

It's often said that Steve Jobs, Apple's founder, knew what the public wanted before it did. Over and over again, Apple came up with inventions that seemed to feed a hunger we didn't know we had.

There's no better example than the iPad. Apple unveiled it in January 2010, three months before anybody could actually buy one. Without ever having tried the it, tech critics called it the dumbest machine ever invented.

"An utter disappointment and abysmal failure," wrote the Orange County Design Blog. "Consumers seem genuinely baffled by why they might need it," said Businessweek. "It's nothing more than a luxury bauble that will appeal to a few gadget freaks," declared Bloomberg. "Insanely great it is not," snarked CBS MarketWatch. "My god, am I underwhelmed," said Gizmodo.

As we know now, the joke was on them. Apple sold 300,000 iPads on the first day they were available; 1 million in the first month; 250 million in the first seven years. The iPad became the fastest-adopted new product category in history.

## The iPad Defined

Now here we are, five iPad models (and three mini models) later, and we can now see that the iPad was a turning point in computing history. Today, lots of people carry around an iPad instead of a laptop.

Your ability to replace a laptop with an iPad, however, depends on what you want to do with it. For years, the conventional wisdom was that the iPad is fantastic for **consuming** material—surfing the Web, reading ebooks, watching videos, playing music, doing a first pass on email—but a clumsy tool for **creating** it. Sometimes, a mouse and keyboard are faster, more precise tools than your fat fingertips.

These days, that view has softened. Especially in iOS 8.1, the iPad's dictation feature has gotten so fast and accurate that you don't ache for a keyboard quite so much.

And then there are the apps (programs). Sooooooo many apps. 750,000 apps written just for the iPad, including, surprisingly, Microsoft Office.

And then there are those 1.3 million *iPhone* apps that also run on the iPad.

The iPad is already a thin, light, touchscreen computer with a dazzling screen. But those apps turn it into a sensational Internet viewer. It shows fully formatted email (with attachments, thank you) and displays entire Web pages with fonts and design intact. It's tricked out with a tilt sensor, a proximity sensor, a light sensor, WiFi, Bluetooth, a gyroscope, and that amazing multitouch screen. The cellular models even have GPS.

For many people, the iPad is also a camera and a camcorder—one that's getting better with every year's new model.

Furthermore, it's a calendar, address book, alarm clock, stopwatch, traffic reporter, RSS reader, medical reference, musical keyboard, time tracker, remote control, reader, and so on. And, whoa, those games! Thousands of them, with smooth 3-D graphics and tilt control.

All of this sends the iPad's utility and power through the roof.

By the way: As a thoughtful courtesy to people who own multiple Apple gadgets (as well as people who write books about them), Apple wrote iOS to work almost identically on the iPad and the iPhone. Where things are, what they're called, and what they look like is almost exactly the same.

In fact, there are only a few iPhone features that the iPad *doesn't* have, some of which may surprise you:

- **Phone features.** Without the assistance of an iPhone, an iPad can't make a traditional phone call or send traditional text messages.
- **Vibrate mode.** The iPad can get your attention with visuals and sound, but not touch; there's no vibration.
- **Certain apps.** For reasons nobody can quite figure out, the iPad doesn't come with as many apps as the iPhone. It's missing Calculator, Stocks, Weather, Voice Memos, Compass, and Health.
- **A flash.** There are cameras on the iPad, front and back, but it doesn't have a flash.

## Meet iOS

Apple introduces a new iPad model every fall. In October 2014, for example, it introduced the sixth full-size iPad model—the iPad Air 2—and the third 7-inch model, the iPad mini 3. They're thinner, faster, and better in most ways.

More importantly, there's a new, free version of the iPad's software, called iOS 8.1. (Why not "iPad OS" anymore? Because the same operating system runs on the iPhone and iPod Touch. It's not just for iPads anymore, and saying "the iPad/iPhone/iPod Touch OS" takes too long.)

You can run iOS 8 on *older* iPad models without having to buy a new phone. This book covers all phones that can run iOS 8: the iPad Air 2, iPad Air, iPad 2, iPad 3rd Generation, iPad 4th Generation, and all three mini models.

## About This Book

You don't get a printed manual when you buy an iPad. Online, you can find an electronic PDF manual that covers the basics well, but it's largely free of details, hacks, workarounds, tutorials, humor, and any acknowledgment of the iPad's flaws. You can't easily mark your place, underline, or read it in the bathroom.

The purpose of this book, then, is to serve as the manual that should have accompanied the iPad. (If your older iPad doesn't have iOS 8, you really need one of this book's earlier editions.)

Writing a book about the iPad is a study in exasperation, because the darned thing is a moving target. Apple updates the iPad's software fairly often, piping in new features, bug fixes, speed-ups, and so on.

Therefore, you should think of this book the way you think of the first iPad: as a darned good start. To keep in touch with updates we make to it as developments unfold, drop in to the book's Errata/Changes page. (Go to [www.missingmanuals.com](http://www.missingmanuals.com), click this book's name, and then click **View/Submit Errata**.)

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**TIP:** This book covers the iOS 8.1.2 software. There will surely be an 8.1.3, an 8.2, and so on. Check this book's page at [www.missingmanuals.com](http://www.missingmanuals.com) to read about those updates when they occur.

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