



# Windows Mobile Guide

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By Karl L. Gechlik

[askTheAdmin.com](http://askTheAdmin.com)

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# Introduction to Windows Mobile and HTC

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Windows mobile is on the cutting edge of mobile technology. This guide will start out easy and get progressively more technical as it goes on. If you are just looking for some information on how to do something basic on your device, chances are it will be near the top. For more advanced configurations and mods you'll need to look closer to the end.

I might be a little biased because I have been using Windows Mobile powered phones since my Ipaq Pocket PC phone edition about 6 years ago. Since then I have evolved into HTC windows Mobile devices. I have had a bunch of them including The Mogul, Wizard, Dash, Cavalier and now the Touch Pro aka ATT Fuze.

Some of you might be saying 'what the heck is this HTC you keep talking about?' You might know them as Qtek, MDA, SX-56, Hermes and many other names.

Below, you can see each of my Windows Mobile Devices in the order that I had them. They were very different in the specs department but they were all near and dear to me for one reason or another. Your phone should always match your personality and needs.



Dash



Wizard



Mogul



Cavalier



Fuze aka HTC Touch Pro

The Dash and the Cavalier are the two out of the bunch that are considered “Smart Phones” and do not have touch screens. Smart Phones can pretty much do the same thing as touch screen devices, but obviously with a more button-oriented interface. Smart Phones are awesome for one handed use and getting the job done quickly whereas Touch Screen phones are much more versatile and often pack more powerful processors.

This guide will still be able to help you with your non-touch phones, but some of the features might not be available to you. Also, if your device is not equipped with a camera or GPS, you will not be able to use these features. However, if your carrier just disabled the features – then we can help you get these things going.

The reason I sound like a Microsoft fan boy is that Windows Mobile is currently the most customizable and adaptable platform. Not because Microsoft wants it that way, more because the modder community has conquered it. Microsoft has given HTC a very customizable operating system, so they can make the device suit their customers’ needs. This also means I can make my device do anything I need it to. Your imagination and dedication are the only limitations.

With my bias out in the open, let's start with an introduction to the operating system. I will show you what your device can do natively, with applications both free and paid, as well as how to customize your experience and instructions on how to flash your device.

**I cannot stress enough how important it is to view and browse the forums.** Personalizing every feature, function, button or image! All it takes is a quick search. Below we'll provide with links to for several forums, sites and links to threads, or the download section for direct download links. You will need to sign up for free accounts on some of these forums. Some links are from file sharing sites, where you'll have to follow their instructions.

With that being said, lets dive into the windows mobile world. Windows Mobile gets you the same features you are used to on any old cell phone. You also get all the same features as an Apple iPhone, and then some more.

# Phone Features

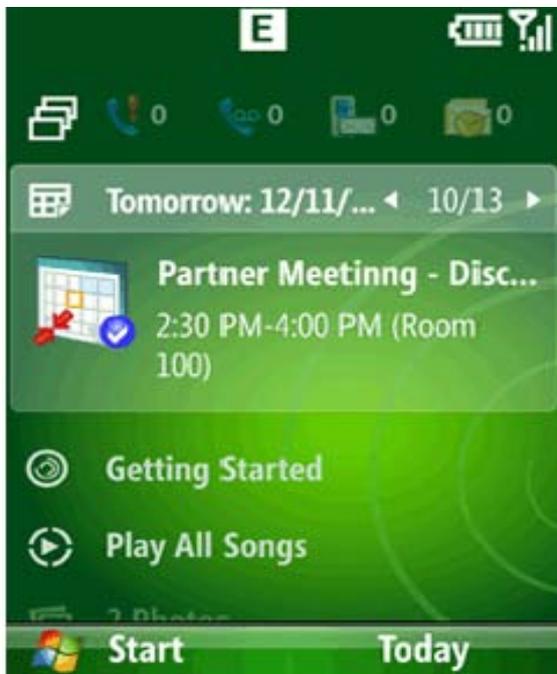
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If you are reading this guide, chances are that you are interested in learning your new toy inside and out. Let's run down the basic features you have on your device,

## Interface

It's a good idea to make ourselves familiar with the basic interface before we jump in head over heels.

Hit the hard Home button to get to the home screen – this one has a picture of a house. From the Home screen you can use your launcher to get to what you need. HTC manufactured phones do not use the same Windows Mobile home screen, but use their own touchflo3d.



*Windows built in 6.1 home screen*



*The HTC TouchFlo3d Interface*

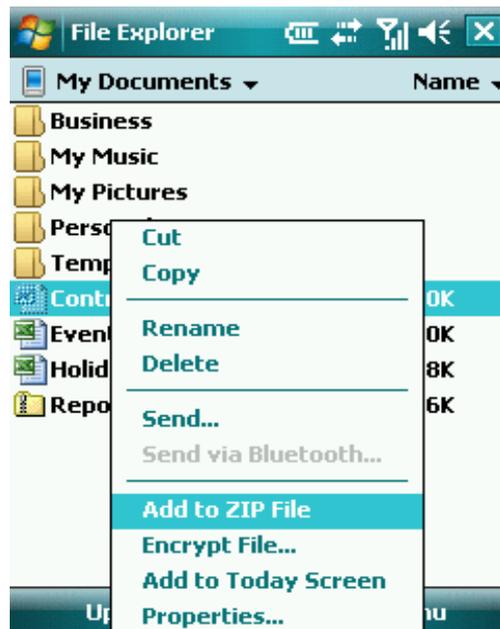
Just like on a Windows on your computer you have a start menu that can launch your programs. From this menu, without installing any other software, you can open a file explorer, windows media player, camera, Word, Excel, one note and a mobile instant messaging client. This is just the tip of the iceberg.



If an item does not show up on your start menu just go to *Programs* and you will be able to browse through what is installed on your device and click on something to launch it. Let us take a look at the different applications that are installed on your device.

## File explorer

Similar to a computer's, this lets you navigate your device's files and folders, both on your internal memory and on your memory card. Using the file explorer you can install software or open documents, transfer files, add it to archive or send file to the mail recipient if you want to email it someone.



You can use the menu soft key on your touch screen, or hold your stylus down for context menus. From there you can use various actions on your files. This is like hitting the right mouse button on your desktop computer.

You can also use the context menu to copy, paste, ZIP, encrypt or move your files.

## Cut, Copy and Paste

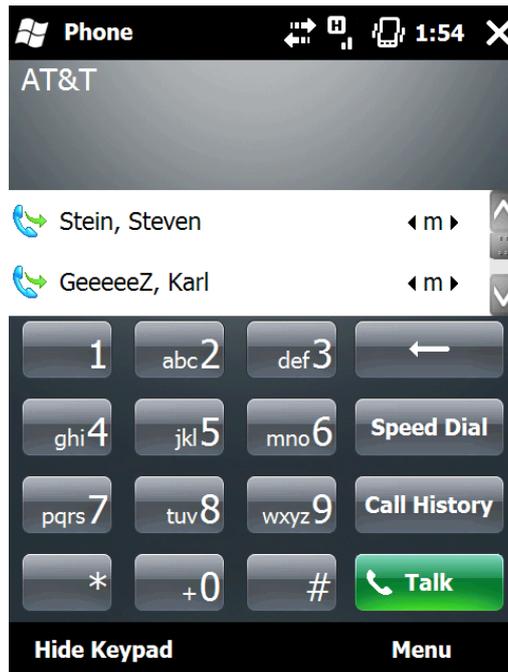
These options can be accessed through the context menu as well, and are available in all applications on the phone.



## Phone

Obviously your phone wouldn't be much of a phone if you couldn't make phone calls. Using your Windows Mobile phone, you can use software based VoIP phones like Skype, or more traditional cell to cell phone calls via your carrier.

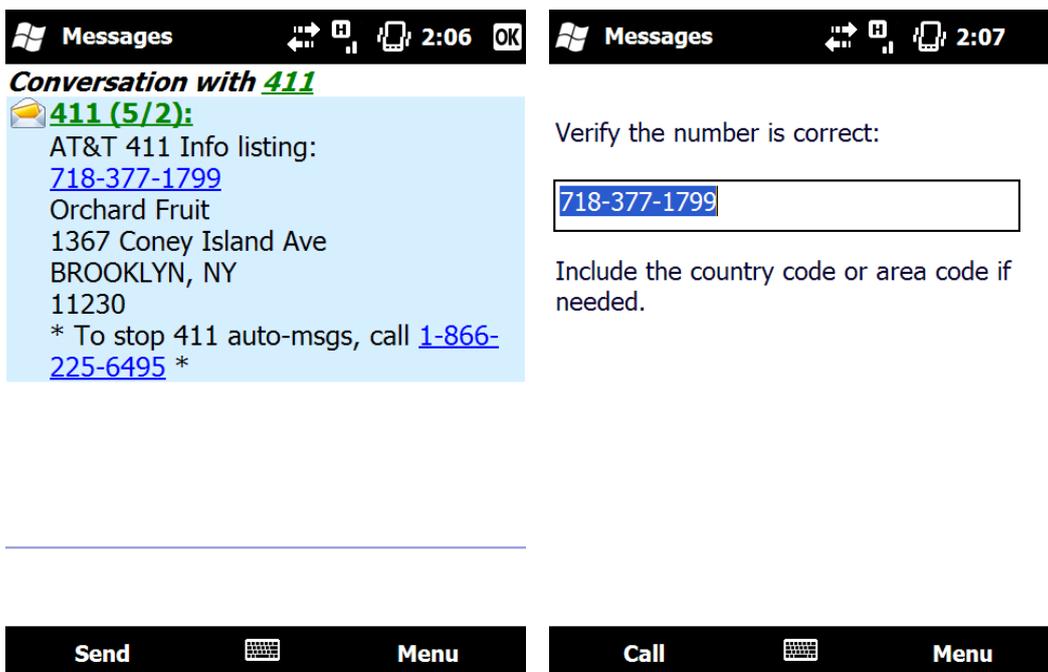
You can hit the talk hard key button and get a phone console. The phone key has a picture of a phone handset pointing up.



