# Samsung Galaxy Tab<sup>®</sup> S

# Learn to:

- Set up your Galaxy Tab S, configure the Home screen, and get connected
- Browse the internet, use email, text and video chat, and keep in touch using social media
- Shop for apps, books, music, games, movies, and more

# **IN FULL COLOR!**

# Dan Gookin

Bestselling Author of Android Tablets For Dummies





# by Dan Gookin



#### Samsung Galaxy Tab® S For Dummies®

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# xiv Samsung Galaxy Tab S For Dummies \_\_\_\_\_

# Introduction

The Samsung Galaxy Tab is an excellent choice for your twenty-first century, mobile digital life. The tablet is a remarkable gizmo, one that's capable of doing so much. Samsung packed a lot of potential into the device. One thing they didn't pack were any instructions. Yes, despite its impressive power, the Galaxy Tab can be a confusing, intimidating piece of hardware.

Relax.

You hold in your hand a great resource, companion, and guide to your Galaxy Tab. The purpose here is to help you get the most from your tablet, without scaring the bejeebers out of you.

# **About This Book**

Still reading? Great! So few people bother with the introduction in any book that I'm amazed you bothered to keep going. Honestly, I could write down how to turn lead into gold in this paragraph and you'd be one of six people on the planet to ever read it. Count yourself fortunate. And handsome. I mean, why not?

This book is a reference. It's written to help you get the most from your Galactic tablet. Each chapter covers a specific topic, and the sections in each chapter address an issue related to the topic. The overall idea is to show how to do things on the tablet and to help you get the most from it without overwhelming you with information or intimidating you into despair.

Sample sections in this book include

- Making a home for the tablet
- Touring the Home screen
- Typing quickly by using predictive text
- Placing a Skype phone call
- Running Facebook on your tablet

- Recording video
- Turning lead into gold
- Finding your lost tablet

Did you notice that one of those items is fake? That's because you're still reading the Introduction and I'm proud of you for sticking with it.

This book explains all topics carefully. Everything is cross-referenced. Technical terms and topics, when they come up, are neatly shoved to the side, where they're easily avoided. The idea here isn't to learn anything. This book's philosophy is to help you look it up, figure it out, and get on with your life.

This book follows a few conventions for using a Galaxy Tab. First of all, I refer to your device as the *Galaxy Tab* or just *Tab* throughout the book. I might also write *Galaxy tablet* or even, occasionally, *Galactic tablet*. Generally speaking, all the information here applies to the Galaxy Tab S and the Galaxy Tab 4. Occasionally, I'll offer specific information when the tablets differ in features or methods.

The way you interact with the tablet is by using its *touchscreen*. The device also has some physical buttons, found below the touchscreen. It also features some holes and connectors. All those items are described in Chapter 1. You can touch the screen in various ways, which are explained and named in Chapter 3.

Chapter 4 discusses tablet text input, which involves using an onscreen keyboard. You can also input text by speaking to the tablet, which is also covered in Chapter 4.

This book directs you to do things by following numbered steps. Each step involves a specific activity, such as touching something on the screen; for example:

2. Choose Downloads.

This step directs you to touch the text or item labeled *Downloads* on the screen. You might also be told to do this:

3. Tap Downloads.



Some options can be turned off or on, as indicated by a box with a check mark in it, similar to what's shown in the margin. Tap the box to add or remove the check mark. When the check mark appears, the option is on; otherwise, it's off.

Some on-off features are activated by using a Master Control icon, similar to what's shown in the margin. When the button is green, the feature is on. You can either touch the icon or slide it a wee bit by dragging your finger on the touchscreen.

# **Foolish Assumptions**

Even though this book is written with the gentle handholding required by anyone who is just starting out or who is easily intimidated, I've made a few assumptions. For example, I assume that you're a human being and not the emperor of Jupiter. See? You're getting all this comedy gold just from sticking to reading the Introduction. (I'm gonna write my mom about this.)

My biggest assumption: You have a Samsung Galaxy tablet, either a Tab S or a Tab 4. This book covers both. The Tabs come in a variety of sizes. The only difference relevant to this book is whether you hold the device vertically or horizontally. Even that doesn't matter much in the big picture.

A Tab that accesses the mobile data (cellular) network is called an LTE Tab, where LTE stands for Long Term Evolution or something. It doesn't matter. The other Tab is known as a Wi-Fi-only tab. Any differences between the two types of Tabs are pointed out in the text.

