

TOOLS of the TRADE



Nokia Lumia 735

The recently released Nokia Lumia 735 from Microsoft has been promoted as the “selfie” phone with a strong Skype presence. The reason for this focus is the 5-megapixel, front-facing camera with a wide-angle lens. The rear-facing camera also is notable, featuring a 6.7-megapixel F1.9 lens with a 26mm focal length. There’s a back-illuminated sensor, autofocus, face detection, digital zoom, geo tagging, night mode, and an LED flash. Video resolution for the main camera is 1,080 pixels, and it has a four-time video zoom, continuous autofocus, and a frame rate of 30 frames per second. The clear black 4.7” OLED display features scratch-resistant Corning Gorilla Glass 3 with wide viewing angles, HD720 (1,280 × 720) resolution with 316 pixels per inch, TrueColor (24-bit/16M), and sunlight

readability enhancements. The Lumia 735 is 5.3” × 2.7” × 0.35” and weighs only 4.73 oz. It’s powered by a quad-core 1.2GHz Snapdragon 400 processor running Windows Phone 8.1. User data storage includes 8GB of on-board memory, up to a 128GB MicroSD memory card, and 15GB of free cloud storage on Microsoft’s OneDrive. The 2,220 mAh battery is replaceable and has wireless charging built in. It provides 25 days of standby time, 17 hours (3G) or 22 hours (2G) of maximum talk time, 60 hours of music playback, 10.5 hours of Wi-Fi browsing time, or nine hours of video playback. The body—available in orange, green, or white—is a solid polycarbonate shell that’s exchangeable. The GPS and navigation function includes free maps offline and online. Personal apps include calculator, clock, calendar, alarm clock, reminders, phonebook, to-do list, kid’s corner, OneNote, Adobe Reader, Company Hub for enterprise applications, Excel, Word, and PowerPoint. www.microsoft.com/en/mobile/phone/lumia735

Olive ONE

The Olive ONE is an all-in-one, high-definition music player with a simple touchscreen interface and the ability to control digital music in a variety of forms. The ONE uses Bluetooth 4.0 and 802.11n Wi-Fi to connect all of your portable gadgets and your music libraries, including your iPhone, iPad, and Android portables as well as your Mac, PC, or NAS (Network Attached Storage). Pandora is built in, and you can add Spotify or music from cloud services like iTunes Match, Google Play, or Amazon Locker. There’s even an optional internal hard drive on which you can store your own music to play instantly, with no streaming or buffering. The internal drives can provide up to 2TB of storage for up to 6,000 CDs or 20,000 high-definition tracks. The Olive ONE provides audiophile sound quality, and you can connect it to your sound system or play music on

your TV using Wi-Fi Miracast. Made of aluminum and glass, the 7” touchscreen provides a three-dial interface. It connects to your home network with the single push of a button. The sound quality is enhanced by dual amplifiers, one for each channel, unlike the conventional stereo receiver that splits one signal into two channels. The units are made in San Francisco, Calif., and are the result of an innovative crowdfunding effort. www.myoliveone.com/Ones

Belkin Portable Tablet Stage

Now that Microsoft’s PowerPoint has joined Apple’s Keynote on the iPad, you might want to give your next presentation from a tablet. For those already using Adobe Story Edition, you should check out the Ikan International Elite Prompter app—it’s free in the App Store. And then there’s one hardware element you should consider—the Belkin Portable Tablet Stage. The aluminum stage can function as a platform for your tablet on a table or podium, and it doubles as a platform to hold your device while using the camera system to record video or capture images



TECH FORUM

Computer-enabled Hoarding

By Michael Castelluccio, Editor

As the discussion about the dehumanizing effects of computers continues, less attention gets paid to those human characteristics that are actually enhanced by our interactions with the portable displays that now accompany us everywhere. Most of these are just taken for granted as features and selling points rather than long-term social benefits. Nevertheless, if we choose to, we now could be better informed about almost everything, from international politics to local weather, just by bookmarking websites and setting up Google alerts. The latest hardware can also monitor our vital functions and physical activity without any reminders except those telling us to check daily results. And we have become much more efficient consumers than our past counterparts who had to arrange for travel between brick-and-mortar institutions.

As for the major complaint that we just don't talk to each other anymore, consider telephones, mobile phones, e-mail, FaceTime, Skype, Facebook, instant messaging, chat, Twitter, Tumblr, Instagram, Flickr, Pinterest, and scores of other social sharing sites and apps. In fact, there are so many personal portals connecting us directly to others that the phenomena of being fully wired has pushed us to the other extreme, where there's now too much to see, say, and save.

One unintended consequence of this expanding connectedness, which might be both a pro and a con, is the increase in disposophobia, recently recognized in the fifth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM). Other names for this compulsion are "hoarding" and "Collyer Brothers Syndrome."

