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by Nancy Muir

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Kindle Fire™ HDX For Dummies®

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Introduction

Kindle Fire HDX is a very affordable way to get at all kinds of media, from music and videos to books and colorful magazines. It's also a device that allows you to browse the Internet, connect to your Facebook account, make video calls via Skype, take photos, check your e-mail, and read documents. The portability of both the 7-inch and 8.9-inch models makes it incredibly useful for people on the go in today's fast-paced world.

In this book, I introduce you to all the cool features of Kindle Fire HDX, providing tips and advice for getting the most out of this ingenious little tablet. I help you find your way around its attractive and easy-to-use interface, provide advice about getting the most out of the Amazon Cloud Drive for storing content, and even recommend some neat apps that make your Kindle Fire HDX more functional and fun.

About This Book

"If Kindle Fire HDX is so easy to use, why do I need a book?" you may be asking yourself. When I first sat down with Kindle Fire HDX, it took about a week of poking around to find settings, features, and ways to buy and locate my content and apps. When was the last time you had a week to spare? I've spent the time so that you can quickly and easily get the hang of all the Kindle Fire HDX features and discover a few tricks I bet your friends won't uncover for quite a while.

This book uses certain conventions that are helpful to understand, including

- ✓ Text that you're meant to type just as it appears in the book is **bold**. The exception is when you're working through a step list: Because each step is bold, the text to type is not bold.
- ✓ Web addresses appear in `monoFont`. If you're reading a digital version of this book on a device connected to the Internet, note that you can click the web address to visit that website, like this: www.dummies.com.



This book covers many of the features in the original Kindle Fire, released in 2011, and the Kindle Fire HD, released in 2012, as well as the features that are new with the Kindle Fire HDX. Though this book is focused on Kindle Fire HDX, whichever Kindle Fire model you own, you should find lots of advice and answers in this book.

Foolish Assumptions

You may have opted for a tablet to watch movies and read books on the run. You might think it's a good way to browse business documents and check e-mail on your next plane trip. You might have one or more computers and be very computer savvy, or you might hate computers and figure that Kindle Fire HDX gives you all the computing power you need to browse the Internet and read e-books.

Kindle Fire HDX users come in all types. I don't assume in this book that you're a computer whiz, but I do assume that you have a passing understanding of how to copy a file and plug in a USB cable. I'm guessing you've browsed the Internet at least a few times and heard of Wi-Fi, which is what you use to go online with a Kindle Fire HDX (unless you purchase the LTE version). Other than that, you don't need a lot of technical background to get the most out of this book.

Icons Used in This Book

Icons are little pictures in the margin of this book that alert you to special types of advice or information, including



- ✓ These short words of advice draw your attention to faster, easier, or alternative ways of getting things done with Kindle Fire HDX.
- ✓ When you see this icon, you'll know that I'm emphasizing important information for you to keep in mind as you use a feature.
- ✓ There aren't too many ways you can get in trouble with the Kindle Fire HDX, but in those few situations where some action might be irreversible, I include warnings so you can avoid any pitfalls.
- ✓ If you're using a Kindle Fire HD, this icon will point out what features you might not have. If you've upgraded to HDX, you also get a clue as to cool new features to check out.

Beyond the Book

There is extra online content about Kindle Fire HDX that goes beyond the book itself. Go online to take advantage of these features:

- ✓ **Cheat Sheet** (www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/kindlefirehdx): The Cheat Sheet for this book includes a table of information about all the Quick Settings available to you, including settings to adjust screen brightness and the new MayDay online support button.
- ✓ **Dummies.com online articles:** The parts pages of this book provide links to articles on Dummies.com that extend the content covered in the book. The articles appear on the book's Extras page at www.dummies.com/extras/kindlefirehdx. Topics include Staying Safe Online, Getting More Out of OfficeSuite, and Ten Great Apps for Kids.
- ✓ **Updates:** Here's where you can find updates in case the book changes substantially www.dummies.com/extras/kindlefirehdx.

Where to Go from Here

Time to get that Kindle Fire HDX out of its box, set it up, and get going with all the fun, entertaining things it makes available to you. Have fun!

Part I

Getting Started with Kindle Fire HDX



Visit www.dummies.com for more great content online.

In this part...

