= Windows Mobile =

 Windows Mobile is a family of mobile operating systems developed by Microsoft for smartphones and Pocket PCs .
 Its origins dated back to Windows CE in 1996 , though Windows Mobile itself first appeared in 2000 as PocketPC 2000 . It was renamed " Windows Mobile " in 2003 , at which point it came in several versions (similar to the desktop versions of Windows) and was aimed at business and enterprise consumers . By 2007 , it was the most popular smartphone software in the U.S. , but this popularity faded in the following years . In February 2010 , facing competition from rival OSs including iOS and Android , Microsoft announced Windows Phone to supersede Windows Mobile . As a result , Windows Mobile has been deprecated . Windows Phone is incompatible with Windows Mobile devices and software . The last version of Windows Mobile , released after the announcement of Windows Phone , was 6 @.@ 5 @.@ 5 . After this , Microsoft ceased development on Windows Mobile , in order to concentrate on Windows Phone .

= = Features = =

 Most versions of Windows Mobile have a standard set of features , such as multitasking and the ability to navigate a file system similar to that of Windows 9x and Windows NT , including support for many of the same file types . Similarly to its desktop counterpart , it comes bundled with a set of applications that perform basic tasks . Internet Explorer Mobile is the default web browser , and Windows Media Player is the default media player used for playing digital media . The mobile version of Microsoft Office , is the default office suite .
 Internet Connection Sharing , supported on compatible devices , allows the phone to share its Internet connection with computers via USB and Bluetooth . Windows Mobile supports virtual private networking over PPTP protocol . Most devices with mobile connectivity also have a Radio Interface Layer . The Radio Interface Layer provides the system interface between the Cell Core layer within the Windows Mobile OS and the radio protocol stack used by the wireless modem hardware . This allows OEMs to integrate a variety of modems into their equipment .
 The user interface changed dramatically between versions , only retaining similar functionality . The Today Screen , later called the Home Screen , shows the current date , owner information , upcoming appointments , e @-@ mails , and tasks . The taskbar display the current time as well as the volume level . Devices with a cellular radio also show the signal strength on said taskbar .

= = History = =

 Windows Mobile is based on the Windows CE kernel and first appeared as the Pocket PC 2000 operating system . It includes a suite of basic applications developed with the Microsoft Windows API , and is designed to have features and appearance somewhat similar to desktop versions of Windows . It allowed third party developers to develop software for Windows Mobile with no restrictions imposed by Microsoft . Software applications were purchasable from Windows Marketplace for Mobile during the service 's lifespan .
 Most early Windows Mobile devices came with a stylus , which can be used to enter commands by tapping it on the screen . The primary touch input technology behind most devices were resistive touchscreens which often required a stylus for input . Later devices used capacitive sensing which does not require a stylus . Along with touchscreens , a large variety of form factors existed for the platform . Some devices featured slideout keyboards , while others featured minimal face buttons .

= = = Windows CE = = =

 Microsoft 's work on handheld portable devices began with research projects in 1990 , with the work on Windows CE beginning in 1992 . Initially , the OS and the user interface were developed separately . With Windows CE being based on Windows 95 code and a separate team handing the

user interface which was codenamed WinPad (later Microsoft At Work for Handhelds) . Windows 95 had strong pen support making porting easy ; with some saying " At this time , Windows 95 offers outstanding pen support . It is treating pens right for the first time . " WinPad was delayed due to price and performance issues , before being scrapped in early 1995 due to touchscreen driver problems relating to WriteTouch technology , made by NCR Microelectronic Products . Although WinPad was never released as a consumer product , Alpha builds were released showcasing many interface elements . During development of WinPad a separate team worked on a project called Pulsar ; designed to be a mobile communications version of WinPad , described as a " pager on Steroids " . This project was also canceled around the same time as WinPad . The two disbanded groups would form the Pegasus project in 1995 . Pegasus would work on the hardware side of the Windows CE OS , attempting to create a form factor similar to a PC @-@ esque PDA like WinPad , with communications functionality like Pulsar . A hardware reference guide was created and devices began shipping in 1996 , although most of these device bore little resemblance to the goal of a pen @-@ based touchscreen handheld device .

