

Useful downloads for Windows Mobile

Bing

The Bing app for Windows Mobile 6 devices allows quick search for local businesses, get maps and directions, see latest traffic conditions, and even find local movie showtimes, wherever you are. Download it now for your Windows Mobile 6, 6.1, or 6.5 device.

PocketXpdf

PocketXpdf is a no-frills viewer for native PDF files for the Pocket PC platform.



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Defining a Smartphone.

You probably hear the term "smartphone" tossed around a lot. But if you've ever wondered exactly what a smartphone is, well, you're not alone. How is a smartphone different than a cell phone, and what makes it so smart?

In a nutshell, a smartphone is a device that lets you make telephone calls, but also adds in features that you might find on a personal digital assistant (PDA) or a computer; such as the ability to send and receive e-mail and edit Office documents etc.

As you can guess already that does not really cut down many phones from the possible smartphone list as so many of the non-business phones have advanced software and interfaces that they also do these functions. To make it worse some smartphones like Apple's iPhone have also jumped in to the home market.

To cut the list down we are looking at the business side of the mobile phones being classed as smartphones, and to fit in to this they must have the following features / functions: -

Operating System

In general, a smartphone will be based on an operating system that allows it to run productivity applications.

QWERTY Keyboard

A smartphone includes a QWERTY keyboard. The keyboard can be hardware (physical keys that you type on) or software (on a touch screen, like you'll find on the iPhone).

Software

Software should be included to either make, edit or view Microsoft Office documents & Adobe PDF files along with software to browse the internet.

Massaging

Include an email client which can sync with either your personal or business email.

With all these features at your fingertips when away from the office, it's this that makes these phones smart and a well worthy business tool.





Choosing a Smartphone.

Choosing a smartphone is not easy as one size does not fit all and the same smartphone can vary a lot depending on the hardware / handset because of external connection and input methods. What we aim to do in this section is give you a list of possible functions that are business relevant and let you know what does what in the hope it makes part of your decision easier.

Comparison table

Feature / Detail	Microsoft	Google	Apple	Research In Motion (RIM)
OS:	Windows Mobile 6.1	Android 2.2	iOS3 & 4	BlackBerry OS v4.5 (Device Software)
Hardware Vendor:	Independent	Independent	Apple (iPhone Only)	RIM (BlackBerry Only)
Input / Interface:	Depends on handset: - * Touch Screen * Keyboard * Stylus * Combination	Touch Screen	Touch Screen	Depends on handset:- * Touch Screen * Keyboard * Combination
Contacts:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
- Sync with MS Exchange	* ActiveSync * Exchange ActiveSync	Exchange ActiveSync	* iTunes * Exchange ActiveSync	Desktop Manager
Calendar:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
- Sync with MS Exchange	* ActiveSync * Exchange ActiveSync	Exchange ActiveSync	* iTunes * Exchange ActiveSync	Desktop Manager
E-mail:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
- Sync with MS Exchange	* ActiveSync * Exchange ActiveSync	Exchange ActiveSync	* iTunes * Exchange ActiveSync	* Desktop Manager * BlackBerry Enterprise Server (BES)
- HTML Email	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Security Features				
- MS Exchange Remote Wipe	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
- MS Exchange Password Policy	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
- 3rd Party Security Software	Yes	Yes	No	No
Web Browser	Internet Explorer Mobile	Chrome	Safari	Bowser
- Proxy support	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
VoIP	Yes	No	No	No
Storage Card Encryption	Yes	No	No	No
Document Storage	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Internet Sharing (External Modem)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Remote Desktop Access	Yes	No	No	No
Multitask Enabled	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Additional Apps	* App Store * 3 rd Party Sites	App Store	App Store	App Store

The above list has been compiled using the manufactures websites and downloadable manuals.

Tools for iPhone

iPhone Configuration Utility

iPhone Configuration Utility

lets you easily create,

maintain, encrypt, and install

configuration profiles, track

and install provisioning profiles

and authorized applications,

and capture device

information including console

logs.



What the future holds.

2010 is an exciting year for smartphones because of the numerous advances & releases planned to come.

At the start of this year Microsoft announced that they were renaming their new mobile OS from Windows Phone 7 Series to just Windows Phone 7.

Unfortunately with all the hype and expectations of what the new Windows Phone 7 will do Microsoft have delayed the release to the end of 2010 / start of 2011 to make sure they have met all requirements.

Rumor has it that because of this delay phone manufactures like HTC have decided to release their planned phones but with Google's Android OS instead.

In a rush to battle off Google and Microsoft's planned phone release Apple released their new iPhone 4 & iOS 4 software for the 3G and newer handsets.

Unfortunately with the new iPhone 4 Apple has had some issues with their calculations in working out how strong your mobile signal, which they are releasing a special case / bumper to prevent this happening.

With all this excitement and a massive smartphone war about to start, it might be worth holding out if you intend on investing in your businesses future.

In our minds the following questions is what we shall be listening for: -

- Did Apple release the iPhone 4 too early meaning iPhone 5 or another iOS update is released
- Will Windows Phone 7 live up to expectations and what is next in the road map
- Android Q4 update and what enhancements that will bring



As if the home / business phone war is not heating up enough a company called Qualcomm has partnered up with HTC and Acer to provide its new Brew Mobile Platform (Brew MP) for their low end handsets enabling rich features for all.

Were Brew MP goes in the future no one knows, but at present it does not seem they are looking to enter the war as Qualcomm has been working with Microsoft on Windows Phone 7 and is part of the Open Handset Alliance (OHA) which is developing Android.