You can use your keyboard to start dialing a number and your device will show you the matches, you can start typing a name and it will do the same. You can view your call history, setup speed dial numbers (holding down a single key) and browse your recent calls and contacts by scrolling up and down.

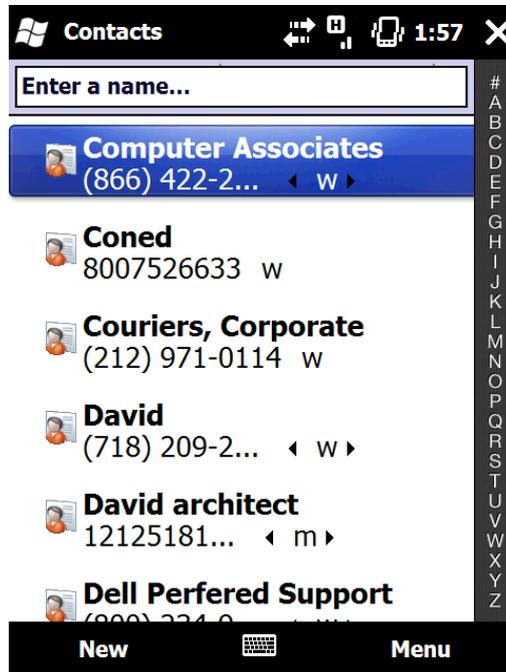
### Interactive Numbers

Clicking on a phone number in any program passes the number to the Phone application. From there you can send a text message, or make a call. You can also save the number as a new contact or append it to an existing contact.



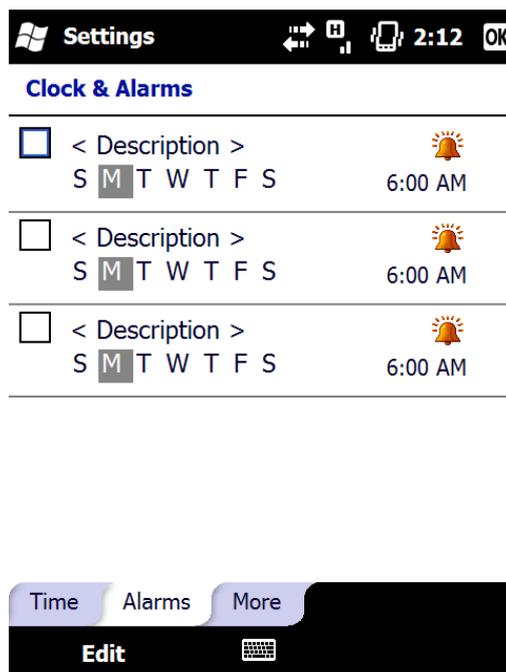
## Contacts

Your Windows Mobile device synchronizes with your desktop Outlook to keep all your contact information in sync. You can add images to your contacts, as well as notes and about half a million fields including birthday, anniversary, and assistants name and number.



## Clock & Alarms

Windows Mobile allows for multiple alarms, not associated with a calendar or task event. These can be used for wake up alarms and you can set them on similar reoccurring schedules.



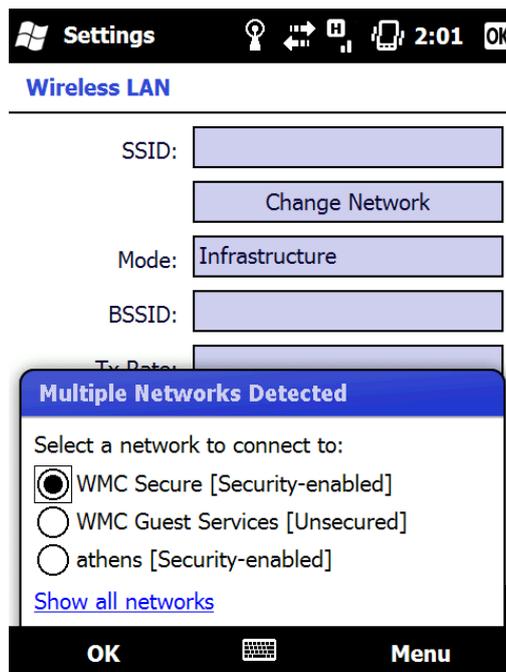
## Bluetooth

Use Bluetooth to connect to a headset for hands-free talking and wireless music. Connect via *ActiveSync* over Bluetooth to always have your information synced up while you are on the go. You can also use Bluetooth to transfer files wirelessly between different devices.



## Wi-Fi

Wireless network connectivity is awesome on a phone, because you can use intensive data applications at normal speeds even when you don't have a decent carrier signal.

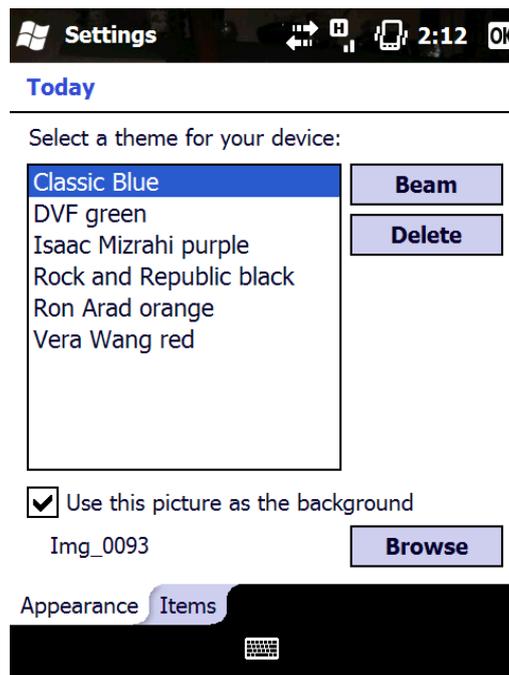


Browse the internet or download files as fast as your Wi-Fi will allow. Use Skype over Wi-Fi to make cheap or even free calls without using your provider. You can even do this without a SIM-card in your device.

## Today Screen Themes

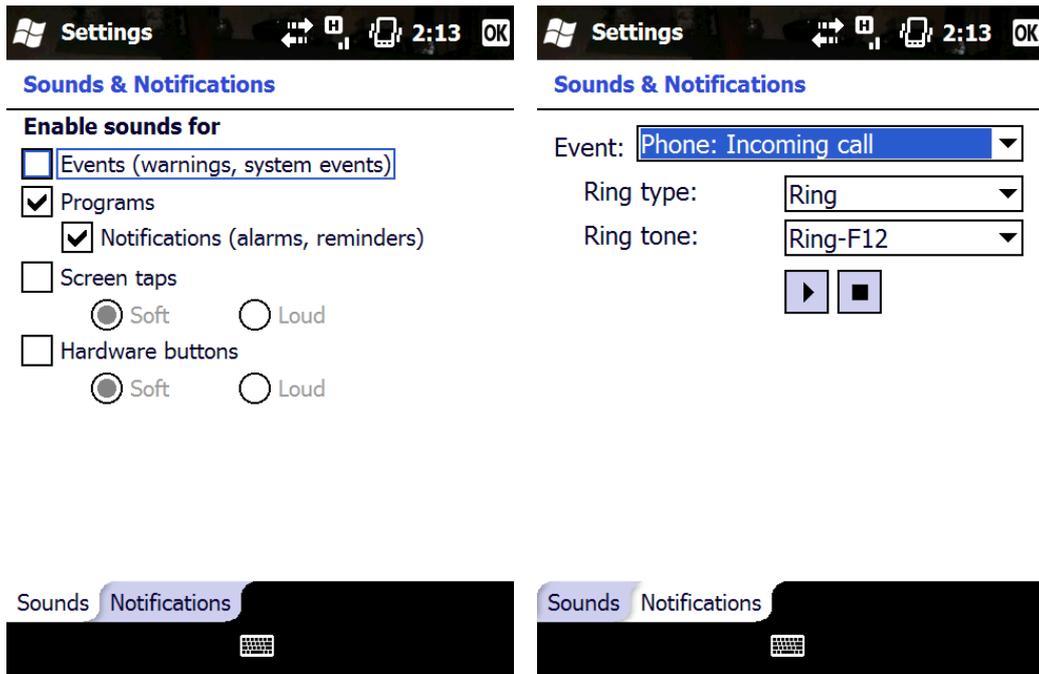
These are applied if you aren't using touchflo3d, titanium or another today screen replacement – more about these later on. These files (the file type is .tsk.) can be downloaded online. More on where to get free themes below.

