generation iPad is compatible with  $\underline{iOS 7}$ , which was released in 2013. Although complete support, some newer features such as AirDrop that were released to newer models were not supported. This is the similar support that was also given on the iPhone  $4S.\overline{[50]}$ 

iOS 8 is also supported by the third-generation iPad. However, some features have been stripped down.

 $\underline{iOS~9}$  supports the third-generation iPad as well. It is the fifth major  $\underline{iOS}$  release that this model supports. The  $\underline{iOS~9}$  public beta was also compatible with it. This model has been supported for more than 4 years.

iOS 9.3.5 is the latest and final version to support the Wi-Fi only iPad 3rd generation model while the Wi-Fi + Cellular models run iOS 9.3.6. [51]

#### 2019 GPS rollover update

On July 22, 2019, Apple released iOS 9.3.6 for the WiFi + Cellular models of the third-generation iPad to fix issues caused by the <u>GPS Week Number Rollover</u>. The issues would impact accuracy of GPS location and set the device's date and time to an incorrect value, [52] preventing connection to HTTPS servers and,

consequently, Apple's servers for activation, iCloud and the iTunes and App stores. The WiFi model is not affected by the rollover as it lacks a GPS chipset.

### **Jailbreaking**

Researchers demonstrated within hours of the product release that the third-generation iPad can be "jailbroken" to use applications and programs that are not authorized by Apple. The third-generation iPad can be jailbroken with Redsn0w 0.9.12 or Absinthe 2.0. [54][55] Jailbreaking violates the factory warranty. One of the main reasons for jailbreaking is to expand the feature set limited by Apple and its App Store. Most jailbreaking tools automatically install Cydia, a native iOS APT client used for finding and installing software for jailbroken iOS devices. Many apps unapproved by Apple are extensions and customizations for iOS and other apps. Users install these programs to personalize and customize the interface, adding desired features and fixing annoyances, and simplify app development by providing access to the filesystem and command-line tools. However, Apple often patches the exploits used by jailbreaking teams with iOS updates. This is why the iPad 3rd Generation is not always jailbreakable.

### **Hardware**



Apple's A5X chip

The device has an <u>Apple A5X SoC</u> with a 1 GHz <u>dual-core</u> 32-bit Cortex-A9 <u>CPU</u> and a quad-core <u>PowerVR SGX543MP4 GPU</u>; 1 GB of RAM; a 5-megapixel, rear-facing <u>camera</u> capable of <u>1080p</u> video recording; and a <u>VGA</u> front-facing <u>videophone</u> camera designed for <u>FaceTime</u>. The <u>display resolution</u> is 2,048 by 1,536 (QXGA) with 3.1 million pixels—four times more than the <u>iPad 2</u>—providing even <u>scaling</u> from the prior model. The new iPad is thicker than its predecessor by 0.6 mm and is heavier by 51 grams for the Wi-Fi model (652 grams). The Wi-Fi + Cellular models (both at 662 grams [3]) are 49 grams heavier for the AT&T model and 55 grams heavier for the Verizon model compared to the respective iPad 2 3G models (AT&T 3G iPad 2 is 613 grams, and Verizon 3G iPad 2 is 607 grams). [68]

There are four physical switches on the third-generation iPad, including a home button near the display that returns the user to the home screen, and three plastic switches on the sides: *wake/sleep* and *volume up/down*, plus a software-controlled switch whose function varies with software update. The display responds to other sensors: an ambient light sensor to adjust screen brightness and a 3-axis <u>accelerometer</u> to sense orientation and to switch between <u>portrait and landscape</u> modes. Unlike the <u>iPhone</u> and <u>iPod Touch</u>'s built-in applications, which work in three orientations (portrait, landscape-left and landscape-right), the iPad's built-in applications support <u>screen rotation</u> in all four orientations, including upside-down. Consequently, the device has no intrinsic "native" orientation; only the relative position of the home button changes. [3]

The tablet is manufactured either with or without the capability to communicate over a <u>cellular network</u>; all models can connect to a <u>wireless LAN</u>. The third-generation iPad optionally has 16, 32, or 64 GB of internal <u>flash memory</u>, with no expansion option. Apple sells a "camera connection kit" with an <u>SD card</u> reader, but it can only be used to transfer photos and videos. [3]

