

TERRARIA MINECRAFT'S 2D, ACTION-ADVENTURE COUSIN

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Platforms: Microsoft Windows, PlayStation 3, PlayStation Network, Xbox 360, PlayStation Vita, Windows Phone, Android, iOS, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Kindle Fire

Terraria is a 2D platformer that is inspired by Minecraft except it's much more organised. You are dropped in a randomly generated world where you have to mine ores and craft objects starting from weapons to furniture. It's not as complex as Minecraft is but the action in it keeps it way more interesting in singleplayer.

One thing that I felt throughout the game was that it was made with a lot of care. The world is extremely interesting to explore as it's filled with different creatures from the areas on clouds (literally) to Hell (literally, but no Satan). Once you defeat three bosses, you move into Hardcore mode. That's pretty brutal, so brutal that I stopped playing Terraria. Another reason behind me giving up was that Terraria doesn't offer much if you're not into crafting. My taste in architecture matches that of Hitler's so I wasn't that into making beautiful castles and all. What I wanted was more diversity in the action, like new weapons, etc. In Terraria,

every player is more or less using the same gear.

MODDING! Terraria has a bunch of mods including map editors which, again, help you out with crafting. There are a bunch of UI tweaks like Romsteady's Terraria Launcher. I didn't mod my game even though I was well over 75 hours. The best thing to do with Terraria is to grab it during a sale on Steam.

The Android version of the game is also quite good but playing it on a smartphone can be a hassle. The controls felt more comfortable on a tablet than my 4.7 inch... screen. If you still want to give it a go, there's the free demo on the app store.



GAME REVIEW



Using TeamViewer for Performance Intensive Software

For those who don't know, TeamViewer is a remote desktop application that lets you control someone else's PC from your own as if you were there. Now, most people use it for fixing PCs but a lot can be done like running an application remotely to create something (Photoshop, Illustrator) which can save time and bandwidth as the native AI and PSD formats are huge. Not only that, it can help those running older machines that can't run latest software. It won't work for games, though. An alternative to TeamViewer is Ammy (ammy.com).

HYBRID WINDOWS 8 PCS IN BANGLADESH

Is it worth the kidney you're planning to sell?

MUHAMMAD MUHTASIM JAWAD

Are you in need of a good laptop? And the idea of a tablet fascinates you as well? Just imagine carrying a light device that functions as both. PC manufacturers are well aware of the growing needs of the general public these days. Microsoft, Asus, Lenovo, Samsung and other top brands are already showcasing their premium hybrid PCs, which are also called convertibles or 2-in-1 PCs. These laptops have touch panels on their screens. In Bangladesh, however, these brilliant pieces of hardware are still a rare sight.

The early hybrid PCs were not exactly a joy to use. The tide has turned with the advent of Windows 8. The stunning Microsoft Surface range of hybrid laptops has interested many other manufacturers to follow suit. The price, though, can be a tricky issue here, since the manufacturers have to make their device work both as a powerful laptop and a good tablet. Different compromises have to be made to fit the requirements of the average user: weight, dimensions, processing capability, screen resolution and of course, battery life.

Let us look at few of the best options available.

