



The power to do more



The Future of Gaming

Our expectations on the upcoming hot new consoles

And so it begins again. As has been the tradition since 2001, since the launch of the Xbox a year after the Playstation 2, the two console giants Microsoft and Sony are at it again. Although that particular battle went the way of Sony (154 Million Units sold vs Xbox's 24 Million Units), the war was only beginning. With the release of Xbox 360 and Playstation 3, the battle truly heated up, with the 360 selling 77.3 million units as of February 2013, compared to the PS3's 75.1 million units. Now, with the beginning of the 7th generation of consoles, the battle has truly reached a climax. Let us look into the future and see what the Xbox One and PlayStation 4 have to offer.

In a surprising turn of events, the PS4 will launch at a lower price than that of the Xbox One, with the PS4 costing \$400, while the Xbox One will set you back \$500. This is surprising because the PS3 cost \$600 at launch, compared to the 360's \$400 price tag. All the units which were on pre-order of both the PS4 and Xbox One are sold out at the time of this writing, so expect the console wars to continue at a frantic pace. However, by the time they arrive in Bangladesh, expect both consoles to cost upwards of 50000 taka, as the shops always charge exorbitant prices at first, to cash in on the "must-have" value.

Hardware wise everything seems pretty even. Sony has let AMD handle most things, using a custom

AMD 'Jaguar' processor with 8 cores for the PS4, while Microsoft made their own 8 core processor for the Xbox One. Both will feature 8GB GDDR5 RAM and a Blu Ray/ DVD drive. Currently only 500GB models are available, but expect more storage options to become available in the future. Though the Xbox One will have the option for external storage, it is not yet confirmed for the PS4.

In terms of controllers, we'll be seeing Sony go with their new Dualshock 4 and Microsoft with their new Xbox controller. Other devices included for the PS4: Playstation Eye, Playstation Move and the Vita handheld device, while the Xbox One will have the Kinect 2.0 and Smartglass.

The Xbox One also has some very nifty features, such as the ability to play games and browse the internet simultaneously. Skype has been confirmed on the Xbox One, and the possibility of inclusion on the PS4.

is high also. Xbox also added a voice command feature, so you can order your console to do things such as power on the Xbox without moving or change the channels on your TV, though TV related features have not been confirmed outside the US of A. The inclusion of gestures in the Xbox is also well designed and some gestures are very useful, such as swiping your hands and changing windows and dragging and resizing things too.

To play games online now requires a user to pay a monthly subscription fee for both PS4 (Playstation Plus) and Xbox(Xbox Live Membership), while previously PS3 offered free online play for most of their titles. People with existing memberships will have their current subscriptions supported in the next generation as well. That 500GB hard drive also may not prove sufficient for Xbox owners as the games still require a mandatory installation to the hard drive, so expect that storage space to drain away. As for backwards compatibility, that has not been confirmed on the Xbox, while the PS4 will be able to 'stream' PS3 games from 2014.

As many of you probably know, the Xbox One has suffered a setback in terms of their policies.

Microsoft proudly announced all their new features, but at the cost of the system requiring a constant internet connection. They also limited games to one disc per person, although the family sharing plan would let you share those games with up to nine other people. However, there was a large consumer outcry, and Sony only added to that by declaring that they would allow used games to be resold, rented out, and basically follow the same procedures which they do now. After that whole debacle(not their first; refer to the Red Ring Of Death, Xbox 360), Microsoft revised their policy, removing their always online feature and the family sharing plan, to the dismay of some gamers who felt they would greatly benefit from the family sharing plan. The Xbox One will however require a one time internet connection to set up the console during the first time it is powered up.

