



EliteBook x360 1030 G3 Repairability Assessment

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INTRODUCTION

Repairability Assessment for the EliteBook x360 1030 G3.

HP provides a full service manual for the [EliteBook 1050 G3](#).

TOOLS:

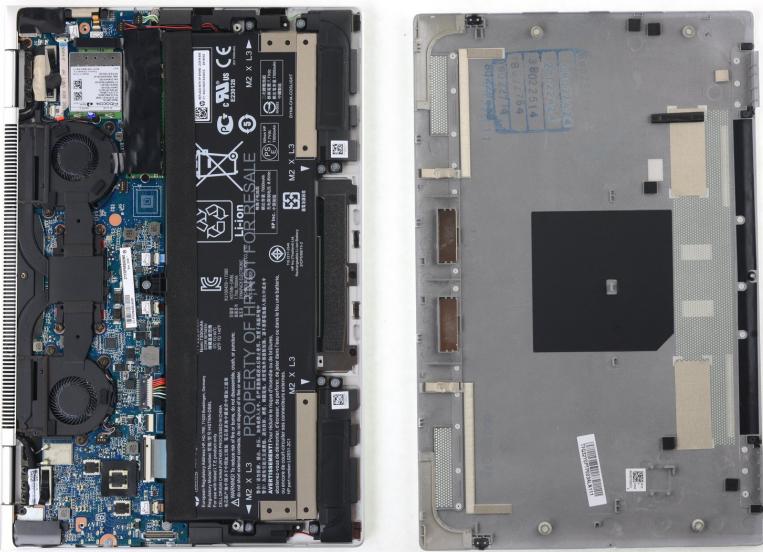
- [Phillips #00 Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [T5 Torx Screwdriver](#) (1)

Step 1 — EliteBook x360 1030 G3 Repairability Assessment



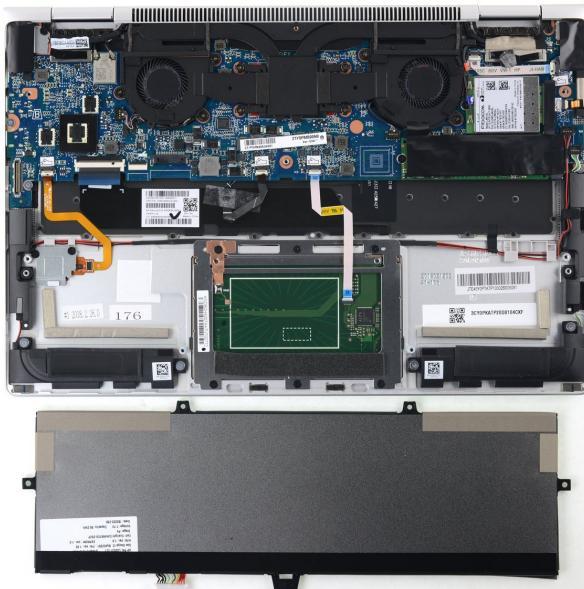
- Exterior reference photos.
- The laptop isn't ingress-proofed, so many gaps in the keyboard and lower case, including ports, vents, speaker grilles etc. may allow water damage or particle buildup.

