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HTC RADAR REVIEW

HTC Radar has elegant aesthetics, sturdy build, a responsive user interface and great camera response. It has everything going for it except the pricing - with an MRP of Rs. 23,990 it has tough competition from Samsung Omnia W which has powerful processor and the Super AMOLED screen. If the pricing is got to the same level (better still, under Omnia W's price) this phone can surely be recommended.

HTC is coming out with smartphones at a blistering pace and while it was dominated by Android based handsets around six months back, it is slowly but surely expanding its Windows Phone 7 portfolio as well. The latest — HTC Radar sports the Windows Phone 7.5 popularly known as the Mango update, that has got rid of minor niggles that affected the WP7.

Design Build and The HTC Radar features the unibody aluminium design with the plastic portion around the base opening up to insert your SIM card. There is no way to access the battery and when you insert or remove your SIM card, the phone tends to restart. The silver colour of the unibody finish runs along the edge on the front portion and covers a majority of the rear portion. We had got the white coloured model. It is also available in black. On the front fascia you have the three touch sensitive buttons - Back, Home and Bing search. On the top left hand corner you have the proximity sensor and the VGA front facing camera on the right hand corner. Coming to the top you have the power/sleep button on the right hand side and a 3.5mm audio jack on the left hand side. The left hand edge has the micro USB slot whereas on the right hand edge you have long volume rocker on the top edge and

camera shutter button below. Flip around the phone and you get the 5MP camera which has a fixed aperture of F2.2 beside which you have the LED flash and a speaker section on the other side.

The 3.8-inch screen phone feels quite solid in the hand and metal finish still manages to give a very good grip. One hand operation is quite easy.

Features

The HTC Radar is a 3.8-inch capacitive touchscreen phone having an S-LCD screen with the gorilla glass on top. It houses the Qualcomm MSM 8255 system-on-chip with a 1 GHz Scorpion processor and Adreno 205 GPU. It comes with an internal storage of 8 GB without any option to add external memory, which effectively means that you have only 6.54 GB at your disposal after budgeting the memory taken up by the OS and native apps.

AS you cannot skin Windows Phone OS, HTC has added some native apps. Some of the interesting ones are HTC Hub — which gives you the weather readings of your area and you can add around five other cities; Photo Enhancer allows you to add filters to photos; Flashlight allows you to use your LED flash as a flashlight; Locations is very similar to FootPrints seen on Android phones which allows you to take pictures and geo tag them along with information such as directions, website etc and finally HTC Watch allows you to purchase movies and TV shows, but we could not get this working here as the screen always used to prompt us to download updates and it only had Trailers tab.

The interface as is the case with Windows Phone OS, does not appear cluttered and the live tiles are carried forward in this update. If you have more than 45 applications, then it divides them into alphabets which makes accessing them easy.

Multitasking is a major feature of this iteration, allowing you to play music in the background while you are on another app. But if you are downloading stuff and minimise the screen, it resumes from where it had stopped when its reactivated. Social

integration includes Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and you can sync your Yahoo, Gmail and Windows Live account.

Users who are migrating from Android and Apple will have to do a lot of unlearning as the tile interface is the underlying theme in most apps. Twitter and Facebook apps for instance are completely different from those seen on the other OSes. Facebook tile on the homepage keeps flipping photos of your contacts. Messaging and Mail tiles keep getting updated the moment you get any new message, giving you a quick view of unread mails or messages.

might add (specially in case of videos), syncing is a piece of cake. But we still prefer the drag and drop offered by Android phones.

The integration philosophy around contacts is quite good. You can have all your social connectivity and contact information under one umbrella, so that you get all the notifications related to a particular contact in one place. You can also create groups for group messaging.

Performance

Call Quality: Call quality was brilliant and we did not experience any dropped calls. In dead zones such as inside an elevator, we did not get a signal. The sound clarity on the phone's speaker is quite good.



GOOGLE CELEBRATES 176TH BIRTHDAY OF MARK TWAIN WITH TOM SAWYER DOODLE

Google today celebrates 176th birth anniversary of American author and humourist Mark Twain by putting up its popular doodle on its home page. Today's Google doodle depicts a scene from Twain's one of the popular novels, The Adventure of Tom Sawyer. The new doodle is visible across the world including Asia and Europe.