- ✓ Get your first glimpse at Kindle Fire HDX as it comes out of the box.
- ✓ Discover how to use the touchscreen and work with the Kindle Fire HDX interface.
- ✓ Step through useful Kindle Fire HDX settings to work with everything from connecting to a network to setting up the language your Kindle Fire uses.

Overview of the Kindle Fire HDX

In This Chapter

- ▶ Comparing Kindle Fire HDX to the competition
- ▶ Surveying all of the Kindle Fire HDX's features

Let's start at the beginning. A *tablet* is a handheld computer with a touchscreen and an onscreen keyboard for providing input, and with apps that allow you to play games, read e-books, check e-mail, browse the web, watch movies, listen to music, and more.

Amazon, the giant online retailer, just happens to have access to more content (music, movies, audio books, and so on) than just about anybody on the planet. So, when an Amazon tablet debuted a couple of years ago, and as Amazon stacked up media partnerships with the likes of Fox and PBS, the Kindle Fire tablet was seen as the first real challenge to Apple's iPad.

Now, in its third generation, the Kindle Fire HDX offers several very nice improvements at the right price and feature mix for many people, while offering the key to that treasure chest of content that Amazon has been wise enough to amass.

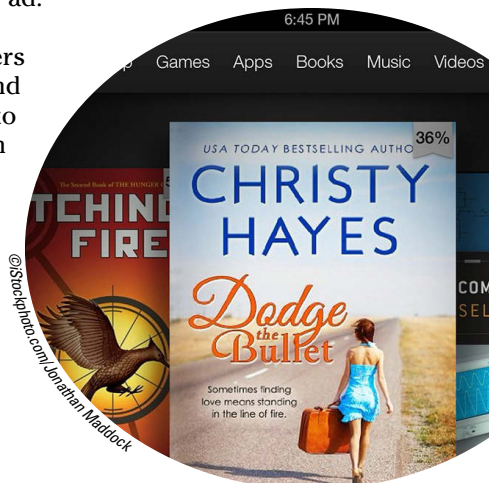
In this chapter, you get an overview of the Kindle Fire HDX: how it compares to competing devices and what its key features are. Subsequent chapters delve into how to use all those features in detail.

What's New in Kindle Fire HDX



Kindle Fire HDX and the new operating system, Fire OS 3.0, bring several new or improved features to the table, including:

- ✓ **Mayday:** A support feature that allows you to interact with a live tech advisor who can talk you through procedures, point out items on your screen by circling them, or actually take over your Kindle Fire and perform procedures for you.



- ✔ **X-Ray:** This feature was available on Kindle Fire HDs, but with Fire OS 3.0 it has been enhanced to provide information about books and music in addition to TV shows and movies. X-Ray makes available information about topics such as movie cast members and vocal artists, and can even display song lyrics as music plays.
- ✔ **Grid View:** The Favorites area in the lower part of the Home screen has been redesigned into a grid, the first two lines of which contain icons for commonly used apps such as the Silk browser and Email. You can add apps and content such as books and music selections to this grid so that you can access them more quickly.
- ✔ **Quiet Time:** If you don't want to hear notifications for events such as arriving mail or download completions for a time, just tap the Quiet Time button in the Quick Settings bar (swipe down from the top of the screen to display Quick Settings).
- ✔ **Quick Switch:** To see content and apps you've used recently, from any screen but the Home screen swipe up or to the left from the Options bar (depending on whether it's positioned at the bottom or on the right of the screen) to see a scrollable list. This Quick Switch feature lets you quickly jump to another option without returning to the Home screen.
- ✔ **Printing Support:** You can now print docs, photos, and e-mail messages to wireless printers.
- ✔ **Accessibility Tools:** Screen Reader, Explore by Touch, and Screen Magnifier have been added to help people with hearing or vision challenges. See Chapter 3 for more details about these features.
- ✔ **Second Screen:** This feature wasn't yet available when Kindle Fire HDX first shipped, but it will appear soon. It allows you to "fling" content on your Kindle Fire HDX or the Amazon Cloud to your television. This causes the content to stream to the TV so that your Kindle Fire HDX is freed up for you to do other things with it while watching.
- ✔ **Kindle FreeTime:** This improved feature lets you create a unique environment for your kids by limiting what content and apps they can use. When you turn on FreeTime, your kids see only the content you've given them permission to use, and it's all shown against a more kid-friendly graphical background.
- ✔ **Goodreads:** This service is like a social network for readers. You can download the free app and then track and share what you're reading and get access to reviews and recommendations from other readers.
- ✔ **Immersion Reading:** You can synchronize a book on your Kindle Fire HDX with an Audible audiobook. When you do, text in the e-book will be highlighted as each word is read from within the Kindle reader, which Amazon considers a more "immersive" reading experience to aid learning.
- ✔ **Kindle Matchbook:** This sales feature, coming out soon, allows you to get a discounted Kindle version of any book you've purchased on Amazon.