= = = Pocket PC 2000 = = =

Pocket PC 2000 , originally codenamed " Rapier " , was released on April 19 , 2000 , and was based on Windows CE 3 @.@ 0 . It was the debut of what was later dubbed the Windows Mobile operating system , and meant to be a successor to the operating system aboard Palm @-@ size PCs . It retained backwards compatibility with such Palm @-@ Size PC applications . Pocket PC 2000 was intended mainly for Pocket PC devices ; however , several Palm @-@ Size PC devices had the ability to be updated also . While , several Pocket PC 2000 phones were released , Microsoft 's smartphone hardware platform was not yet created . The only resolution supported by this release was 240 x 320 (QVGA) . Removable storage card formats that were supported were CompactFlash and MultiMediaCard . At this time Pocket PC devices had not been standardized with a specific CPU architecture . As a result , Pocket PC 2000 was released on multiple CPU architectures ; SH @-@ 3 , MIPS , and ARM . Infrared (IR) File beaming capability was among the original hardware features .
The original Pocket PC operating system had similar appearance to Windows 98 , Windows Me , and Windows 2000 operating systems . Pocket PC 2000 is unsupported as of September 10 , 2007 .
This initial release had multiple built @-@ in applications , many of them similarly branded to match their desktop counterparts ; such as Microsoft Reader , Microsoft Money , Pocket Internet Explorer and Windows Media Player . A version of Microsoft Office called Pocket Office was also bundled and included Pocket Word , Pocket Excel and Pocket Outlook . Notes , a note @-@ taking app saw its first release and would be supported by most later versions of Windows Mobile . Intelligent character recognition support allowed Notes to distinguish styles of handwriting to be learned by the OS during processing to improve accuracy and recognition levels .

= = = Pocket PC 2002 = = =

Pocket PC 2002 , originally codenamed " Merlin " , was released in October 2001 . Like Pocket PC 2000 , it was powered by Windows CE 3 @.@ 0 . Although targeted mainly for 240 × 320 (QVGA) Pocket PC devices , Pocket PC 2002 was also used for Pocket PC phones , and for the first time , Smartphones . These Pocket PC 2002 Smartphones were mainly GSM devices . With future releases , the Pocket PC and Smartphone lines would increasingly collide as the licensing terms were relaxed allowing OEMs to take advantage of more innovative , individual design ideas . Aesthetically , Pocket PC 2002 was meant to be similar in design to the then newly released Windows XP . Newly added or updated programs include Windows Media Player 8 with streaming capability ; MSN Messenger , and Microsoft Reader 2 , with Digital rights management support . Upgrades to the bundled version of Office Mobile include a spell checker and word count tool in Pocket Word and improved Pocket Outlook . Connectivity was improved with file beaming on non

@-@ Microsoft devices such as Palm OS , the inclusion of Terminal Services and Virtual private networking support , and the ability to synchronize folders . Other upgrades include an enhanced UI with theme support and savable downloads and WAP in Pocket Internet Explorer .

Windows Mobile 2003

Windows Mobile 2003 , originally codenamed " Ozone " , was released on June 23 , 2003 , and was the first release under the Windows Mobile banner . It came in four editions : " Windows Mobile 2003 for Pocket PC Premium Edition " , " Windows Mobile 2003 for Pocket PC Professional Edition " , " Windows Mobile 2003 for Smartphone " and " Windows Mobile 2003 for Pocket PC Phone Edition " . The last was designed especially for Pocket PCs which include phone functionalities . The Professional Edition was used in Pocket PC budget models . It lacked a number of features that were in the Premium Edition , such as a client for L2TP / IPsec VPNs . Windows Mobile 2003 was powered by Windows CE 4 @.@ 20 .

Communications interface were enhanced with Bluetooth device management . Which allowed for Bluetooth file beaming support , Bluetooth headset support and support for Bluetooth add @-@ on keyboards . A pictures application with viewing , cropping , e @-@ mail , and beaming support was added . Multimedia improvements included MIDI file support as ringtones in Phone Edition and Windows Media Player 9 @.@ 0 with streaming optimization . A puzzle game titled Jawbreaker is among the preinstalled programs . GAPI was included with this release to facilitate the development of games for the platform .

Other features / built @-@ in applications included the following : enhanced Pocket Outlook with vCard and vCal support , improved Pocket Internet Explorer and SMS reply options for Phone Edition .

Windows Mobile 2003 SE

Windows Mobile 2003 Second Edition , also known as " Windows Mobile 2003 SE " , was released on March 24 , 2004 and first offered on the Dell Axim x30 . This was the last version which allowed users to back up and restore an entire device through ActiveSync .