The Mark Twain doodle is a full-width illustration, featuring Tom Swayer and his friend Ben whitewashing a fence. The doodle shows Tom and Ben at various stages of the paintwork job. The Twain doodle is considered to be the biggest doodle so far. Clicking on the doodle will direct you to a search result page with 'Mark Twain' as the keyword.

Mark Twain a.k.a Samuel Langhorne Clemens (November 30, TM 1835 – April 21, 1910) is remembered for his various literary works such as The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876), and its sequel, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1885).

Apart from the gigantic doodle, Google is also advertising its newly launched social networking site Google+ with a blue strip placed just above the doodle. To refresh your memory, Google+ was launched in June and soon became one of the fastest growing social networking sites ever.

Google doodles are highly popular across the world. Some of the recent doodles have been highly interactive and dynamic. Google recently put up a video doodle in honour of legendary artist Freddie Mercury. The Les Paul doodle allowed users to play music, while the Lunar Eclipse doodle showcased the June 15 midnight lunar eclipse. On 14th November, Google posted a musical instrument doodle designed by seven-year-old Varsha Gupta of Greater Noida

HP LAUNCHES NEXT GENERATION INFORMATION PLATFORM FOR ENTERPRISES

While HP might have become a little wary of the consumer PC market, it is focusing on the enterprise sector, launching a data management software package made using its recent acquisitions, Autonomy and Vertica. The new offering from HP is called the HP Next Generation Information Platform, a search and analysis suite which will be made available by January end.

HP bought Autonomy and its IDOL (Intelligent Data Operating Layer) server software back in October, after purchasing Vertica and its Vertica Analytics Platform warehouse software back in March. Combining the two company's offerings, the HP Next Generation Information Platform (NGIP) is a new information optimization suite that will be able to search and analyze data, both structured (using Vertica and its relational databases) and unstructured (using IDOL and its search-based interface) data.

This will give companies a single tool, or unified interface for creating workflows involving both types of data, between the two software platforms. It's aim is to make both types of data and information searchable, and analyzable.

The two software can still be bought separately from the NGIP suite, with Vertica and IDOL modular parts of it. The new version of IDOL (v10) being used is scheduled for release on December 1st, which can be integrated easily with Vertica. The two will become such good fits that companies will be able to use them together in lots of ways, with IDOL acting like the front-end for the Vertica software.

HP itself is looking to combine IDOL and Vertica into other types of analytic packages in the future as well, realizing a growing need amongst today's information rich companies to combine different types of data.

NOKIA LOOKING TO SELL VERTU BRAND OF LUXURY DEVICES

Nokia is looking to sell Vertu, its brand of luxury phones, if a report by U.K.'s Financial Times is to be believed. Vertu is famous for producing the world's most expensive mobile phones, bearing precious metals, and encrusted with gems, at times costing more than \$300,000 each. The move by the Finnish mobile giant is considered to be an effort to overhaul its smartphone strategy, to better compete with other handset makers out there.

Vertu, established in 1998, sells in more than 60 countries, and has an estimated annual revenue between \$260 million and \$400 million a year. The company has reportedly been doing quite well, growing in double-digits last year.

The best sales of Vertu devices is seen in Asia, Russia, and the Middle East. Vertu devices non't fall under the deal Nokia has with Microsoft, and do not run WP7. The rather basic but precious phones do have various premier services tied in however, with one touch access to concierge services, as well as remote assist features.

A valuation figure has yet to be reached, with the Financial Times further reporting that Goldman Sachs has been commissioned to oversee the sale, which is apparently still in its early stages. Nokia's luxury subsidiary is thought to be an interesting acquisition for a variety of luxury brands, given its reach and popularity so far. Private equity groups have also expressed their interest.