✓ **1-Tap-Archive:** If you haven't used an app in quite some time, say, a month or more, a check mark appears on it to indicate that it's not being used. If you want to remove the app from your Kindle Fire HDX, you can simply tap the app to do so.

A Quick Rundown of Kindle Fire HDX Hardware Features

Kindle Fire HDX comes in two sizes: 7 inches (see Figure 1-1) and 8.9 inches. Improvements with the third generation HDX include a faster processor, longer battery life, and higher screen resolution in both models. The 8.9-inch model includes both front- and rear-facing cameras, and both models offer dual microphones.



Figure 1-1: The neat size and weight of Kindle Fire HDX make it easy to hold.



Looking for your Kindle Fire HDX speaker? With this latest model, it has been moved from the back of the device to the top.

Table 1-1 provides an at-a-glance view of Kindle Fire HDX features.

Table 1-1 Kindle Fire HDX Specifications	
Feature	Kindle Fire HDX Specs
Display size	7 inches or 8.9 inches
Processor	2.2 GHz quad-core Snapdragon 800 processor
Screen resolution	1920 × 1200 on 7 inch; 2560 × 1600 on 8.9 inch

(continued)

Table 1-1 (continued)

Feature	Kindle Fire HDX Specs
Internal storage	16GB, 32GB, or 64GB
Battery life	11 hours, or 17 hours for reading only
Price	7-inch model is \$229 for 16GB and \$269 for 32GB, and \$309 for 64GB; 8.9-inch model is \$379 for 16GB, \$429 for 32GB, and \$479 for 64GB
Content	Amazon Appstore
Connectivity	Wi-Fi or 4G LTE
Ports	Micro USB to connect to your computer
Browser	Silk
Camera	Front-facing HDX for 7 inch and 8.9 inch; rear-facing 8 MP for 8.9 inch only
Sound	3.5 mm stereo jack; dual stereo speakers, Dolby Digital Plus sound
Volume control	Physical volume rocker switch

Key Features of Kindle Fire HDX

Kindle Fire HDX is a tablet device with all the things most people want from a tablet packed into an easy-to-hold package: e-mail, web browsing, players for video and music content, built-in calendar and contacts apps, an e-reader, a great online content store, access to tens of thousands of Android apps, and so on. In the following sections, you get to explore all these useful features.

Storage on Earth and in the Cloud

Kindle Fire HDX offers 16GB, 32GB, or 64GB of storage in its 7- and 8.9-inch models. Any storage amount will probably work just fine for you because when you own a Kindle Fire HDX, you get free, unlimited Amazon Cloud Drive storage for all digital content purchased from Amazon (but not content that you copy onto Kindle Fire HDX from your computer by connecting a micro USB cable). This means that books, movies, music, and apps are held online for you to stream or download at any time you have access to Wi-Fi, instead of being stored on your Kindle Fire HDX.

This Amazon Cloud Drive storage means that you don't use up your Kindle Fire HDX memory. As long as you have a Wi-Fi connection, you can stream content from Amazon Cloud at any time. If you'll be away from a connection, download an item (such as an episode of your favorite TV show), watch it, and then remove it from your device the next time you're within range of a Wi-Fi network. The content is still available in the Cloud: You can download that content again or stream it anytime you like.



If you want to go whole hog into Kindle Fire HDX, you can opt for the highest memory device, the 64GB 8.9-inch Kindle Fire HDX 4G LTE Wireless version of the device. Just be aware that 4G devices come with the added cost of an AT&T or Verizon data plan.

