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~ Internet Connections

# READY NET GO ... NEWS

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## Tip of the Month

### Checklist of Features

#### Cell Phone Features

- Make/receive calls
- Contact list
- MP3 player/audio/video/TV
- Browse the web (Internet connection)
- Digital Camera

#### PDA features

- Windows Mobile, Palm OS, Blackberry or proprietary OS
- Email and Office applications
- Contact list, Calendar, Notes
- Browse the web (Internet connection)
- Bluetooth or Wi-Fi support
- MP3 player
- GPS capabilities

#### Smartphone features

- Windows Mobile or proprietary OS (operating system)
- Email and Office applications
- Contact list, Calendar, Notes
- Browse the web (Internet connection)
- Some have integrated dial-up networking
- Bluetooth or Wi-Fi support
- Digital camera
- MP3 player
- Cell phone capabilities
- GPS capabilities

**Blackberry PDAs** are popular in the corporate world for two features: **email and long battery life**. If you primarily email on the go and need a web-browsing device, a Blackberry is a great option. If you need more features like access to MS Office or other applications, look into other PDAs or a Smartphone.

## Get Organized in the New Year with a PDA or Smartphone

Technology is moving along at a fast pace these days. Two products in particular that get quite a bit of attention are **cell phones** and **Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs)**. A device that combines features from both of these products is a **Smartphone**.

For this newsletter, we'll address the differences between these devices and offer advice to help you decide which device will fit your needs.

### Differences between a PDA and Smartphone

1. A Smartphone includes PDA features plus a cell phone. It is an all-in-one device suitable for all of the features listed under the Tip of the Month.
2. In many cases, Smartphones are more expensive than buying two separate devices – a PDA and cell phone.
3. If you're on a Smartphone and you need to access data (phone #, address, spreadsheet totals), you may not be able to retrieve it while you're on the phone. If you have two separate devices, you can talk and look up information at the same time.
4. Smartphones offer greater connectivity options. A PDA must be synchronized with a computer to update the email contact list or a file you're working on or to get software updates from the manufacturer via an Internet connection. Smartphones send and receive data with their built-in Internet connection.
5. In general, PDAs have larger screens for viewing information – helpful if you regularly input data into Word processing and spreadsheet applications.

### **\*\* SECURITY NOTE \*\***

A vulnerability has been found in Adobe Reader 7.0 when PDFs open in a browser. For security purposes, download **Adobe Reader version 8.0**. To determine the version currently on your computer, click Programs on the Start Menu. When the list appears, find Adobe Reader. If the version is pre 8.0, download the new version at <http://www.adobe.com>. **Deselect Photoshop Album and the Google Toolbar when prompted.**

## How to decide

- If you believe you already have too many gadgets (cell phone, PDA, iPod, digital camera), you'll probably enjoy a Smartphone.
- If you want the most features, go with separate devices.
- If you talk on the phone (and don't like or use a headset) and give people information often, stick with separate devices. It's very difficult to keep a conversation going and look up information at the same time on the same device.
- If you use a PDA and think the screen is a good size (or could be bigger), stick with separate devices. Smartphone screens are smaller.
- If you're primarily interested in an audio and video device, look at multimedia cell phones that have built in QWERTY keyboards. In addition to call features, these phones have a camera, an MP3 player, some have a built-in FM tuner and some will transmit TV broadcasts.
- Since Smartphones are an all in one device, if one part dies (malfunction, dead battery, etc.), the entire unit is unusable. Consider what you will do for backup.
- If you're confused about your options, give us a call and we'll help you find a current device that fits your needs.

## Questions to ask when researching options

Will you need ...

- Access to Office applications? MS Office is included with Windows Mobile devices – others include similar applications but you'll have to purchase and download MS Office for Palm & other proprietary OS devices
- DUN – Dial-up Networking? – necessary when you need a modem for a laptop
- Digital camera on-board? What megapixel, can you use a memory card with it to store photos?
- MP3 player? FM tuner? TV broadcast capabilities? QWERTY keyboard for text messaging?

## SIM cards and choosing a phone

**SIM (Subscriber Identity Module)** – Found in GSM network phones, this tiny card sits under your battery and **permits transmission of voice and data and stores your address book**. Some SIM cards are transferable; for instance, if you want to upgrade your phone, you can **take your SIM card out** of your current phone and put it in your new phone (and you won't need to re-enter your contacts). If you like a certain phone but your current carrier doesn't carry it, you can purchase a SIM card from your carrier to fit in your new phone. You'll pay more (since you have to buy the phone plus the SIM card) but if you want a certain phone and don't want to switch carriers, this may be a worthwhile option.

If you want to change phones, keep in mind that **SIM cards** can be **locked**; they will only work in certain countries, on certain networks, or with certain phones. Locked phones are usually less expensive than their unlocked counterparts because the carrier expects revenue from the service contract. **New regulations** (Nov. 2006) **allow all phones in the US to be unlocked** – either for free or for a fee from your provider.

**Note:** Only GSM networks, Cingular and T-Mobile, use SIM cards. Verizon and Sprint/Nextel are on CDMA networks (you must deactivate one phone before switching to another).