A PHONE WITHOUT EQUAL

Apple iOS 5 devices have Emoji onboard, an emoticons keyboard Enthusiastic text-message fiends have discovered a new feature of iOS 5, hidden in the keyboard settings. Called Emoji, it is a type of keyboard, with a choice of over 700 emoticons, perfect for those who like to spice up their text messages with an illustrated smiley face or other symbols.

As the list of emoticons is quite comprehensive, you could even stick exclusively to Emoji to type out your text messages, if you are in the mood for some hieroglyphic or symbolist fun. The emoticons, inspired by Japanese pictographs, have been made more global, with both Google and Apple working together since 2009 to create a large standardized database. This leaves us to believe that Android will soon have Emoji as well, probably with ICS.

To activate Emoji on your iOS 5 device, visit the general menu of your settings, find keyboard, then international keyboards, where you'll spot Emoji. Check out the symbols in the images below. Let us know what you think of Emoji. Does Android need it? Are you excited about the feature? Tell us what you think in the below comments section.



ONLIVE BRINGS CONSOLE-CLASS GAMING TO TABLETS AND SMARTPHONES

OnLive, a popular on-demand gaming service, has brought its services to the iOS and Android devices with new apps for both the platforms. This means now you can play full versions of games such as L.A. Noire and Batman: Arkham City on your iPad, iPhone, or Android tablets and smartphones. Initially, as many as 25 console-class games have been optimised for the touchscreen devices.

Other OnLive games that will run on the mobile devices include Batman Arkham City, Saints Row and Dirt 3. You can also access the complete library of OnLive's 200 games using a new Universal OnLive Wireless Controller. Games can be played over Wi-Fi and 3G connections.

The OnLive apps are free to download, however, users need to pay monthly subscription charges for playing/renting games. "OnLive is now delivering the latest, console-class, top-tier games - literally to your fingertips - on tablets and phones for instant, on-demand play anywhere, anytime," Steve Perlman, OnLive Founder and CEO, is quoted as saying. "Tablets and smartphones, the fastest-growing consumer product categories in history, are now capable of running the hottest, highest-end games. Gaming and mobile devices will never be the same."

The OnLive games are playable over Android 2.3+ devices. OnLive also offers free demos of games available with it. It's notable that the OnLive service is only available in North America, excluding Canada and the U.K. However, it's expected that the service will soon arrive in Europe and Asia.

Google launches magazine reading application, Google Currents

Google has launched its long rumoured magazine reading application called 'Google Currents'. Also dubbed as Flipboard rival, the Google Currents allows users to read magazines,

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devices



. Google says it has worked with more than 150 publishing partners for "Google Currents", which has also been integrated with the Google+ social networking site.

Advertisement

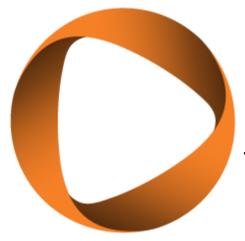
Samsung Galaxy Note, a power packed combination of a phone and a tablet

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Click here to experience the online demo. Click

here to read our review

"We strive to give you beautiful and simple ways to experience all the content the web has to offer, such as sharing photos on Google+, watching YouTube videos and discovering books,



movies and music from Android Market," says Google in a blog post. "Today we're expanding our content offering with the introduction of Google Currents, a new application for Android devices, iPads and iPhones that lets you explore online magazines and other content with the swipe of a finger."

Google Currents, previously dubbed as Propeller, is presently available for Android Market and the Apple App Store for the U.S. users, and is expected to be rolled out in other countries very soon. To get started with the new Google Currents, users just need to download the application and choose the magazine/newspaper they want to subscriptions to for free. The app also features RSS, video and photo feeds, Google+ streams and Google Reader subscriptions. Currents' trending tab lets users discover relevant content matching to their choices.

Alongside Google Currents, Google has also launched a self-service platform, which allows publishers to design, brand and customise their web content. "For example, if you're a small regional news outlet, a non-profit organisation without access to a mobile development team, or a national TV network with web content, you can effortlessly create hands-on digital publications for Google Currents," says Google.

Google's reader app has been rumored for several months. With Currents, Google has taken on Flipboard, considered to be the top content reading app in the market. Flipboard has recently launched its iPhone version. It's learnt that AOL is already offering a similar content reading app called Editions, and there are several similar apps on the market such as LiveStand, Zite and Pulse.