App appeal

Kindle Fire HDX is generally easy to use, with a simple, Android-based touchscreen interface. Its primary focus is on consuming media — and consuming media is what Amazon is all about. Kindle Fire HDX also offers its own Silk browser, an e-mail client, calendar and contacts apps, and an available Skype app, as well as the Kindle e-reader (see Figure 1-2). In addition, the OfficeSuite productivity apps are built in and include word processor, spreadsheet, and presentation programs.

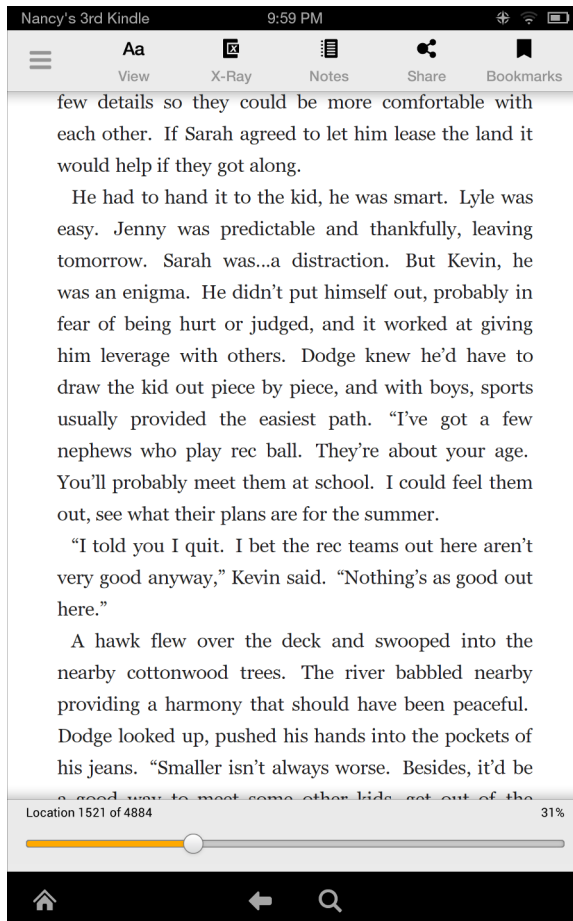


Figure 1-2: Where it all started, with Kindle e-reader functionality.



Just because a particular type of app doesn't come pre-installed on Kindle Fire HDX doesn't mean you can't get one @@you can, and often for free. At this point, the selection of apps available for Android devices isn't nearly as robust as those available for Apple devices, but that will change over time. See Chapter 11 for a list of ten apps that can flesh out your Kindle Fire HDX with popular features such as a budget tracker, weather reporter, and drawing app, and check out Chapter 12 for ten or so great game apps.

Pre-installed functionality

Here's a rundown of the functionality you get out of the box from pre-installed apps:

- ✓ E-reader to read both books and periodicals
- ✓ Music player
- ✓ Video player
- ✓ Audiobook player
- ✓ Contacts app
- ✓ Calendar app
- ✓ Docs document reader for Word, PDF, RTF, and HTML format files
- ✓ Silk web browser
- ✓ Camera and Photos (see Figure 1-3) in which you can view and make edits to photos (such as rotate, change brightness and adjust for red-eye, and crop)
- ✓ E-mail client (use this to set up Kindle Fire HDX to access your existing e-mail accounts)
- ✓ Integration for Facebook and Twitter
- ✓ OfficeSuite for simple word processing and spreadsheet functionality



Check out the apps stored in the Cloud (meaning that these apps are stored at Amazon, rather than pre-installed on your device) by tapping Apps on the Home screen and then tapping the Cloud tab. Here, you may find a number of free apps, such as a Wi-Fi analyzer (to check your Wi-Fi connection), free games, and more.

Here are some of the things you can use your Kindle Fire HDX for:

- ✓ Shopping at Amazon for music, video, apps, books, and periodicals, and viewing or playing that content.
- ✓ Storing Amazon-purchased content in the Amazon Cloud Drive and playing music and video selections from the Cloud instead of downloading them to your device. Amazon content doesn't count toward your Amazon Cloud Drive storage limit (20GB), but other content backed up there does. Note that you can go to www.amazon.com/clouddrive

and purchase anywhere from 20GB for \$10 a year up to 1,000GB of storage for \$500.

