

Medical Office Systems, LLC

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More Miscellaneous Topics

Topic #1: Office 365

Microsoft has a hidden gem: Office 365, which includes the full version of Office 2013 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Publisher, Outlook), plus the online versions of same, plus an Outlook.com Cloud Email Server account. PC and MAC versions are both included: you pick which one, or both, that you need.

What is the difference between Office365 online and the Office 2013 you can buy in the store? Several big differences: for one thing, the former is the all-cloud-delivered annual subscription version, and the latter is the traditional buy-install one-time purchase. Also hidden in the details of the Office365 cloud version is the fact you get a 1TB cloud storage account and an optional Outlook.com email account. The email account alone is worth the price of admission: **\$99 per year for the entire family package**. Oh, I forgot: you can install it on up to 5 computers. If you are a business, you can get the business version which includes Exchange server and a website for a monthly rate of \$8.25 per employee.

The store-bought version is one-copy, one-computer, no email, and costs \$139. Final point: the cloud-delivered version automatically updates to Office 2016 when it becomes available (on or after September 22): no need to re-buy your software to stay current. I'm not getting free golf outings for recommending Microsoft, so take this as a statement of fact: it is a great deal for anyone who has more than 1 computer in the family and needs Office software. Some may balk at the annual subscription, but it is the cheapest overall.

Family Version: <https://products.office.com/en-us/compare-microsoft-office-products>

Business Version: <https://products.office.com/en-us/business/compare-office-365-for-business-plans>

Topic #2: Windows 10 Update #234

I am joking, this is actually only my 5th update about Windows 10. I have been keeping an eye on the number and frequency of patches pushed out by Microsoft, and the news is good. The patches are coming fast and furious, more than I have ever seen from Microsoft previously. The rumor is a "Service Pack" may be coming soon that will package all the patches in one installer: that will be the signal that it's ready for prime time and time to start upgrading. The rumor is early to mid-October for the Service Pack. Stay Tuned.

Topic #3: Bigger iPad: iPad Pro... and a Stylus?

Apple's big announcement last week signaled that maybe, just maybe Apple is looking to business products again. Ever since Apple killed the X-Serve business server in 2010, Apple has been ignoring businesses, focusing solely on consumers. The only real push to get Apple back into businesses was employees that brought their personal iPads or Macs to work. That officially began changing last year with Apple's alliance with IBM to develop iPad apps, and now Apple has a larger iPad aimed squarely at business users. Also interesting is the "Apple Pencil", a stylus for use on the iPad Pro: Steve Jobs once proclaimed Apple would never have a stylus because "nobody wants one". I guess they had to backtrack a bit on that assertion.

<http://money.cnn.com/2015/09/10/technology/apple-pencil-steve-jobs-stylus/>

-John Becker

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