DELL
The power to do more

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INFORMATION | GADGETS | TECHNOLOGY
BYTES

HANDS ON REVIEW

GOOGLE Nexus7 V.2 review

Verdict

It beats the iPad in terms of hardware. The 7's greatest trump card is its price (if you can get it from abroad and avoid the reseller markup). It offers a lot of bang per buck. Its slight downside is the lack of killer apps that can make full use of the brilliant screen and processor. But that's not going to stay that way soon.

The original Nexus 7 was so good that Google figured they would leave the new one named Nexus 7 as well. Which is confusing if you're looking to buy one in the market. But that's a minor annoyance.

This mini tablet is much anticipated. I have the original one originally owned by a friend who had a knack of dropping things. SO the older 7 at my disposal is battered, bruised but still packs a punch. So version 2 better be amazing.

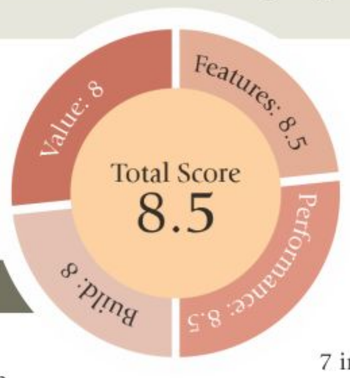
This second gen is in battle with the iPad mini. And it may be winning considering the person who owns this particular test device was an Apple fan.

First thing that is noticeable with this is that the design is more upmarket looking than the previous iteration. The bezel is pushed further to the edges making the display look more expansive. Everything is black. It also appears a bit more squared off bringing it in line with contemporary edge designs. And then you turn it on to be dazzled by that 1920x1200 with 323ppi (compared to 216ppi before).It isn't just an upgrade; it's a completely new device.

The form is easy to hold in the hand. Even children grab it and play without difficulty. It's also very light so it doesn't get tiring for extended one handed use. What I didn't like is that the speakers are still in the back. Yes, now there are two of those but if I am watching a movie, the speaker should be pointed at me. The sound output while sharp, isn't much powerful.

Storage capacity is up from previous. Now there are two options with 16GB and 32GB. Sadly, no card slots still because Google is pushing cloud services. Now that 3G is finally here, perhaps we can avail the cloud storage because the 32G space can easily filled up with games, a few movie and music. It is primarily a media device so that's what it will have.

Google responded to the fans and provided a rear camera this time. It's a 5MP unit that is nothing to write home about. Low light and you won't get much of a clear shot. Much grain and over-compensation of light. If you need to take a group shot, tell everyone to hold very, very still. The front 1.2 megapixel camera is there for the selfies and the Skype marathons.



SPECS

Display: LED back lit IPS display, 1200 x 1920 pixels, 7.0 inches (~323 ppi pixel density)
OS: Android 4.3.1 (jelly bean)
CPU: Quad-Core 1.5GHz Krait
ROM: 16/32 GB
RAM: 2GB
Connectivity: Wi-Fi, BT, EDGE, (3G optional), 4G etc
Camera: Primary 5 MP, 2592x1944 pixels, autofocus, geotagging etc. & Secondary 1.2 MP.
Sensors: Accelerometer, gyro, proximity, compass
Battery: 3950 mAh
Price: 16 GB WiFi Tk. 24,500-25,500/-

You get an HD screen onto a 7 inch tablet. Text jumps off the screen and the tiniest letters are visible clearly making zooming out of web pages a joy. So how does it serve as the tab of choice? Google says the tab will last nine hours. Which isn't bad and our tests averaged a similar time frame. This is strange despite the battery having been downsized. The previous gen had a 4325mAh battery and now it has a 3950mAh. Although that sounds counterproductive, it does make it lighter. This is not really a fair comparison considering the new one has a better processor and will benefit from the better power management abilities of the upcoming OS. In real world usages, the new Nexus 7 lasted an entire day without needing a charge. Long train rides, traffic jams, being stuck in a toilet during load shedding, it should provide you enough juice. I played an entire video, played a few games and read a coupla comics. It's the gaming that gets it the most.

Speaking of games, thecurrent crop of games can't faze this device no matter how many apps are running in the background. The 1.5GHz Quad-Core Krait CPU, Qualcomm Snapdragon S4 Pro chipset and 2GB of RAM definitely helps in that regard.

The 7 also has wireless charging but I couldn't use it because the accessoriesaren't here.

EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

How to bring your dead HDD back to life

Your HDD is infested with bad sectors to the point where your PC refuses to boot. We know your HDD data is sacred to you. But recovering the data seems nearly impossible let alone the actual hard-disk. So what do you then? Do you cry to vent your misfortune?

