



# Workstation Innovation News

Understanding your desktop and mobile technology



Subscribe

From our Sponsors

**cadalyst**



In cooperation with:

**IMAGINiT**  
TECHNOLOGIES  
A RAND Worldwide Company

New Products!

[HP Z1 Workstation](#)  
[Special deals starting at \\$1,472.](#)



## Workstation Innovation News: HP ElitePad 900

Run all your normal Windows applications on a handheld device — on the road and docked at your desk.

By Robert Green, *Cadalyst* Contributing Expert



Wouldn't it be great to have a compact, portable tablet-style device that could also run your Windows applications like a compact notebook? Say hello to HP's ElitePad 900 Windows 8-based tablet.<sup>1</sup>



Figure 1. The HP ElitePad 900 has a strong aluminum base and docking port adapter at the bottom speak to a more expandable device.

[HP Z420 Workstation](#)  
[Special deals starting at \\$1,099.](#)



[HP Z620 Workstation](#)  
[Special deals starting at \\$1,649.](#)



[HP Z820 Workstation](#)  
[Special deals starting at \\$2,249.](#)



## HP Smart Buys

[HP Z220 SFF Workstation](#)  
[Special deals starting at \\$719.](#)

## The Hardware Specs

The ElitePad 900's hardware is based on the Intel® Atom™ Z2760 processor with 2 GB of system memory and up to 64 GB of solid state disk (SSD)<sup>2</sup> internal storage with a Micro HCSD card slot for additional swappable storage.

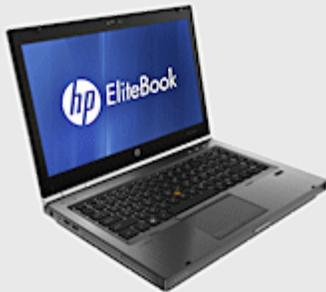


Running Windows 8 on a 16:10 aspect ratio 10.1" diagonal display (1,280 x 800) Gorilla Glass touch screen with a 533-MHz Intel® Graphics Median Accelerator, gives it a very tablet-like feel, even though it's really a lightweight Windows computer. In addition, with the 16:10 aspect ratio you can view forms, documents, and the like in full view while in portrait mode. It weighs just 1.5 lbs<sup>3</sup> and measures 9.2 mm thin. With a forward-facing 1080 webcam; an 8-megapixel, rear-facing camera; and integrated Wi-Fi<sup>4</sup> (HSPA+ radio optional,<sup>5</sup> the ElitePad is a natural for web conferencing and photo documenting at remote job sites.

As you can see in the figure below, the ElitePad 900 has all of its normal interface points and controls strategically placed around its business-rugged aluminum housing with an additional docking port at the bottom which offers numerous connectivity options.



[HP Elitebook 8470w Mobile Workstation](#)  
Special deals starting at \$1,279.



[HP ePrint & Share](#)

## Contact HP

[Get the latest news about HP along with a host of resources for online technical help and support.](#)

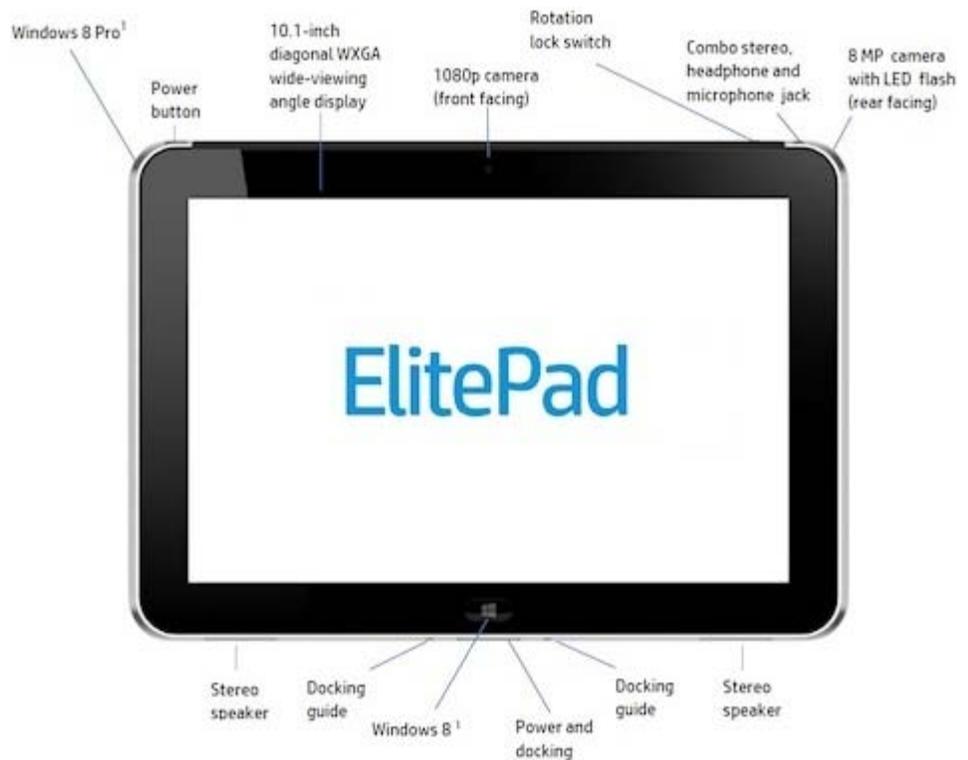
## More from HP

[Rosie Takes on the HP Z1 —Blindfolded!](#)