This upgrade allows users to switch between portrait and landscape modes and introduces a single @-@ column layout in Pocket Internet Explorer . It includes support for Wi @-@ Fi Protected Access (WPA) and new screen resolutions : 640 × 480 (VGA) , 240x240 , and 480x480 .

Windows Mobile 5

Windows Mobile 5 @.@ 0 , originally codenamed " Magneto " , was released at Microsoft 's Mobile and Embedded Developers Conference 2005 in Las Vegas , May 9 ? 12 , 2005 . Microsoft offered mainstream support for Windows Mobile 5 through October 12 , 2010 , and extended support through October 13 , 2015 . It was first offered on the Dell Axim x51 . It used the .NET Compact Framework 1 @.@ 0 SP3 , an environment for programs based on .NET. Windows Mobile 5 @.@ 0 included Microsoft Exchange Server " push " functionality improvements that worked with Exchange 2003 SP2 . The " push " functionality also required vendor / device support With AKU2 software upgrades all WM 5 @.@ 0 devices supported DirectPush .

Other features included an enhanced battery @-@ saving capability called persistent storage capability . Previously up to 50 % (enough for 72 hours of storage) of battery power was reserved just to maintain data in volatile RAM . This continued the trend of Windows @-@ based devices moving from using RAM as their primary storage medium to the use of a combination of RAM and flash memory (in use , no distinction between the two is obvious to users) . Programs and frequently accessed data run in RAM , while most storage is in the flash memory . The OS seamlessly moves data between the two as needed . Everything is backed up in the flash memory , so unlike prior devices , WM5 devices lose no data if power is lost . New to 5 @.@ 0 , OS updates were released as Adaptation kit upgrades , with AKU 3 @.@ 5 being the final released .

Windows Mobile 5 comes with Microsoft Office Mobile which includes PowerPoint Mobile , Excel Mobile with graphing capability and Word Mobile with the ability to insert tables and graphics . Media management and playback was enhanced with Picture and Video package , which converged the management of videos and pictures and Windows Media Player 10 Mobile . Among new hardware features were enhanced Bluetooth support , default QWERTY keyboard @-@ support and a management interface for Global Positioning System (GPS) . Improvements were made to ActiveSync 4 @.@ 2 with 15 % increased synchronization speed . Business customers benefited from a new error reporting facility similar to that present in desktop and server Windows systems . Caller ID now supports photos so a user can apply an image to each contact to show when a call is received . DirectShow was also natively added . This release was the first to include DirectDraw with hardware acceleration , replacing the deprecated graphics component of GAPI .

Windows Mobile 5 @.@ 0 requires at least 64 MBs of ROM (it 's advisable to have 64 MBs of RAM) , and the device must run an ARM compatible processor such as the Intel XScale or the Samsung and Texas Instruments ARM compatibles .

= = = Windows Mobile 6 = = =

Windows Mobile 6 , formerly codenamed " Crossbow " , was released on February 12 , 2007 at the 3GSM World Congress 2007 . It comes in three different versions : " Windows Mobile 6 Standard " for Smartphones (phones without touchscreens) , " Windows Mobile 6 Professional " for Pocket PCs with phone functionality , and " Windows Mobile 6 Classic " for Pocket PCs without cellular radios .

Windows Mobile 6 is powered by Windows CE 5 @.@ 0 (version 5 @.@ 2) and is strongly linked to the then newly introduced Windows Live and Exchange 2007 products . Windows Mobile 6 Standard was first offered on the Orange 's SPV E650 , while Windows Mobile 6 Professional was first offered on the O2 's Xda Terra . Aesthetically , Windows Mobile 6 was meant to be similar in design to the then newly released Windows Vista . Functionally , it works much like Windows Mobile 5 , but with much better stability .

Along with the announcement of Office Mobile 6 @.@ 1 with support for Office 2007 document formats (pptx , docx , xlsx) ; OneNote Mobile , a companion to Microsoft Office OneNote was added to the already installed version . In addition to the newly included programs with Office Mobile improvements were made to existing applications . Such as HTML email support in Outlook Mobile . A large number of Windows Mobile users are enterprise users business environments were targeted . With Server Search on Microsoft Exchange 2007 , Out of Office Replies with Microsoft Exchange 2007 , and search ability for contacts in an Exchange Server Address Book being implemented . To aid development for programmers , .NET Compact Framework v2 SP2 is now preinstalled with the OS . Developers and users also have access to Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Compact Edition for storage and retrieval of information . AJAX , JavaScript , and XMLDOM support were added to Internet Explorer Mobile along with improved devicewide Internet Sharing . Communication abilities were further enhanced with a new Microsoft Bluetooth Stack and VoIP (Internet calling) support with AEC (Acoustic Echo Cancelling) and MSRT Audio Codec .