No, you are to man up and delve into the secrets of DOS because that is the only OS that can save your data along with your HDD.

Follow these steps carefully. Note that this portion of the article is for advanced users who know their way through the computer's main BIOS. Noobs are welcome to try as well but don't call us if your head is stuck inside a wall socket.

For this, you will require a flash drive and a connected HDD with bad sectors. Let's get going:

- First of all you are required to download a copy of Hiren'sBootCD from http://www.hirensbootcd.org/hbcd-v101/. After doing that, simply extract the ISO's contents to your flash drive along with the other files provided.
- Now all you need do is make your flash drive a bootable device, which will require you to follow the steps listed in this link http://www.hiren.info/pages/bootcd-on-usb-disk
- After successfully finishing step 2, plug in the drive and reset your PC. Enter the BIOS, and set all your HDD controllers and boot options to legacy and IDE. Then you will find the flash drive listed as a Hard Disk drive. Make it a priority boot and exit setup.
- Your PC will now boot from the Flash drive, and you'll be welcomed to Hiren's boot menu. From here you can boot a Mini Windows XP which is already included to backup all of the precious data in your Primary HDD.
- Okay, now that your data is safely backed up; from the DOS menu, go to HDD tools, from their access "Maxtor Low Level Format Utility". Commence a full low level format. This will completely erase your HDD and its partitions.

Protip: It'll take time and patience. There's a 50/50 chance that all your bad sectors will be rendered usable again. It'll cost you about 6-10 hours depending upon your HDD capacity. But it's obviously worth the try. Old motherboards do tend to work better with the Maxtor utility though, so try it on a really old PC if the utility does not detect the drive on your modern workstation.

So you might have understood by now that the mother of all your misery is: Bad sectors. They start up small and eventually spread, and cost you your HDD and along with that, your precious files.

To avoid any further misfortune you should do these:

- Always shut application windows down properly, improper shutdown of apps can and will cause bad sectors to form.
- Do not subject your HDD to excessive shock or heat. Hard Disk Drives have moving parts inside of them, which makes them very vulnerable to shock and heat.
- Mind the power connectors, try using the direct SATA power cable from your PSU instead of the Molex converter; this ensures healthy and direct power delivery and less power loss.
- Use high quality SATA cables, even professionals mess up here. Low quality SATA cables produce low profile CRC read errors in the drive, which if prolonged, may lead to bad sectors. Also make sure your cables are not bent or under pressure.
- Power outages or loadshedding do not only kill the lights, they also kill HDDs. Bad power spikes and deadly voltage fluctuations are also companions of such electricity blackouts. Getting a UPS is HIGHLY recommended; if you cannot afford it at least opt for a voltage stabilizer.
- Defrag your HDD once every three months. Unfragmented drives stress the HDD controller and unnecessary stress is never good. Besides, with a properly defragged disk, you'll have a more responsive and much faster PC.

Protip : Run the "Chkdsk" utility after every blackout. The utility recognizes and marks bad sectors in drive, which prevents the system from trying to access those bad sectors ensuring proper stability. Just navigate to My Computer, right click one of your drives, "Tools>Check Disk for errors" repeat for all drives and you should be good to go. Also you could use tools like CCleaner or Registry Mechanics to unclog your PC, time to time. If possible, try using Solid State Drive. Though they are nearly five times more expensive than regular HDD's but the high bus rate and longer service life is worth extra money.

Disclaimer: There's a chance your motherboard might fry should you decide to wander off and press what you are not supposed to while recovering. It's DOS afterall, and DOS is black and…ermm…..scary.

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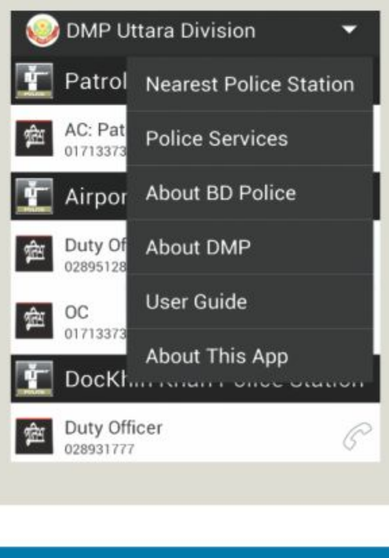
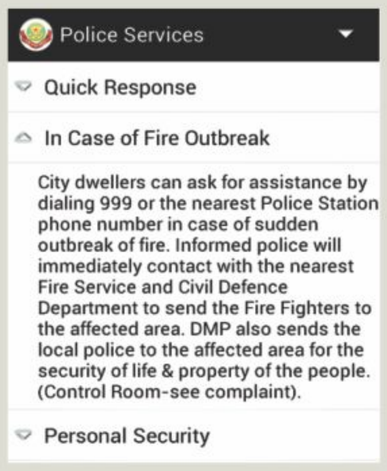
APPS ON THE FLOOR