The audio playback of the third-generation iPad has a <u>frequency response</u> of 20 <u>Hz</u> to 20,000 Hz. Without third-party software it can play the following audio formats: <u>HE-AAC</u>, <u>AAC</u>, Protected AAC, <u>MP3</u>, <u>MP3</u> VBR, Audible formats (2, 3, 4, AEA, AAX, and AAX+), ALAC, AIFF, and WAV. [3] A preliminary tear-

down of the third-generation iPad by  $\underline{\text{IHS iSuppli}}$  showed the likely costs for a 16 GB Wi-Fi + Cellular model at \$358.30, 32 GB at \$375.10, and 64 GB at \$408.70 respectively. [69]

This iPad uses an internal <u>rechargeable</u> <u>lithium-ion polymer</u> (LiPo) battery. The batteries are made in Taiwan by Simplo Technology (60%) and Dynapack International Technology. The iPad is designed to be charged with a high current of 2 amps using the included 10 W <u>USB</u> power adapter and USB cord with a USB connector at one end and a 30-pin dock connector at the other end. While it can be charged by an older USB port from a computer, these are limited to 500 milliamps (0.5 amps). As a result, if the iPad is in use while powered by a computer, it may charge very slowly, or not at all. High-power USB ports found in newer computers and accessories provide full charging capabilities. [71]

Apple claims that the battery can provide up to 10 hours of video, 140 hours of audio playback, or one month on standby; people say the battery lasts about 8 hours doing normal tasks. Like any rechargeable battery, the iPad's battery loses capacity over time. However, the iPad's battery is not user-replaceable. In a program similar to iPod and iPhone battery-replacement programs, Apple promised to replace an iPad that does not hold an electrical charge with a refurbished unit for a fee of US\$99 plus \$6.95 shipping. User data is not preserved/transferred. The refurbished unit comes with a new case. The warranty on the refurbished unit may vary between jurisdictions.

#### **Accessories**

The Smart Cover, introduced with the iPad 2, is a screen protector that magnetically attaches to the face of the iPad. The cover has three folds which allow it to convert into a stand, which is also held together by magnets. The Smart Cover can also assume other positions by folding it. [76] While original iPad owners could purchase a black case that included a similarly folding cover, the Smart Cover is simpler, easily detachable, and protects only the screen. Smart Covers have a microfiber bottom that cleans the front of the iPad, and wakes up the unit when the cover is removed. It comes in five colors of both polyurethane and the more expensive leather. [77][78]

Apple offers several other accessories, [79] most of which are adapters for the proprietary 30-pin  $\underline{\text{dock}}$  connector, the only port besides the headphone jack. [3] A dock holds the iPad upright at an angle, and has a dock connector and audio line-out port. The iPad can use Bluetooth keyboards that also work with  $\underline{\text{Macs}}$  and  $\underline{\text{PCs}}$ . [80] The iPad can be charged by a standalone power adapter ("wall charger") compatible with iPods and iPhones, and a 10-watt charger is included. [3]

## **Discontinued date**

The iPad (3rd generation) dropped update support in 2016, making  $\underline{iOS}$  9.3.5 the latest version for Wi-Fi Only models while cellular models run iOS 9.3.6 when it was replaced by the  $\underline{iPad}$  (4th generation).

The third-generation iPad received positive reviews, receiving praise

Customers standing in line waiting to purchase the third-generation iPad

## **Critical reception**

for its Retina display, camera, processor and LTE capabilities. [15][16][18] According to Walt Mossberg of All Things Digital, the new model "has the most spectacular display...seen in a mobile device" and holds the crown as "the best tablet on the planet." [65] Jonathan Spira, writing in *Frequent Business Traveler*, claimed that it "seems to make everything sharper and clearer." [17]

#### Issues

#### Cellular problems

Criticism followed the news that in markets outside the US, the tablet cannot communicate with LTE due to its use of 700 MHz and 700/2,100 MHz frequencies, respectively, versus 800 MHz, 1.8 GHz and 2.6 GHz used elsewhere. Soon after the launch, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) took Apple to court for breaking four provisions of Australian consumer law. They alleged that Apple's promotion of the tablet in Australia as the 'iPad Wi-Fi + 4G' misled customers, as the name indicates that it would work on Australia's then-current 4G network. [83][84] Apple



Critics praised the third-generation iPad's 5-megapixel camera with 1080p video recording.

responded to this by offering a full refund to all customers in Australia who purchased the Wi-Fi + Cellular model (when it was previously named "Wi-Fi + 4G") of the iPad. [13]

On April 20, 2012, Apple stated that <u>HSPA+</u> networks in Australia are 4G, even though the speeds are slower than that of LTE. A month later, on June 21, 2012, Apple was sued for A\$2.25 million for false advertising in Australia. In its advertisements Apple claimed that the new iPad was 4G LTE compatible. However, it didn't work with the <u>Telstra</u> LTE mobile data network in Australia. Apple was fined A\$2.25 million and was ordered to pay A\$300,000 in costs. [86]