To improve security Microsoft added Storage Card Encryption so that encryption keys are lost if device is cold @-@ booted . Further updates both , security and feature , can now also be provided using Operating System Live Update

Among other improvements : 320x320 and 800x480 (WVGA) screen resolution support (The S01SH or " Em One " by Sharp was the first and only device to have an 800x480 screen on WM5) , Improved Remote Desktop access (Available for only certain Pocket PCs) , Customer Feedback option , Smartfilter for searching within programs and Unlicensed Mobile Access (UMA) support for select operators

= = = Windows Mobile 6 @.@ 1 = = =

Windows Mobile 6 @.@ 1 was announced April 1 , 2008 . It is a minor upgrade to the Windows

Mobile 6 platform with various performance enhancements and a redesigned Home screen featuring horizontal tiles that expand on clicking to display more information , although this new home screen is featured only on Windows Mobile Standard edition . This was not supported in the Professional edition . Several other changes such as threaded SMS , full page zooming in Internet Explorer and ' Domain Enroll ' were also added , along with a " mobile " version of the Microsoft OneNote program and an interactive " Getting Started " wizard . Domain Enroll is functionality to connect the device to System Center Mobile Device Manager 2008 , a product to manage mobile devices . Windows Mobile 6 @.@ 1 also had improved bandwidth efficiency in its push @-@ email protocol ActiveSync up to 40 % ; this considerably improved battery life in many devices .

Aside from the visual and feature distinctions , the underlying CE versions can be used to differentiate WM6.0 from WM 6 @.@ 1 . The version of Windows CE in WM 6 @.@ 0 is 5 @.@ 2 . * , with the final number being a 4 digit build ID (e.g. 5 @.@ 2 @.@ 1622 on HTC Wing) . In WM 6 @.@ 1 , the CE version is 5 @.@ 2 . * with a 5 digit build number (e.g. 5 @.@ 2 @.@ 19216 on Palm Treo 800w) .

= = = Windows Mobile 6 @.@ 5 = = =

Windows Mobile 6 @.@ 5 was a stopgap update to Windows Mobile 6 @.@ 1 intended to bridge the gap between version 6 @.@ 1 and the then yet @-@ to @-@ be released Windows Mobile 7 (Later canceled in favor of Windows Phone 7) , that arrived in 2010 . It was never part of Microsoft 's mobile phone roadmap , and has been described by its chief executive , Steve Ballmer , as " not the full release [Microsoft] wanted " until the multi @-@ touch @-@ enabled Windows Mobile 7 (now replaced by Windows Phone) arrived in 2010 . Ballmer also indicated that the company " screwed up with Windows Mobile " , he lamented that Windows Mobile 7 was not yet available and that the Windows Mobile team needed to try to recoup losses . Microsoft unveiled this version at the 2009 Mobile World Congress in February , and several devices were supplied with it . It was released to manufacturers on May 11 , 2009 ; the first devices running the operating system appeared in late October 2009 . Several phones that officially shipped with Windows Mobile 6 @.@ 1 can be officially updated to Windows Mobile 6 @.@ 5 . This update includes some significant new added features , such as a revamped GUI , a new Today screen resembling that of Microsoft 's Zune player with vertically scrollable labels (called ' Titanium ') . WM6.5 also includes the new Internet Explorer Mobile 6 browser , with improved interface .

Along with Windows Mobile 6 @.@ 5 , Microsoft announced several Cloud computing services codenamed " SkyBox " , " SkyLine " , " SkyMarket " . " SkyBox " has been confirmed as My Phone , while " SkyMarket " has been confirmed as Windows Marketplace for Mobile . This version was designed mainly for easier finger usage . Some reviewers have noted interface inconsistencies , with some applications having small buttons making them harder to operate using only a finger . Whilst this version of Windows Mobile does not natively support capacitive screens , mobile manufacturers have been able to use them on their devices

In the months following this release , development shifted from Windows Mobile to its successor Windows Phone . As such no major upgrades were planned or released , although three minor updates ; 6 @.@ 5 @.@ 1 , 6 @.@ 5 @.@ 3 and 6 @.@ 5 @.@ 5 ; were made to satisfy consumers during the transition period . 6 @.@ 5 @.@ 1 brings larger user interface elements , including icon based soft buttons (rather than text based) , an updated contacts app , native support for A @-@ GPS , improved threaded text messaging , and performance improvements . It was unofficially ported to several Windows Mobile phones .

