

Android Ownership Guide

Before You Buy

While the usual advice is just as applicable to purchasing an Android phone, tablet or other device as any consumer grade widget; there are a few things in the electronics game that have become increasingly beneficial. The first is Google itself, to be quite frank. Punch in your desired device followed by keywords like 'problems', 'warranty', or 'service costs'. Follow those links to forums where owners converse, and learn more than any informed consumer before. Forums dedicated to a singular purpose will regularly display better information with less meaningless discourse than general forums, however general question platforms such as yahoo answers, tom's hardware, etc. will usually have lengthy comment sections, and can prove to be invaluable as logical voices try to punch through the ads and mindless anger.

The second is fittingly the second hand market. You'll tend to hear expressions like "phone X is outselling phones Y and Z. But just like the automobile, there are minor variations to electronic devices released every year. Last year's best GPS in-dash control unit may look like garbage next to this years, or maybe not. The vast majority of high end electronic devices are sold to the first world, who are to some degree uninformed enough to abide this carnival. Finding a high quality electronic device used with low wear and tear is a multifold gold mine. You save money and you know it lacks inherent faults, since they usually present themselves rather early on. As well, first generation devices are usually more susceptible to good exploits or modifications, and less vulnerable to bad, which can sometimes put them ahead of recent generations in terms of features. As if that wasn't enough, it's also more likely to find discount accessories for last year's model. The art of second hand device shopping will be outlined in a later guide.

One last consideration before purchase is the greater stage. Vague as that seems, it means the myriad of other, less applicable considerations. These include the computer you use, the carrier or cable provider you subscribe to, and your familiarity with the platform. It means what your friends are using, and whether a three year contract actually works for you. This is the kind of speculation that will ultimately fall with you, and as this guide does not yet encompass ALL possible offerings, that is something to which I cannot speak.

Basic Setup

Upon purchasing your android device, you will be presented with a device in a box, accompanied by usually some array of the following: charger, USB cable, headphones, screen protector, manual. The first thing to do is charge it. This might be a good time to say a thing or two about batteries and their chargers.

BATTERIES

Batteries are a huge part of a devices lifecycle. Just as with the product itself, there is no magic procedure to perform out of the box to provide maximum battery life for the entire lifespan of your device. Battery maximization is more about regular charging, device tuning, and how economical your usage is than it is about letting them fully discharge before charging the first time.

Batteries, compared to solid state electronics are more sensitive to temperature. They will dissipate a charge more slowly in cold temperatures, due to decreased chemical reaction. They will inversely provide high output when exposed to higher temperature.

(look into battery freeze and melt points)

The information provided on a battery usually includes the voltage output, a model number, and a measure of volume known as mAh. This means the battery's capacity of say 1350 mAh, will provide 1350 mA for an hour. Obviously to provide longevity, engineers try to limit the amperage demanded, and
