

Google plans low-price tablet computer

March 30 2012



A customer tries a new iPad at Apple's flagship store on Fifth Avenue, in New York, on March 16. Google is teaming with Asia-based hardware makers on a low-priced, 7-inch tablet computer to challenge offerings by Amazon.com and Apple, reports said.

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Android software backed by the California [Internet giant](#) will power hardware built by partners including Samsung and Asustek to compete with iPad and Kindle devices, according to Digitimes and the [Wall Street Journal](#).

An Asustek tablet could be released as early as May with a price of \$199 to make it an option for shoppers considering the Kindle Fire made by Amazon.com, said Digitimes.

Google putting its weight behind an economical tablet would likely put pressure on other [gadget makers](#) to lower prices. Google did not respond immediately to an AFP request for comment.

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Citation: Google plans low-price tablet computer (2012, March 30) retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-03-google-low-price-tablet.html>

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