You don't need a computer to use this book, although having one does let you do certain things. The computer can be a desktop or a laptop, and a PC or a Macintosh. Oh, I suppose it could also be a Linux computer. In any event, I refer to the computer as "a computer" throughout this book. When directions are specific to a PC or a Mac, the book says so.

Finally, this book doesn't assume that you have a Google account, but having one helps. Information is provided in Chapter 2 about setting up a Google account — an extremely important part of using the Galaxy Tab. Having a Google account opens up a slew of useful features, information, and programs that make using your tablet more productive.

# Icons Used in This Book



This icon flags useful, helpful tips or shortcuts.

#### Samsung Galaxy Tab S For Dummies



This icon marks a friendly reminder to do something.



This icon marks a friendly reminder not to do something.

This icon alerts you to overly nerdy information and technical discussions of the topic at hand. Reading the information is optional, though it may win you the Daily Double on *Jeopardy*!

# **Beyond the Book**

I didn't write this heading. The publisher did. It's a long story, but soon, the publisher will go back to publishing books and not giving away my stuff free on the Internet.

Bonus information for this title can be found online. You can visit the publisher's website to find an online cheat sheet at

www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/samsunggalaxytabs

Supplemental online material has been created for this book. Doesn't that make you feel better? And here you thought you paid for the entire book when you opened the cover. Oops! Now you have homework: Supplemental stuff can be found at

www.dummies.com/extras/samsunggalaxytabs

Updates to this book might someday be found at

www.dummies.com/extras/samsunggalaxytabs

I also do my own updates, blog posts, alerts, and helpful information, which is also free but far more engaging. My stuff is updated more frequently than the publisher's website because (last time I checked) I'm not a big corporation. You can find my own information at

www.wambooli.com

Specific support for the Galaxy Tab is found here:

www.wambooli.com/help/galaxytabs/

My email address is dgookin@wambooli.com. Yes, that's my real address. I reply to all email I get, and you'll get a quick reply if you keep your question short and specific to this book. Although I do enjoy saying "Hi," I cannot answer technical support questions, resolve billing issues, or help you troubleshoot your Galaxy Tab. Thanks for understanding.

Enjoy this book and your Galactic tablet!

# Where to Go from Here

Hey! Thanks for hanging in there. Now I fully expect you to read the entire book, cover to cover, including the loopy ads at the end. *Chihuahuas For Dummies*? Are they serious?

Back to the topic at hand: Start reading! Observe the table of contents and find something that interests you. Or look up your puzzle in the index. When these suggestions don't cut it, just start reading Chapter 1.

#### Samsung Galaxy Tab S For Dummies \_\_\_\_\_

# Part I A Galaxy in Your Hands





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# In this part. . .

- Get started with your Samsung Galaxy Tab.
- Work through the Tab setup.
- Learn how to operate the tablet.
- Discover various parts of a Galaxy Tab.



# **A Galactic Orientation**

#### In This Chapter

- Unboxing your Galaxy tablet
- Charging the battery
- Locating important things
- Adding or removing a microSD card
- Getting optional accessories
- Storing the tablet

thoroughly enjoy getting a new gizmo and opening its box. Expectations build. Joy is released. Then despair descends like a grand piano pushed out a third-story window. That's because any new electronic device, especially something as sophisticated as the Samsung Galaxy Tab, can be frustrating and confusing. You have a lot of ground to cover, so to make your journey easier, I offer this gentle introduction.

# Set Up Your Galaxy Tablet

Most Galaxy tablets patiently wait in their box for your attention. The exception is the cellular, or LTE, tablet. Because it uses the mobile data signal, the kind people at the Phone Store might have worked through a setup and configuration process with you. This step is necessary to get the mobile data signal up and running. For non-cellular, or Wi-Fi only tablets, the initial configuration is left up to you.

Don't be frightened!

- Chapter 2 covers how the setup process works. Also discussed are the basic on-off operations for your tablet.
- An LTE tablet is one that uses the mobile data network to access the Internet. It can also use the Wi-Fi network. Yes, you pay monthly for that service.

Coeur d'Alene

#### Part I: A Galaxy in Your Hands



✓ A Wi-Fi-only tablet uses only a Wi-Fi network for Internet access.

- The initial setup of an LTE tablet identifies the device with the cellular network, giving it a network ID and associating the ID with your cellular bill.
- Although a Wi-Fi tablet doesn't require setup with a cellular provider, it does require a Wi-Fi signal to access the Internet. Accessing that signal is a necessary step. See Chapter 16 for information on configuring your tablet for use with a Wi-Fi network.