You can also change your background using the Today control panel, as shown below.



## Sounds and Notifications

Windows Mobile uses MP3 or WAV files for all sounds and notifications. My device even came with an MP3 clipper that allows you to select a portion of the audio file to as your ring tone.



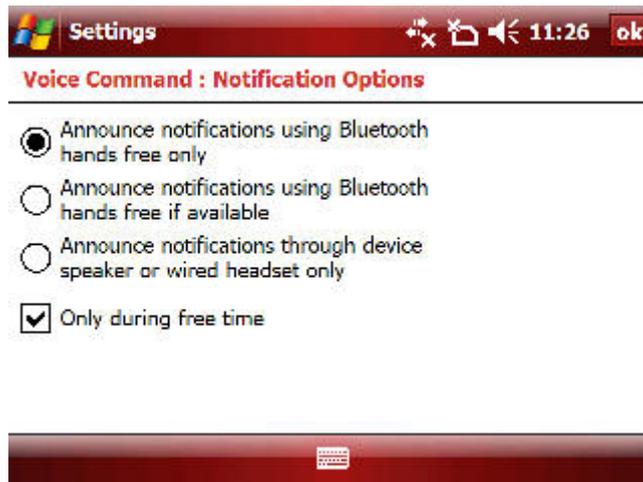
You can set specific ringtones for specific contacts. This is very helpful in determining who is calling without looking at the screen.

## Voice Command

This allows you to not only control your device by speaking, but it will also announce system statistics and who is calling out loud.

Yup, talking caller id through my Bluetooth headset is simply awesome.





## Remote Storage / Micro SD card

Most devices have support for external storage and the Micro SD card is most popular at the moment. It is also relatively cheap and as such you can grab an 8GB card for less than 30 dollars.

When plugging in your Windows mobile device, it will ask you if you want to use it as active directory, or your device as a USB drive. This means you can store your videos on your phone, connect it via USB to your home DivX player or a computer, and watch files directly off your phone. USB is externally powered and will charge your phone on the go, so it's a double win.



# ActiveSync

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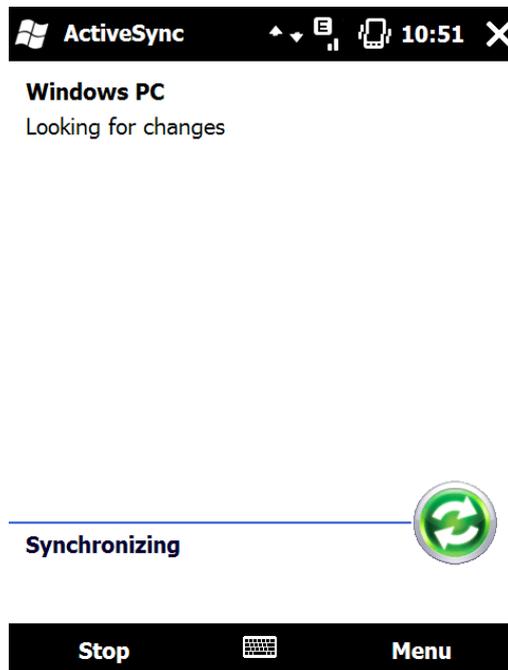
We synchronize data, so we can keep our information consistent on both sides; our handheld and our desktop. This means that if we would update or add a contact to your phone, the data would automatically be added in your Outlook after our next sync. It also works the other way around. If we add a calendar event in Outlook, the alarm will ring on your phone as well as on our desktop. Keeping both devices in sync is one the most powerful features of any mobile device.

ActiveSync is how we keep everything synced up. It is an application that gets installed on your pre-Vista machines so you can manage and synchronize your contacts, appointments, tasks, favorites and files. On Vista we use the built-in Mobile Device Manager. There is nothing magic about ActiveSync - it just works. I have been using it since 2000. You can download the newest version of ActiveSync (4.5) from here [<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsmobile/en-us/help/synchronize/ActiveSync-download.msp>].

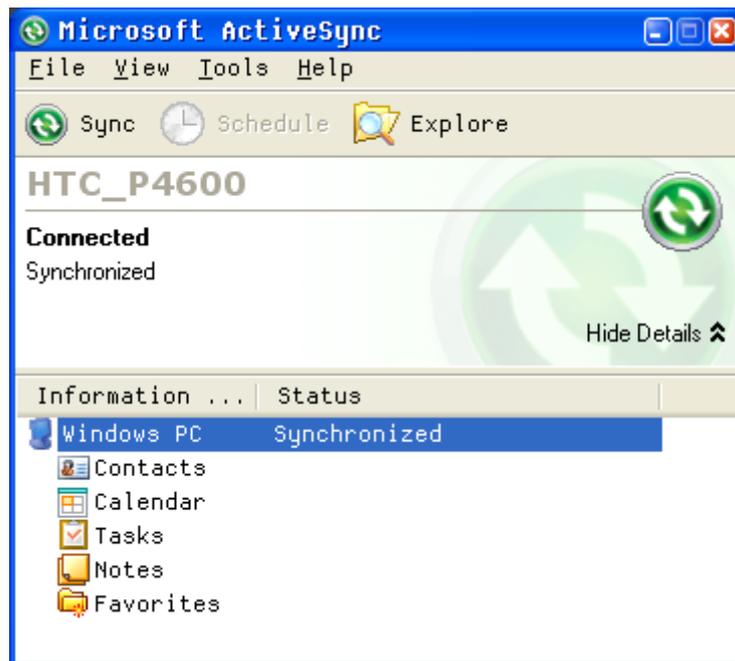
You can sync your device with up to two different machines to keep both of them up to speed. This is great in a boss-secretary scenario, where both need a constantly updated calendar and to-do list.

After installing ActiveSync on your Windows machine and connecting the first time, you are prompted to create a profile for your device. Here you get to name your device (display name) and tell ActiveSync how you want it to work, what you want to keep synchronized. Your options are Contacts, Calendar, Desktop Email, Tasks, Files, Notes and (Internet) Favorites. ActiveSync

Alternatively, you can also use the Explore button from ActiveSync to directly view the files on your device and storage card.



*The screen displayed by your device during synchronization*



*This is a shot of what ActiveSync looks like from your desktop*

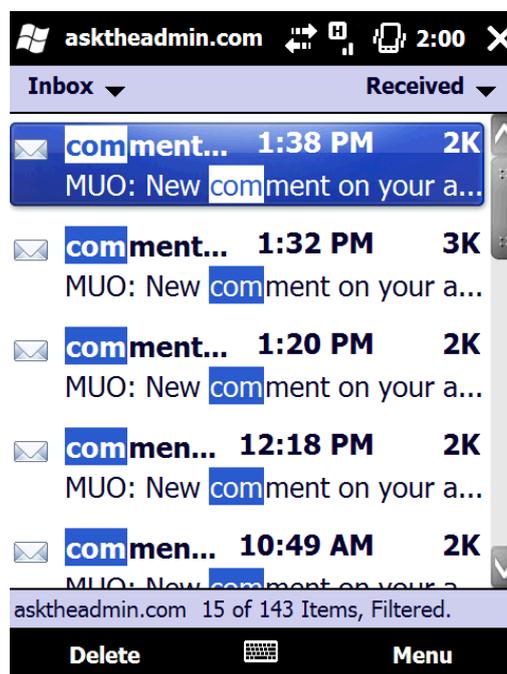
Windows Vista's Mobile Device Manager can do about the same as ActiveSync, and works alike as well. In fact, this Mobile Device Manager is simply the next step – ActiveSync incorporated in the operation system.

# Built In Applications

Most of the stuff you will want to do with your device is pretty easy. You can pick it up without knowing how to use it and make a call or browse the web. But it always helps if you know what you are doing! So here we go...

## Email

Using messaging on the device gives you an Outlook-like email experience, with most of the same features. When browsing messages, by typing a few letters on the messaging screen when looking for a specific message, you can filter out your selections.



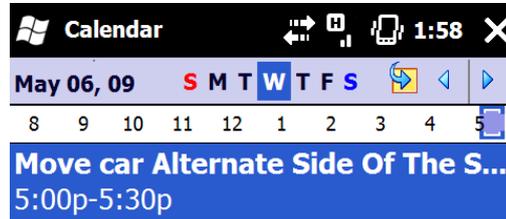
Push email is a hot topic nowadays. All that it means is when a new email message arrives for you it will be automatically PUSHED to your device without your device having to do a 'Send and receive', just like a Blackberry. This is great for people that need their emails instantly. To achieve push email you will need to have an Exchange server or another service that supports push email. We'll show you how to push your mails to your Windows Mobile using Gmail later on in the guide.

Synchronizing your email is rather easy. When setting up your mail account you are asked how often you want it to check for messages. You can choose 5 minutes, 10 minutes, 30 minutes, 1 hour, 2 hours or manually. If you choose any of the time intervals your email will be synced automatically. If not you will have to hit the menu button in the messaging application and choose send and receive.

