Introduction

The following document presents the protocol for testing and evaluating tablets at Consumer Reports. The purpose of this test process is to expose the performance strengths and weaknesses for tablets, and to make a final assessment of its overall performance. A high level description of our test process can be summarized by the following attributes:

1. Performance
2. Display
3. Convenience
4. Specific Tasks
5. Versatility
6. Battery Life

Description of Test Process

Each category's test process is a tabulation of subscores that include, but are not limited to, the below examples:

1. Performance
   - This attribute grades the speed of actions and visual smoothness running apps with complex graphics.
   - Industry benchmarks, Sun Spider and Geekbench, are run while the tablet is on battery mode and plugged in.
   - Timed tests include time to boot up and to transfer files from a computer to the tablet.
2. Display
   - This attribute grades the quality of the screen, including color, viewing angle, brightness and outdoor readability.
   - A trained expert panel evaluates the color, clarity, readability, and viewing angle under various lighting conditions.
   - Measurements that are taken include the display DPI and its max brightness.
3. Convenience
   - This attribute grades the ease of using the buttons, keyboard, and touchscreen, or interacting with apps.
   - A trained expert panel evaluates the touchscreen responsiveness, and the placement and intuitiveness of the physical and soft buttons.
   - A trained expert panel evaluates how easy it is to set up a new device, manage files and multitask using the default apps.
External Audience Protocol (EAP) - Tablets

4. Specific Tasks
   ● This attribute grades the ease of performing a variety of scenarios, including reading books, playing media, and using email and the Web using the default apps.
   ● A trained expert panel evaluates the quality of photos taken from the front and rear cameras, and videos taken from the rear (main) camera. Graded attributes include color accuracy, visual noise, and video sound quality, as viewed on and off the tablet. Features such as autofocus, flash, and available resolution are also taken into account.

5. Versatility
   ● This attribute grades the presence of useful features, such as USB and HDMI ports, and memory-card readers.
   ● A trained expert panel evaluates the quality of the build, such as the construction and feel of materials.

6. Battery Life
   ● This attribute grades various scenarios performed under battery mode. This includes:
     ■ The time it takes to deplete a fully charged battery while the tablet loads a website over WiFi using the default browser. The screen is set to a specific brightness that is usable indoors or outdoors.
     ■ The time it takes to deplete a fully charged battery while the tablet plays a local video on a loop using the default video player app. The screen is set to a specific brightness that is usable indoors or outdoors.
     ■ The time it takes to deplete a battery that has been charged partially for 30 minutes.