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Wednesday, November 4th, 2009

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Head to Head: Blackberries

By Andrew Thompson

They're that arrogant. Self-absorbed. Attention seeking. They just have to follow every latest and greatest trend "because my friends got one." They, ladies and gentlemen of the bi-co, are probably iPhone users. Leo, you're great, but these are the people you're associating with now.

"Look at that shiny touchscreen! It integrates with iTunes! There are 65,000 applications!" say iPhone converts. These sheep should have done their research. This is exactly why I own a BlackBerry. I'll have no sympathy for you iPhoners when your touchscreen gets fingerprinted, scratched, and cracked when you drop it. Or when the monopolistic Apple/AT&T corporate meglodon yanks that one really cool app out of the App Store because it threatened their profit margins or came too close to the wrong side of their subjective approval process. Oh, and if I need to play music I'll bring my iPod along. It has more fidelity from not being next to a cellular radio anyway.

You iPhoners don't know what you're missing. While you're in your pie-in-the-sky world, I'll be productive and down-to-earth. I'll take class notes, edit Word documents, and even write part of this very article on my exquisitely superior physical keyboard and navigate with my wicked cool trackball. Oh, keyboard buttons. Leo and the rest of you, don't you miss that tactile "click" when your thumb hits each letter key?

Did I mention I can call anybody from anywhere thanks to Verizon Wireless's omnipresent coverage? Not only that, but my fellow "CrackBerry" addicts on every other carrier – even AT&T – can talk to each other free on the BlackBerry Messenger network. Think unlimited free text messaging, only real-time and not just to your friends on the same carrier, but to any BlackBerryer in the world.

OK, so my App Store only has 2,000 titles. But since BlackBerry owners have a tried-and-tested platform that's been around for more than 10 years now, we can use a megaton of free BlackBerry applications sitting out there on the Internet – along with any one of the millions of Java applications developed for regular mobile phones the world over. You can keep your "walled garden" App Store with the Apple "Approval Troll" standing guard outside. No thanks. I like freedom.

So go ahead, have fun with your iPhone. My fellow BlackBerry addicts and I will be laughing at you from BlackBerry Messenger. Anyone in the bi-co, add me, my BBM PIN is [truncated for web]. And no Leo, you iPhone users can't take a peek at what we're talking about. You have an iPhone.

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Editor's note: Articles that appear in the [Last Word](#) section are works of satire.

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3 Responses to “Head to Head: Blackberries”

1. *mrrt* Says:

[November 4th, 2009 at 2:17 am](#)

Hey Andrew, dont worry - we realize you’re just jealous that your poor old Blackberry has a terrible web browsing experience on that tiny non-touch screen squished up to fit that cramped little keyboard which can’t on the fly change depending on context to display a .com key or foreign language characters.

You hate not being able to properly display HTML email or play thousands of 3D hardware accelerated games, or play multi-touch musical instruments or actually view and edit Word and Excel documents on a screen big enough to actually see whole pages so you are unconsciously insulting those who you envy.

You are feeling symptoms of desertion as you discover more iPhone OS devices have been sold in the last 2 and a bit years (57 million iPhones and iPod Touches) than RIM has sold in the past 10 years that you try to make people forget that iPhone users can send messages with graphics, video and text to any other iPhone user or shock horror other computer users at no cost (ever heard of email!).

Don’t worry Andrew, we understand your angst an forgive you for your little insults. 😊

-Mart

2. *Hondaddy* Says:

[November 4th, 2009 at 11:44 pm](#)

It’s too bad one of your Apple buds just doesn’t get it. iPhones are toys and BlackBerrys are tools. Ironical thing is that most tools own iPhones. People with short attention spans need 60K+ apps.

I wasn’t just gonna let this tool dis you like that.

Seriously, adults get BB’s and kids get iPhones. It’s been that way for a long time. So if you plan on becoming something or just doing something, your device speaks volumes about you. When sitting at your job interview hide the toy. If you’re job hunting with a BB keep it on silent.

Andrew most of your comments are spot-on.

BB’s and IBM/PC based products will continue to prevail. Apple just has it’s (little) but loyal cult following. I cannot argue that.

But seriously, the big difference is that a BB is a tool that will help you get ahead in the world. Not help you while away the hours at a job you hate.... iPhones rule here. And before long you’ll be fired for fXXXing around with your iToy.

enough ranting, -tom2- the crabby old hondaddy

3. *mrrt* Says:

[November 5th, 2009 at 2:57 am](#)

Hi crabby old hondaddy, interesting to see all the Blackberry advocates seem to have to resort to insults and caricatures to attempt to defend their choice of mobile platform.

Let me just say that after originally being exclusively a Microsoft Windows Mobile shop and assessing Blackberry as one possible contender to become our enterprise mobile platform, the 42,000 student, 6,000 staff university that I work for now purchases iPhones almost exclusively from the CIO through the executive on down as our platform of choice. I’ll let the other hopefully more mature readers of these comments decide who has the more compelling argument.

-Mart

iLecture Systems Manager
CITS

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