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SMART PHONES

A look at the latest
telecommunications technology.

What is a 'SMART PHONE'?

A **smartphone** is a mobile phone built on a mobile operating system, with more advanced computing capability and connectivity than a feature phone.

The first smartphones combined the functions of a personal digital assistant (PDA) with a mobile phone. Later models added the functionality of portable media players, low-end compact digital cameras, pocket video cameras, and GPS navigation units to form one multi-use device. Modern smartphones also included high-resolution touchscreens and web browsers that display standard web pages as well as mobile-optimized sites. High-speed data access is provided by Wi-Fi and mobile broadband.

The most common mobile operating systems (OS) used by modern smartphones
include Google's Android, Apple's iOS, Nokia's Symbian, RIM's BlackBerry OS, Samsung's Bada, Microsoft's Windows Phone, Hewlett-Packard's webOS, and embedded Linux distributions such as Maemoand MeeGo. Such operating systems can be installed on many different phone models, and typically each device can receive multiple OS software updates over its lifetime.

So Many Choices

Things to watch out for.

Initial Cost

Can be more expensive than a regular mobile phone. Do you really need those extra features?

Ease of Use

Have you used a smart phone before?

Have your tried several different models and become familiar with their GUI (graphic user interface)

Do you know of a friendly sales man or woman or perhaps a tech savvy relative who can help you out with getting started?

The internet is there for you 24/7. A simple GOOGLE search can open up a whole new world of knowledge in just a few clicks.

Things to watch out for.

Security

- More Personal Data

- More complex to secure

- Different ways to remove and back-up your data.

Cost of Repair

Some smart phones are well designed and easy to repair. This keeps the cost of repair down and is often the difference between fixing or replacing a phone. Asking your local phone repair shops which handsets are the cheapest in parts and labour could save you down the track.

Malicious Software

Malware isn't only a danger to jailbroken iPhones. Other phones, like the Blackberry and Android phones, have a much wider array of apps available and don't have the central quality control of the Apple App Store. You should only download apps from sources you trust. Phones running the Android operating system are at particular risk. The open source nature of the platform means that there are a lot of amateurs writing Android apps, and poorly written software can unintentionally open up vulnerabilities in your phone.

Great Benefits

Although there are a lot of things to be careful about when thinking about making the switch to a smart phone many people find that the pros far out weigh the cons.

- The internet in your pocket – Internet banking, eBay, Google, YouTube, eMail.
- Cloud computing – Cloud computing is like having a little chunk of the internet just for you. It allows you to remotely backup all of your data including contacts, photos, SMS, phone settings and many more. And as cloud computing is relatively new to the mainstream consumer market it is only going to get more advance!
- A Camera where ever you go – Say good bye to the days where you saw a once in a life time shot but didn't have your camera handy. The current range of smart phones sport Hi-Res digital cameras that have features comparable to current digital cameras including shake reduction, face recognition, auto-focas, digital zoom and many more.

Great Benefits

APPs –

The latest line of smart phone has the ability to perform next to low end computers in many respects. This boost in performance has opened up the door to program developers and has allowed the everyday user to install a mirage of extra programs (APPs) onto their smart phone. Choose from over 1,000,000 APPs (some free and some paid) to transform your phone into something amazing.

- Home Office - video chat, document sharing and email
- Gaming Centre - with motion sensitive and a touch screen controls offering a great gaming experience whether you be a novice gamer or a enthusiast.
- Music and Entertainment – Stream Foxtel to your phone, watch YouTube videos anywhere, share your music and video library over a WiFi network or even control your whole home entertainment centre with just your phone!

Bright Horizon

Many phones on the market today are more than just a device for making phone calls.

As new technology becomes available phone companies have started integrating many extra features into what was once just a device to make phone calls. Here is a small list of what you can expect to see in most phones on the market today.

- Bluetooth
- Camera for both HD video and stills with HD display
- Broadband Internet
- SMART (RF ID)
- MP3/4 media player with external outputs
- WiFi Wireless Networking
- GPS SatNav
- Expandable memory (not all models)

Hidden Secrets

While most of us know how to use all the great features of our phones there is always a little more that we can do with these little smart devices.

- Advance Networking
- Screen Sharing
- VNC remote desktop
- VPN networking
- Virtual mouse/screen control
- iTunes/VLC remote
- Media Library Sharing
- JailBreaking/Rooting