- ✓ Sending documents to yourself at a Kindle e-mail address that's assigned when you register your device (see Chapter 2 for more about setting up your Kindle Fire HDX, and Chapter 10 for more about using your Kindle Fire e-mail address to send documents to your Kindle Fire HDX).
- ✓ *Sideload* (transferring) content from your computer to your Kindle Fire HDX by using a micro USB cable that comes with the tablet. Using this cable (see Figure 1-4), you can copy photos, music, videos, and documents (Word or PDF) from any computer onto your Kindle Fire HDX.
- ✓ Making video calls using the free Skype for Kindle Fire HDX app.
- ✓ “Flinging” movies from your device to your large-screen TV using the Second Screen feature.

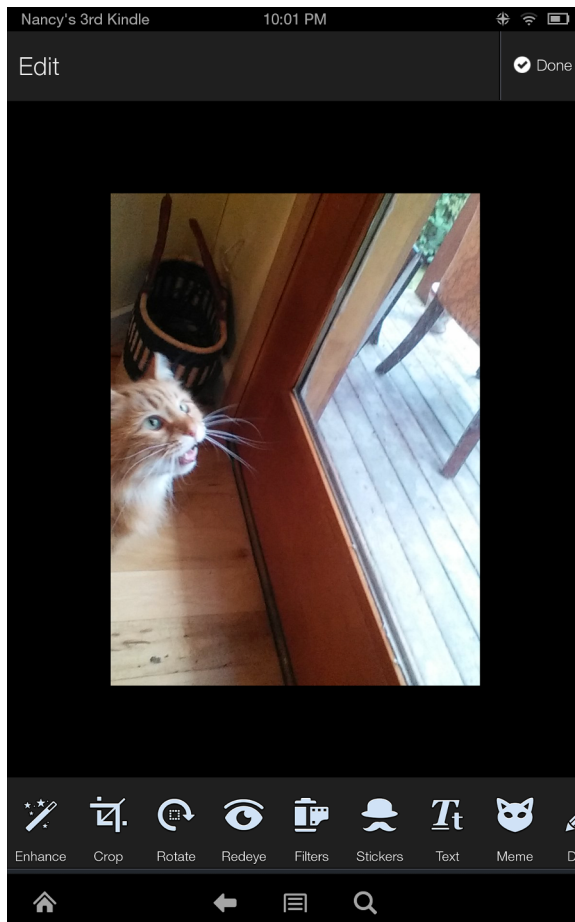


Figure 1-3: Use the Photos app to view photos and edit them.



Figure 1-4: The Kindle Fire HDX's micro USB cable and a power adapter.

The magic of Whispersync

If you've ever owned a Kindle e-reader, you know that downloading Amazon content to it has always been seamless. All you need for this process is access to a Wi-Fi or 4G network. Then you simply order a book, music, or a video, and within moments, it appears on your Kindle device.

Kindle Fire HDX enjoys the same kind of easy download capability via Amazon's Whispersync technology for books, audiobooks, music, video, and periodicals.

Whispersync also helps sync items such as bookmarks you've placed in e-books or the last place you watched in a video across various devices. For example, say you have the Kindle e-reader app on your Kindle Fire HDX, PC, and smartphone. Wherever you left off reading, whatever notes you entered, and whatever pages you've bookmarked will be synced among all the devices without your having to lift a finger. (See Chapter 6 for details on notes, bookmarking, and more features of the e-reader.)

Immersion Reading is a feature that uses Whispersync to allow you to play an audiobook and have the current word that's being spoken highlighted in the text. This feature supposedly aids in reader retention, so it might be a nice match for those late-night study sessions with textbooks.

You want content — Amazon's got it

As I've stated before, Kindle Fire HDX is meant to be a device you use to consume media, meaning that you can use it to play/read all kinds of music, movies, TV shows, podcasts, e-books, audiobooks, magazines, and newspapers. Amazon has built up a huge amount of content, from print (see Figure 1-5) to audio books via its subsidiary Audible (more than 22 million) to movies, TV shows, songs, books, magazines, audiobooks, apps, and games.

