

The Wide World of Windows 8 Smart Phones

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Whats Hot

- When Mark Zuckerberg and friends debuted Facebook Home yesterday, they downplayed the ever-growing importance your data has for the company. While the Facebook-obsessed may love Home, chances are your privacy won't feel welcome at all.
- Facebook has earned a reputation for developing new products and features that are respectful of user privacy, and then slowly, sometimes with great subtlety and sometimes with mastodon-like lumbering, walking those policies back to a decidedly less-respectful state here's little indication that Facebook Home will be any different.
- At the Facebook Home question-and-answer session that followed Thursday's announcement, Zuckerberg said, "Analytics are made anonymous and used for half a percent of the user base." He added that that's the same as Google and Apple, which sounds reasonable, right?
- The catch is that the more you share on Facebook, the more Facebook learns about you, and Facebook Home is designed to make you want to share even more.



Windows 8 Handset Roundup

Smartphones bearing Microsoft's challenger operating system are still coming down the pipeline, with Nokia and HTC leading the charge.

Say "Windows Phone" and two handsets pop into my mind:

Nokia's Lumia 920 and HTC's Windows Phone 8X, both released this past autumn.

Pair these budget handsets with Nokia's Lumia

Nokia Lumia 920

Nokia's Lumia 920 is my top Windows Phone pick when it comes to all-around features, including a fancier camera with strong low-light performance, Nokia-specific apps, a hypersensitive touch screen, and wireless charging.

620 and you'll start to see how Nokia, for one, is planning to take all echelons of its global marketplace by storm.

Yet even though Nokia is committed whole-hog to the Windows Phone platform, it isn't the only phone-maker to play in Microsoft's sandbox. HTC,

Samsung, Huawei, and ZTE are all continuing to create for Windows Phone, though Samsung's efforts have severely dropped off, where Huawei's are per-

more attractive, comfortable device that I'd reach for more often based on design alone.



Lumia 920

HTC Windows Phone 8X

Although it is not as feature-rich or camera-steady as Nokia's Lumia 920, HTC's premium Windows Phone effort is the

Samsung Ativ Odyssey

Samsung's lackluster Windows Phone 8 effort may have filled a gap in Verizon's budget lineup, but the just-adequate phone didn't do much to inspire,



HTC 8X

especially the bright yellow variety. Features-wise, it's more middle-of-the-road than its 8S cousin

Huawei Ascend W1

I saw Huawei's first-ever Windows Phone handset this past January, but despite word that we would see it, it's so far been



HTC 8S

or to advance the Windows Phone cause.

Nokia Lumia 820

series Along with the Lumia 810 for T-Mobile and the Lumia 822 for Verizon, AT&T's Nokia Lumia 820 downshifts from the chockablock 920 in price and hardware design but offers the same essential features, including a great screen and wireless charging capabilities



Lumia 820 series



ZTE Render

HTC Windows Phone 8S

Although it never landed in the U.S., HTC's bright Windows Phone

MIA. The device follows Nokia

and then HTC's lead in a squared-off industrial design set off with bright colors. Without testing, it's hard to say how its dual-core processor and 5-megapixel camera fare for this midtier Windows phone

ZTE Render

Kudos to U.S. Cellular for seeing the need to add a Windows Phone device to its lineup. Unfortunately, the Render, which runs on Windows Phone 7.8 instead of Windows Phone 8 OS, doesn't cut it. Although it's still simple to use, the hardware and software are already outdated.



Ativ Odyssey

8S grabbed our attention for its attractive and colorful designs,

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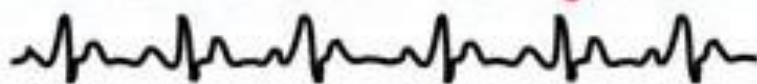
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