Written by Marco Attard 30 October 2014

HP reveals the first "Blended Reality" product-- the Sprout, a desktop PC HP says "combines the power of an advanced desktop computer with an immersive, natural user interface to create a new computing experience."



From a distance the Sprout looks like an All-in-One PC, only the keyboard is replaced by a mat and what looks like an desk lamp hangs on top of a 23-inch touchscreen. However the "mat" is actually a capacitative touch surface, and the "desk lamp" combines an Intel RealSense 3D camera, 14.6MP camera and a DLP projector beaming a work surface on the mat.

The idea behind the Sprout is users can scan objects before manipulating them directly with their fingers using either touchscreen or touch surface. In other words, it is a bit like the holographic computer Tony Stark uses to create his robot suits in the Iron Man films.

The Sprout appears aimed at creative professionals and prosumers, but HP also shows a more consumer-friendly side to the PC with a Sprout-optimised version of game Castle Crashers. On the software side the company also provides a Sprout Marketplace, an online store for Sprout-friendly applications.



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