



**Review the different
versions of Android**

**Meet the newest members of the
Galaxy Tab family:
the Galaxy Tab A 8.0 and 9.7**

**Learn how the Galaxy Tab A compares
with other Galaxy Tab models**

In this chapter, you're introduced to the different versions of Android and the different models of the Galaxy Tab, including the Galaxy Tab A. This chapter covers the following topics:

- Learning about the different versions of the Android operating system
- Comparing the two models of the Galaxy Tab A
- Comparing the Galaxy Tab A and other models in the Galaxy Tab family

The Galaxy Tab Universe

If you're brand new to the Galaxy Tab A, start with this chapter so you can learn more about your new tablet and also learn more about the Android operating system that the Galaxy Tab A uses.

First, a Look at Android

The Galaxy Tab A runs the Android operating system, which is produced and maintained by Google. As of this writing, the latest International Data Corporation (IDC) report that tracked mobile operating system marketing share stated that in the first quarter of 2015, Android commanded 78% market share, well above the second-place operating system, iOS, which is used on iPhones and iPads (<http://www.idc.com/prodserv/smartphone-os-market-share.jsp>). As of April 2015, Samsung owned 19% of worldwide tablet market share, which is second only to Apple's 27% (<http://www.idc.com/getdoc.jsp?containerId=prUS25593415>).

Several versions of Android are currently available that run on various smartphones and tablets. Each version is best known by the nickname Google has given it. Since version 1.5, Google has given the name of a sweet treat to every new version; version 1.5

was known as Cupcake. (There were two previous versions before Cupcake that didn't have nicknames, so Google decided to give the third release of Android a nickname starting with the third letter of the alphabet.)

Galaxy Tab models run one of the following Android versions:

- Version 2.2, or Froyo (short for frozen yogurt), runs on the original Galaxy Tab 7.0. You can learn more about using Froyo on the Galaxy Tab 7.0 in Que's 2011 book *My Samsung Galaxy Tab* (ISBN 978-0-7897-4797-6).
- Version 2.3, Gingerbread, was the most widely used version of Android as of early July 2012. In addition to including user interface improvements, Gingerbread was designed for use on extra-large screen resolutions and provided improved network performance.
- Version 3, Honeycomb, was the first version optimized for use with tablets. It includes more user interface improvements, support for video chat using Google Talk, and the ability to encrypt all user data.
- Version 4, Ice Cream Sandwich, includes more improvements to the user interface, improved features (such as real-time speech-to-text dictation), and new apps (such as a photo editor). You can learn more about using Ice Cream Sandwich on the Galaxy Tab 2 in Que's 2013 book *My Samsung Galaxy Tab 2* (ISBN 978-0-7897-5038-9).
- Version 4.1, Jelly Bean, includes a new interface layout for tablets with smaller screens (such as the Galaxy Tab 3 7.0), Google Chrome as the new web browser, and the Google Now personalized search app. This version of Jelly Bean was the most widely used version of Android as of early June 2014 (<http://developer.android.com/about/dashboards/index.html>).
- Version 4.2, which is also called Jelly Bean, includes everything in Version 4.1 as well as the ability to place widgets on your Lock screen, a redesigned Camera app, and a Gesture Keyboard that predicts what you're trying to type as you glide your fingers over the keys. You can learn more about using Android 4.2 Jelly Bean on the Galaxy Tab 3 in Que's 2014 book *My Samsung Galaxy Tab 3* (ISBN 978-0-7897-5193-5).
- Version 4.3, which Google decided to also call Jelly Bean, includes a new camera user interface, support for 4K resolution video, support for five more languages, and a restricted access mode for new user profiles.

- Version 4.4, KitKat (named for one of Google employees' favorite chocolate candy bars), includes an updated interface, the ability to print wirelessly, and a built-in screen-recording feature. You can learn more about using KitKat on the Galaxy Tab 4 in Que's 2014 book *My Samsung Galaxy Tab 4* (ISBN 978-0-7897-5384-7).
- Version 5.0, Lollipop, includes an updated user interface, a revamped notification system, and a priority mode that allows you to filter calls and texts. The text and screenshots in this book are based on the latest version of Lollipop for the Tab A (as of this writing), which is Version 5.0.2.

You find out more about the versions each Galaxy Tab model uses later in this chapter.

The Newest Members: The Galaxy Tab A Family

Before getting into all the Galaxy Tab models Samsung offers, it's important to talk about the subject of this book and the two newest additions to the Galaxy Tab family: the Galaxy Tab A 8.0 and 9.7. Both models were released at the same time, run Lollipop, and play the latest audio and video files. However, each model has differences you should know about.

The Galaxy Tab A 8.0

The Galaxy Tab A 8.0 has an 8.0" screen, which explains how it got its name. The Tab A 8.0 comes with only 16GB of total data storage, but it does contain a microSD slot that can bring your total storage capacity to 128GB. The Tab A 8.0 also includes the following features:

- Wi-Fi connectivity
- 1024×768-pixel screen resolution
- 2.0-megapixel front camera
- 5.0-megapixel rear camera
- 11.04 ounces (0.69 pound) total weight
- A 4,200mAh battery

What Does mAh Stand For?