UNINTENDED DIGITAL DISPOSOPHOBIA

Clinically disposophobic people can't help what they're doing because their behavior is compulsive. In the 1940s, the Collyer brothers filled their four-story brownstone in New York City with so much junk and detritus that the

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of objects, documents, or even textbooks. Add the Belkin Stage Pro Interactive Whiteboard and Document Camera app, and you can add all kinds of processes to your demo or presentation—sketch, take notes, project video or still images, project textbooks or workbooks, take snapshots of your whiteboard images, switch between backgrounds of video to picture to whiteboard/blackboard canvases, and more. The Belkin Stage provides a stable platform that folds flat into a lightweight package that you can take anywhere. There's an integrated cable management system to untangle the wires, and it works with tablets and smartphones, with or without cases. The Stage is compatible with all generations of iPad, iPad mini, and iPhones; Galaxy Tabs one, two, and three; Galaxy Note; Kindle Touch, Fire, and Paperwhite; and Acer Iconia. www.belkin.com

BookBook Rutledge

Another company that produces metal stands for iPhones and iPads is the Twelve South Company. Located in South Carolina (hence

the "South") and with about a dozen employees (hence the "Twelve"), the company exclusively designs products for Apple devices. One of its most striking products is the BookBook Rutledge artisan leather case that resembles a worn, leather-bound book with a sculpted and gold-decorated spine. The BookBook case comes in a number of sizes for the MacBook Air, Pro, Pro with Retina, iPad mini, and the iPad Air tablets. These covers are handmade, and the texture and finish of the leather ensures that no two are exactly alike. The covers and spine are hardback and provide protection for the computers while the interiors have soft padding. The exterior leather is tanned and hand-finished. The case is designed to also act as a hands-free display stand or tilted typing base. Dual zippers close the cover but still allow access for charging. www.twelvesouth.com



accumulation actually caused their demise. Digital disposophobes are cluttering and filling their online “living space” or their computer’s hard drive, and, guessing from the frequency of this kind of hoarding, the digital variety are probably disposophobes by default, not compulsion. For many, there just isn’t enough time to keep the conversation going while pruning the accumulation on their social accounts.

The providers contribute to this collecting in two ways. The incoming message or content usually is either saved automatically (e-mail) or you can choose to click and save it. That, combined with colossal storage space, fuels the accumulation. For instance, when you sign up to get a free Yahoo e-mail account, the welcome page advises: “Fast, simple to use email with 1TB of free mail storage that comes with all the goodness of Yahoo.” That kind of storage space for what are usually short messages should last you the rest of your life, with no deleting necessary. The math looks like this: A page of alphabetic text takes up about two kilobytes of storage (about one byte per letter). If a regular e-mail is about a page long, that 2KB will easily fit into your free Yahoo mailbox, which has room for about one trillion bytes (a terabyte). So, you would have to write 500 million e-mails to stuff the box to capacity.

If you don’t empty your e-mail box regularly, it could take close to a lifetime of neglect before you get the notice from Yahoo to shape up and discard what you don’t need. That kind of disposophobia in the nondigital world would have filled the Collyers’ four-story home along with every other high-rise on the block with shoeboxes full of letters. Check your main e-mail account. Is it getting a little unmanageable? If you’re like most people, it could probably stand some attention.

Likewise, in the past, family photography was a weeks-long, three-step process. Shoot the picture, send or take the film for developing and printing, and share the prints or slides after they came back. The longer rolls of film would only allow you 36 chances (exposures) for a great photo, unlike conventional digital cameras (now mostly smartphones), which are only limited by the capacity of your hard drive or smartcard(s). The result of these new materials and methods is an overabundance of multiple shots for a single take, plugged-in instant uploading of photos to vast storage areas, and a horizon soon crossed over to the point where editing and cataloging are beyond the average snapshotter’s reach. The Collyer brothers’ photographs and collections were all catalogued when the apartment was emptied out, and the total wouldn’t begin

to compete with the collections of the average iPhone user today.

Articles saved to read later; massive music collections available on your device and online at iTunes or services like Pandora; movies purchased and stored; books; actual libraries of books, stored or reachable online; hundreds of Office docs on Microsoft’s new OneDrive cloud accounts—storage space is no longer a problem in our infinite online house. And because it’s so much easier to move on to what’s next than to spend time every day pruning those branching archives, many have opted for disposophobic memes for managing their collectables.

WEIGHTLESS MOUNTAINS

Fortunately, building our piles around us no longer comes with the peril that confronted the Collyers. After their deaths, a reported 120 tons of debris was removed from their brownstone. The speculation persists that Langley Collyer died when, while crawling through a tunnel about two-feet wide, he accidentally tripped one of his booby traps—meant to keep others out—and was ultimately suffocated by the collapsing debris above him.

Digital gatherers today have no problem with the physical mass of their collections. That’s because digital content on your smartphone is undetectable in your hand, as are the expansive libraries you build in the cloud. But that isn’t an excuse for creating your own unnavigable labyrinth of files, photos, and e-mails.

Basic rules for digital disposophobes:

1. Name your files with specific, recognizable names. “Photo 25-Dec 1” isn’t good enough. Make them memorable enough to get snagged in a search.
2. Learn to flex your pinky on your left hand down to the Ctrl key while tapping down on the F key. The Ctrl+F on a PC or Command+F on a Mac will search documents and Web pages. You will get a search bar for a quick local search for words or items on the page.
3. If a website like Google offers a helpful mail organizing service (like its new Google Inbox), give it a try. Google Inbox can bring a little order to your e-mail floods by dividing the incoming mail into categories like Primary, Social, Promotions, and Updates so you can deal with each type separately.
4. And before you save anything, ask yourself, “Do I really need this, or could I find it at a later date with just a simple search online?” The Collyers apparently felt they had to save everything. You don’t. **SF**