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ENGL 105

Unit 4 Individual Project

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Students Beware: Power and Storage > Sleek Design

As an online student, a full time employee and father, I needed a device that could help me complete my school work while on the go. After conducting quite a bit of research on available tablets in my price range, I decided to purchase the Excelsior 7200 2-in-1 14" tablet in silver. Unfortunately, I ended up spending all of my spare time for two full weeks trying to get this tablet to work for my classes, without luck. Ultimately, I returned it and purchased a 14" laptop which has proven much more user-friendly. I wanted to share my experience with others considering this model for online classes to help other students avoid the same frustrations I faced.

Let me start with the positives that led me to my purchase. I wanted a tablet that was affordable, looked great, and that would allow me to complete my school work from anywhere. The visual appeal of the Excelsior tablet is stunning, and the price was definitely reasonable. One tech reviewer described it as “a tablet that made a statement and looked far more expensive than its budget price tag” (Smith, 2021). I was also drawn to how lightweight the Excelsior tablet was. As I was always on the move, I wanted something lightweight I could easily carry around with me, and the Excelsior 7200 fit the bill. As a bonus, the camera and touchscreen were also top quality.

However, while the look and feel of the tablet were just what I wanted, it lacked the basic features I needed for the tablet to work for me as a student. First, it lacked the space to store all my individual projects and the power to run multiple apps at once. This is a common issue with most tablets. As Kyrnin (2020) wrote, “In order to keep the size and costs of tablets down, manufacturers rely on solid-state storage memory to store programs and data. This technology has one major disadvantage: the amount of data it can store.” Not only could my laptop store more data (500 GB vs. 16 GB), it was also more “powerful.” I could run more programs and do more at once with fewer restrictions. This is important if you need to do an intellipath lesson, take notes in a Word document, send a few emails, post a discussion board, and watch a resource video all at once! Also, one of the key perks of a tablet should be the battery life. Many tablets can run for more than ten hours (Kyrnin, 2020). However, the Excelsior tablet was the exception. I never got more than 3-4 hours of battery life. One review highlighted the Excelsior tablet’s terrible battery life compared to other tablets and claimed it made the Excelsior tablet “all but useless” (Smith, 2021).

Ultimately, I do not recommend this tablet for online students. The benefits of the lightweight, portable device do not outweigh the navigation and usage challenges. As I learned, the Excelsior tablet was best for, “browsing the web, reading ebooks, playing games, listening to music, and other passive activities” (Kyrnin, 2020). However, as a CTU student, I needed a machine that would help me with “creating documents, ending emails, and using powerful software.” My new laptop provides this and more. No matter what, give yourself time to get used to your new device before relying on it to complete your classes to help avoid some of the problems I have experienced these past few weeks.

References

Kyrnin, M. (2020, September 30). Should you by a tablet or a laptop. *Lifewire*.

<https://www.lifewire.com/tablets-vs-laptops-832333>

Smith, A. (2021). Top five tablets to avoid. *Tech Gadget*.

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