

**WHITEPAPER**

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# **Microsoft's New Tablet**

## **Security Risks And BYOD Rise To The Surface**

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## Executive Summary

In the lead up to its release, the Surface tablet device from Microsoft has achieved a great deal of interest from both the media and the public. There is much speculation around whether Microsoft will be able to successfully transition into this hardware market, when traditionally software has been its key focus.

Will the Surface be seen as more suitable than other tablet devices for BYOD (bring your own device) schemes in the workplace given the company's heritage in the enterprise space? Or will its success still be challenged by existing and more established tablet devices on the market, such as the iPad?

Over the last few years BYOD schemes have grown in popularity and CIOs are faced with the challenge of ensuring that every device accessing corporate resources is adequately secure and won't result in the loss of company data.

The Surface will doubtlessly join the many other devices already being used by employees in the workplace. But it is essential for businesses to work with their employees in order to ensure that every device has been checked and is consistently monitored. The number of tablets shipped worldwide increased from 15 to 25 million between Q2 2011 and Q2 2012 according to market research and analysis firm IDC, illustrating that this trend, much like smartphones, is not going away. Neither is the risk to corporate data held on them.

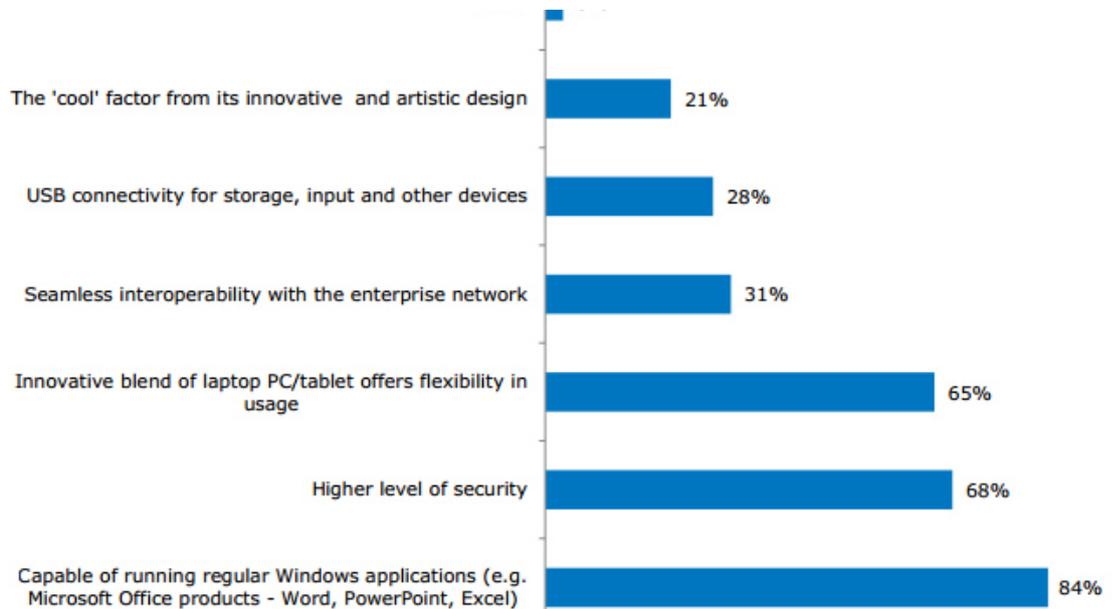
SecureData has carried out a research survey to gauge the reaction of 100 senior IT managers on the introduction of the Surface to the market, in comparison to other mobile devices, including which features are thought to be the most effective and those that are least desirable.

We believe the most salient findings to be:

- There has been a varied reaction to the imminent release of the Microsoft Surface amongst IT security managers.
- There are reservations amongst security managers regarding the security risks of the Surface, with 12% believing the Surface and Windows 8 combination will be a major IT security threat to the enterprise.
- More IT managers would recommend that the latest iPad be rolled out in their organisations over the next two years, over the Surface.

