



Smartphones for Smart people

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Bear presented us with a complete visual catalog of information on Smartphones.

Makes, models, features, pricing, everything you'll need to know in order to make a decision on which one you want to purchase, or to determine if the one you have is the right one for you.

If you already have a Smartphone, you know the benefits and varied features available to you.

Those of us who don't already have one learned enough to "run" out and get one.

First he started us off with a bit of history of the mobile phone. Also called a cellular telephone, cell phone or hand phone. Mobile phones can transmit and receive calls to and from public telephone networks around the globe, this includes fixed-line and mobile calls. The signals are sent and received via a cell tower network maintained by numerous providers. The mobile network provider, i.e. AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon and others provide telephone, texting and internet service via the mobile phone. You need a Smartphone to access the internet but any other mobile allows you to make voice and text calls.

The design of a particular cell phone depends on its usage. A simple voice and texting phone will have a small 2" LCD display and an embedded alphabet on the numerical keys. Ex.: #2 abc, #3 def, and so on.



Fig 1.

Many cell phones also come with a camera. Point and click to take a picture.

Cell phones are sub-classified as - *Feature phone*—(Fig. 1) is a term used to describe a low-end mobile phone that has less computing ability than a Smartphone.

Smartphones—a mobile phone that offers more advanced computing ability and connectivity (Fig. 2)

IBM created the first working Smartphone in 1992..

Ericsson introduced the first Smartphone to market in 2000.

Since "men are pigs" the on-phone camera was a big hit with the porn "picture up the skirt" market. Japan and Korea require all phones with cameras to make a sound when a picture is taken in order to deter unwanted photography.

The *Short Message Service* (SMS) text messaging software was first developed in the early 1990's. It is the text communication service component of phone, web, or mobile communication systems, using standardized communications protocols that allow the exchange of short text messages between fixed line or mobile phone devices

Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS) is a standard way to send messages that include multimedia content to and from mobile phones. It extends the core SMS capability that allowed exchange of text messages only up to 160 characters in length.

Smartphones are small hand-held computers. As such, they require



Fig. 2

an operating system. The operating system of choice is Android. A software stack for mobile devices that includes an operating system, middleware and key applications. Google Inc. purchased the initial developer of the software, Android Inc., in 2005. Android's mobile operating system is based on the Linux kernel. Google and other members of the Open Handset Alliance collaborated on Android's development and release. The Android Open Source Project (AOSP) is tasked with the maintenance and further development of Android. The Android operating system is the world's best-selling Smartphone platform.

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U.S. Army

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Other manufacturers have their own proprietary operating systems unique to their models.

- W Apple iOS Apple's unparalleled integration of hardware and software, plus a vast number of apps and accessories, make this platform tough to beat.
- W Blackberry 6 The OS that originally targeted mobile executives has dramatically widened its appeal, but it's losing some ground to the competition.
- ◆ Windows Phone 7 A slick new interface and an emphasis on glancable information makes this OS a tempting choice for first-time smart phone owners.
- ◆ HP webOS A fresh lineup of devices from HP-Palm should give this multitasking-friendly OS a solid second chance at taking on the big boys.

In today's Smartphone market, the main Smartphone vendors are Apple, Nokia, HTC, Motorola and Research In Motion (RIM), according to a report by IDC.

What should you consider when looking for a Smartphone?

While you can definitely get by

The July meeting will be help on the 9th due to the activities planned for the Independence Day weekend.

with a 3.2-inch or smaller display, those who like to surf the web on the go, play games, and watch movies will want a screen that's 3.5 inches or larger. How large is too large? For me, 4.3 inches is just about as big a phone as I want to carry, while 4 inches is more of a sweet spot. Those looking for maximum real estate might opt for 4.5 inches or larger, but then the line starts to blur between phone and tablet.

Screen resolution is even more important than actual size because it determines the amount of content, especially web content, that can fit on the screen at one time. For this reason, we recommend getting a handset with at least a 800 x 480 resolution, though BlackBerry and webOS users will have to compromise as neither of those platforms provides as much screen real estate.

Many smart phones, such as the iPhone 4, feature only a touch keyboard, while others give users the option of a physical QWERTY. These devices tend to feature a slide-out design, but you can still find handsets with keyboards directly underneath the display that are always present.

Just like PCs, smart phones have processors to execute all sorts of commands, and they're typically paired with a graphics chip. Clock speeds range from 600 MHz to over 1 GHz. In general, the faster the better, but some devices in the 800 MHz range offer a better balance of speed and battery life. For power users, dual-core smart phones are on the immediate horizon. Chips such as Nvidia's



Tegra 2 are capable of outputting 1080p video, accelerating Flash and 3D Gameplay, and much more.

There's system memory, and then there's memory used to store content.

Of course, you'll want as much of the latter as possible, but the amount will vary based on the price of the smart phone. Typically, lower-end handsets come with 2GB of storage, but you can usually expand it (micro SD card). Internal memory varies quite a bit, but if you want the most performance possible a minimum of 512MB of RAM is a good place to start.

If you decide to buy a Smartphone, don't expect miracles when it comes to battery life. Smartphones are mini-PC's, they incorporate 1Ghz processors, allow multi-tasking and are constantly communicating with various servers, mobile networks to bring in your data, the instant it's sent. Not only is your phone constantly connected, the chances are you will be interacting with your phone more than you ever thought possible. In this case, heavy use will drain your battery quicker than the worlds biggest plughole.