The second minor update was announced on February 2 , 2010 , along with the Sony Ericsson Aspen which was the first phone to use this version . 6 @.@ 5 @.@ 3 continues the trend of attempting to provide a more finger @-@ friendly user interface with several new usability features such as native support for multitouch ; although device maker HTC Corporation created proprietary work @-@ arounds to allow multi @-@ touch to work on some applications it installed on its HD2 handset (However , Microsoft applications on this handset , such as the Internet Explorer web browser , did not support multi @-@ touch .) and drag @-@ and @-@ drop start menu icons .

Touchable tiles replaced soft keys . " Internet Explorer Mobile 6 has also received some major updates including decreased page load time , improved memory management and gesture smoothing . As with other updates it was unofficially ported to some other devices . Additional features include threaded email and Office Mobile 2010 .

The last minor update and the last released version is 6 @.@ 5 @.@ 5 . It first leaked in January 2010 , and was unofficially ported to some Windows Mobile phones . The name Windows Mobile 6 @.@ 5 @.@ 5 has been applied to these newer builds , although this name remained unconfirmed by Microsoft .

= = Hardware = =

There are three main versions of Windows Mobile for various hardware devices :
Windows Mobile Professional runs on smartphones with touchscreens
Windows Mobile Standard runs on mobile phones without touchscreens
Windows Mobile Classic which runs on personal digital assistant or Pocket PCs .
Windows Mobile for Automotive and Windows Mobile software for Portable Media Centers are among some specialty versions of the platform .
Microsoft had over 50 handset partners , when Windows Mobile was still being shipped on new devices . 80 % of the 50 million Windows Mobile devices that were made from launch to February 2009 were built by one contract manufacturing group , HTC , which makes handsets for several major companies under their brands , and under its own brand .

= = = Windows Embedded Handheld 6 @.@ 5 = = =

On January 10 , 2011 , Microsoft announced Windows Embedded Handheld 6 @.@ 5 . The operating system has compatibility with Windows Mobile 6 @.@ 5 and is presented as an enterprise handheld device , targeting retailers , delivery companies , and other companies that rely on handheld computing . Unlike Windows Phone , Windows Embedded Handheld retains backward compatibility with legacy Windows Mobile applications .

= = = Pocket PCs = = =

Pocket PCs and personal digital assistants were originally the intended platform for Windows Mobile . These were grouped into two main categories : devices that lacked mobile phone capabilities , and those that included it . Beginning with version 6 devices with this functionality ran " Windows Mobile 6 Professional " and those that lacked it ran " Windows Mobile 6 Classic " . Microsoft had described these devices as " a handheld device that enables you to store and retrieve e @-@ mail , contacts , appointments , play multimedia files , games , exchange text messages with MSN Messenger , browse the Web , and more " . From a technical standpoint Microsoft also specified various hardware and software requirements such as the inclusion of a touchscreen and a directional pad or touchpad .

= = = Smartphones = = =

Smartphones were the second hardware platform after Pocket PC to run Windows Mobile , and debuted with the release of Pocket PC 2002 . Although in the broad sense of the term " Smartphone " , both Pocket PC phones and Microsoft branded Smartphones each fit into this category , it should be noted that Microsoft 's use of the term " Smartphone " includes only more specific hardware devices that differ from Pocket PC phones . Such Smartphones were originally designed without touchscreens , intended to be operated more efficiently with only one hand , and typically had lower display resolution than Pocket PCs . Microsoft 's focus for the Smartphone platform was to create a device that functioned well as a phone and data device in a more integrated manner .

= = Market share = =

Windows Mobile 's share of the smartphone market grew from its inception while new devices were being released . After peaking in 2007 , it saw decline year @-@ on @-@ year .

In Q1 2004 , Windows Mobile accounted for 23 % of worldwide smartphone sales . Windows Mobile was projected to overtake Symbian to become the leading mobile OS by 2010 .

In Q4 2005 Microsoft shipped 2 @.@ 2 million PDAs , which increased to 3 @.@ 5 million in the same quarter the following year . Windows Mobile saw year over year growth between 2005 ? 2006 of 38 @.@ 8 % which according to Gartner " helped Windows Mobile to solidify its stronghold on the market " .