Step 2



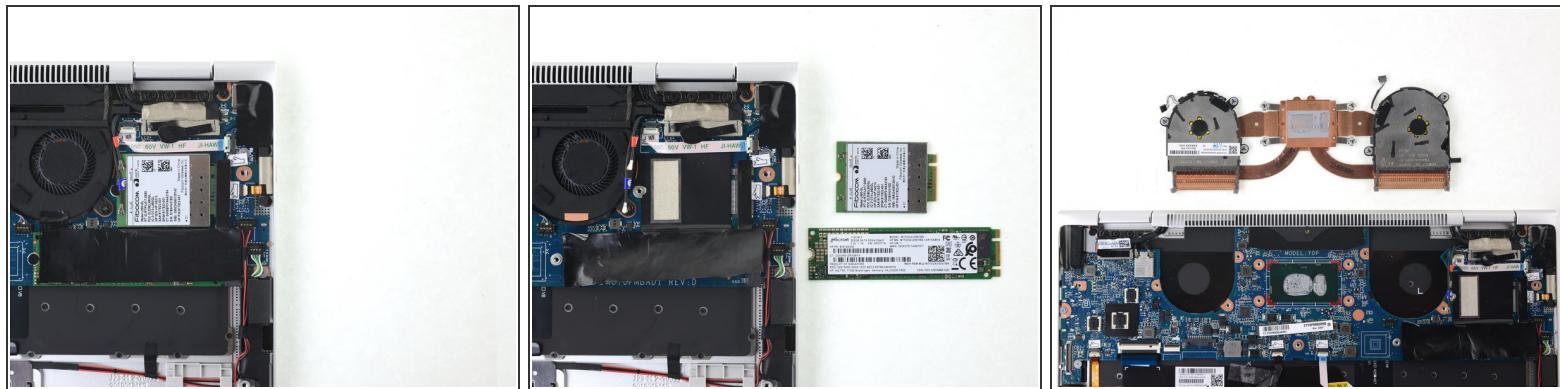
- The lower case is secured by a few Torx screws, most of which are removable.
- The upper Torx screw is captive, as long as you don't unscrew it too far.
- The case can then easily be pried off the laptop.
- The case contains no major components, making for easy replacement, and the laptop itself has a flat construction that allows access to most components at this stage.

Step 3



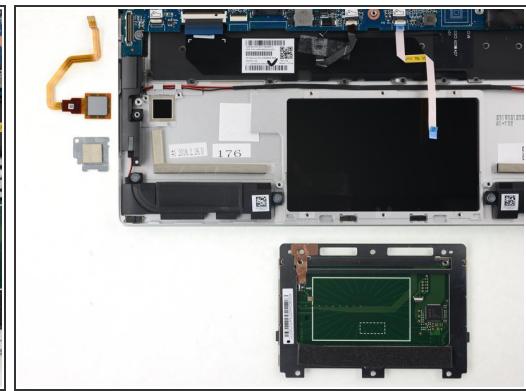
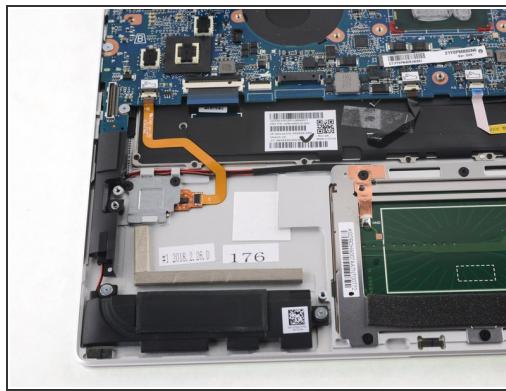
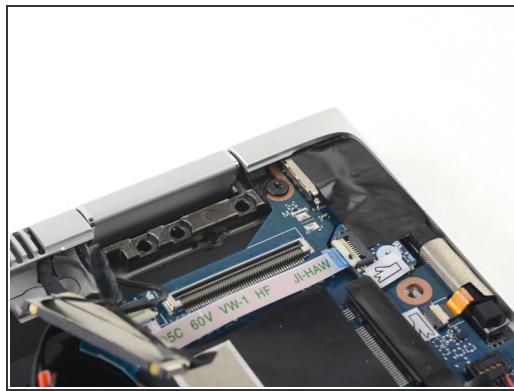
- The battery is immediately accessible and can be removed after a couple standard screws. No adhesive holds it down.
- A laptop battery is consumable—even if it's kept in mint condition, the battery will wear down and need replacing. An easily accessible battery is very important for the life of the device, as well as its end-of-life recycling.

