

Google announces Android version 3.1 at its I/O conference-- alongside a look at the OS' future, Ice Cream Sandwich.



Android 3.1 will be tablet only, and will have a number of tweaks to Honeycomb's interface, as well as allowing Android devices to act as USB host-- or, in other words, allowing users to plug in USB input devices (keyboards, mice, game controllers) for use with Android tablets.

It will also support Google's Music Locker service, as well as movie rentals via Android Market.

The big announcement is Ice Cream Sandwich, Android's next iteration-- one to unite mobile phones and tablets under a single OS. Rolling out late 2011, few details are actually out. Mobiles will get Honeycomb's "holographic" UI, launcher and widgets through an applications framework allowing for scaling between different device form factors.

Meanwhile Google has other plans for Android-- such as Android @ Home, its home automation framework, and the Android Open Accessory standard.

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