But by 2008 , its share had dropped to 14 % . Microsoft licensed Windows Mobile to four out of the world 's five largest mobile phone manufacturers , with Nokia being the exception .

Gartner research data showed that while the total smartphone industry grew 27 % between 2008 and 2009 , Windows Mobile 's share of the smartphone market fell 2 @.@ 7 % in that same period . It also decreased by 20 % in Q3 2009 . At one time Windows Mobile was the most popular handset for business use , but by 2009 this was no longer the case ; 24 % of planned business deployments of mobile application were for Windows Mobile , putting it in 3rd place , behind Blackberry (61 %) and iPhone (27 %) ;

In February 2009 , Microsoft signed a deal with the third largest mobile phone maker , LG Electronics , to license Windows Mobile OS on 50 upcoming LG smartphone models . But in September 2009 , Palm , Inc. announced it would drop Windows Mobile from its smartphone line @-@ up . Gartner estimated that by the third quarter of 2009 Windows Mobile 's share of worldwide smartphone sales was 7 @.@ 9 % . By August 2010 , it was the least popular smartphone operating system , with a 5 % share of the worldwide smartphone market (after Symbian , BlackBerry OS , Android and iOS) . An October 2009 report in DigiTimes said that Acer will shift its focus from Windows Mobile to Google Android . The New York Times reported in 2009 that Windows Mobile " is foundering " , as cellphone makers desert it in favor of Google 's Android phone platform . It cited the difficulties in Microsoft 's business model , which involves charging handset manufacturers up to $ 25 for each copy of Windows Mobile , while rival Google gives away Android for free . From late 2009 analysts and media reports began to express concerns about the future viability of the Windows Mobile platform , and whether Microsoft would keep supporting it into the future . Samsung announced in November 2009 that it would phase out the Windows Mobile platform , to concentrate on its own Bada operating system , Google 's Android , and Microsoft 's Windows Phone .

= = Software development = =

Software may be developed by third parties for the Windows Mobile operating system . Developers have several options for deploying mobile applications . These include writing native code with Visual C + + , managed code that works with the .NET Compact Framework , writing code in Tcl @-@ Tk with eTcl , GCC using CeGCC , Python using PythonCE or server @-@ side code that can be deployed using Internet Explorer Mobile or a mobile client on a user 's device . The .NET Compact Framework is a subset of the .NET Framework and hence shares many components with software development on desktop clients , application servers , and web servers which have the .NET Framework installed , thus integrating networked computing space .

To aid developers Microsoft released software development kits (SDKs) that work in conjunction with their Visual Studio development environment . These SDKs include emulator images for developers to test and debug their applications while writing them . Software can be tested on a client machine directly or be downloaded to a device . Microsoft also distributes Visual Studio 2008 / 2005 Professional Editions , and server / database counterparts to students as downloads free of charge via its DreamSpark program . Third party integrated development environments can also be used to write software such as Lazarus , Resco MobileForms Toolkit , Lexico , NS Basic and Basic4ppc . Some third party development environments allow coding to be done on the device itself without the need for a computer .

Developer communities have used the SDK to port later versions of Windows Mobile OS to older devices and making the OS images available for free , thus providing the devices with the current feature set . Microsoft has tolerated this procedure for some time but decided in February 2007 to ask developers to take their OS images off the net , which in turn raised discussions . At the same time Microsoft offered upgrades to Windows Mobile 6 versions to manufacturers for free .

On July 5 , 2009 , Microsoft opened a third @-@ party application distribution service called Windows Marketplace for Mobile . In 2011 , Windows Marketplace for Mobile stopped accepting new admissions. and then fully closed on May 9 , 2012 .

= = Connectivity = =

In the early years of Windows Mobile devices were able to be managed and synced from a remote computer using ActiveSync ; a data synchronization technology and protocol developed by Microsoft , originally released in 1996 . This allowed servers running Microsoft Exchange Server , or other third party variants , to act as a personal information manager and share information such as email , calendar appointments , contacts or internet favorites .

With the release of Windows Vista , ActiveSync was replaced with Windows Mobile Device Center . Device Center is included with Vista and Windows 7 and provides many front end enhancements , allowing a home user to sync PIM information with Microsoft Outlook 2003 and later , photos from Windows Photo Gallery , videos or music from Windows Media Player and favorites with Internet Explorer ; without the need for a server back end . Devices at this time also included a base driver compatible with Mobile Device Center so a user can connect to a computer without a need for any configuration .