Your messaging section also includes SMS and MMS. Using these services, you can send video, audio or animations to your contacts' cell phones.

## Calendar

Your calendar and your appointments also synchronize from Outlook, and you can have reminders alert you of upcoming events. You will find re-occurring appointments as well as being able to invite contacts to an appointment.



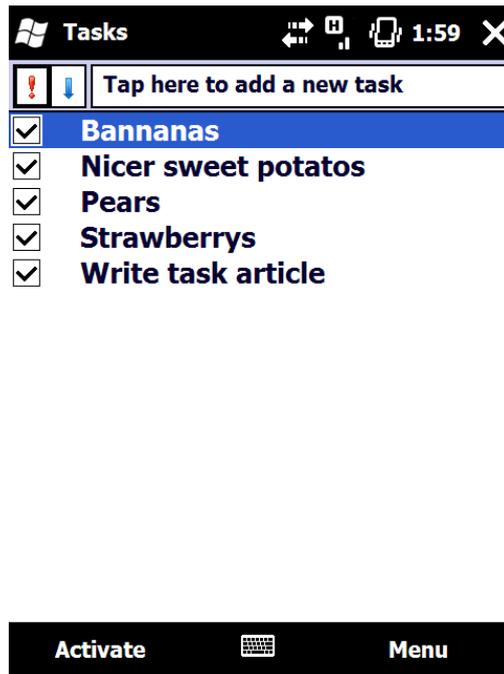
Click on menu and then new to add an appointment. From this screen you can set time, date and a reminder. The box labeled OCCURS: is meant for setting up re-occurring appointments. You will have the option to choose Once, or for it to happen the same day of every week, same day of every month or same day of every year.

## Tasks

I use this for my to-do list and sync it with my Wife's phone, so we are both on the same page. You can set reminders on tasks to have them synced Outlook. Learn how I did this with a free service called Mail2Web [ [www.Mail2Web.com](http://www.Mail2Web.com) ] in this MakeUseOf.com article

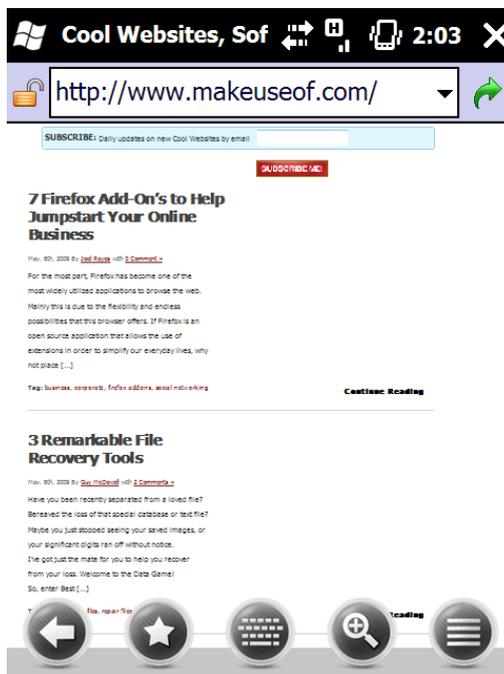
[ <http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/stay-in-sync-with-your-significant-other-using-free-exchange-server/> ].

Your tasks also sync with Outlook and when you add a reminder to a task it will be added as an event in your calendar.



## Internet Explorer

Windows mobile ships with Internet Explorer internet browser by default and more and more carriers are now bundling Opera browser, because of how well it works with touch screens.



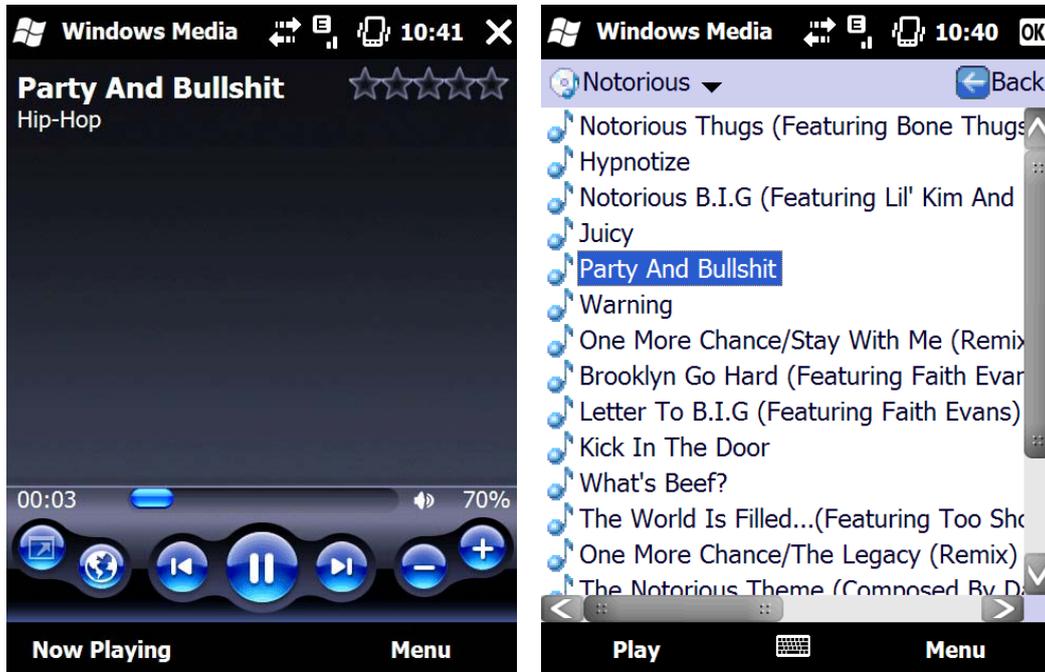
Internet explorer mobile is a good browser in terms of speed, but some things like flash videos (ex. Youtube videos) can be a problem.

The cool thing here is that if you use Internet Explorer mobile browser then you have a simple way to keep your favorites/bookmarks synchronized using ActiveSync.

MakeUseOf has also covered alternative web browsers for your Windows Mobile device in our post 5 Mini Browsers for Mobile Phones [<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/five-mini-browsers-for-your-mobile-phone>].

## Windows Media Player

This is the preloaded music and video player, and an OK one to start with.



You may catalog your media with Windows Media Players' library function; it will search your device for the right files and put them into order using the meta-data. Once this is complete, you can use the categories in the library like artist, album and genre to rearrange your music and video. You can also rate items on a 5 star scale.

It's incredibly easy to create playlists, or put WMP on shuffle and see what your device wants to listen to.

Personally, I rarely use WMP and have replaced it with TCMP, which is also free and plays pretty much every music file format you throw at it. Read more about TCMP in the free download section.

Your device's storage card is treated just like a usb drive. So when you connect your device to your computer you can synchronize directories or drag and drop files back and forth. We can also sync our iTunes library with our Windows Mobile Device by following these instructions [<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/sync-any-mp3-player-with-itunes-easily>].

## RSS hub

This is a mobile RSS reader. For those of you that do not know, that stands for really simple syndication. Using this tool you can easily read latest updates from all your favorite websites, including MakeUseOf.com on the go, without ever even having to visit the actual website.



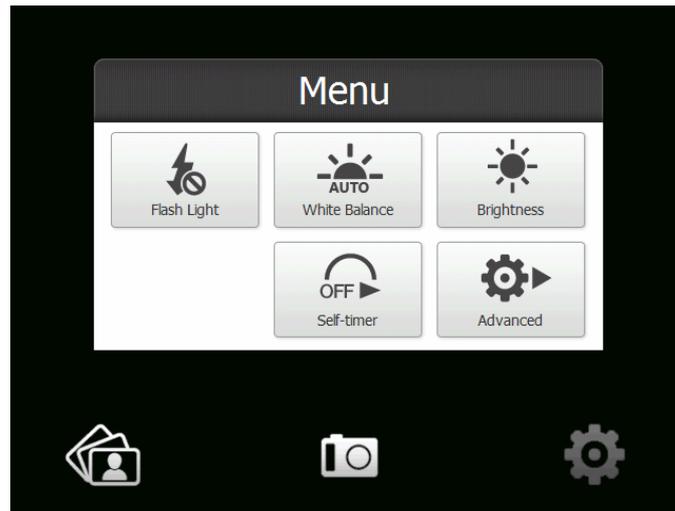
## Camera

The onboard camera that comes with these devices nowadays is usually 3 mega pixels or better. This means that if you master your phones' camera you might never have the need for another digital camera again.

You can shoot video or still pictures and save your files to your storage card by going to settings and changing the default directory.