"We strive to give you beautiful and simple ways to experience all the content the web has to offer, such as sharing photos on Google+, watching YouTube videos and discovering books, movies and music from Android Market," says Google in a blog post. "Today we're expanding our content offering with the introduction of Google Currents, a new application for Android devices, iPads and iPhones that lets you explore online magazines and other content with the swipe of a finger."

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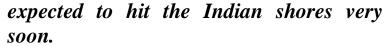
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LG launches Optimus Net P698, dual-SIM variant of Optimus Net

Back in July this year, LG had showcased its two Optimus smartphones – Optimus Pro and Optimus Net. While the LG Optimus Pro and Net arrived in India last month, LG has reportedly launched a dual-SIM version of the Optimus Net in the markets such as Russia and Brazil. The new LG device is





The new LG Optimus Net, also known as Optimus Net P698, runs on Android 2.3 Gingerbread operating system. It has a 3.2-inch HVGA capacitive touch display with 320x480 pixels resolution, a 800MHz CPU, and 512MB of RAM. The P698 bears 150MB of built-in storage and comes with a 2GB microSD card in the box, supporting cards up to 32GB. Other features of the device include a 3.2MP camera, 1,500 mAh battery, Bluetooth 3.0, Wi-Fi and. Read more spec details of the Optimus Net P968 here.

Though there's no official information about its India launch but the phone is expected to arrive in the country very soon. The price of the new LG Optimus Net P968 is likely to be around 10,000-12,500.

LG's latest dual-SIM phones comes days after Nokia launched its dual-SIM phones Asha 200 and X2-02 in India. The two feature phones are priced at Rs. 4,759 and Rs. 4,163 respectively. Nokia had recently also launched the Nokia X1-101 and C2-00 dual-SIM phones in India.

Also read,

- LG confirms Android 4.0 ICS update for its Optimus devices
- Leaked images of LG Optimus EX a.k.a LG-SU880 hit Internet
- LG Optimus 3D gets much-needed Android 2.3 Gingerbread upgrade

TWITTER ROLLS OUT MAJOR DESIGN OVERHAUL, UPDATES ITS IOS, ANDROID APPS

Twitter Inc. has started rolling out a major design overhaul of the micro-blogging site, and has updated versions of its iPhone and Android apps. The new design of Twitter resembles Facebook, as it features a more detailed profile page with more focus on the visibility of tweet conversations. According to Twitter, the new version will ensure faster performance, and help widen appeal among the users worldwide.

Advertisement

Samsung Galaxy Note, a power packed combination of a phone and a tablet



Click here to experience the online demo. Click

here to read our review

The new layout is mainly focusses on its three tabs: 'connect', 'discover' and 'tweet'. However, the most notable update is the detailed profile page, which shows the activity on a specific tweet, which is pretty similar to Facebook's comment. The new discover tab lets you find more relevant content, based upon you interests.







Connect



Discover



Me



Tweet

The redesign also has "Stories" segment, which shows you interesting content. The connect features shows all the tweets that mention you, retweets of your tweets and tweets of yours that others have mentioned. The revamped Twitter also includes a 'me' tab, which shows your profile picture and stats, and direct access to messages and settings.

The micro-blogging site is also aiming to build a profitable business on top of the social networking site. Twitter last year began showing ads on limited parts of the site and hopes to generate some \$140 million ad revenue this year.



The redesign is expected to be rolled out globally over the next few weeks. "What we're announcing today is just the beginning. We now have a framework in place that we will quickly build and iterate upon to help users connect with whatever is meaningful to them," says Twitter in a blog post.

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Bose SoundLink Wireless Mobile Speaker Review

In what world would you expect a lot from a small speaker that boasts of Bluetooth capabilities? Well, you can, and you should, if you live in the same world as Bose! This tiny speaker with a truly long name does have a very impressive feature set. How does that translate into real life performance? Let us find out.

