

iPhone 5s vs. Android (Samsung or Nexus)

So, I have an iPhone 3, which is pretty old. My husband used our last upgrade 2 years ago and I started using the iPhone 3 (after having a TracFone, triggered both by economics and as a reaction to being tied to my employer's Blackberry for years). I'm starting to see apps that require at least iOS 7, I'd like to use my phone to tether my laptop when on vacation this summer and, well, it is time for an upgrade.

I don't have any other Apple devices in my home or at work. I listen to music (mp3s) and podcasts, check both personal and work email (pretty frequently), take pictures (occasionally for work but mostly for fun), and pop over to Facebook, Overdrive (e-reader that our local library supports), or Ebay when bored. I occasionally use Dragon Dictate to dictate an email to my assistant. I'd like to also install the Economist app so I could basically hear its podcasts or read articles (I have a subscription). And, as I said, I'd like to be able to enable tethering when I'm on vacation.

I'm no Luddite, but I want easy, both on a daily basis and with setup. I have a pretty ancient Android tablet that I use mainly as an ereader and find it difficult to navigate, but that may just be because it has such an old version of Android on it (Gingersomething?) I've never had a problem trying to figure out how to do anything on my iPhone.

Husband is strongly recommending a Samsung or other Android device, and also recommending a switch to MetroPCS's lower rates. They don't support iPhones. Good friends strongly encouraging Nexus 5 (and it did look mighty pretty), but one of them works for Google, so not exactly unbiased. iPhones seem pretty intuitive to me.

I know this is kind of like asking for Coke vs. Pepsi (definite Coke gal here), but I'm wondering if anyone has switched back and forth with these mobile operating systems and what you all think.

Really??? Opening up this argument...AGAIN (: -) is akin to the Word/WordPerfect debate. Or starting a discussion on the death penalty, or...well you get the picture.

One of the "complaints" about iPhones is that they have relatively small screens. Which leads to smaller text, smaller graphics, etc. Android phones, typically, have larger screens. Now, the next gen of iPhone is supposed to level that playing field, but they're not out yet.

I'd scout around in the Play Store to see what apps they have that are equivalent to the ones you use now. The social media ones should be pretty much the same. And I think that there are apps for just about whatever it is you're interested in available for both Android and Apple.

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From what I've seen of iPhones, the interface is a little different than Android devices...the guy I office with has an iPhone, and he keeps asking me how to do something...I have an Android phone, so I sort of stumble about to figure it out.

If you switch carriers to one that doesn't support iPhone, the decision is made for you.

Tom Simchak, Texas

My son is looking at buying the Nexus 5 which puts him in a lower priced plan and allows more control, including for tethering. My wife will stick with an iPhone when she upgrades. Right now I am looking at doing the same as my son, but I have an iPhone presently. Samsung Galaxy S5 is also a great phone.

Darrell G. Stewart, Texas

There's a guy on this list who writes a blog about Android for lawyers (thedroidlawyer.com).

He's having problems with his site today, but should be back up later. He owns a Nexus 5, and so does his wife. He'd say Nexus for a number of reasons.

He'd also say that you need to go hunt the right phone. Make a list of what you want to be able to do, then find an Android device or iPhone that gets you closest to those desires.

Jeff Taylor, Oklahoma

P.S. that guy's me.

I'm a long time Apple fan, but less so the last few years. I think the Samsung 5 beats the iPhone by quite a wide margin and priced about the same.

Duke Drouillard, Nebraska

I've never used an iPhone, but I have had a variety of android phones from the original. Motorola droid, to the droid 2 global to the droid RAZR maxx, to the Samsung galaxy s5 (my current phone). Kitkat (the current version of android) is worlds better than gingerbread (and jellybean for that matter). The Samsung galaxy s5 is very fast and battery life for what I consider normal use is about two days. There is a simplified GUI and an advanced GUI to choose from (or you can install a third party GUI from the play store. There is a lot of room for customization, so that could seem

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overwhelming for someone used to an iPhone.

I would've gotten a nexus had it been available on Verizon, but it wasn't. The battery life on the nexus isn't as good though.

Lesley Hoenig, Michigan

In case anyone out there was wondering about the resolution of this matter....I bought a Samsung Galaxy S5 Active, which apparently just came out last week, and stuck with my current carrier but a cheaper plan. This turned out to be about on par with MetroPCS's fees, but I know I get good coverage. Biggest selling feature, other than the nice big screen, was that I could drop it in the toilet (or pool, or a puddle) and not ruin it. I have never done this, but I've known enough people who have to see that as a plus.

I'm sure the salespeople really loved our marital back-and-forth in the showrooms, complete with pulling up spreadsheets on his phone to compare plans and overall costs.

My husband was correct in that adjusting to the Android hasn't been a problem after about an hour of use. I'm still sifting through all the things that already come on the phone. I have already determined that I need to buy a better podcast app and a music app that I'll like.

Cynthia V. Hall, Florida

A few thoughts from a fellow Samsungian:

SWYPE. "Once you SWYPE, you'll never type." (tm)

I used to be an OfficeSuite user but the Polaris Office that comes with the Samsung seems easier to save and/or share with than OfficeSuite.

The Flipboard "program" looks kind of interesting. I took a few minutes to set it up and now I can get my FB and my news, etc., all there. Though, like my brain, I'm only using 20% of capacity. I'm sure you could set up Flipboard to be the central nervous system for social media, RSS, blogs, etc. I like that if I don't go to Flipboard for a couple of days, it just keeps cruising, unlike, say email, where you have to wade through everything you haven't read.

If you don't have an Evernote account, open one. Download the Evernote app and it's companion Skitch app. Evernote is a great place to email a copy of your receipts, directions, etc. Anything that you want to "keep in reach". There's so much you can do with Evernote that I can't even begin.

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I use Skitch 95% of the time for PDF readin' & markin'. If I get an Order while I am out and about, I might open it in Skitch, read it, make a comment, and send it on the client. Also, unlike some of the office suites, Skitch then makes it easy to send to Dropbox or OneNote. Or, I can one-stroke it to Evernote and add it to my files later. You can also use Skitch on bigger projects: I edited an unpublished novel using Skitch and a Samsung Note 3 with the stylus.

Pocket (getpocket.com) is great for saving webpages to read later on. Syncs across the known universe and is easy to use.

Haven't heard much discussion about this but, for heavy lifting, I use a bluetooth keyboard with my Note 3. When I go out of town, I don't need to file a MSJ or an appellate brief. But, sometimes I want to send a lengthy email or draft a short memo, etc. Rather than lugging a laptop, I bring the bt keyboard that I had bought to use with my tablet and I turn my phone sideways. I've never worked this way longer than 30 minutes or so; I'm sure it would get fatiguing eventually. That keyboard sure made it easier than trying to use the virtual keyboard on the phone. It works much better than it sounds like it would. I've electronically-filed short motions with the court while sitting at the breakfast table and watching the McCritters flounder about the lake.

I think the keyboard really adds to the phone's spectrum of use—"it pushes it into the low end of the tablet/chromebook domain, methinks.

Kindly,

Jimmy Mac

(This message may have been dictated while driving and may contain mispellings, non-sequiturs, and/or inappropriate language.)

James M. McMullan, Alabama
