

# Perkins Computer Center

*hSoft Consulting*



## Tablets V. PCs

By: GeekITDown.Com

Recent events and technology advances have placed great pressure on the PC industry. The ever growing presence of iPads and other tablets have meant diminishing PC sales. While the industry itself battles with tablets for market share there comes news from HP, the number one retailer in the world of PCs, that they no longer want to sell PCs. As the industry takes hit after hit, the murmurs begin that perhaps the PC era is over.

### The Tablet Threat

The most popular tablet, the [iPad](#), has made huge inroads by being the first portable computer-like device that is worth using. Like any new gadget, curiosity drove initial sales and as Apple successfully marketed their iPad product other tablets were created from competitors and so the tablet wars were born.

Tablets are convenient and portable, but are they a PC killer? That's a definitive no. Tablets have been marketed to be a tablet computer without all the weight, bulkiness and trouble of a laptop. Fact is, tablets are little more than large smartphones. Does that make them worthless? Certainly not, in fact it makes them desirable especially for those who don't do much other than browse the web, check email and play games. Think of tablets as your hardware device for the cloud. As tablets continue to develop they will likely achieve greater capabilities and establish themselves as a must have device. For now, they cannot replace a PC.

### HP and Computer Sales

PCs have enjoyed a long and flourishing span of success. Sure there have always been different brands, but they are all computers in the end. Now the road has become more bumpy as smartphones and tablets eat up sales that would otherwise be available to computer manufacturers. HP decided to jump ship early and whether it is a well thought out decision or not, they deserve credit for having the guts to make such a move. Does HP's departure from PC sales mark the end of the PC era? No. However, it may indicate a climate shift in the industry. Manufacturers will need to take the cookie cutter approach of 'install hardware necessary to run the latest version of Windows' and throw it out the window. Brands like Dell, Acer, Toshiba and others will have to adjust their way of creating PCs to better fit the lifestyle of their consumers. What does that mean? Specifically, consumers are on the go more than ever so access to anything and everything needs to be at their fingertips which translates to more cloud integration. Along those lines, having cloud options isn't enough. Those options and connections need to be 100% secure, which means hardened encryption, firewalls, heavily monitored servers and redundant backups for all users as standard packaging. The final step that manufacturers need to take involves trashing the current look and feel of computers. One thing tablets have shown us is that shrinking hardware to create a slick device is possible. Manufacturers need to realize the bulky box system is not what future consumers want. Additionally, laptops aren't a good enough alternative. Just as cellphones advanced to smartphones and tablets, PCs must be advanced beyond their current configurations and make the PC an item that belongs anywhere in the home not just on a computer desk in another room. The technology is there, but someone needs to take the leap.

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### Football Facts

- ✓ The American Professional Football Association, which later became the NFL, began in 1920 at a Canton, Ohio car dealership.
- ✓ The NFL is the world's richest professional sports league, bringing in close to \$1 billion each year.
- ✓ The Dallas Cowboys, worth nearly \$1.5 billion, are the most valuable sports franchise in the world.
- ✓ The first intercollegiate football game was played on November 6, 1869 at Rutgers University against Princeton University. This game resembled rugby more than American football, as carrying or throwing the ball was not allowed.
- ✓ Willie Thrower was the first African-American quarterback in the NFL. He played for the Chicago Bears in 1953.
- ✓ The three bird mascots of the Baltimore Ravens are named Edgar, Allan and Poe.
- ✓ Emmitt Smith had the same number of rushing yards in his last season as he did in his rookie season (937).
- ✓ Following Thanksgiving, Super Bowl Sunday is the largest food consumption day in the United States.

## Computers Live On

Regardless of what happens over the next several months and few years, computers are here to stay. Their overall appearance and presence may change, but their function will remain the same. Businesses alone will enable computers to continue for an unknown length of time. Home PCs are the most likely to have change befall them as hardware advances and competition heats up between the different platforms. The thing to remember is that somewhere a PC is being used to maintain something you're fond of, whether it be a website, email, financial platform or something else. Yes, PCs are here to stay.

In my opinion the PC is not dead, but with the acknowledgement that the industry needs to make some changes to compete with the onslaught of tablets and future computing gadgets. If you've been wondering whether you should spend your \$500 or more on a tablet or PC, then the answer is a PC. Tablets priced equally to computers are ridiculously overpriced. HP got one thing right, they dropped the TouchPad to \$99 when they decided to discontinue it and it flew off the shelves. While \$99 might be too cheap, no tablet should cost more than \$300 for what they offer. My advice, save your money for when a tablet can do everything your computer can.

## Hello, Autumn! Recipes

From [MarthaStewart.com](http://MarthaStewart.com)

### Grilled Prosciutto Wrapped Figs with Blue Cheese and Pecans

- 12 fresh black Mission figs, stems removed
- 2 ounces blue cheese, cut into 12 equal pieces
- 6 pecan halves, broken in half lengthwise
- 6 thin slices prosciutto, 2 to 3 ounces, cut in half lengthwise
- Olive oil, for brushing
- Honey, for serving



Place 12 skewers (4 inches each) in water to soak for at least 10 minutes. Heat a grill pan over medium-high heat. Slice the figs through the center vertically without cutting all the way through. Carefully open each fig, and place a slice of cheese and a pecan piece inside each. Gently squeeze figs to enclose the cheese. Wrap figs horizontally with a strip of prosciutto and skewer to secure. Brush the figs with oil and place on the grill. Cook, just until grill marks begin to appear, about 1 1/2 minutes. Turn and repeat with opposite side. Transfer to a serving platter, and lightly drizzle with honey. Serve warm or at room temperature.



### Rack of Lamb with Gremolata

- 2 whole frenched racks of lamb (about 1 1/4 pounds each), trimmed of excess fat
- Coarse salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 orange, for zest and juice
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 cup finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Season lamb generously with salt and pepper. Heat a large ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat. Add 2 tablespoons oil; heat until hot but not smoking. Add lamb; cook, turning once, until browned, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Pour off fat. Transfer skillet to oven; cook lamb until an instant-read thermometer inserted into thickest part of meat registers 130 degrees (for medium-rare), 20 to 25 minutes. Let lamb rest 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, make gremolata: Remove zest from orange using a vegetable peeler; finely chop zest (you should have 1/4 cup). Stir together zest, 1/3 cup orange juice (from zested orange), the lemon juice, parsley, and remaining 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons oil. Season with salt and pepper. Cut lamb into chops. Serve with the gremolata. Serves 4.

### Pumpkin Muffins

- 3/4 cup vegetable oil, plus more for pan
- 1 1/2 cups whole-wheat flour, spooned and leveled
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 cups pumpkin puree
- 3 cups plain low-fat yogurt
- 3 large eggs
- 2 cup turbinado sugar, plus 1 tablespoons more for sprinkling
- 1 1/2 cups coarsely chopped walnuts



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Brush 12 jumbo muffin tins (each with a 1-cup capacity) with oil; set aside. In a medium bowl, whisk flours, baking powder, pumpkin pie spice, and baking soda; set aside. In a large bowl, whisk oil, pumpkin puree, yogurt, eggs, and 1 cup sugar to combine; add 1 cup walnuts and reserved dry ingredients. Mix just until moistened (do not overmix). Divide evenly and spoon batter into muffin tins; sprinkle tops with remaining walnuts and sugar. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center of a muffin comes out clean, 35 to 40 minutes. Cool 5 minutes in pan.

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