Yes, the number of pixels matter, but so do other features, such as how quickly your camera starts and captures photos, how well it handles low light, and how easy it is to tweak settings. If you can, play with the smart phone in the store to see if it's good enough to stand in for your dedicated digi-cam. Or check out the reviews. 5-megapixel cameras are standard on higher-end smart phones, but you'll also find some models



MOTOROLA

with 8-MP sensors.

If you care about video quality, opt for a smart phone that can shoot 720p HD footage. VGA is good enough for sharing video online.

What about the cost?

Smartphones and feature phone prices start as low as FREE and stretch up into the hundreds of dollars.

The free phones are not really free. You just don't pay for them up front. You pay for them via a monthly "data plan" subscription fee. For example, Verizon will sell you an iPhone for \$920. If, however you sign up for a two-year data plan you only pay \$39.95 per month. Which comes out to about \$920. Purchasing the phone outright still requires you to pay for the data plan in order to use it. Most folks opt for the monthly payment.

The more expensive Smartphones also include a data plan AND a fee for the phone itself.

The cost, of course, is determined by what you want in the phone and what contract the salesperson can get you to sign. The two-year contract is written in stone. If you cancel it, for any reason, you have to pay the amount of time left on the contract and maybe even a penalty fee. Read the contract before signing.

The carriers serving Hawai'i include AT&T, MobiPCS, T-Mobile, Sprint and Verizon.

It would require too much space here to list all of their plans, and they seem to change with each month, so visit any of their web-



sites to see if there is one you like. You can even sign up for a phone on line. Again, read the fine print.

OK, so you've purchased a phone and a plan, now what?

You are going to want ringtones and apps. Little programs that do specific functions like download stock tickers; headlines; weather; flight information and the like.

All you have to do is visit any one of the following, depending on your OS and carrier. Many of these apps are free, some are not.

Android Market—The official website for the Android OS powered devices, you can browse the top paid and free apps available for your Android device.

AndroLib for me is the most comprehensive website when it comes to offering Android app reviews and information.

WebOS—AppsVu This site provides a search engine to find the specific app you are looking for to put on your Palm Smartphone.

Palm Applications—The official Palm website showcases the very best apps for WebOS in a very neat and organized fashion.

Blackberry AppWorld—The official Blackberry application directory listing the top, newest and featured Blackberry apps.

Ovi store—The one place to find all apps compatible for all Nokia Smartphones.

And, don't forget the essential accessories-

Screen protector, spare battery, charger for the car if your car is not USB equipped; case or cover to keep those dings and dust away; decent pair of headphones and a hands free device (Bluetooth)

For the June 4th TUG meeting the scheduled agenda will include demos of the latest versions of the more popular internet browsers. Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome and Opera. Time permitting, we'll cover all four.

which is required in Hawai'i.

As an added benefit, you can synchronize your computer with your Smartphone. You can send your address book from the computer to the phone. You can upload files and email from the phone to the computer. It's much more efficient than a PDA.

There you have it. I hope this is enough information for all to decide which, if any, is best, for a particular need.

Happy texting and downloading while unplugged.

Aloha,

Bear



Prez Lou

Da Prez Sez column is on hiatus until further notice.

Lou and his column will return in the near future.

Read and all of Lou's previous columns, @ Oceanic Around Town. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/363qew>

Annoying the annoying telephone callers

In many of their comedy routines, Lou Costello, after being castigated by Bud Abbott for some boneheaded move, would lament "I'm a baaaad boy."

Well, I must admit, I'm a bad boy, as well. But, I have a valid reason.

First some context. I'm a charitable fellow, I donate several times a year to veteran, animal and medical causes. I've been doing it for decades. I knew that I would start receiving solicitations from other related charities and it came to pass.

I used to get about a dozen each week in the mail. Then, somewhere along the way, I started getting numerous telephone calls from various charities all over the country, along with the mailings. I don't remember ever putting my phone number on any of the donation forms. I'm guessing they found it on the web.

Well, I got tired of the interruptions. Running to the phone when I was expecting a call only to find out it was someone wanting money or a pledge to solicit donations from others in my neighborhood. And not just from charities either. Politicians wanting me to canvas or donate come in during the election cycles. I'm sure they will start up again for the next election, too. This soon becomes irritating and tiresome.

Charity doesn't necessary equate to good manners and courtesy. So, I got a little nasty.

I have caller ID on my phone. I

also have an unattended fax machine. Here's where I go bad.

Before picking up I look to see who it is. If it can be clearly identified as a solicitation, I make a dash to my fax machine, pick up the receiver and press the Start button.

If you haven't heard the screech of a fax signal trying to synchronize with another fax machine, trust me, it is not a pleasant sound. A high pitch, rasping, modulating tone that is much worse than the sound of fingernails being run across a chalkboard.

The incoming call is computer generated and no human ear will hear the screech, but I'm also sure that the computer will flag my number as a fax signal and that particular fund raising office should remove my number from their list. Over a two week period in May I did notice a decrease in the number of solicitation calls, so I guess it works.

I had been getting calls from GA, MD, VA and 888 #'s. The ones from MD and VA seemed to have stopped. Now I have to catch the other guys. Maybe there will come a day that I'll start getting calls from different places. Then I'll start the dash and push process all over again. I need the exercise and perverse satisfaction.

Aloha,

Jim



Pres—Lou Torraca

VP—Jack DeTour

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Assistant—Sandy Wells

—Program Directors—

Herman Jordan and Bear Maher

Newsletter—Jim Fromm

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Contact info is on our web site

www.the-tug.org

Flag Day

June 14th



Fly the flag proudly!



Father's Day

June 19th