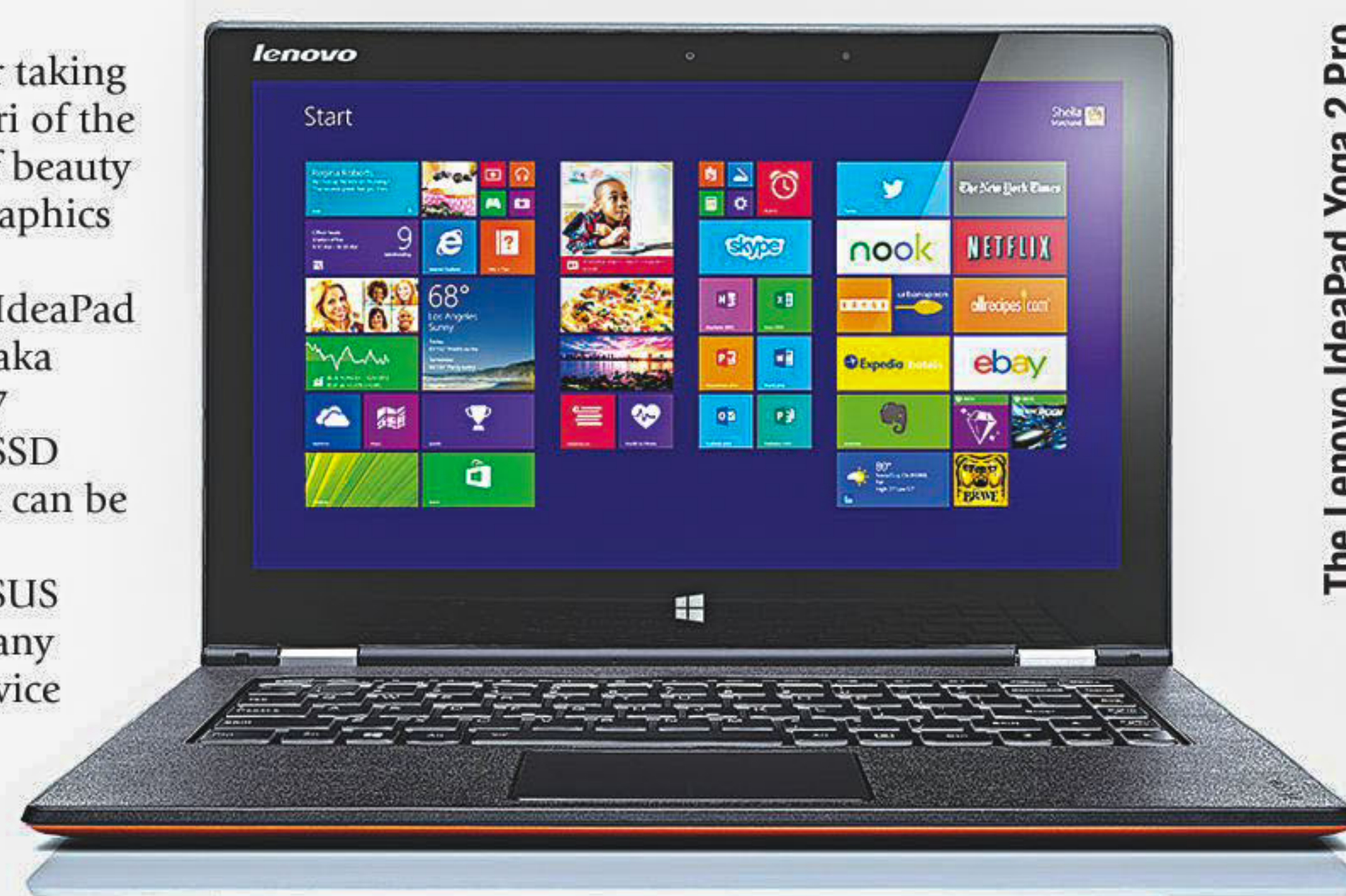
The latest Surface Pro 3 by Microsoft can cost over Taka 1,10,000 (price varies according to storage size) which is similar to the price of an ultrabook. The 12-inch slim and sleek device comes with Intel Core i3, i5 or i7 processors and storages starting from 64GB SSDs. The Type-Cover keyboard, a very elegant and slim option, adds around Taka 8,000-10,000 extra. It even has a pen

for touch input, which can come handy for taking notes or drawing. Basically this is the Ferrari of the bunch out there, with an amazing blend of beauty and power. Say hello to gaming and real graphics designing on a tablet!

Another attractive option is the Lenovo IdeaPad Yoga 2 Pro which you can get for around Taka 96,000. It comes with 1.6GHz Intel Core i7 4200U, a 4GB DDR3 SDRAM and 128GB SSD hard drive. As the name suggests, this beast can be hinged in many different angles.

A cheaper option and a best seller for ASUS would be the Transformer Book T100. For any tech enthusiast with a tight budget, this device would be a gem. Powered by a speedy Bay Trail quad-core Atom processor, this would be fairly suitable for casual use. It packs 2 gigs of RAM, 32 or 64 GB SSD (Micro SD card supported) and a 10 inch screen. It even houses a 500 GB hard disk in its keyboard part, which is detachable. This model is already available in Bangladesh with a one-year warranty and costs around Taka 35,000. One could even play Skyrim (with low settings) or Dota 2 smoothly with this device! Lenovo Miix 2 and Dell Venue 11 are also attractive yet, inexpensive options with specs similar to the T100.

But the destiny of these hybrid PCs all comes down to the availability of these products. The Bangladeshi consumers can only order most of these devices from abroad



The Lenovo IdeaPad Yoga 2 Pro

since they are not yet being highlighted in our part of the globe. Some of them are available in BCS Computer City, but not elsewhere in the country. To the average Bangladeshi crowd, these devices can truly be popular, provided that the price remains competitive. A good customer care service is also a necessity, since these devices have a very different and more compact architecture than normal laptops or tablets.

So, can the wide range of Android tablets and iPads be replaced by these seemingly more practical devices? Only time can answer that.