# Opening the box

Liberate your Galaxy Tab from its box by locating and lifting the cardboard tab. Gleefully remove any plastic sheeting that clings to the device. Check the sides, edges, front, and back. Also check the rear camera lens to ensure that it's not covered with plastic.

In the box's bottom compartment, you may find

- A USB cable: You can use it to connect the tablet to a computer or a wall charger.
- A wall charger: You'll find a USB connector (hole) on the charger, as well as metal prongs for plugging the thing into a wall socket.
- Pamphlets with warnings and warranty information: I find it amazing that the *Getting Started* pamphlet is about 2 percent of the size of the warnings and warranty information. I blame the discrepancy on lawyers, who are obviously better than technology writers at getting work.
- Cover or pouch: You may find a half cover for your Tab S inside the box. See the later section, "Attaching the cover." The Tab 4 might come with a special pouch into which you can tuck the tablet.
- The 4G SIM card holder: For the LTE/cellular tablet, you'll need a 4G SIM card. The Phone Store people may have tossed its holder into the box as well. You can throw it out.
- Jimmy Hoffa: The former labor leader disappeared in 1975, and no one has been able to find him. Look in the bottom of the box to see whether Hoffa's body is there. You never know.

Go ahead and free the USB cable and power charger from their clear plastic cocoons. That's because the next step is to charge the tablet's battery, covered in the following section.



Keep the box for as long as you own your tablet. If you ever need to return the device or ship it somewhere, the original box is the ideal container. You can shove the useless pamphlets and papers back into the box as well.

# Charging the battery

The first thing that I recommend you do with your Galaxy Tab is to give it a full charge. Obey these steps:

- 1. Plug one end of the USB cable into the wall adapter.
- 2. Attach the other end of the USB cable to the tablet.

The cable attaches to the tablet's edge: the right edge for horizontal tablets and the bottom edge for vertical tablets. The USB connector (hole) cannot be mistaken and the cable plugs in only one way.

#### 3. Plug the wall adapter into the wall.

Upon success, you may see a Battery icon on the tablet's touchscreen. The icon gives you an idea of the current battery-power level and lets you know that the tablet is functioning properly. Don't be alarmed if the Battery icon fails to appear.

If the Welcome screen appears when you charge the tablet, you can proceed with the initial configuration, which is covered in Chapter 2. Or you can wait and finish reading this chapter first. Or have a cookie. It's always fun to ignore responsibility and have a cookie.

- Most tablets come partially charged from the factory. That's no excuse! I recommend giving your tablet a good initial charge. It also helps you become familiar with the process.
- The USB cable can also be used to connect the Galaxy Tab to a computer. See Chapter 17 for details.



- The tablet's battery also charges when the tablet is plugged into a computer's USB port, although it's not as effective as charging by using a wall socket.
- The Galaxy Tab does not have a removable, and therefore replaceable, battery.

# Attaching the cover

If your Galaxy Tab S came with a half-cover, you can attach it to the device. If your Tab S didn't come with a cover, Samsung has suddenly gotten cheap and there's no excuse for such an omission.

The key to attaching the cover is to look for the two "buttons" on the back of the tablet. Originally, pressing those buttons caused the tablet to explode in an orange fireball of death. Then Samsung changed its mind, and now the buttons are designed to receive the snaps on the half-cover, to firmly attach the cover to the device. Position the snaps on the shorter side of the half cover over the two buttons on the back of the Tab S. Press firmly. Snap. Snap. You're done.

# Know Your Way around the Galaxy

"Second star to the right and straight on till morning" may get Peter Pan to Neverland, but you need more specific directions for navigating your way around your Galaxy Tab.

#### Finding things on the tablet

Many interesting and useful items festoon the front, back, and perimeter of your Galaxy Tab. Before going into detail, I must address the issue of which way is up on your tablet.

Generally speaking, the tablet's bottom edge features the Home button, illustrated in Figure 1-1. When I write about the tablet's top

and bottom edges or its left and right



Figure 1-1: Galaxy tablet navigation buttons.

edges, the orientation is set by the Home button's location. When you rotate the tablet, changing between horizontal and vertical orientations, the Home button is still "on the bottom."

Now that I've clarified which way is up, take a moment to peruse the following list and locate the items mentioned on your tablet.

**Touchscreen display:** The biggest part of the tablet is its touchscreen display, which occupies almost all the territory on the front of the device. The touchscreen display is a see-touch thing: You look at it and also touch it with your fingers to control the tablet. See Chapter 3 for details on touchscreen manipulation.

