

It's really what's on the inside that counts, of course, and what's inside this box is impressive. The PlayStation 4 has a custom processor with eight AMD Jaguar CPU cores and a next-gen Radeon GPU. It's based on the ubiquitous x86 architecture, which could make development and upgrades much easier going forward, but it does draw a line in the sand between the PS3 and PS4. None of your old games will work, so you might not want to remove the PS3 from your home entertainment centre just yet.

The PS4 also has a 500GB hard drive — which I imagine you'll end up upgrading at some point over the life of the console, since one game can take up 40 or 50GB — plus 8GB of memory, and a six-speed Blu-Ray drive which can load and install games faster than the PS3. It adds up to a console that's incredibly powerful and is able to play graphically intensive games up to 1080p at 60 frames per second. But Sony missed a couple of important future-proofing opportunities.



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Tesla's Model X.



Tesla Motors' family is growing. The company just unveiled its first crossover, the Model X. Like the Roadster and Model S, the Model X is a purely electric vehicle, built on the same platform as the Model S. Tesla says pricing will be similar to that of the Model S, making the base model around \$50k after tax credits.

But, if all the available options are checked including the largest battery pack and performance drivetrain, the price could close in on \$90k. But who cares about the price when the vehicle packs gullwing-like doors — Tesla calls them Falcon Wings, but you can call them awesome.

The Model X is built on the same skateboard platform as the Model S. This shared design allows for the relatively affordable price. The CUV will come in both rear and four-wheel drive flavours with the 4-wheel drive model packing independent electric motors at each axle. Since the larger Model X will use the battery system as the Model S, Tesla says the range on the 40, 60, and 85 kWh battery packs will be about 10% less.

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If the Falcon Wings didn't convince you the Model X was from the future, just look at the centre console. Like the Model S, the Model X employs a massive touchscreen for the infotainment display and climate controls.

Space is abundant in the Model X. Since there isn't a traditional engine, the Model X has a front and rear storage space. Elon Musk bragged at the unveiling that there's enough room in the front storage compartment as the Audi Q7 has in the rear. Tesla is now taking reservations for the Model X. But you're going to be waiting a while. Tesla doesn't expect production to begin until 2014

“Model X has a 320 km range and can accelerate from 0 to 100 km/h in six seconds.”



PlayStation 4, The Next Gen Console.

Broadly speaking, it doesn't matter what your console looks like — it's certainly not a reason to buy, or not buy, any given console. That's why it's so nice to see the care Sony took in building the PlayStation 4, a remarkably better-looking console than the PlayStation 3 — or the Xbox One, or the Xbox 360.

Most immediately obvious is just how small it is; at just over 2 inches tall, 12 inches deep and 10 inches wide, it's smaller than any version of the PS3 (even the "super slim" model) ever made, and slides into a home theatre stack far more easily.

The acutely angled parallelogram of a box appears to consist of four different slabs, two glossy black and two textured matte grey, stuck together with wide seams between them. It looks designed rather than simply boxed, with Sony's attention to detail clearly showing. The sharply sloped front hides two USB 3.0 ports, and makes the power and eject buttons easy to press just by feeling your way down the face of the console with your finger. I confused the two buttons easily, though, and wound up turning off the system a couple of times while trying to eject a game.

The console's back has a standard, if slightly spare, set of ports: HDMI, Ethernet, optical audio out, and a proprietary socket for the optional PlayStation Camera. When you're setting the PS4 up, all you need are two cables — power and HDMI — to get up and running. (It uses the same exact cables as the PS3, so if you're upgrading your Sony console all you'll need to do is drop the new box into place.) And unlike the Xbox One, there's no monstrous power brick to find room for, since everything's contained in the console itself. I was worried the integrated power supply might make the console hot and loud, but it doesn't: I could hear the PS4 in a quiet room, and it certainly warms up under strain, but I never needed to worry about it.

“A custom processor with eight AMD Jaguar CPU cores and a next-gen Radeon GPU.”