A milliampere-hour, better known by the acronym mAh, denotes the battery power capacity. A higher number indicates more capacity and thus longer battery life. However, the amount of time you can run the Tab A on a single battery charge is determined by the apps you run. For example, playing video takes up more battery power than checking your email messages.



If you prefer to hold a tablet in one hand comfortably but you also want more screen space than a smartphone, consider the Tab A 8.0. Unlike some of the e-readers out there (such as Amazon's Kindle), the Tab A 8.0 comes with the full version of Lollipop in addition to the Kindle app.

The Galaxy Tab A 9.7

The Galaxy Tab A 9.7 is so named because of its 9.7" screen, which is one of the largest screens you can find on a tablet. The Tab A 9.7 also includes the following:

- Wi-Fi connectivity
- 16GB of data storage with a microSD slot that can bring total storage to 128GB

- 1024×768-pixel screen resolution
- 2.0-megapixel front camera
- 5.0-megapixel rear camera
- 15.84 ounces (0.99 pound) total weight
- A 6,000mAh battery



The Tab A 9.7 comes in two models. One model comes with a stylus called an S Pen so you can manipulate screen elements, handwritten notes, and draw on apps created for use with the Tab A. The other model does not come with the S Pen; you manipulate screen elements with your finger as you do with the Tab A 8.0.

You can hold the Galaxy Tab A 9.7 with one hand, but it's usually safer to hold it with both hands. If you want to have the most screen space available so you can use it for tasks that you've previously done on your laptop (such as taking notes or watching movies), then the Tab A 9.7 might be the right tablet for you.

If you want to learn more about each Tab A model and the differences between them, read Chapter 1 in *My Samsung Galaxy Tab A*.

Comparing the Tab A with Other Tabs

There are now a total of 11 different Galaxy Tabs, including the Tab A family. What's more, the Galaxy Note that's included in this discussion is a smart-phone/tablet hybrid. All of the original Galaxy Tab models are no longer produced or sold by Samsung; the oldest Galaxy Tab model you can purchase is the Galaxy Tab 2.

Galaxy Tab 7.0

This was the original Galaxy Tab that Samsung produced. The Tab 7.0 was originally positioned as a smaller alternative to the iPad, which came in only one size at the time the Tab 7.0 was first released. Samsung decided that their Tab models would run various versions of Google's Android mobile operating system so the Tab would be compatible with Android phones, just as the iPad is compatible with the iPhone. The Tab 7.0 ran Froyo.



Galaxy Tab 7.0 Plus

The Tab 7.0 Plus was a sleeker version of the original Tab 7.0 that ran Honeycomb and had some more hardware and software features than the original Tab. Therefore, the Tab 7.0 Plus didn't have the buttons below the screen like the original Tab 7.0 or the Galaxy Note. Instead, the Tab 7.0 Plus worked like its larger siblings, the Tab 8.9 and Tab 10.1. The Tab 7.0 Plus was only offered by T-Mobile or as a Wi-Fi model.



Galaxy Tab 7.7

The Tab 7.7 ran Honeycomb and was not only a bit larger than the 7.0 models, but it also boasted some interesting features. The screen was based on AMOLED technology with a 1200×800-pixel resolution. (AMOLED stands

for active-matrix organic light-emitting diode.) The Tab 7.7 included a more powerful battery (5,100mAh compared with 4,000mAh on the 7.0 Plus) that resulted in longer usage times on a single charge. And unlike previous Tab models, you could make and receive voice calls with the Tab 7.7.



Galaxy Tab 8.9

The Galaxy Tab 8.9 not only had a larger screen and a larger footprint, but it also had a 1280×800-pixel screen. Like the 7.0 Plus, 7.7, and 10.1 models, the 8.9 ran Honeycomb.



Galaxy Tab 10.1

Like the Tab 8.9, the Tab 10.1 ran Honeycomb and included a screen that had 1280×800-pixel resolution and a screen size of 10.1". This screen was not only larger than the iPad 2 screen, but it also had greater resolution. The battery (7,000mAh) provided 9 hours of usage on a single charge.



Galaxy Tab 2 7.0 and 10.1

The Galaxy Tab 2 is the successor to the original Tab family. However, the Tab 2 7.0 and 10.1 models are still available on the Samsung website (www.samsung.com) if you want to purchase them. The Tab 2 7.0 is so named because of its 7" screen, and you can purchase the unit from Verizon or in a Wi-Fi version.



The Tab 2 10.1 is so named because of its 10.1" screen. You can purchase the Tab 2 10.1 in a Wi-Fi version and also from AT&T.

You can get more information about the Tab 2 series on the Samsung website and in the Que book *My Samsung Galaxy Tab 2* (ISBN: 978-0-7897-5038-9).

Galaxy Tab 3 7.0, 8.0, and 10.1

The Galaxy Tab 3 is the successor to the Tab 2 family. However, just as with the Tab 2 7.0 and 10.1 models, you can purchase several Tab 3 7.0 models on the Samsung website (www.samsung.com). Samsung also offered 8.0" and 10.1" models of the Tab 3, but the company no longer sells those models.

