

= HTC Dream =

The HTC Dream (also known as the T @-@ Mobile G1 in the United States and parts of Europe , and as the Era G1 in Poland) is a smartphone developed by HTC . First released in October 2008 , the Dream was the first commercially released device to use the Linux @-@ based Android operating system , which was purchased and further developed by Google and the Open Handset Alliance to create an open competitor to other major smartphone platforms of the time , such as Symbian operating system , BlackBerry OS , and iOS . The operating system offers a customizable graphical user interface , integration with Google services such as Gmail , a notification system that shows a list of recent messages pushed from apps , and Android Market for downloading additional apps .

The Dream was released to mixed , but mostly positive reception . While the Dream was praised for its solid and robust hardware design , the introduction of the Android operating system was met with criticism for its lack of certain functionality and third @-@ party software in comparison to more established platforms , but was still considered to be innovative due to its open nature , notifications system , and heavy integration with Google 's services .

= = History = =

= = = Development = = =

In July 2005 , Google acquired Android Inc . , a company led by Andy Rubin which was working on unspecified software for mobile devices . Under the leadership of Google , the team was in the process of developing a standardized , Linux @-@ based operating system for mobile phones to compete against the likes of Symbian and Windows Mobile , which would be offered for use by individual original equipment manufacturers . Initial development of what would become Android was targeted towards a prototype device codenamed " Sooner " ; the device was a messaging phone in the style of BlackBerry , with a small , non @-@ touch screen , navigation keys , and a physical QWERTY keyboard . The January 2007 unveiling of the iPhone , Apple 's first smartphone , and its pioneering design aspects , caught Rubin off @-@ guard and led to a change in course for the project . The operating system 's design was quickly reworked , and attention shifted to a new prototype device codenamed " Dream " ? a touchscreen device with a sliding , physical keyboard . The inclusion of a physical keyboard was intentional , as Android developers recognized users did not like the idea of a virtual keyboard as they lacked the physical feedback that makes hardware keyboards useful .

The Android operating system was officially unveiled in November 2007 along with the founding of the Open Handset Alliance (OHA) ; a consortium of hardware , software , and telecommunication companies devoted to advancing open standards for mobile devices . These companies included Google , along with HTC , a company who was at the time , one of the largest manufacturers of phones . While Google indicated in 2008 that several linux devices were being tested in preparation for the official public launch of Android , only one was to be released in the United States that year ? the HTC Dream . Plans called for the Dream to be released on T @-@ Mobile USA by the end of the year (with some reports suggesting October 2008) , targeting the holiday shopping season . Sprint had worked with the OHA , but had not yet unveiled any plans to release an Android phone of its own , while Verizon Wireless and AT & T did not have any plans for Android devices yet at all .

= = = Release = = =

HTC officially announced the Dream on 23 September 2008 . It would first be released by T @-@ Mobile as the T @-@ Mobile G1 , starting in the United States. on 20 October 2008 in its 3G @-@ enabled markets only (it became available in all markets on 24 January 2009) , followed by a British release in November 2008 , and a release in other European territories in early 2009 . On 10

March 2009 , it became available in Poland as the Era G1 on Era . On 2 June 2009 , both the Dream and its successor (the HTC Magic) were released by Rogers Wireless in Canada .

The Dream was discontinued by T @-@ Mobile on 27 July 2010 . The G1 was spiritually succeeded in October 2010 by the T @-@ Mobile G2 , a new HTC device which also featured stock Android and a sliding keyboard , and was T @-@ Mobile USA 's first " 4G " smartphone . In Canada , Rogers suspended sales of the Dream on 15 January 2010 due to a bug affecting the proper use of emergency calls .

= = Features = =

= = = Hardware = = =

The Dream 's exterior uses a soft , matte plastic shell , and was made available in white , black , and bronze colors . The Dream 's design features a distinctive " chin " on the bottom , which houses 5 navigation buttons (" Call " , " Home " , " Menu " , " Back " , and " End Call ") and a clickable trackball in the center which can be used for scrolling and selecting . The device uses a 3 @. @ 2 inches (8 @. @ 1 cm) capacitive touchscreen LCD at a resolution of 320 × 480 ; the screen can be slid along a curved hinge to expose a five @-@ row QWERTY keyboard ? as the first releases of Android did not include a virtual keyboard , the keyboard was originally the only method of text input on the device . While supporting multitouch at the hardware level , the Linux kernel in the Dream 's Android distribution was patched to remove multitouch support from its touchscreen drivers for undisclosed reasons . The Dream does not include a traditional headphone jack , requiring an adapter for HTC 's proprietary (but Mini @-@ USB compatible) " ExtUSB " port located on the bottom of the device . The rear of the device houses a 3 @. @ 15 @-@ megapixel rear camera with auto @-@ focus .

The Dream uses a 528 MHz Qualcomm MSM7201A system on a chip with 192 MB of RAM , and comes with 256 MB of internal storage , which can be expanded by up to 16 GB using a Micro SD card slot . For network connectivity , the Dream supports Quad @-@ band GSM 850 / 900 / 1800 / 1900 MHz and GPRS / EDGE , plus Dual band UMTS Bands I and IV (1700 & 2100 MHz) and HSDPA / HSUPA (in US / Europe) at 7 @. @ 2 / 2 Mbit / s . The device also supports standalone GPS and A @-@ GPS .

