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School: Information Technology

Course/unit code	Assignment/assessment number	Date due
CPT110	Assignment 3	13/02/2012
Course/unit name		
Introduction to Information Technology		
Lecturer/teacher name		
Paul Miller		
Tutor (or marker's) name		

School date stamp

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Student/s

Family name	Given name	Student number
Chamberlain	Glenn	S3356661

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A Short Report on Smart Phones

Assignment 3

CPT110 - COSC2196 - Introduction to Information Technology

Open Universities Australia, Study Period 4, 2011

Glenn Chamberlain[1]

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[1] Student Number: s3356661, Email: s3356661@student.rmit.edu.au

Contents

Introduction

This document will outline the role of the smart phone in our everyday society.
By showing the current uses and future technology we can identify their place and predict how future changes may affect society.

Body

Smart Phones have become an integral part of our society estimates put their current usage at around 50% of all mobile phones in Australia with that figure expected to grow to nearly 90% by 2015 [1].
Smart Phones have established a position within society whereby they are used to access the internet, interact with social media or use online shopping [1].
They have also spawned a new software market for small applications commonly referred to as 'apps' [1]. The value of this market is estimated to reach $34 billion dollars by 2014 [2].
Smart Phones benefit society by allowing people to access information anywhere, anytime. A practical example of this is in Melbourne's tram tracking app which is able to tell you in real time how far away a tram is or when to arrive at your stop [3].

Currently the Smart Phone market is divided by two major Operating Systems on which Smart Phones are operated in Australia.
On one side you have the Android OS (Google) which accounts for roughly 43% [4] of the market and on the other side you have iOS (Apple) accounting for approximately 37% [4] of the market.
The two Operating Systems offer similar features and primarily differ in their frontend user experience.

Current Smart Phone technology sees them able to access Wireless or Mobile networks, they have high definition cameras for consumer level photography, video recording or video conversations. Another commonly used feature on Smart Phones is their media player capabilities, depending on the specific device this can range right up to watching high quality videos but in its most simple form is generally the ability for the device to function as a full featured audio player.
In addition to this many smart phones include a GPS sensor which enables them to access mapping services including turn by turn navigation [5].

On the horizon we have such improvements as Quad-Core processors which will improve the usability of the devices much in the same way the technology has improved desktop and portable computing [6].
The challenge for quad core technology in the Smart Phone arena will be ensuring it does not negatively affect battery or heat concerns which are even more important than in the mobile computing field.

Also emerging is water proof technology on Smart Phones [7]. Typically submerging a Smart Phone will often cause it to cease working immediately or cause irreparable damage.
The waterproof technology will work by applying a tiny film barrier during the manufacturing process which will have water repelling properties.

An exciting current and future use which is emerging is the use of your smart phone as an

“E-Wallet” [8].
E-Wallet technology effectively transforms a mobile device into a virtual wallet. Using NFC (Near Field Communication) this can then be used to make payments at enabled terminals when the phone account is linked with an online service (such as paypal or your credit card). NFC technology already exists in many credit cards and as such the enabled terminals are seen in many service stations and supermarkets.

I predict that moving into the future the emergence of technology such as E-Wallet will make the Smart Phone an item you simply cannot leave the house without.
I believe that moving forward the e-wallet technology will begin to represent a large number of transactions that likely would have otherwise been paid for in more conventional methods.

Smart Phone technology also has the potential to make certain existing technology redundant. Examples such as dedicated GPS or Media players spring to mind as technology which is already largely covered by current smart phones and once improved on could render the old technology obsolete.

Conclusion

As shown within this report smart phones have become an everyday item within our modern society.
Whilst this may have some negative impact on some legacy technologies such as GPS or standalone media players overall it makes us a more flexible and connected modern society able to quickly react to challenging conditions.

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