Name of App: DMP Uttara Division
Developer: eLITEs
Platforms: Android
Size: 0.5 MB
Launched: October, 2013
Genre: Utility
Rating: 4.9 (Rated by 95 users)
No. of Downloads: 1,000 - 5,000

Our Rating: 7.0/10
Say, its midnight and you & your friends are returning home from a hangout. Suddenly you see a glass shattering scream. It's someone getting mugged just few yards away from you. What would you do? If you were in Uttara, Dhaka and you had an app called 'DMP Uttara Division' you could call in the authorities in minutes and save the day.

So, you can understand how useful this app could be if you are in Uttara. Not to mention, this app is the first in Bangladesh from any law enforcement or emergency services. Through this app, the 2 million plus residents of Uttara can easily find out the nearest police station to his or her current location. We tried it out and found it working perfectly. But you need a GPS enabled device for that. After locating the closest police station one could make a call to duty officer or DC of that respective branch if needed. Moreover, you get to know whom to contact in case of various emergency situations like accidents, robbery in progress or fire outbreak etc. You can also call/text the high officials if necessary. In this context, we would also like to mention that Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Uttara Division also has an active facebook page with 16,000+ fanbase.





Though now the app is only Uttara based, we hope that very soon there would be apps for all major cities of Bangladesh.

JUST IN

HP Pavilion 14-E005TU in BD

With Upscale design; powerful CPU; large touch pad; excellent battery life, a new Laptop of HP for the end-user, especially student and mid range job holders was launched last week. This 3rd Gen 14 inch Laptop, Model HP E005TU comes with Intel Core i5 Processor as white color. Its processing speed is 2.6 GHz. The HP Pavilion 14-E005TU has 4 GB DDR3 RAM, 750 GB HDD and 14.0" LED Display.

Price: Tk. 53,500 with one year warranty.

Lenovo Technical Training Program Held in Dhaka:

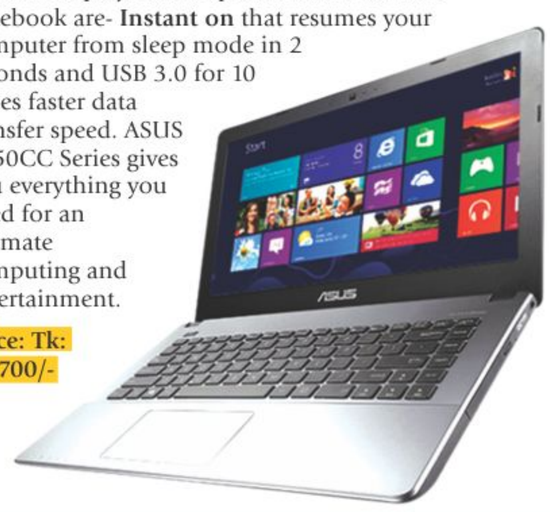
Lenovo in Bangladesh has organized a 2-day long technical training program named "Lenovo Technical Training Program" on 7th & 8th October at their service center of Kallyanpur. A total number of 14 service engineers have attended the program. Mahboop Khan, the Technical Support Guru of Lenovo from India has conducted the training session while Hasan Riaz Jitu presided over the event.

New D-Link 3G Modem in Market

In the local market, a new a 3G modem of D-Link, DWM-156 was introduced for the HSPA internet users. The D-link HSUPA 3.75G USB Adapter (3G modem) allows users with a computer/Laptop to connect to worldwide mobile broadband Operator. While connected, users can transfer data, stream media, and send SMS messages through internet. Its download speed is 7.2 Mbps and Upload Speed is 5.76 Mbps. It has a built-in MicroSD card reader slot which can be used for optional removable storage.

Price: Tk. 3, 100/-

ASUS X450CC notebook now in Dhaka

Value-packed with all the essentials, the X450CC notebook reinvents your daily computing experience. It features 1.8 GHz 3rd Generation Intel® Core™ i3 processor, 4 GB RAM, 1 TB hard disk, NVIDIA® GeForce® GT 720M graphics of 2 GB video memory, 14-inch display. Other special features of the notebook are- **Instant on** that resumes your computer from sleep mode in 2 seconds and USB 3.0 for 10 times faster data transfer speed. ASUS X450CC Series gives you everything you need for an ultimate computing and entertainment.

Price: Tk: 44,700/-