**Navigation buttons:** Found at the bottom center of the tablet, these buttons serve many key functions in the Android operating system. They are, as illustrated in Figure 1-1, Recent, Home, and Back. The Home button is a physical button. Recent and Back are touch-sensitive buttons. The functions of these buttons are covered in Chapter 3.

**Front camera:** The tablet's front-facing camera is centered above the touchscreen. The camera is used for taking self-portraits as well as for video chats. See Chapter 11 for information on using your Galaxy Tab as a camera; Chapter 7 covers video chat.

**Light sensor:** Just next to the front camera is a teensy light sensor. It's used to help adjust the brightness level of the touchscreen. It is not a second camera.



**Power/USB connector:** The Power/USB jack is located on the tablet's edge. For horizontal tablets, the connector is found on the right edge. For vertical tablets, the connector is found on the bottom. This location is where you attach the USB cable to the tablet.

**Power Lock button:** The Power Lock button is the smaller of two thin buttons on the edge of the device. Press Power Lock to turn on the tablet, to lock it (put it to sleep), to wake it up, and to turn it off. Directions for performing these tasks are found in Chapter 2.

**Volume button:** The tablet's volume button is the longer of the two buttons found on the device's edge. Press one side of the button to set the volume higher, and press the other side to set the volume lower. This button is found next to the Power Lock button.

**Headphone jack:** The tablet's largest hole accommodates a standard headphone plug. This is where you connect headphones to the tablet.

**SIM card cover:** This spot is used to access an LTE tablet's SIM card, and it's found only on LTE tablets. You do not need to open this cover or replace the SIM card unless you're switching cellular providers.

**Media card slot:** Lift the cover on this slot to add or remove a microSD memory card. See the next section.

**IR Blaster:** This port has a great name but a rather mundane function. It's a thin black rectangle found on the tablet's edge and it tastes like licorice. The IR Blaster sends an infrared signal to another device, such as a TV. It's used primarily with the WatchOn app, covered in Chapter 23.

**Speaker(s):** Stereo speakers are located on opposite edges on the tablet, although smaller tablets put the speakers on the back.

**Microphone:** A tiny hole on the tablet serves as the device's microphone. The hole's location may not be apparent — it's about the diameter of a pinhead — but it's there. Avoid the temptation to stick anything into that wee li'l hole.

**Rear camera and flash:** The rear camera is found on the back of the tablet. If your Galaxy Tab camera features a flash, the flash LED is found nearby the camera.

Be careful not to confuse the SIM card with the removable storage media (microSD) card. They're not the same thing. You'll rarely, if ever, access the SIM card.



SIM stands for Subscriber Identity Module. The SIM card is used by your cellular provider to identify your tablet and keep track of the amount of data it accesses. Yep, that's so you can be billed properly. The SIM also gives your cellular tablet a phone number, though that's merely an account number and not something you can dial or send a text message to.

# Inserting and removing a microSD card

Expand your tablet's storage capacity by installing a microSD card. The card stores photos, music, and other information, supplementing the tablet's internal storage. You can use the card also to exchange files between the tablet and other devices, such as a computer.

The microSD card can be inserted whether the device is on or off. Heed these directions:

#### 1. Locate the microSD card hatch on the tablet's edge.

Figure 1-2 illustrates the hatch's appearance, although it may look subtly different on your tablet. The hatch is labeled *microSD*; don't confuse it with the SIM card cover.



2. Insert a fingernail into the slot on the teensy hatch that covers the microSD slot, and then flip up the hatch.



The slot cover has a fingernail-size indentation, similar to what's shown in Figure 1-2. When pressure is applied, the hatch that covers the slot pops up and kind of flops over to the side. The slot cover doesn't come off completely.

- 3. Orient the microSD card so that the printed side is up and the teeny triangle on the card is pointing toward the open slot.
- 4. Use your fingernail or a bent paperclip to gently shove the card all the way into the slot.

The card makes a faint clicking sound when it's fully inserted.

If the card keeps popping out, you're not shoving it in far enough.

#### 5. Close the hatch covering the microSD card slot.

If the tablet is on (and has been configured), you may see a prompt informing you that the card has been inserted.

To remove the microSD card, follow these steps:

# 1. If the tablet is on, unmount the microSD card. If the tablet is off, skip to Step 2.

Before you attempt this process, reading Chapters 2 and 3 helps.

- a. At the Home screen, touch the Apps icon to visit the Apps screen.
- b. Open the Settings app.
- c. Tap the General tab atop the screen; then on the left side of the screen, choose the Storage category.