[HP Certification Has your workstation been tested and certified?](#)

[HP Workstations.tv Check out HP on YouTube!](#)

[HP Z Workstation Microsite](#)



## Docking Station, Jackets, and Peripherals

One of the complaints about most tablets is the lack of a desktop-style keyboard and external monitor setup. The optional docking station (shown below)<sup>6</sup> solves these problems while adding charging, USB and RJ45 connectivity, audio line out, and HDMI interface ports. With this type of external capability, the ElitePad 900 could easily become a great solution for travelers working on PowerPoint presentations or video playback at trade show booths.

And, if a docking station isn't required, you can still add USB 2.0, HDMI, and SD card reader functionality by expanding the HP ElitePad Expansion Jacket (p/n# H4J85AA) and longer battery life HP ElitePad Jacket Battery (p/n# H4F20AA) (sold separately).<sup>6</sup>

[HP Autodesk Information](#)

[HP Performance Advisor](#)

[HP Remote Graphics Software](#)

[HP Total Care](#)

[Download the HP & Autodesk Productivity White Paper and The HP & Autodesk Brochure](#)



Figure 2. With the optional HP ElitePad Docking Station (p/n # C0M84AA)<sup>6</sup> providing external connectivity to USB, audio, LAN line connectivity, and monitor/projector (HDMI/VGA and RJ45 ports not visible in this view) the ElitePad is ready for duty on a corporate desk or in a variety of computing and peripheral environments.



Figure 3. With an optional keyboard the ElitePad can actually occupy a desktop much like a small notebook pc would.

Because the ElitePad 900 runs Windows<sup>1</sup>, it's compatible with Windows applications as well as alternate input devices such as keyboards and pens.



Figure 4. With the optional HP Executive Pen (p/n # H4E45AA), pen writing and text capture is available.

### Expert Interview

To get a nuanced view on how the HP ElitePad 900 could change the way we use tablet-style devices, I spoke with Marie Breedlove, HP's Emerging Technologies Project Manager. Ms. Breedlove, who has been involved with the ElitePad's development and launch, spoke equally to technical and workflow questions. Here's what we talked about:

Robert Green (RG) question: What's the initial feedback you're getting about Windows 8 tablet devices?

Marie Breedlove (MB) response: The initial feedback from customers has been really positive. They like the stylish design of the HP ElitePad 900 and the ease of use of the Windows 8 interface. They get really excited about being able to run legacy Windows applications on the ElitePad and along with the ecosystem that is available. Now they can work where they need to: inside the office docked with a keyboard and mouse, or outside the office onsite using touch or a pen experience. Customers can feel confident in carrying this business-rugged tablet with them on the go.

RG: With docking stations and memory expansion capabilities, could a Windows 8 tablet actually start replacing notebooks for travelling workers?

MB: Yes, some customers will be able to use just one device with the HP ElitePad. Others will use it as a companion device. Your readers understand the need for sizable systems. Those using computational- and/or graphic-intensive applications will still rely on their HP Workstations to get the job done, but now they will have the flexibility to work remotely from those workstations or use a lighter application to work onsite.

RG: How have test users reacted to the docking station and keyboard-style configuration?

MB: Customers are excited about the docking station. You can set up the docking station so that when you get back to your desk, you can just plug it in and get to work using a keyboard and mouse and a larger monitor, just like you would do with any other

HP notebook computer. There was a lot of design thought that went into the dock. It is purposely heavy with a rubberized bottom, so it stays put when you touch a docked device. It gives end-users the choice of VGA or HDMI for the extended monitor and industry-standard locking devices to lock the dock to the desk. Customers want the docks to stay put while they are travelling from station to station.

RG: Can you foresee using Windows 8 tablets for applications like document management, PDM/PLM, or SharePoint, that have traditionally been run on desktop or notebook computers?

MB: I envision it allowing customers to connect to their data when and where they want. With a wireless wide area network (WWAN) configuration, you could use a virtual private network (VPN) and get into your SharePoint application to update your data wherever you have coverage.

RG: What about the ability to use the full suite of native Adobe® applications?

MB: The HP ElitePad running Windows 8 will run the suite of Adobe applications. Of course, some Adobe applications are going to run better on higher horse-power computers such as an HP Workstation; your readers will understand this more than others.

RG: What impact do you think being able to run actual Windows-based CAD applications (as opposed to viewers) will have on the acceptance of tablet devices?

MB: As with all CAD applications, you must use the size of unit that corresponds with what you will be doing with it. I think those users who want to access files and need to make some changes at job sites will gravitate to tablets. Many CAD users may use their HP ElitePad on the go and their HP Workstation in the office. Users can expand the ElitePad 900's potential by choosing from a complete suite of thoughtfully designed accessories like an expansion jacket with the extended battery that extends battery life.<sup>6</sup> I could see an end-user talking with their customer and changing designs and styles on the fly, uploading to their database via WWAN once in the office, and then accessing the changes at their workstation.