But the consoles themselves can only go so far; games play a more than integral role. Sure there are some great titles coming out like GTA V, Watch Dogs, FIFA 14, et al, but those are multi-platform. Platform exclusive games in brief are the real game-changers. The Xbox kicks things off with a fan

favourite and one of their best games, Halo, a futuristic first person shooter, which has won plaudits ever since it's inception. Microsoft counters that with Killzone, which is not quite as impressive, but a stellar title nonetheless. For the car junkies out there, the game to play has been Forza for quite a while, with Gran Turismo barely keeping up. The racing game Sony is offering this time around is DriveClub, a game more Grid 2 and less Gran Turismo. Another intriguing title for the Xbox is 'Ryse', an action RPG game set in ancient Rome. Expect lots of fighting and action in a 300-ish world. To end the topic of exclusive games, we'll look forward to the next God of War, one of Sony's best titles. Not much is known about it, but when it comes out, expect it to be big, gruesome and amazing.

We here at Shift decided to speak to some gamers about their thoughts on the next generation. "Although I was put of by the always online DRM, I never considered the PS4 as a valid option. Xbox has always served me well and I will stick to them, specially

since they changed their policies", said Rakeen Rouf, an A level student and Xbox fanboy. Next we talked to Alhan Aarsal, an O level student who has always been loyal to Sony. "The PS4 is the future of gaming. They had a clear vision from the start, unlike Microsoft, so I am assured of the services I will get."

The most interesting person we spoke to was Shelly Rozario. He had a PS2, before moving to an Xbox 360. "I wanted to get the Xbox One since it's announcement, because I am one of the biggest Halo fans in the country. But their strange policies deterred me from considering one. Then I began to look in the PS4 and I got excited about getting into God Of War again. However with the policy changes, I sense instability in Microsoft and so I'll probably stick to getting a PS4, although that may change in the future.

Clearly the people are divided in their choices and are yet to make informed ones about what they really want. For now let's wait for these two monsters to come out. Release dates are sometime in mid November to late December. Expect a lot more information to be unraveled as time passes and look right here for the updates. At the moment though, let us look towards the future, the next generation of gaming, and let us hope the next console wars are more intense and fruitful than we have never known them to be.

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What on Earth Facebook graph search is good for?

After using the facebook graph search for the first time, I posted my status: "Totally not impressed.....". Though it is undoubtedly the best search option in facebook ever, still I am never going to search "My friends who loves Baklava and lives in Mohakhali". So, I kept wondering what good would come off from graph search and this is what I came up with-

- 1 To Stalk of Course: If you're the kind of person who stalks, then graph search is best trick in your sleeve. I recently came across this joke, "FACEBOOK: because stalking girls in town is far too risky." It made perfect sense with the new graph search option.
- 2 Chances For Redemption: It gives you a unique ability to clean up your act, before somebody finds out you posted 'Cool' is a serial killers fan page.
- 3 Find Experts For Topic Of Interest: You could easily find people in fields they are expert in. Helpful, especially if you are a journalist or an investigator.
- 4 Explore More Choices From People Having Similar Taste As Yours: Since you can search open ended phrases, most likely you will end up finding your best friend is also a 'fan' of Brooklyn Decker.
- 5 Let's You Take A Trip Down The Memory Lane: This is actually a good one. It's like more visual form of timeline, hence more beguiling.
- 6 Building Better Professional Network: That's what facebook claims. But then again, what's LinkedIn for, right?

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INTRODUCING YOU TO FACEBOOK GRAPH SEARCH

Graph Search is a new way for you to find people, photos, places and interests that are most relevant to you on Facebook, and is currently available in beta with a limited preview.

What can you do with your GRAPH SEARCH?

- Find people based on things they have shared with you, including their interests and profile info.
- Discover things like restaurants and music through yours friends and connections.
- See results for friends who share their city with you, people whose city is set to public, and suggested results based on info shared with you.
- Find photos you and your friends have posted or been tagged in.

How Graph SEARCH WORK?

- Facebook users can now type into the search query suppose for: "Music my friends like"
- And then they will receive a list of music that their friends have either liked, checked in at, or recommended.
- From this lists of music they can click on like an individual results that show up.

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