*The Camera interface – normally you'd see an image instead of the black screen displayed by my screen capture*



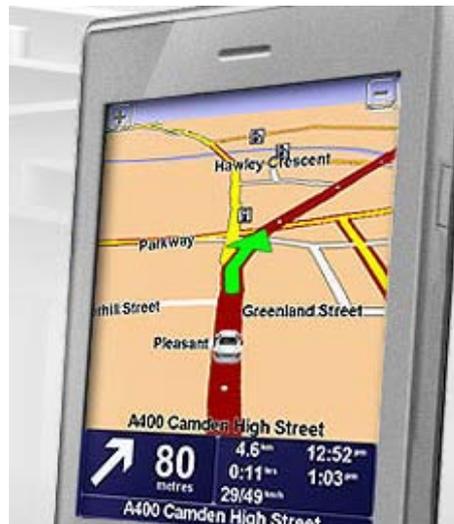
*Your settings menu from within the camera application*

You can adjust your light configuration for your shots. Hit the settings button and then the white balance button. A different picture comes from the way you are lighting your picture.

Use florescent as your setting if you are under florescent lighting, or turn on your flash if your device is equipped with one. We will show you a few applications that allow you to use that same flash as a flashlight later on.

## GPS Navigator

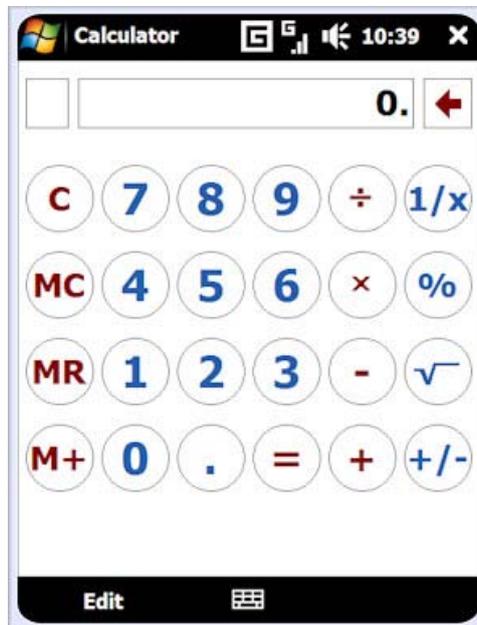
You can use your built in GPS for free with free mapping applications and online services like Google maps.



I personally have had good experience with my device and the paid application TomTom. It costs money so you might rather check out the free application section instead, but in my book this is worth the money. TomTom turns your device into a full fledged turn by turn navigator and is shipped by default with some of the newer HTC devices. It has traffic information and displays points of interest.

## Calculator

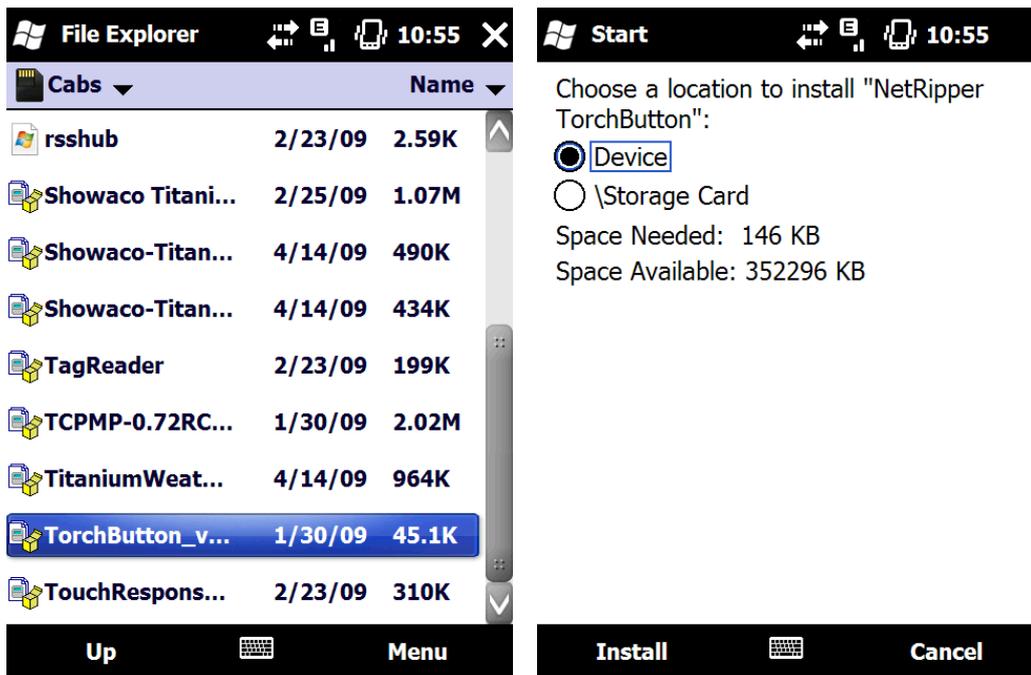
A simple calculator for simple equations. For more powerful calculators, you might want to look around for additional applications. With the rising processing power of today's devices, some great graphical calculators have even come forward.



# Installing software

Software can be installed in one of two methods on your phone.

1. **FROM CAB** - a .cab file will run from your phone by clicking it in your device file explorer. Follow the prompts to decide if you will install the program in your phones main memory or on a storage card

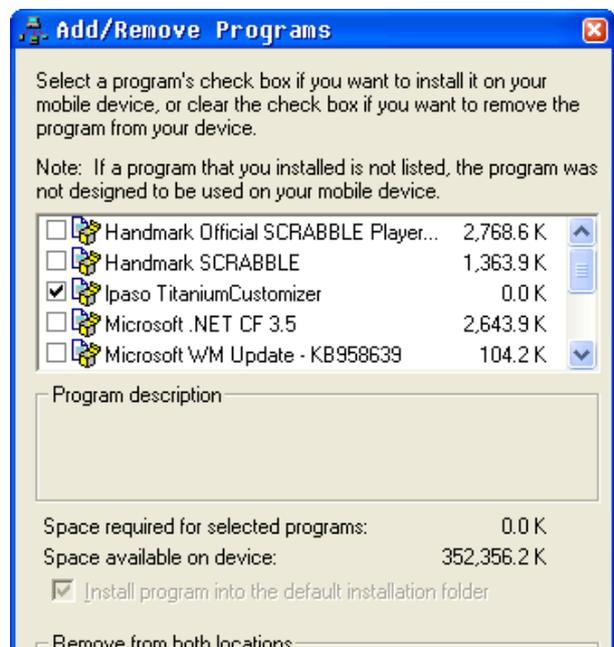
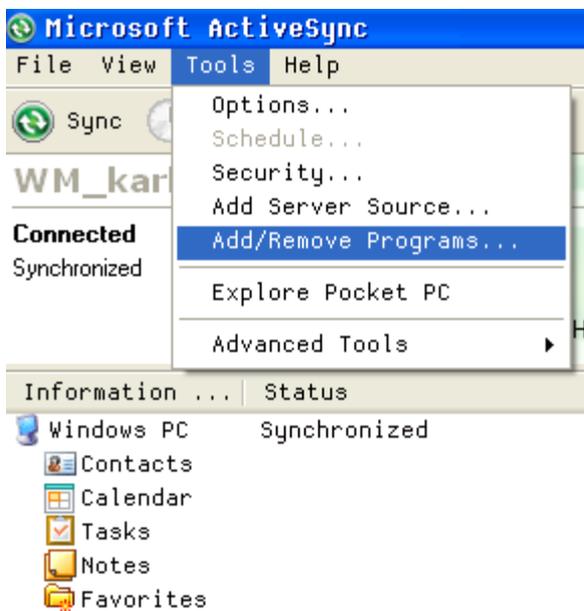


Applications that will be used often should be installed to the device as the storage card is a little slower than your main memory. So take that and file size into account when choosing where to install.



**2. FROM EXE** - a .EXE file will normally be run from a computer with an ActiveSync connection to the device. Follow the prompts on your desktop until it advises you to switch your attention to your mobile phone. At this point the rest of the installation is identical to the .cab install.

You can remove or add programs from ActiveSync's Add Remove Program menu option as well.



# Cool Mobile Apps and Tools

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## Offline Applications

The following tools do not require an internet connection to run. Online applications and tools will be reviewed further on in the guide.

### hTorch

hTorch is a small application with a graphical user interface that enables you to use your Touch Pro as flashlight.

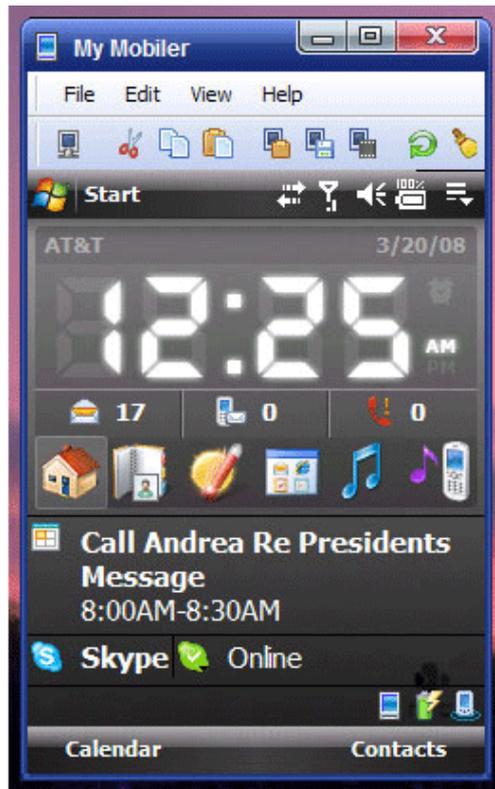


Get it here [<http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?p=2834777>]

### MyMobiler

Using this app you will be able to control your Windows Mobile phone from their desktop. Why?

