As previously announced Apple held its traditional September event-- one featuring the announcement of the much awaited iPad Pro, a larger version of the popular tablet with an obvious focus on enterprise customers.



In fact, the device was revealed only after talk on enterprise partnerships with IBM and Cisco. As repeatedly suggested by rumours, the iPad Pro is the biggest (12.9-inch) and most powerful Apple tablet yet. It is powered by a specially designed 64-bit A9X chip promising double the graphics, memory bandwidth and disk performance of the A8X, as well as 10 hours battery life, for "desktop-class performance." Audio comes through a 4-speaker array.

The tablet handles 5.6 million pixels on screen, the highest pixel destiny on an Apple device. It can also handle professional applications such as Office, AutoCAD and Photoshop, as well as the simultaneous editing of up to three 4K video streams and a split-screen multitasking mode.

Essentially it sounds like a MacBook pro, if without the keyboard. Or the Microsoft Surface. Not that the Windows maker appears to mind too much about such comparisons-- it even sent a company representative to show off the iPad Pro version of Office, in a demonstration all too similar to Surface demos from a few years back...

Apple also offers a couple of iPad Pro accessories, the "Smart Keyboard" and the "Pencil." The self-explanatory Smart Keyboard is similar to Microsoft Surface keyboard cover. It is covered in

woven fabric and connects to iPad Pro via "smart connector," a new port handling power and magnetic connection.

"Just slide it on it," the company says.



Meanwhile the Pencil is the Apple take on the stylus. A device the late Steve Jobs would have probably disapproved of, it provides pressure-sensitive input through a combination of built-in position, force and tilt sensors and the iPad Pro's pressure-sensitive display. A Lightning connector handles charging duties, and it can be plugged directly into the iPad Pro.

Another iPad addition comes in the shape of the Pad mini 4, essentially an iPad Air 2 within the "mini" form factor.

The iPad Pro available from November 2015 in gray, gold or silver.