The Tab 3 7.0 is so named because of its 7" screen, and you can purchase the unit from Sprint, T-Mobile, or AT&T; you can also purchase a Wi-Fi version.



What's more, you can even purchase a Tab 3 7.0 in a Lite version that removes some features you may not need, such as the removal of the front camera, and provides only 8GB of memory. In exchange, you get longer music and video playback times on a single battery charge. The Tab 3 Lite 7.0 is only available in Wi-Fi versions in either blue-green or white colors.

You can get more information about the Tab 3 series on the Samsung website and in the Que book *My Samsung Galaxy Tab 3* (ISBN: 978-0-7897-5193-5).

Galaxy Tab 4 7.0, 8.0, and 10.1

The Galaxy Tab 4 is the successor to the Tab 3 family. Just as with the Tab 3, you can purchase the Tab 4 7.0, 8.0, and 10.1 models on the Samsung website (www.samsung.com).

The Tab 4 7.0 is so named because of its 7" screen. You can purchase the unit from Sprint or purchase a Wi-Fi version. What's more, you can purchase a Tab 4 7.0 NOOK that's specially designed to work with the Barnes & Noble NOOK e-book reader app.



The Tab 4 8.0 is so named because it has an 8.0" screen. You can purchase the Tab 4 8.0 from T-Mobile or AT&T; you can also purchase this model in a Wi-Fi version.

The Tab 4 10.1 is so named because of its 10.1" screen. You can purchase the Tab 4 10.1 from Verizon, T-Mobile, AT&T, or U.S. Cellular; you can also purchase this model in a Wi-Fi version.

You can get more information about the Tab 4 series on the Samsung website and in the Que book *My Samsung Galaxy Tab 4* (ISBN 978-0-7897-5384-7).

Galaxy Note and Note Pro

In late 2011 and early 2012, Samsung released the 5.3" version of its Galaxy Note *phablet*, which is a device that's larger than a phone but smaller than a tablet and has features of each. For example, the Note has buttons below the screen as the Tab 7.0 does because the Note runs Gingerbread. The Note comes with a stylus called an S Pen so you can manipulate screen elements, handwritten notes, and draw on apps created for use with the Note.

Samsung subsequently created the Note 8.0 and 10.1 models to replace the original Galaxy Note, but both new models still come with the S Pen. The Note 8.0 is only available through AT&T as of this writing, but the Note 10.1 model is also available from T-Mobile and Verizon; only Verizon offers the Note 10.1 in a 4G LTE version. The Android operating system version also varies from model to model. For example, the T-Mobile version of the Note 10.1 runs Android 4.4 (KitKat) but the Wi-Fi version runs Android 4.3 (Jelly Bean).

In early 2014, Samsung released the Galaxy Note Pro 12.2 model that's sold alongside the Note 8.0 and 10.1 models. The Note Pro 12.2 has a 12.2" screen (hence the name of the device) with 2560×1600-pixel resolution, up to 64GB of memory, and an 8-megapixel rear camera in addition to the standard S Pen. The Note Pro 12.2 also runs Android 4.4 (KitKat) and is available in a Wi-Fi-only version as well as from AT&T and Verizon.



Galaxy Tab Pro

Samsung introduced the Tab Pro series early in 2014, and it has the same specs as the Note Pro with the exception that the Tab Pro doesn't include the S Pen. The Tab Pro comes in a 12.2" screen version as the Note Pro does, and only comes in a Wi-Fi version you can purchase from the Samsung website (www.samsung.com).

Samsung also offered the Tab Pro in 8.4" and 10.1" screen versions when the Tab Pro line was introduced, but these versions have been discontinued.



Galaxy Tab S 8.4 and 10.5

Hot on the heels of the Tab Pro release, Samsung released the Galaxy Tab S tablet in June of 2014. The Tab S comes in 8.4" and 10.5" screen versions and replaced similarly sized versions of the Tab Pro that were introduced just a few months before.

The Tab S is thinner than previous Tab models and sports several of the same features as the Tab Pro, notably a 2560×1600-pixel screen resolution and an 8-megapixel rear camera. The Tab S also comes with a fingerprint sensor to unlock and gain access to the device, as well as the ability to increase memory from the default 16GB to a maximum of 128GB.



Both Tab S models came with KitKat originally, but Samsung updated both models to Lollipop in the spring of 2015. The Tab S 8.4 model is available in a Wi-Fi version, a version from AT&T, as well as a version that connects with Verizon's network. The Tab S 10.5 model is available in a Wi-Fi version as well as versions from AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, U.S. Cellular, and Verizon.

You can get more information about the Tab S series on the Samsung website and in the Que book *My Samsung Galaxy Tab S* (ISBN: 978-0-7897-5519-3).

Choosing from all these models can be confusing and/or overwhelming, but you can't say that Samsung doesn't have an offering for nearly every potential tablet user. You can learn more about the Galaxy Tab and Note families and get updated information by visiting Samsung's website (www.samsung.com).