Step 4



- The antenna interconnect cables are nicely labeled for easy wireless card replacement.
- The SSD however is covered in some kind of shielding tape that needs to be peeled off of the fan, the SSD itself, and folded back over the wireless card slot and speaker wires before you can get the stick out.
- The heatsink is also immediately accessible. Its screws are captive making for easier reassembly, but the unit is a large assembly.
- The heat management system includes heat pipes, thermal paste area, and two fans. Replacing a loud or broken fan will require replacing the whole unit.

Step 5



- In attempting to remove the display, we removed the display cables (with pull tabs that didn't work very well) and the antenna interconnect cables (covered with an adhered plastic plate complicating repair).
- The display assembly looks removable, but the final screw in the hinge is trapped under the motherboard.
- While a laptop is less likely to need a screen replacement compared to smaller mobile devices, it's still an important part to access. This layering makes screen replacement unnecessarily tough.
- The speakers look removable but their wires are trapped under the trackpad for no discernible reason.
- Removable after the battery: the trackpad assembly and fingerprint reader, after its bracket is removed.

Step 6



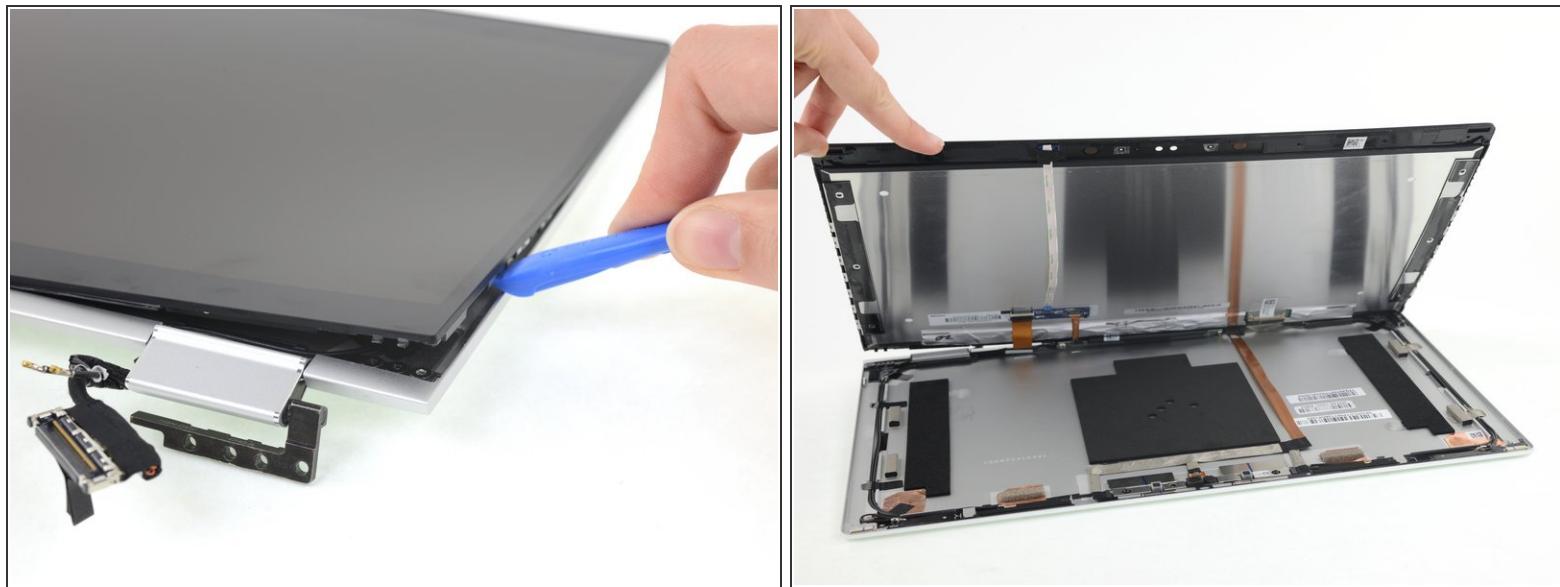
- The speakers are finally accessible. The wires seem unnecessarily routed and are taped in several places, but at least they're modular.
- The motherboard is removable after the heat sink assembly and a small bracket are removed, and after some cables (mostly labeled) connectors are disconnected.
- The motherboard contains the CPU, memory, volume buttons, and ports. High-wear components like ports and buttons make for very expensive replacement when they're soldered to the motherboard.

