

Storm 2 or Droid, but Never iPhone

I have become very accustomed to my BlackBerry. I use it for everything, my address book, my calendar, my notes, my music, everything. However, my BlackBerry is getting a bit worn out, not functioning as well as it should, so I'm in the market for a new smart phone.

I know all the hype around the iPhone, but there are 2 main reasons I won't be buying one any time soon.

- I never want to be an AT & T wireless customer ever again. (There's a long story behind that).
- See #1

So, no iPhone in my future.

I do want access to the new features that the touch-screen smart phones have. The touch screen BlackBerry has is the Storm. That phone is over a year old.

However, Verizon released the Storm 2 today, but there isn't much fanfare. If you go to the Verizon Wireless web site, you have to search to find anything about the Storm 2 being available. I think this stems from the fact that the original BlackBerry Storm performed so poorly, despite selling 1/2 Million phones as soon as it released. The 'Net is full of horror stories and bad reviews.

However, all of the review of the Storm 2 that I have read are fairly complimentary. Most of them follow the format of what was wrong with the original Storm, and how the Storm 2 overcomes the defect. I figured it would be best to read a review by people who use BlackBerries, so I read the review here. They are avid BlackBerry users, so I trust their opinion and it got me thinking that I might want to get the new Storm 2.

But then I got to thinking about the article I read by Mel Duvall here on CIOZone, where he was discussing that Gartner predicts that by 2012 Google's Android mobile operating system will be in 2nd place in phone usage, even ahead of iPhone.

Curious, I started looking for information on Android based phones and found out that Verizon is actually releasing the only phone with the Android 2.0 operating system, the first week of November. As a matter of fact, the release of the Droid from Motorola is receiving more attention on the Verizon Wireless site than the release of the Storm 2. All you have to do is go the front page of the Verizon Wireless site and you'll see the Droid advertisement.

Searching the Internet turned up several previews of the new Droid phone, all very positive. I especially like the DroidDoes web site. I have always wondered why Apple, with its seeming ability to predict the technology future, didn't create a phone with basic phone features, such as a camera. I understand that the latest version of the iPhone finally catches up to other phones and has a camera. But the DroidDoes web site lists several functions that an iPhone doesn't do, but the Droid Does.

It has always been difficult for me to change technologies. I used to carry a Palm TX and it was a tough decision to switch over to BlackBerry. But now my Palm is collecting dust. So switching to yet another mobile system is not something I am very excited about. However, with all the positive previews and functionality of the Droid, I think I'll wait a couple of weeks and make the switch.

Any opinions? And please let's not make this an "iPhone is better than anything else" argument. There are plenty of sites that are Evangelistic about the iPhone. I'm interested in hearing about Storm 2 vs. Droid opinions and experiences.