Look & Feel



Bose has integrated the protective case as well as the stand quite uniquely. And they are available in nylon and leather versions. Both are sold as different versions of the same product, with a price difference as well. The design is simple, with no unnecessary design elements integrated. The top has all the controls, clearly marked and the buttons are quite big as well. The specific number of buttons there proves the keep-it-simple approach - power, Bluetooth, AUX, volume up/down and mute. Just above the speaker grille is a later of LEDs indicating the connectivity source, Bluetooth pairing status, power and battery status.

Flip the SoundLink Wireless Mobile Speaker over, and there you have the power/charging port and the 3.5mm jack for AUX sources.

The case (leather in the case of our review unit) protects the silver aluminum grille when the speaker is turned off, and can be flipped open to go beneath the speaker and act as a stand. Works well. However, with that stand, you have to ensure enough space as a footprint for the speaker to sit on, with the stand.

While it isn't exactly featherweight, at 1.3kg, we think that is not a lot considering it has a built-in battery as well as dual subwoofers.



Features & Performance Quite an impressive set to talk about. First, the built-in battery offering anywhere between 4 hours and 8 hours of music playback reaffirms the portability factor. Secondly, the form

factor of 13cm x 24.4cm x 5cm ensures that while it has enough bulk to offer audio punch, it still remains very much portable.

Setting up a Bluetooth pair is very simple. Press the Bluetooth button for a few seconds, and the moment the indication starts to pulsate, the device is ready for detection.

The Bluetooth functionality ensures that do not need to hook up gadgets using the usual audio cables. We connected the iPod Touch, the MacBook Pro, a Blackberry and a couple of other phones as well, and the connectivity was seamless. The only issue we faced was with a Windows 7 based laptop, since it had some issue with the Bluetooth drivers, not Bose's fault by any stretch of the imagination. The SoundLink can remember up to 6 devices paired with it, which means you can switch between devices and be listening to tunes once again in about a minute's time. The wireless range is largely dependent on the placement of the walls. In a straight-ish line, you can even control playback from another room.

The audio quality was much better than expected. We did have some apprehensions due to the size of the speaker, but after the first few minutes of listening to the tunes, those apprehensions were shattered completely. The clarity and loudness was quite amazing, and this one has more than enough punch to be clearly audible in a room as big as a large sized living room, let alone a small bedroom. The bass thump was the most surprising bit, and the dual opposing subwoofers do their job well. Two is clearly better than one, if you are a bass addict. In this case, the opposing bit has been crucial, since it is removing the vibrations we normally associate with bass. That does two things - helps remove unnecessary disturbance/noise in the music, and makes the bass clearer.

Since almost any speaker will sound good with a good quality MP3, we decided to put it through a real test - the All India Radio type! Connected the SoundLink to a conventional radio set, via the AUX route. We must say that radio has never sounded so good, ever. So much so that even my grandmother sitting in the next room commented that she could hear the lyrics of that old song very clearly. Just goes on to show the focus on clarity as well as that this tiny speaker does pack a punch. There are four neodymium drivers in this system.

The battery backup essentially depends on the volume at which you listen to music, but we managed to get anywhere between 4 hours and 8 hours of battery time between charges. For a portable device packing so much punch in a small form factor, that makes for good reading.



APPLE TV'S TO COME IN THREE SIZES

There've been quite a few rumours of Apple working on developing a Apple-branded TV set, not just the relatively popular Apple TV set-top box it's been selling in the recent past. Now, a report by Australian technology blog Smarthouse, says that it has confirmation of this, via sources at a major Japanese television manufacturer.

The report goes on to say that Apple will be releasing three sizes of televisions when it launches in late 2012, with 32-inch and 55-inch versions described. As for the third size, something smaller seems likely, probably a 24-inch offering.

According to the sources quoted, Apple TVs will feature Siri integration, taking the fight to other smart, connected TVs out there, by such companies as Samsung and LG. Relevantly, Microsoft recently announced voice-based search for the Xbox 360 platform, powered by Bing and Kinect, as well as entertainment options, all of which will make Xbox TV a potential competitor as well, though more as set-top box.