Apple agreed to remove all references to 4G (LTE) capability in its UK advertising but as of August had not done so. There was no widespread 4G (LTE) network in the UK at the time, and the third-generation iPad would also be incompatible with future 4G (LTE) networks when they did roll-out there. The <u>Advertising Standards Authority</u> received consumer complaints on the matter. Apple offered to refund customers who bought the device after being misled by the advertising. The result of numerous complaints and lawsuits against Apple regarding the use of the term 4G in their advertisements prompted Apple to rename its "4G" service to "Cellular", with this change appearing on Apple's website on May 13, 2012. [11][12]

#### Overheating

Many users reported abnormally high temperatures on the casing of the unit, especially after running 3D games. If used while plugged in, the rear of the new iPad became as much as 12 °F (6.7 °C) hotter than an <u>iPad 2</u>. The difference unplugged was 13 °F (7.2 °C). Thermal imaging tests revealed that the iPad can reach 116 °F (47 °C). At this temperature it was warm to touch but not uncomfortable when held for a brief period. [88][89][90] In a follow-up report, Consumer Reports said, they "don't believe the temperatures we recorded in our tests of the new iPad represent a safety concern." [91]

#### **Performance**

The claimed superiority of the A5X over the <u>Tegra 3</u> processor was questioned around launch time by competitor <u>Nvidia</u>; some benchmarks later confirmed the iPad's superiority in graphics performance, while other benchmarks show that the Tegra 3 has greater performance in some areas. [92][93]

#### Criticism

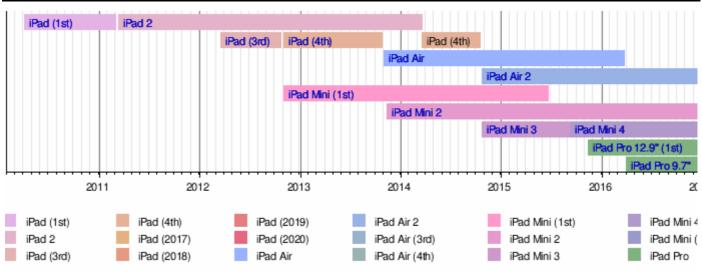
Consumer Reports gave the third-generation iPad a top rating and recommendation, claiming that the tablet was "superb", "very good", and "very fast", and that the <u>4G</u> network, the Retina display, and overall performance were positive attributes. They elaborated on the display quality, stating that the third-generation

iPad was "the best we've seen." The iPad's new display was a large enough improvement to prompt Consumer Reports to rate it "excellent," and consequently downgraded the display of other tablets (including the <u>iPad 2</u>) from "excellent" to "very good." As with the preceding models (see the parent article on the <u>iPad</u>), iOS' closed and proprietary nature garnered criticism, particularly by <u>digital rights</u> advocates such as the <u>Electronic Frontier Foundation</u>, computer engineer and activist <u>Brewster Kahle</u>, Internet-law specialist <u>Jonathan Zittrain</u>, and the <u>Free Software Foundation</u> who protested the iPad's introductory event and have targeted the iPad with their "Defective by Design" campaign. [95]

### **Commercial reception**

Pre-orders were so high for the third-generation iPad that later orders were quoted shipping times of "two to three weeks" after the order was placed. [96][97] Apple said that "customer response to the new iPad has been off the charts and the quantity available for pre-order has been purchased." [34] Despite the delayed shipping, many users chose to purchase the iPad online instead of waiting in line at the Apple Store. [98] According to an Apple press release, three million units were sold in the first three days. [1][21] The iPad was purchased mainly by a younger, male demographic. Most of the buyers were either "die-hard Apple fans" or had previously purchased an iPad. [99] An Apple retailer in Dayton, Ohio, claimed that the demand for the tablet was "chaotic" and claimed that its launch was "drastically more significant than the iPad 2 launch." [7] By Q2 of 2012, Apple would hit an all-time high, claiming 69.6 percent of the global tablet market. [100]

### **Timeline**



Source: Apple Newsroom Archive. [101]

### See also

- List of iPad accessories
- Comparison of tablet computers
- E-reader

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- Official website (http://www.apple.com/ipad)
- iPad (https://web.archive.org/web/20130306111748/http://events.apple.com.edgesuite.net/123 pibhargjknawdconwecown/event/index.html) launch event video at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Preceded by iPad 2	iPad (3rd generation) 3rd generation	Succeeded by iPad (4th generation)
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