

Google's Android tablet software inches closer

The Associated Press

The version of Google's Android software meant for tablet computers is creeping closer. It will include a fresh look and updated Web browser and keyboard.

The online search leader said Wednesday it released a preview version of the software development kit for Honeycomb (also known as Android 3.0) so developers can test out their applications on the software and learn about its new capabilities.

In a post on Google Inc.'s Android Developers blog, Xavier Ducrohet, the Android SDK tech lead, said a final version of the kit will be available "in the weeks ahead." That will enable developers to publish Honeycomb applications to Google's Android Market app store.

Tablet computers are expected to be popular this year, spurred by the release of Apple Inc.'s iPad last April.

Source URL (retrieved on 01/30/2015 - 8:39pm):

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