Step 7



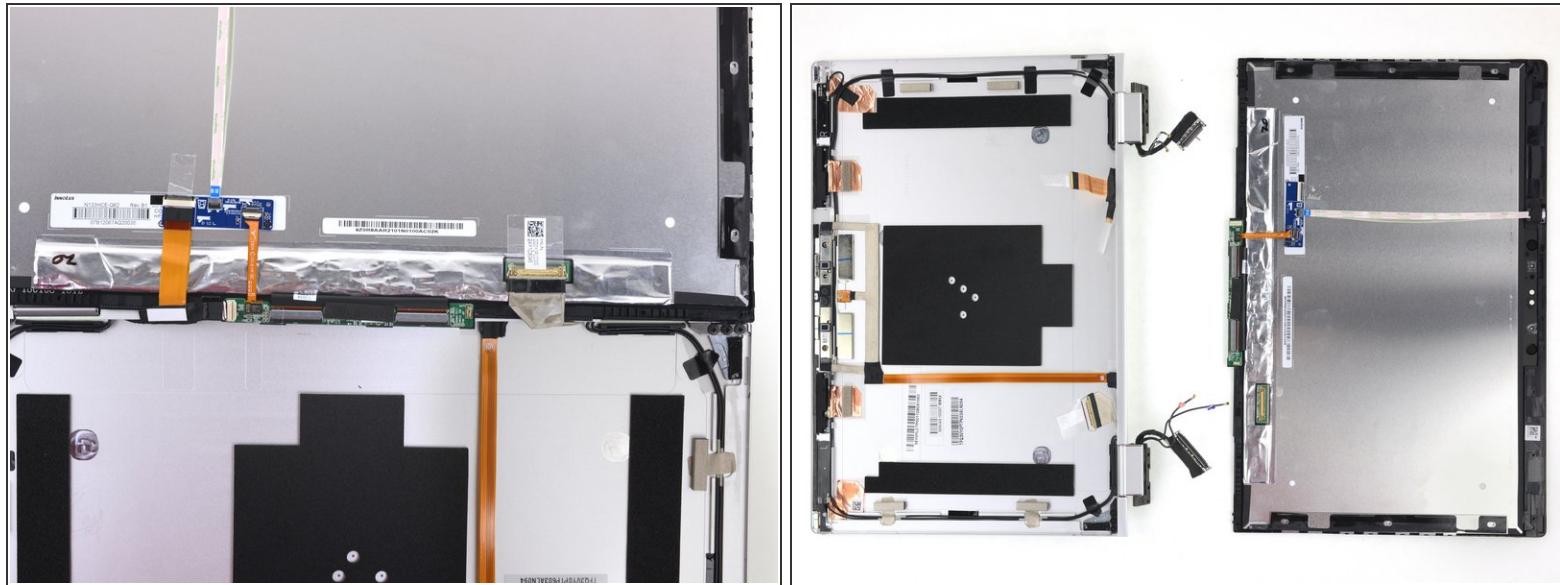
- The display assembly is finally removable. While not all components will need to be stripped out as shown, the device layering could be altered to improve serviceability of high wear components such as the hinges.
- The display can actually be pried out without removing the assembly from the laptop, however access to prying areas is more limited when it's attached.
- The final components in the rear case can be removed without display removal, including the power button, volume rocker cover, and headphone jack.