## Part 2. Analysis of key findings

### 1. Why do you think the Microsoft Surface might be attractive to business users?



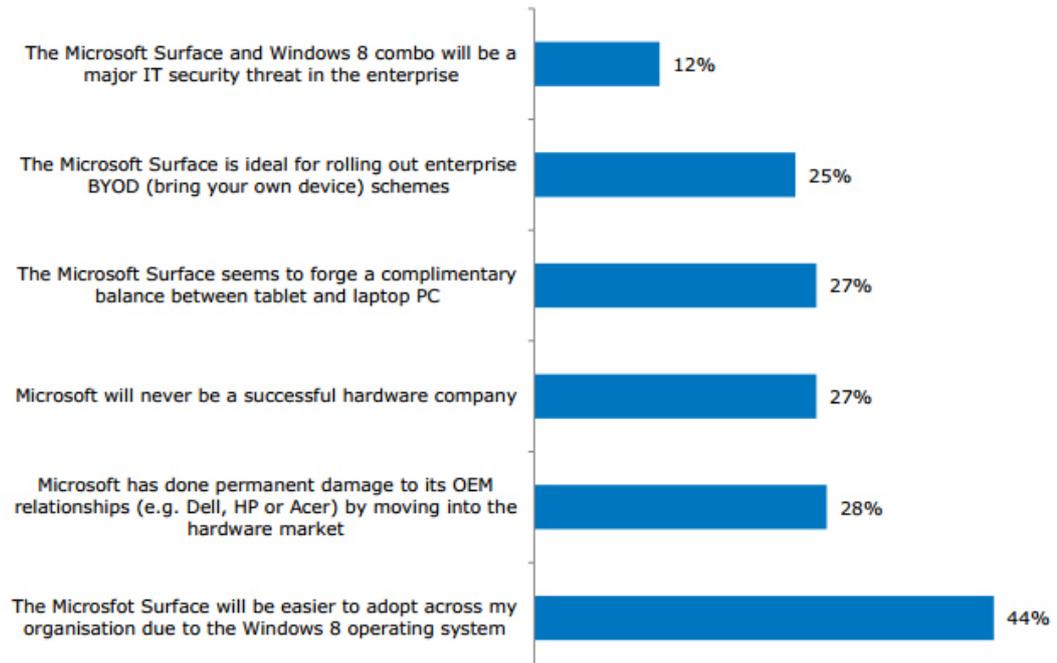
#### KEY STATISTICS

- 84% of respondents believe the most attractive feature of the Surface is that it is capable of running regular Windows applications
- 68% of respondents believe that the Surface will provide a higher level of security and therefore be more attractive to business users.

#### ANALYSIS

- 68% of respondents believe that the Surface will provide a higher level of security; however, the only way to ensure security is to provide employees with a thoroughly secure network, irrespective of the device used
- The results also show the potential popularity of the Surface Pro, which powered by an Intel i5 processor, will be capable of running regular Windows applications unlike its RT counterpart. However, this key advantage of the Surface Pro will also increase the security risks as explored in the next section