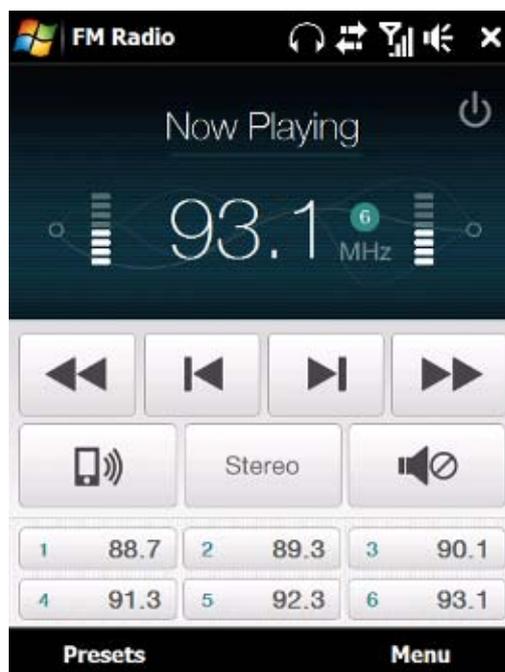
- Too lazy pick up your phone to make a call
- Writing long sentences on that tiny keypad is annoying
- Easy way to take screenshots from Windows mobile
- Just to impress the ladies...



Get it here [<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/how-to-remotely-control-your-windows-mobile-phone-from-desktop/>]

## FM Radio

On your Windows Mobile device. This is awesome. It uses your headphone wire as an antenna! This comes installed on most new devices and can be downloaded from the forums.



Get it here [<http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?t=479572>]

## Tip Calculator

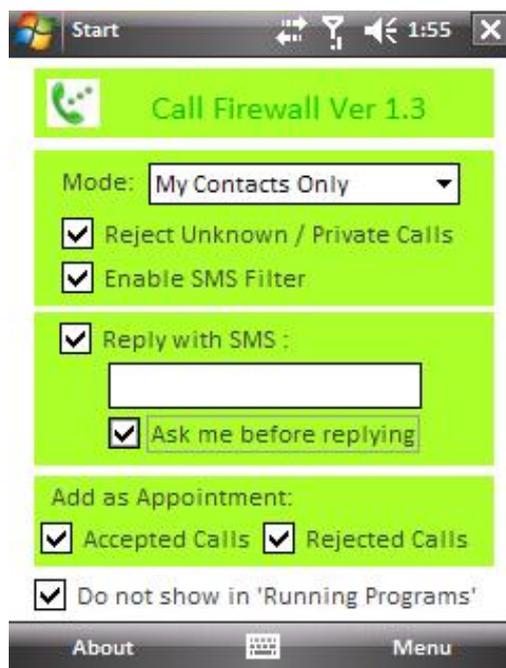
Tip calculator and bill splitter app. This sure comes in handy!



Get it here [[http://download.cnet.com/3001-2064\\_4-10399988.html?spi=02e072a6aaeeea14247882cef95ad97c](http://download.cnet.com/3001-2064_4-10399988.html?spi=02e072a6aaeeea14247882cef95ad97c)]

## Call Firewall

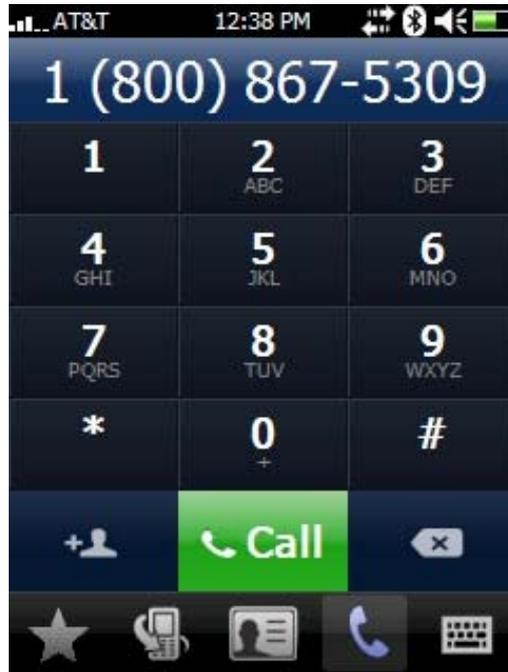
Tells your phone who can and can not call you. It creates a block list for your Windows Mobile powered cell phone. Among other things, it can also send a text message after a blocked call to alert them as to why they were blocked.



Get it here [<http://call-firewall.en.softonic.com/windowsmobile>]

## iDialer

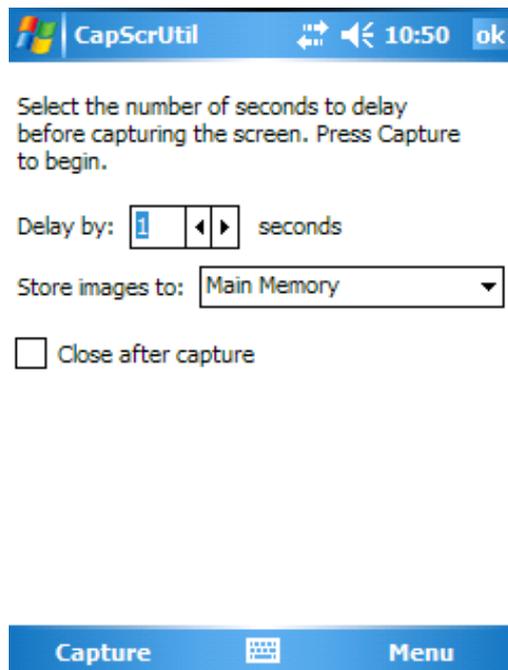
Changes your default dialer to look and feel a little more like the iPhone. It is functional and cool. It really is a personal preference but I like the built in dialer better!



Get it here [<http://www.supware.net/iDialer/>]

## CapSure

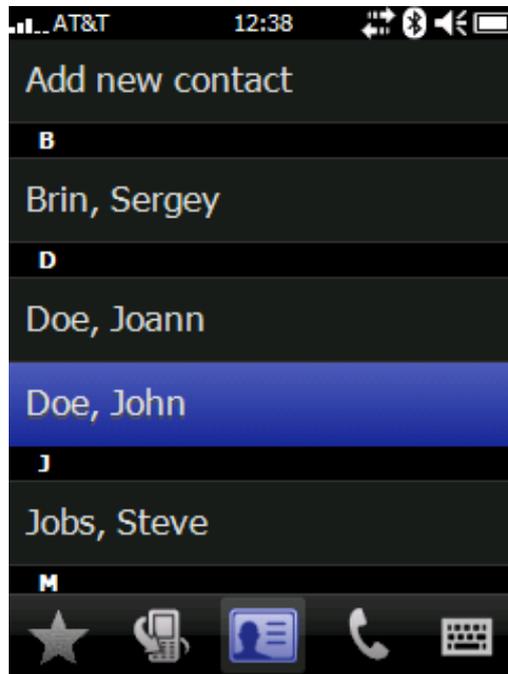
Awesome Windows Mobile Screen capture application that allows you to add words or modify your capture.



Get it here [<http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?t=375573>]

## iContact

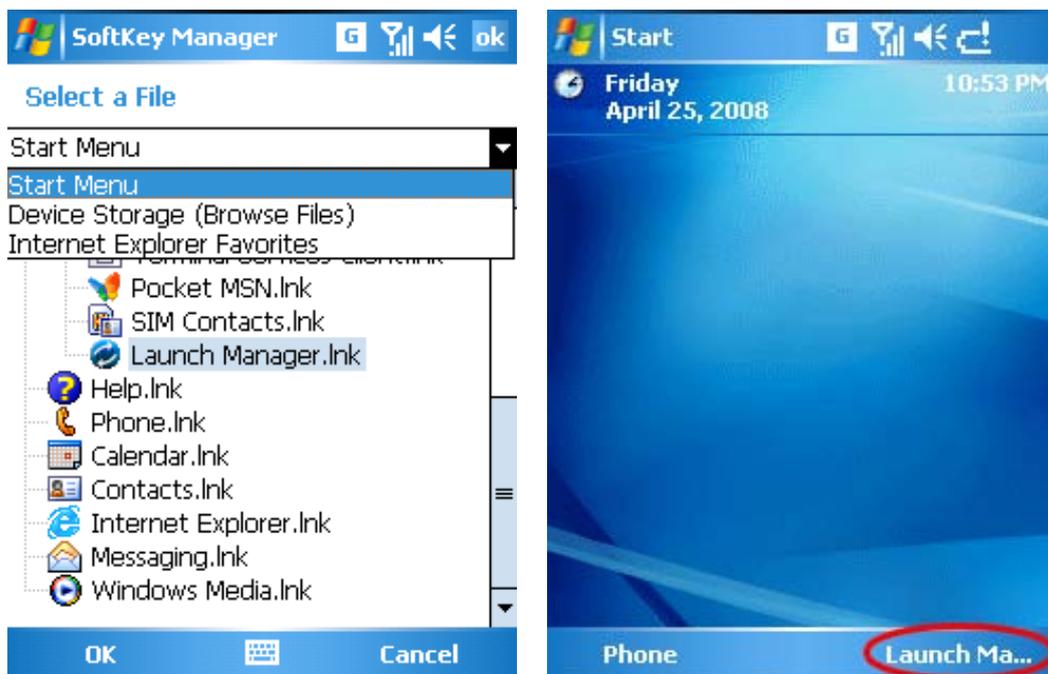
Like iDialer this adds iPhone-esque contact management. Again it is a matter of personal preference as I like the built in contact manager better.