= = = Software = = =

The HTC Dream was the first ever smartphone to ship with the Android operating system . The operating system heavily integrates with , and provides apps for various Google services , such as Gmail (with push email support) , Maps , Search , Talk , and YouTube , while the contacts and calendar apps can sync with the online Google Contacts and Google Calendar services respectively . The device also ships with an email app supporting other POP3 and IMAP @-@ based mail services , an instant messaging app with support for multiple services , and a WebKit @-@ based web browser . A notification system displays icons for certain events (such as e @-@ mails and text messages) on the left side of the status bar across the top of the screen ; dragging down from the top of the screen exposes a tray with more detailed information for each notification . The Android Market can be used to download additional apps for the device . The G1 as sold by T @-@ Mobile also shipped with an Amazon MP3 app , allowing users to purchase DRM @-@ free music online , and download them straight to the device via Wi @-@ Fi .

The Dream could also be upgraded to newer versions of Android , which added new features and enhancements to the platform . The latest version of Android officially made available for the Dream , 1 @. @ 6 " Donut " , was released for T @-@ Mobile USA 's G1 in October 2009 . The 1 @. @ 6 update was not released on the Rogers HTC Dream in Canada (which stayed on 1 @. @ 5 " Cupcake ") ; Rogers claimed that the update was only being made available for " ' Google ' -branded " models of the device .

== Development and modding ==

Due to the open source nature of the Android platform , the Dream became a popular target for modding . Shortly after the release of the Dream , developers discovered a software exploit which would allow a user to gain superuser access to the phone ? a process which would be referred to as " rooting " . As a parallel to " jailbreaking " on iOS devices , root access would enable users to perform tweaks and other changes at the system level that cannot be performed under normal circumstances (such as adding auto @-@ rotation , and installing a custom kernel that restored the aforementioned multitouch support) .

After the Dream 's bootloader was dumped , work began on modifying it so that it could install third @-@ party firmware , and on converting official Android update files into a format that could be installed using the modified bootloader . Around the same time , Google made the Android Dev Phone 1 available for registered Android developers ; the Dev Phone 1 was a SIM- and hardware @-@ unlocked version of the HTC Dream that came pre @-@ configured for superuser access to the internal files of the phone , allowing users to completely replace the bootloader and operating system .

As a result of these developments , a dedicated community , centered on forums such as XDA Developers , emerged surrounding the creation of custom firmware (" ROMs ") built from the Android source code . Projects such as CyanogenMod continued to produce ports of newer versions of Android for the Dream and later Android devices , while adding their own features and enhancements to the operating system as well .

On later Android devices , where a number of factors (including carrier practices , and custom software provided by device manufacturers that sit atop Android , such as HTC Sense and Samsung TouchWiz) led to fragmentation regarding the availability of newer versions of the OS for certain devices , the development and use of custom ROMs (which are usually based off the " stock " version of Android) have ultimately become an important , yet controversial aspect of the Android ecosystem . In August 2012 , a group of users released an unofficial port of a later version of Android , 4 @.@ 1 " Jelly Bean " , for the Dream as a proof of concept . However , the port lacked key functionality , and had severe performance issues due to the phone 's relatively weak hardware in comparison to the modern devices that 4 @.@ 1 was designed for .

== Reception ==

=== Critical reception ===

The Dream was released to mixed reviews . The design of the Dream was considered to be solid and robust ; Joshua Topolsky of Engadget considered its hardware design a contrast to that of the iPhone , due to its numerous navigation buttons (in comparison to just a home button) and its " charming , retro @-@ future look ; like a gadget in a 1970 's sci @-@ fi movie set in the year 2038 . " The Dream 's keyboard , as the only method of text input prior to Android 1 @.@ 5 's introduction of a virtual keyboard , was considered to be sufficient , although some felt that its keys were too small . Its display was considered sufficient for a phone of its class , but John Brandon of TechRadar felt that it was not good enough for watching videos due to its poor contrast and small size in comparison to the iPhone . Android itself was considered to still be in its infancy (primarily due to its bare @-@ bones functionality in certain areas , limited application catalog , lack of multitouch gestures , or syncing with certain enterprise platforms) , but showed promise through its customizable interface , increased flexibility over iOS , its notification system , ability to display security permissions when downloading apps , and its heavy integration with Google services .

Brandon gave the Dream a 4 @.@ 5 / 5 , despite stating that it was " no Apple iPhone killer " , given its lower quality of its application selection and multimedia features in comparison . In conclusion , the Dream was considered to be a " stellar " phone that " points to a future when a

phone is as flexible and useful as the PC on your desk . " Engadget felt that the Dream " isn 't going to blow anyone 's mind right out of the gate " due to its hardware , but that the Android platform as a whole held its own against its competitors , and that early adopters of Android through the G1 were " buying into one of the most exciting developments in the mobile world in recent memory . " GSMArena noted that the Dream would have been " another average smart QWERTY messenger " had it not been for its introduction of Android ; in conclusion , the Dream was considered " far from the perfect package " , but still believed that " it gets the things that matter done and gets them done right . "

= = = Commercial reception = = =

In April 2009 , T @-@ Mobile announced that it had sold over a million G1 's in the United States , accounting for two thirds of the devices on its 3G network . AdMob estimated in March 2009 that Android and the G1 had reached a market share of 6 % in the United States .