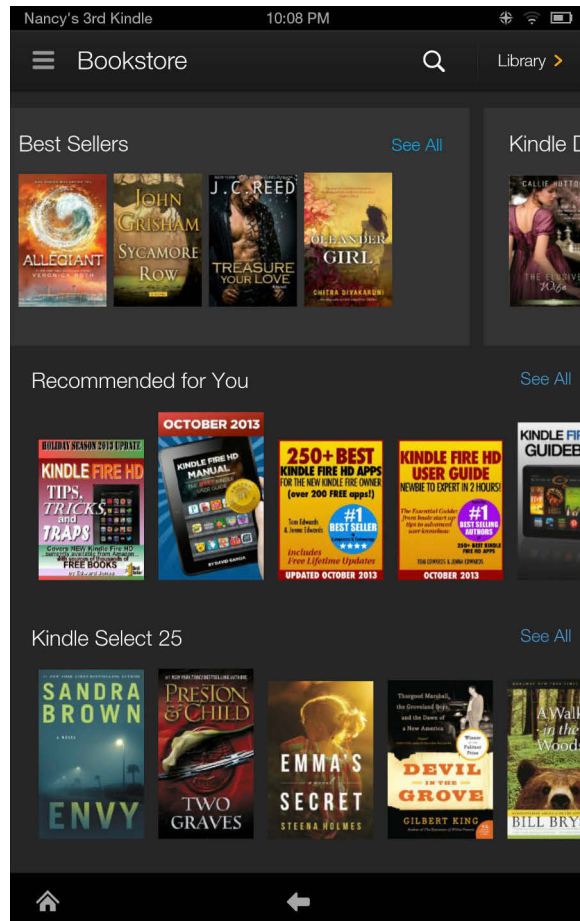


Figure 1-5: The Kindle Store offers more than 1 million books for the Kindle e-reader app.

Count on these numbers to have risen by the time you read this: Amazon continues to rack up deals with media groups such as Fox Broadcasting and PBS to make even more content available on a regular basis.

Tap a library — such as Books, Music, or Videos — on the Kindle Fire HDX Home screen, and you can find various kinds of content in the Amazon store by tapping the Store button. Tap Newsstand to shop for periodicals (see Figure 1-6) and Music to shop for songs and albums; tap Video and you go directly to the Amazon Video store. Tap Apps to shop the Amazon Appstore. All the content you purchase is backed up on the Amazon Cloud Drive.

Another form of content that you get for free is the information contained in the IMDb, a database owned by Amazon. This information is used by the X-Ray feature to show you information about actors and characters in videos, song lyrics in music, and characters in books.

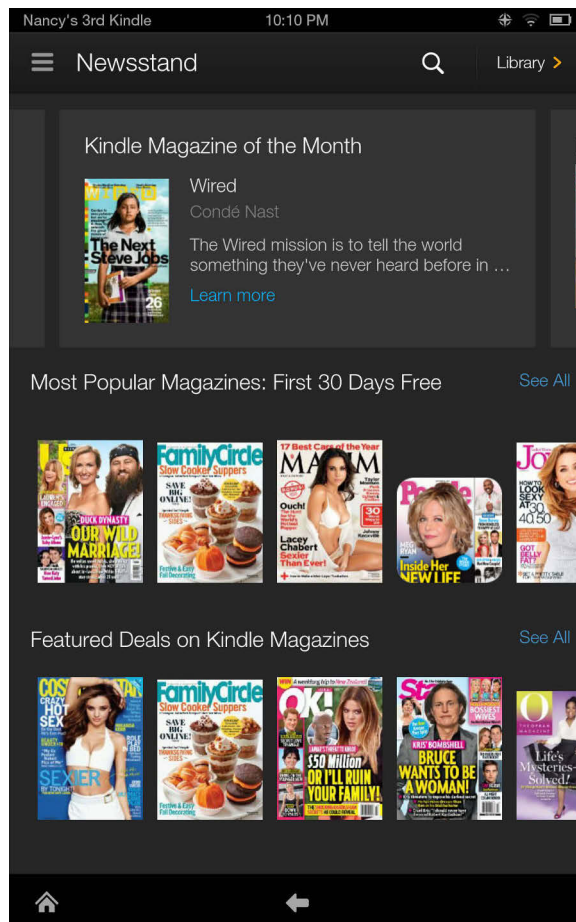


Figure 1-6: Amazon's magazine selection is constantly growing.