10-14-2011

Mobile Technology Update

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Mobile Hardware Update
Debbie Ginsberg
October 14, 2011

What's New in Mobile Technology?

Apple Tech

iPhone 4S

Improvements: The latest iPhone features a better and faster camera; available for AT&T, Verizon, and Sprint; can be used throughout the world; longer battery life; faster performance; includes SIRI, a voice-activated "personal assistant."

The SIRI "assistant" has generated a lot of excitement. SIRI understands both context and location, and can respond to basic questions such as "What's the weather like here?" as well as follow commands like "Text Sharon that I'm on my way" or "Remind me to contact Prof. Jones when I get to work." It can also transcribe speech-to-text.

iOS 5

Improvements: Apple's latest mobile operating system is now "PC-Free" - once installed, future updates will be available over WiFi; new photo taking and editing tools; detailed notifications; pull "tasks" from your Kentlaw Outlook and create other reminders; Safari improvements.

iOS5 features a number of new tools to help with productivity. The new Reminders app can help you easily manage daily tasks. In addition, email and Safari work more like their desktop computer counterparts.

Note: iOS 5 takes a long time to install. This update has many useful features, but be sure to back up your iPad and set aside one or two hours to complete the process.

Amazon Tech

Amazon recently released a new line of Kindles, from a basic $79 version to a $199 full-fledged tablet. The new Kindles will be available in November.

Kindle Fire

Features: This new tablet uses Google's Android operating system to run thousands of apps; access Amazon books and media seamlessly; WiFi only.

The Kindle will sync books and media across Kindle devices, letting users continue wherever they left off. Sporting a compact 7" design and priced at just $199, many faculty and students will find that the Fire is an affordable alternative to the iPad or other Android tablet.

<u>Kindle Silk</u>

Features: Amazon's new browser for the Kindle Fire uses Amazon's servers to give fast access to webpages. Over time, Silk learns user behavior to load pages even faster. For example, if a user often visits the technology page of the NYT, Silk will have that page ready to load whenever the user lands on the front page of the NYT.

Silk is likely to be one of the the fastest browsers available. That said, this new technology has some privacy considerations. Amazon's servers will know every webpage Silk delivers to the user, which may allow Amazon to closely track personal web browsing to target Amazon and third-party ads.

Google Tech

<u>Google Wallet</u>

Features: This Android app stores credit cards and customer loyalty cards on your phone. It can also be used to redeem sales promotions using "Google Offers." It will soon include transit cards, boarding passes, and other cards. Google Wallets are encrypted and locked with a pin to ensure security.

Carrying just a phone instead of a wallet would be very convenient. In addition, it should soon be able to store receipts for instant access. But Google Wallet raises major privacy issues. For example, while Google does not currently store or share purchase information, will this change in the future?

Note: Google Wallet is available only for the Nexus S 4G on Sprint. Credit cards are limited to CitiBank MasterCards or Google pre-pay MasterCards. Google Wallet can be used at stores using MasterCard Pay Pass terminals at locations such as CVS and Office Depot.

<u>What You Need to Know: Using mobile tech at Chicago-Kent</u>

iPhones/iPod Touch/iPads & Androids: These work well on C-Ks wireless network. Their mail programs can be set up to access your Kentlaw email account.

Blackberries: These are difficult to set up at C-K. They work best with organizations which have a dedicated Blackberry server.

Kindles: You will not be able to sync books and media to WiFi-only Kindles while at C-K. The Kindle Fire tablet, which uses the Android system, should work at C-K, but CLC cannot say for sure until one has been tested.

Other devices: Check with CLC before purchasing.