RG: What markets (AEC, mechanical CAD, manufacturing, and the like) will embrace a Windows-based tablet?

MB: Any user that requires the flexibility to go onsite or work on the road, away from a traditional desk, will find it useful. AEC engineers will appreciate the business-ruggedness and the ability to change data on the go. Manufacturing customers want the ability to access their backend PLM data onsite.

RG: Can you describe the business-ruggedness of ElitePad?

MB: The HP engineers did a great job with the design and business ruggedness of the HP ElitePad. The chassis uses Corning® Gorilla® Glass 2 to help protect the display and machined aluminum base; it only feels lightweight. It includes more than 115,000 hours of our own testing and end-to-end diagnostics.

RG: Will maintaining a Windows 8 tablet be like maintaining a PC?

MB: Yes, customers can use the same management software that they use with other notebooks. On top of that, the HP ElitePad is fully serviceable with a HP ElitePad Service too. Some customer will use the HP Elite Service Team to service the unit, but others who are Self Maintainers will be able to service their HP ElitePad from the display to the base.

*Authors note: I'd like to personally thank Marie Breedlove from HP for making herself available for our interview.*

[Wrapping Up](#)

While it seems that tablets are here to stay, the exact configuration and operating system of those tablet devices appears to be changing. For those users working in Windows-based computing environments, it is highly likely that the Windows 8 compatibility of the HP ElitePad 900 will allow it to flourish in office environments.

I hope you found the tour of the HP ElitePad 900 interesting and thought-provoking. This should be an interesting product to keep an eye on in the new year as Windows 8 comes to market.

## About the Author

Robert Green

Robert provides CAD implementation, consulting, and programming services for a variety of companies throughout the United States and Canada. He holds a degree in mechanical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and is the author of *Expert CAD Management: The Complete Guide*. Reach him via his web site at [www.cad-manager.com](http://www.cad-manager.com).

---

## Notes and Disclaimers

© Copyright 2012 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. The information contained herein is subject to change without notice. The only warranties for HP products and services are set forth in the express warranty statements accompanying such products and services. Nothing herein should be construed as constituting an additional warranty. HP shall not be liable for technical or editorial errors or omissions contained herein. Intel, the Intel logo, Intel Core, Core Inside, Intel Atom, and Intel Atom Inside are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation in the United States and other countries. Adobe is a trademark of Adobe Systems Incorporated. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

This information contains forward-looking statements that involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. If such risks or uncertainties materialize or such assumptions prove incorrect, the results of HP and its consolidated subsidiaries could differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements and assumptions. All statements other than statements of historical fact are statements that could be deemed forward-looking statements, including but not limited to statements of the plans, strategies and objectives of management for future operations; any statements concerning expected development, performance, market share or competitive performance relating to products and services; any statements regarding anticipated operational and financial results; any statements of expectation or belief; and any statements of assumptions underlying any of the foregoing. Risks, uncertainties and assumptions include macroeconomic and geopolitical trends and events; the competitive pressures faced by HP's businesses; the development and transition of new products and services (and the enhancement of existing products and services) to meet customer needs and respond to emerging technological trends; the execution and performance of contracts by HP and its customers, suppliers and partners; the protection of HP's intellectual property assets, including intellectual property licensed from third parties; integration and other risks associated with business combination and investment transactions; the hiring and retention of key employees; assumptions related to pension and other post-retirement costs and retirement programs; the execution, timing and results of restructuring plans, including estimates and assumptions related to the cost and the anticipated benefits of implementing those plans; expectations and assumptions relating to the execution and timing of cost reduction programs and restructuring and integration plans; the resolution of pending investigations, claims and disputes; and other risks that are described in HP's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended July 31, 2012 and HP's other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including HP's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2011. HP assumes no obligation and does not intend to update these forward-looking statements.

1. This system is Windows 8 certified and supports the Windows Store user interface. The integrated display resolution is below the threshold for Snap, a Windows Store interface feature that allows two Windows Store applications to be viewed simultaneously. This feature may be enabled by attaching an external 1,366 x 768 or higher resolution display.
2. For hard drives, GB = 1 billion bytes. Actual formatted capacity is less.
3. Weight will vary by configuration.
4. Wireless access point and Internet service required and sold separately. Availability of public wireless access points limited.
5. Broadband connection requires wireless data service contract, network support, and is not available in all areas. Contact service provider to determine the coverage area and availability. Connection speeds will vary due to location, environment, network conditions, and other factors.
6. Sold separately or as an optional feature.

Please do not reply to this message. If you wish to leave this mailing list, simply [Unsubscribe](#)  
Cadalyt is a division of Longitude Media LLC, P.O. Box 832, Dover, MA 02030.  
© 2012 Longitude Media Group, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Refer to our [Privacy Policy](#).  
Send us your feedback: [customerservice@longitudemedia.com](mailto:customerservice@longitudemedia.com)