Get it here [<http://www.supware.net/iContact/>]

## SoftKey Manager

Gain control over changing your softkey menus. These are the buttons that appear at the bottom of your Windows Mobile Homescreen.

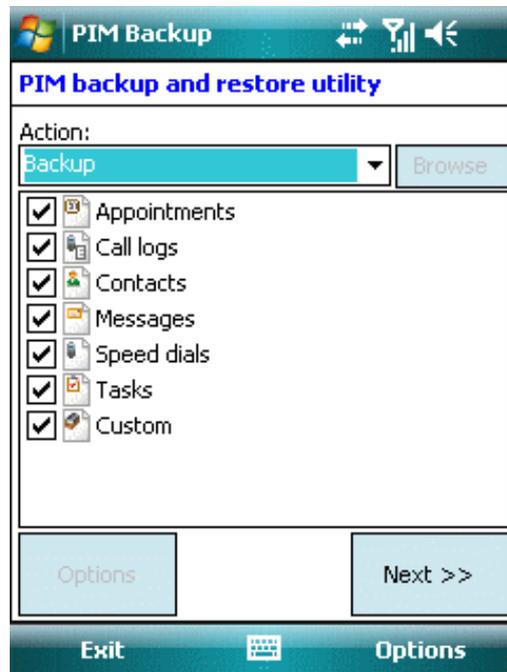


Get it here [<http://www.fantasticbytes.com/products/softkeymanager>]

## PPCPIMBackup

Back up and synchronize your Windows Mobile without using ActiveSync. If you're on a Mac computer, or a Linux system, you won't be ignored anymore.

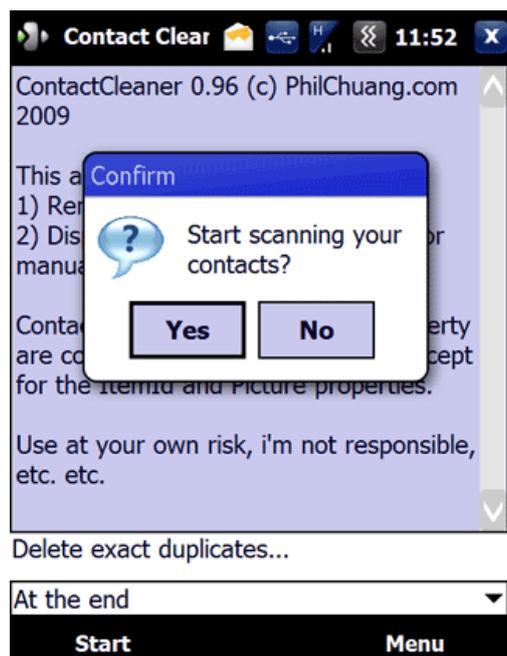
<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/backup-your-windows-mobile-without-activesync/>



## Contact Cleaner

If you've got duplicate contacts, Contact Cleaner will help you tidy up. This nifty little app will sift through your phone, delete double contacts and help you merge related ones.

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/remove-windows-mobile-duplicate-contacts-with-contact-cleaner/>



## Online Applications

The following tools and applications *do need* an internet connection to work properly.

### Google Maps

You can use Google Maps the same way you would on your desktop computer. You can get directions, view maps, and locate yourself via GPS or Cell towers.

Get it here [<http://www.google.com/mobile/default/maps.html>]



Google maps is as easy to use on your mobile as it is on the web. To start you will need to install it though. Visit this link [<http://www.google.com/mobile/winmo/maps.html>] and pop in your mobile number. A link will be sent to your phone to download and install.

It's features are as follows (source:Google)

### My Location (beta)

My Location shows your current location on the map, even if you don't have GPS.

### Interactive maps

Google Maps for mobile feels just like Google Maps on the desktop. Pan and zoom the map, and view satellite imagery, and even switch into Street View (on BlackBerry and Java-enabled phones) for a closer look.

### Business listings

Search Google Maps for local businesses and points of interest. View store hours and reviews, then dial a business in one click. Thanks to My Location, you can find nearby businesses without even having to enter your current location.

### Directions

Google Maps offers turn-by-turn driving directions - and thanks to My Location, you don't even have to enter your starting point. You can also get walking directions (only on BlackBerry and some Java-enabled phones for now) and find public transit routes in more than 50 cities around the world [[http://www.google.com/transit?utm\\_campaign=en&utm\\_medium=ha&utm\\_source=en-ha-na-us-gns-trs&utm\\_term=transithp](http://www.google.com/transit?utm_campaign=en&utm_medium=ha&utm_source=en-ha-na-us-gns-trs&utm_term=transithp)].

### Traffic

Real-time traffic data helps you find the fastest route to your destination.

### Street View

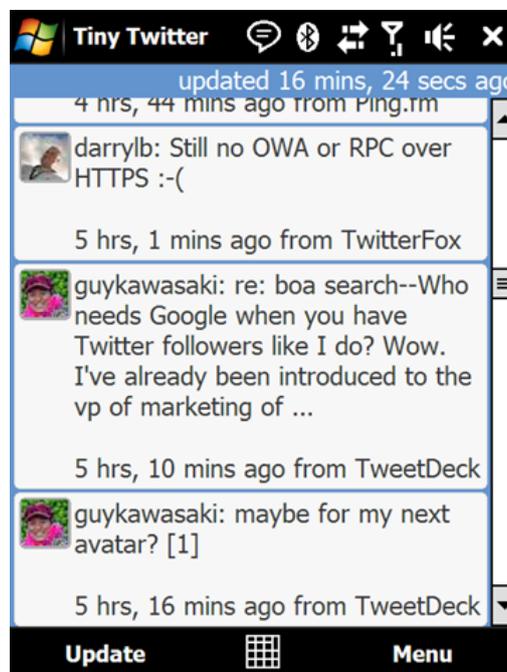
View street level imagery of addresses, businesses, and turns in directions. Street view is currently available for BlackBerry and some Java-enabled phones.

### Favorites

Save your favorite places so that you can easily return to them on the map.

## Tiny Twitter

A nifty twitter application for Windows Mobile and other handhelds. You never know when you'll need to tweet.



Get it here [<http://www.tinytwitter.com/>]

## Dashwire

A nifty application to synchronize your mobile phone with web. Using DashWire you can transfer most of your mobile functionalities to web and manage phone from the comfort of your computer.

These include, but not limited to, ability to send/receive text messages, manage phone contacts and add/remove photos. Basically, whatever changes you make on mobile phone will be automatically mirrored to your DashWire account and vice versa.

Read more here [<http://www.makeuseof.com/dir/dashwire/>]



## Skype

We all know what Skype can do and having this application on your phone opens a whole new world of possibilities – like NOT using a voice plan! And just using a data plan. Free calls to your Skype buddies from your mobile and so on.



Get it here [<http://www.skype.com/download/skype/windowsmobile/>]

## PhoneTag

This is not a free program but I couldn't function as well as I do without my phonetag! It transcribes and emails/texts me with voice mail transcriptions. Simply awesome!



Get it here [<http://www.phonetag.com>]

## Other Great Online Services

- Google SMS  
[<http://www.google.com/mobile/products/sms.html#p=winmo/>]
- GOOG411 :: Free 411 directory service  
[<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/get-free-411-directory-assistance-with-goog411/>]
- Nutsie :: Stream Your iTunes library on the go  
[<http://www.nutsie.com/faq/>]

# HowTo's – Making most of your Windows Mobile device

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Below you'll find a few great tutorials, to help you in using your device to the fullest.