As for branding, so far, industry speculation is rife with names, with iTV seeming like the most popular choice. This may of course cause trademark problems, as other iTVs exist across the world already.

GOOGLE INTEGRATES GOOGLE+ WITH GMAIL AND CONTACTS

Google has taken the logical step of integrating Google+ into its GMail email service, and its contacts service.

Managing contacts and emails is inherently social, so it isn't much of a surprise that some level of integration is being a dded between them. Why should you need to maintain two lists and categorizations of contacts, one for email and one for your social network? Well, for one, you probably don't everyone in your contacts list, or even those you regularly communicate with in your social network that much Google has learned from the Buzz launch fiasco — but you might still want your contact automatically updated as people update their own data. This is pretty much what the new Google+ integration offers.



In addition, Google Contacts now also uses your circle information to organize your contacts. This doesn't remove your existing contact groups, but overlays another management tool over the existing one. So now it is possible to view contacts within a circle.

As for GMail, Google+ circles are there as well. In addition to your labels for filtering email, GMail now offers Circles as a

filtering option. Emails can be filtered based on which circles the participants in it belong to. Also, circles show up similar to labels in your conversation list. GMail now also allows you to add someone to your circles right from the contact widget on the right of the interface.



Another interesting

feature added to Google+ is the ability to share photo attachments. Now if you get an image attached to an email, you can straight away click on the share button to share it on Google+, rather than download it, and then reupload it to Google+ to share.

These changes aren't just integrating Google+ into other Google products, but also integrating users of other Google products into Google+. With the massive audience that Google already commands this could have interesting consequences for their social network.

If this trend is to continue it would make sense to also integrate Google+ circles into Google Docs, making it possible to share documents in certain circles — Google added support for sharing documents with Google Groups long ago.

How far will this Google+ integration go? Right now it seems Google is only getting started.

POEM

A computer was something on TV
From a science fiction show of note.
A window was something you hated to clean...
And ram was the cousin of a goat.....

Meg was the name of my girlfriend And gig was a job for the nights Now they all mean different things And that really mega bytes

An application was for employment
A program was a TV show
A cursor used profanity
A keyboard was a piano



Memory was something that you lost with age
A CD was a bank account
And if you had a 3 1/2" floppy
You hoped nobody found out

Compress was something you did to the garbage

Not something you did to a file

And if you unzipped anything in public

You'd be in jail for a while

Log on was adding wood to the fire Hard drive was a long trip on the road A mouse pad was where a mouse lived And a backup happened to your commode

Cut you did with a pocket knife
Paste you did with glue
A web was a spider's home
And a virus was the flu

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper And the memory in my head I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash But when it happens they wish they were dead!



PUZZLES

Which number replaces the question mark?					
	6	FKM	24		
	12	LUC	24		
	20	IRB	9		
	4	DGQ	24		
	34	РЈН	?		

ANSWER: 0

EXPLANATION:

In each row, the left hand number equals the total of the even valued letters in the middle box, and the right hand number equals the total of the odd valued letters in the middle box.

COMPUTER ABBREVIATIONS

Alt + Left Arrow-Back a page.

<mark>Backspace</mark>-Back a page.

Alt + Right Arrow-Forward a page.

F5-Refresh current page, frame, or tab.

F11-Display the current website in full screen mode. Pressing F11 again will exit this mode.

Esc-Stop page or download from loading.

Ctrl + (- or +)- Increase or decrease the font size, pressing '-' will decrease and '+' will increase.

Ctrl + Enter-Quickly complete an address. For example, type computerhope in the address bar and press CTRL + ENTER

Ctrl + D-Add a Favorite for the page currently opened.

Ctrl + I - Display available bookmarks
Ctrl + N-Open New browser window.

Ctrl + P-Print current page / frame.

Ctrl + T-Opens a new tab.

Ctrl + F4-Closes the currently selected tab.

Ctrl + Tab-Moves through each of the open tabs.

Spacebar-Moves down a page at a time.

Shift + Spacebar-Moves up a page at a time.

Alt + Down arrow-Display all previous text entered in a text box or available options on drop down menu.

Alt + D-Highlights the text in the address bar