## 2. How much do you agree/disagree with the following statements?



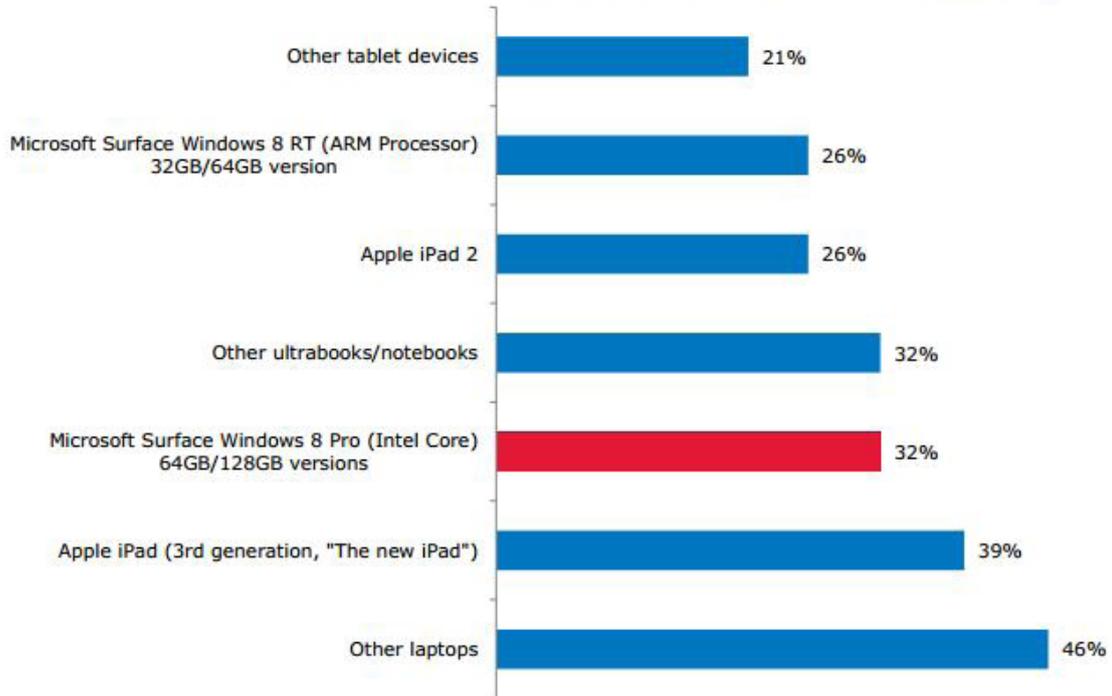
### KEY STATISTICS

- 44% of respondents believe that the Surface will be easier to adopt across their organisations due to the Windows 8 operating system
- 12% of respondents believe the Surface and Windows 8 combination will be a major IT security threat to the enterprise.

### ANALYSIS

- The results show that 44% of respondents believe that the Windows 8 operating system will allow the Surface device to be more easily integrated into the workplace. An important issue for CIOs and Surface users to consider is that Windows applications must be purchased separately from the device. Unlike on the Apple App Store, Windows does not ensure that every application on offer has been thoroughly vetted to contain no viruses or security threats. Therefore, Surface users who utilise their devices in BYOD schemes could be presenting un-detected threats from rogue Windows applications to the company network. Therefore one of the Surface's main selling points proves to also be one of its biggest downfalls from a security aspect
- Another interesting statistic revealed by the research is that only 12% believe the Surface and Windows 8 combination will be a major IT security threat to the enterprise. As referenced, the threats presented by un-regulated Windows applications will undoubtedly cause a larger degree of concern amongst CIOs who hope to run a hassle-free BYOD scheme and controlled and secure company network.

**3. How much, if at all, would you recommend that your organisation rolls out the following devices in 2012/13 to support enterprise mobility?**



### KEY STATISTICS

- 32% of respondents would recommend that their organisation rolls out the Surface (64GB/12GB version) over the next two years. However, the majority (40%) would rather see the iPad 3rd generation or other laptops rolled out instead.

### ANALYSIS

- Despite keen interest in the Surface, ultimately for enterprise mobility, a large proportion of IT managers will still look to laptops or the ever popular and now established iPad, in particular the 3rd generation iPad. However, regardless of the device, the message is still the same for CIOs. With BYOD trends continuing to grow in popularity CIOs are continuing to face the same issues. To ensure these are overcome it is essential to have a thoroughly implemented BYOD policy in order to protect the company network.

## Part 3. Summary

Interestingly, one of the most positive reactions from respondents was that 84% believe the most attractive reason for businesses to use the Surface is that it is capable of running regular Windows applications (e.g. Microsoft Office products - Word, PowerPoint, Excel). However, this key strength also houses its security Achilles heel. The last few years have seen iPads invade the workplace but in future, more open devices will lack the closed security benefits of the Apple vanguard.

For CIOs already charged with the task of ensuring compliance and secure remote access and wireless connections for employees own devices, it seems clear why these respondents would appreciate the Surface's software compatibility with existing company technology and software systems.

The study carried out by SecureData reveals that there is still a great deal of concern over BYOD schemes and that the relationship between businesses and their employees still needs greater input from both parties to ensure secure working. Thanks to its Microsoft Office technology, the Surface will most likely have more of a seamless transition into its use in a professional capacity, but a great deal of work will still need to be done to the policies and frameworks of internal BYOD schemes. It is vital for companies to have tailored solutions that consider every eventuality.

In summary, employees are and will continue to work from home in large numbers. They are using personal mobile devices to work remotely or whilst on the move, but there's still a large proportion of companies that don't have a policy in place to deal with this securely. With the release of a tablet that seems purposefully designed for BYOD schemes, it appears the technology giants have acknowledged the popularity of these schemes. As tablets and other new devices gain even more popularity and versatility, organisations must now ensure that they have a combination of the right policies and managed security services in place to ensure the network is kept secure.

## Part 4. Appendix

SecureData commissioned a Vanson Bourne Omnibus survey of 100 IT managers in large UK enterprises (more than 1,000 employees) across the financial services, manufacturing, retail, distribution/transport and commercial sectors. The following questions were asked:

- How much, if at all, would you recommend that your organisation rolls out the following devices in 2012/13 to support enterprise mobility?
- How much do you agree/disagree with the following statements?
- Why do you think the Surface might be attractive to business users?