



# 7 Things about Double Robotics

## 1 - What is it?

The Double is a mobile, self-balancing base that utilizes the video and wireless connectivity features of Apple's iPad to create a telepresence robot. This robot can be accessed from virtually anywhere through an app for iOS devices as well as through a Google Chrome browser.

Learn More at: <http://www.doublerobotics.com/>

## 2 - How does it work?

The Double uses a combination of information from a gyroscope and an accelerometer to maintain its balance while moving.<sup>1</sup> Taking control of the Double is done via a wifi connection which allows the Double server to act as an intermediary from an application for iOS devices and a web application for Google Chrome.<sup>2</sup> The Double utilizes the iPad's audio and video functions to create a telecommunication experience for the user by wirelessly connecting to the Double robot via Bluetooth.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://support.doublerobotics.com/customer/portal/articles/1366957-how-does-double-balance->

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.doublerobotics.com/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.macworld.com/article/2051342/double-robotics-review-why-go-to-the-office-when-a-robot-can-go-for-you-.html>

### 3 - Who's doing it?

Double Robotics was founded in 2011 through the partnership of David Cann and Marc DeVidts. The company is operated out of Sunnyvale, California and began shipping products in May 2013.<sup>4</sup>

### 4 - Why is it significant?

There are several other telepresence robots in the market, but for a relatively low price of \$2499 the Double hits a low price point while still offering great functionality and performance in an easy-to-use package.<sup>5</sup>

### 5 - What are the downsides?

The major downside of the Double is the fact that it is almost too advanced for most areas in society. It just isn't normal to see a robot traveling around, seemingly on its own. This factor can create a distraction in the workplace that it is meant to serve in. Further, navigating stairs or other environments with doors or other objects can prevent extensive use.

### 6 - Where is it going?

With the backing from the well-known seed accelerator, Y Combinator, Double has been steadily growing its market base with pre-orders from several large corporations that have added up to over half a million dollars in sales.<sup>6</sup> The company is continuing to develop their product line and has recently released a docking station that facilitates easier charging for the Double.<sup>7</sup> The price point makes the Double easily accessible for businesses and even consumers, so analysts expect to see the Double pop up in more locations as it continues to develop.

### 7 - What are the implications for higher education?

There are a variety of reasons that may prevent students and teachers from being able to attend class or events in person; such as illness, weather, or long distance. The Double can bridge the communication divide by allowing the individual to be "present" via a video call and the mobility

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.doublerobotics.com/about.html>

<sup>5</sup> [http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/08/18/double-turns-the-ipad-into-a-telepresence-robot/?\\_php=true&\\_type=blogs&\\_r=0](http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/08/18/double-turns-the-ipad-into-a-telepresence-robot/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.businessinsider.com/double-robotics-2012-8>

<sup>7</sup> <http://blog.doublerobotics.com/double-charging-dock-accessory-now-available-for-pre-order>

allowed by the Double presents the capability to stay actively involved with the surroundings independently of other individuals.