

Microsoft beefs up Xbox ahead of major E3 event

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People look at a screen during the presentation of the Xbox One in Shanghai, China, on July 30, 2014

Microsoft on Tuesday unveiled an Xbox One console with double the memory space that will hit the market as the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) video game extravaganza gets under way next week.

The new Xbox One model boasts a terabyte of space that will likely appeal to players who are increasingly installing games as digital

downloads instead of opting for disks.

Microsoft's move came amid rumors that rival Sony plans to show off a new one-terabyte PlayStation 4 at a media event slated to take place Monday evening before the E3 show floor opens the following morning.

"Since Xbox One launched, one of the most frequent requests from fans is to add more storage to their consoles," said Microsoft's Larry Hryb, who blogs for the Xbox team using the gamer name "Major Nelson."

He announced that Xbox One 1TB will be priced at \$399 when it begins shipping on June 16 to retailers in the United States and select markets.

Current model Xbox One consoles with 500 gigabytes of storage will remain \$349, which was a \$50 price cut that had been billed as temporary.

The new Xbox One will come with an improved controller, according to Hryb.

Microsoft also said that later this year it will begin selling a \$25 adapter that will allow controllers to be used for Xbox-style play on personal computers powered by the coming Windows 10 operating system.

Hryb promised that Microsoft would show off a stellar line-up of Xbox games at E3 next week.

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