

# A replacement for a laptop?

Can your iPad really take the place of your laptop? We think so...

**T**here's little doubt that mobile devices have successfully gate-crashed the computing party in recent years, with sales of traditional desktops and laptops continuing to fall while tablets and phones grab an ever increasing share of the market. Yet even now, most people can't envisage a life without a PC or Mac in their life.

But here's the rub: if you have a laptop and a tablet, does that mean you have to always lug both around to meetings or between home and office? Do you always need the laptop to accompany you through your entire working day? Or do you even need a laptop at all?

## The post-PC era

The fact is, pretty much everything you use your laptop for in terms of business can be achieved

using your iPad. Don't believe us? Don't just take our word for it – renowned entrepreneur Stephen Fear has all but ditched his laptop from his working life. He explains how he's been seduced by the iPad's business qualities in the interview below.

That's all well and good, but everyone's needs are unique, so check out the list of pros and cons opposite to determine if your laptop is ready for the recycling heap, or still useful as a backup to your iPad.



Even Apple's renowned MacBook Air range can't hold a candle to the iPad in terms of portability, and you'll pay a hefty premium for it too.

## Interview: Stephen Fear

### Please describe yourself and your business.

I am a businessman with many interests in different industries, and am Entrepreneur in Residence at the British Library, as well as being an ambassador for the Library. I travel extensively putting deals together in both the UK and overseas. For instance, we are currently working on a £68m deal and the iPad handles all my work associated with it very easily.



Stephen Fear not only believes the time has come for the iPad to take centre stage, he's already made the switch entirely.

### What business-related tasks do you find yourself performing regularly on your iPad?

Making and updating notes, creating and adding to files, research on the web... basically I use it as my complete travelling office. I have an iPhone and a Mac as well, but most functions other than phone calls are performed on my iPad.

My favourite apps are Evernote, Pages, London Maps Offline, World Map for iPad and UK Map. I also found iTranslate very useful. The best of all, though, is Dropbox, as it makes for easy access to all my files.

### Was it a conscious decision to switch primarily to the iPad, or did it happen organically?

It was a conscious decision. My progression to the iPad occurred when I found the need for a lighter and easier-to-use tool than a laptop. As soon as I could see that a small, slim, powerful, device was available that enabled me to manage

emails, messages, photographs and documents, I bought one.

### What advantages do you feel the iPad brings to your working life?

Total flexibility for starters. Reliability is another factor. What I also like is that I am able to have my iPad in front of me during meetings and make notes as I go. Laptops have the screen facing up which impedes conversation and enables others behind you to read your private notes easily. I like having everything in one place and I hate scraps of paper hanging about.

### What are its current limitations? Are there any things you still use a laptop or desktop for?

I rarely use my Mac because I update things minute by minute and the iPad's retina display is so clear, I see no need to use anything else. Everything is backed up to the cloud, though, which is essential.

I never use a keyboard any more as I prefer the tactility of finger tapping.

### Is there an app, peripheral or service you're crying out for?

Not really, although I do search the App Store regularly just in case I'm missing anything. Dropbox is brilliant as it allows so much immediate data download capacity.

### Can you foresee a future where your business needs could be solely catered for by your tablet?

Yes – mostly it is already. I find it just as easy to work from the back of my car, a coffee shop, or on a plane. I am in the process of transferring all my filing system from paper to electronic so that I can access everything on the move. I will almost certainly buy the next generation iPad but at the moment am happy with the one I have. It would be difficult to find a more enthusiastic user of iPad than me. It's brilliant.

# iPad vs Laptop



See how the iPad and laptop square off as business-friendly tools

## Portability

The iPad is much slimmer and lighter than any laptop, will fit into just about any bag and is easier to hold and use in cramped spaces, such as on the train or a plane.



## Portability

Even the super-slim MacBook Air still weighs nearly twice as much as the heaviest iPad. They also take up more space and exude a lot of heat when on your lap.



## Battery life

You can expect your iPad to last at least eight hours between charges – making them suitable for all-day use when you're out and about.



## Battery life

Only expensive Ultrabooks can hold a candle to the iPad; most need recharging after only a few hours' use. Don't forget to pack that bulky, cumbersome charger!



## Connectivity

All iPads come with built-in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity, and 3G/4G is an added option depending on your model.



## Connectivity

Like iPads, laptops come with Wi-Fi as standard, and most ship with Bluetooth too. You can easily add 3G or 4G via a USB dongle or using a Mi-Fi wireless device.



## Display

If you have a third-generation iPad or second-generation iPad mini or later, then your Retina display offers a much higher resolution, even with the smaller screen.



## Display

Most 15-inch laptops only offer a paltry 720p HD display. The screen may be bigger than your iPad, but the resolution is significantly worse.



## Performance

Apps load swiftly thanks to the built-in flash storage, while intelligent use of multi-tasking ensures you can run a number of apps together without too much penalty.



## Performance

Unless your laptop has a solid-state hard drive installed and plenty of RAM, it'll soon start to creak under the pressure of even just a few programs.



## Storage

If you can only afford a 16GB iPad then the space can soon fill up with apps and other files. Make sure you've got a decent cloud storage solution in place.



## Storage

One area where the laptop wins out is with its storage capacity. It means you can store all your documents and files offline for easy access, even without a connection.