Step 8



- The display assembly can be pried out of the rear case with some difficulty. There are lots of small fragile clips and stubborn adhesive around the edges.
- It's quite difficult to reach all the way under the display, so you risk separating the various frames from the screen.
- The initial point of entry seems to be the hinges at the bottom, but the outside edges and top must be freed before the lower central portion, which isn't immediately evident.
- After cutting through all the adhesive and nearly bending the sensor assembly board in half, the display can be lifted up, but not removed.
- The thin sensor board is adhered to the display and to the rear case, so display removal pulls it between the two. On the other hand, slicing that adhesive runs the chance of damaging the cameras.

Step 9



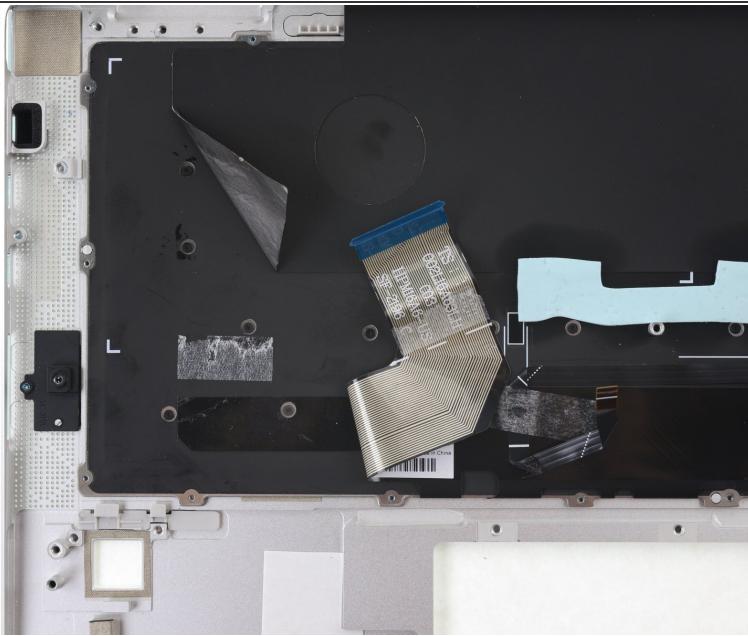
- The display is attached to its case with several small cables that are easy to disconnect—but they're also taped down with obnoxious sticky tape.
- The display is finally freed. Both the display and the rear case have several extra components mounted on them.

Step 10



- The display carries a status LED, some interconnect boards and chips that are fairly easily pried off of their adhesive.
- The screen itself appears to be a single fused unit, so glass and display will need replacing together, making for a more expensive part.
- You will also have to be extra careful not to separate the layers when trying to access any of the components in the display assembly. Pictured is a cracked display, and damage from separating the layers.
- The components on the rear case include: upper sensor board (on a very fragile board), several antennas secured by a lot of tape (copper and otherwise), and hinges (with rubber plugs to hold cables).
- Ideally the antennas won't fail, but their cables run through the hinges, which means some stress over time. The copper tape will complicate replacement.

Step 11



- While the keyboard is probably technically removable, it has far too many screws hiding under several layers of adhesive, so we deem this a single assembly. A component this complex will cost more, either in time or money.

Step 12



- Here're all the bits, check out the score up next!

Step 13 — Final Thoughts



- The HP EliteBook x360 1030 earns a **6 out of 10** on our repairability scale (10 is the easiest to repair):
 - SSD, wireless card, and battery are easily accessible and removable.
 - Manufacturer provides free user-accessible repair documentation.
 - All screws are standard Phillips and Torx, but some are so securely glued, and made of such soft metal that stripping them is hard to avoid.
 - Overall mostly modular, but the keyboard, heatsink, display, and motherboard are all large assemblies, which will make repairs more expensive.
 - The device relies heavily on tapes, adhesives and fragile clips to secure components, complicating repairs.
 - The processor and RAM are soldered to the motherboard, eliminating the opportunity for upgrade.