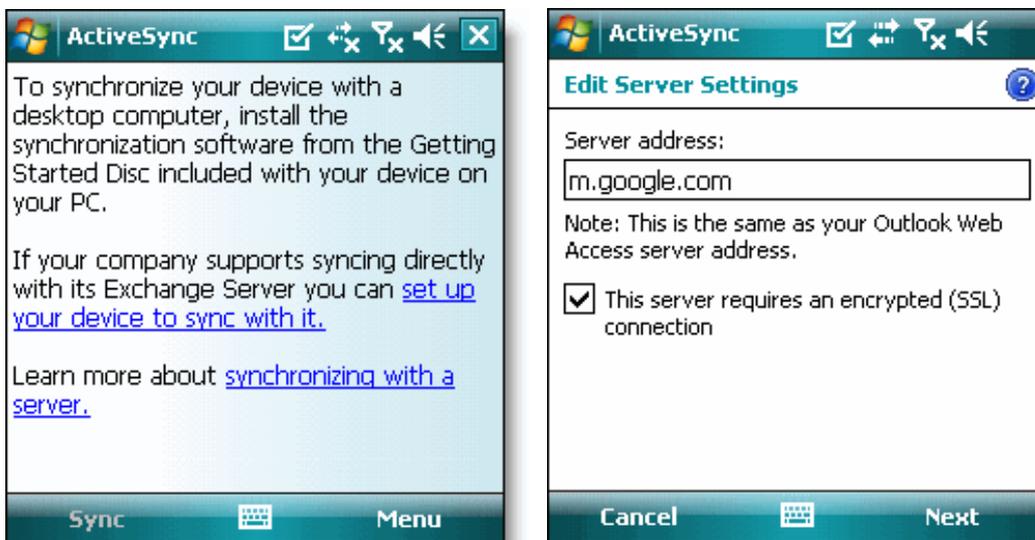
## Enable Push Email via Gmail

Push email means that when a new email message arrives for you it will be automatically PUSHED to your device without your device having to do a 'Send and receive', just like a Blackberry.

An Exchange server is a Microsoft based mail server that stores your email, contact information and other data. Most companies have Exchange servers or now you can setup your Gmail account to do the same by following these instructions here [<http://www.google.com/mobile/winmo/sync.html>] .

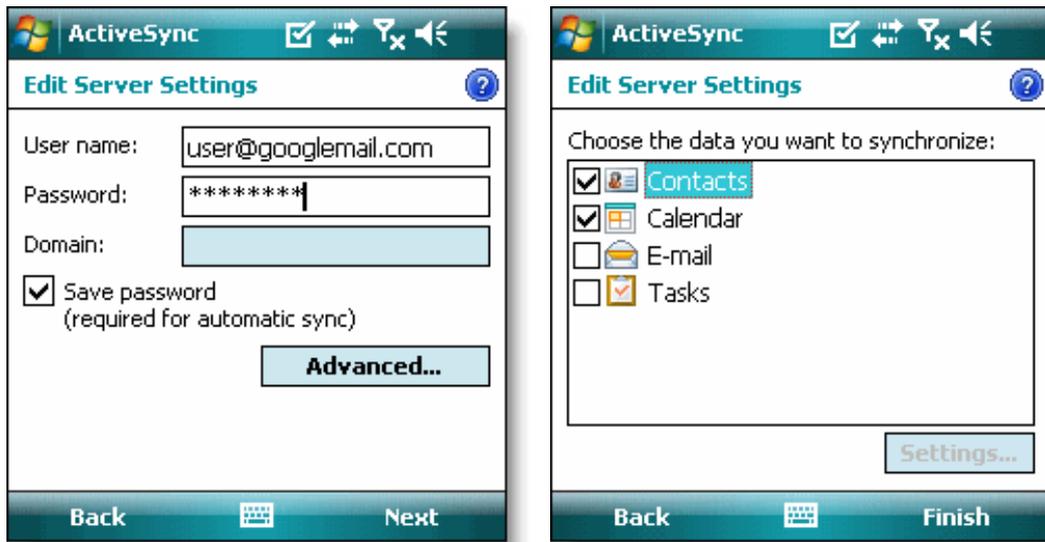
So with this you can not only sync with your GMAIL account wirelessly but you are also getting push email as well! The steps are listed below as well:

1. Open the **ActiveSync** application on your device's home screen.
2. Click the link **Set up your device to sync with it.**
3. Enter **m.google.com** as the server address.
4. Ensure that the **SSL** option is checked.



5. Click **Next.**
6. Enter your full Google Account email address as the **User name.**
7. Enter your Google Account password as the **Password.**
8. Leave the **Domain** field empty. If your device requires you to enter a domain name, enter **google.**
9. Click **Next.**
10. Check only **Contacts** and **Calendar.**

11. Click **Finish**.



12. Press the **Sync** softkey on the left to synchronize.



You can have your device synchronize your email wirelessly and have the ability to setup 'push email' using something called an exchange server. You have full access to your exchange account if you have one.

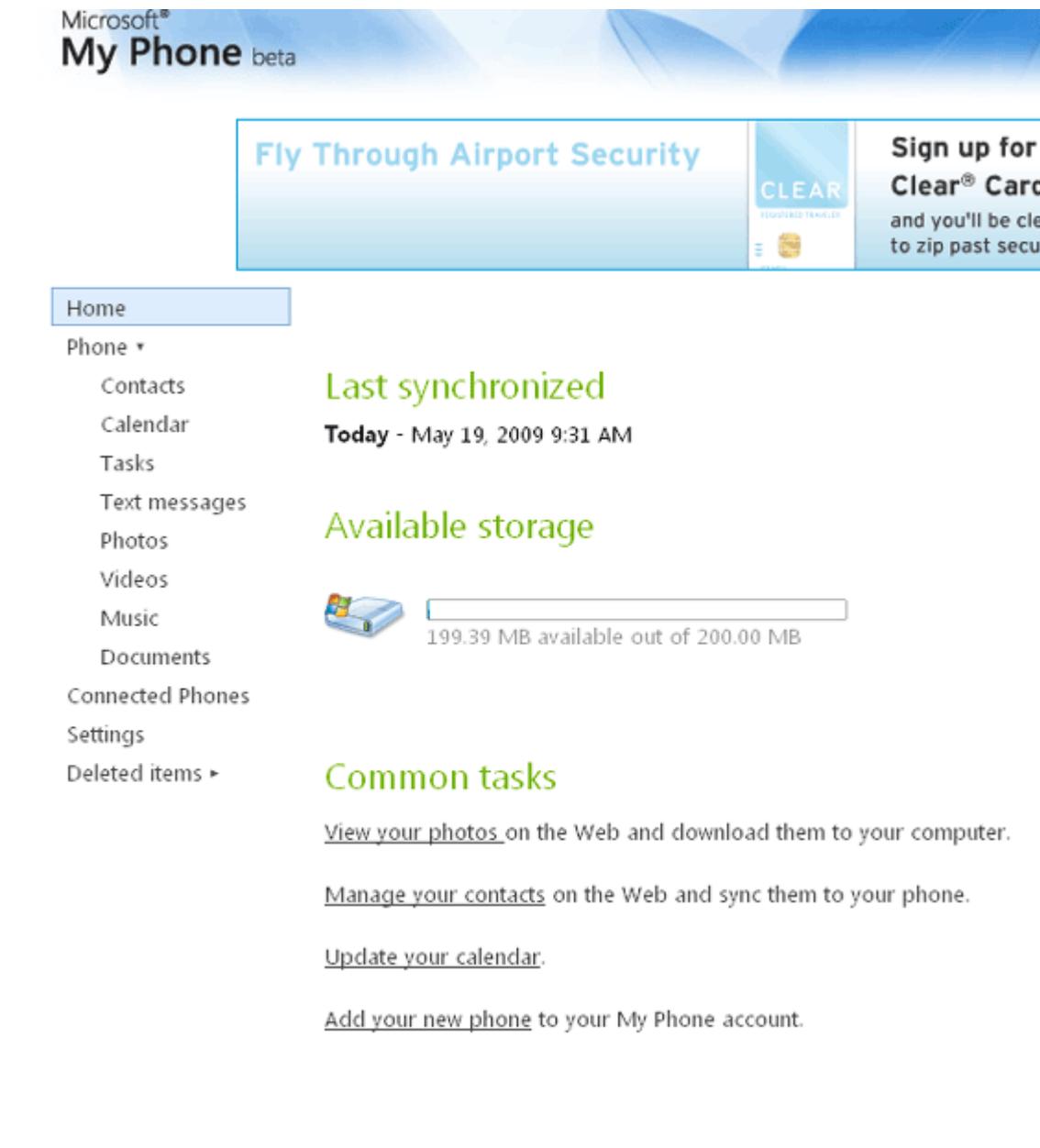
We can also sync windows mobile with thunderbird. There are two methods, one being very easy and costing money and the other is free. We will visit the free solution below. The application is called [FinchSync](#). I have not used this much as I am a Outlook guy but you can find

You can also achieve push email with a hotmail account just by configuring it through the messaging application. You can find more information here [\[http://blogs.msdn.com/mayurk/archive/2007/02/16/push-email-with-windows-live-hotmail-and-windows-mobile-6-0.aspx\]](http://blogs.msdn.com/mayurk/archive/2007/02/16/push-email-with-windows-live-hotmail-and-windows-mobile-6-0.aspx)

Alternatively, if you don't want to sync your emails to your phone and merely want to be alerted on important emails via SMS then check out How To Setup Gmail SMS Alerts For Urgent Emails [\[http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/how-to-setup-free-sms-alerts-for-urgent-emails-in-gmail/\]](http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/how-to-setup-free-sms-alerts-for-urgent-emails-in-gmail/)

## Back-up your Windows Mobile phone to the web

You can make a back-up of your phone to the web, using Microsoft's free program MyPhone – This is a free program create by Microsoft that will allow you to backup your devices information including text messages, appointments, contacts and even files and pictures.

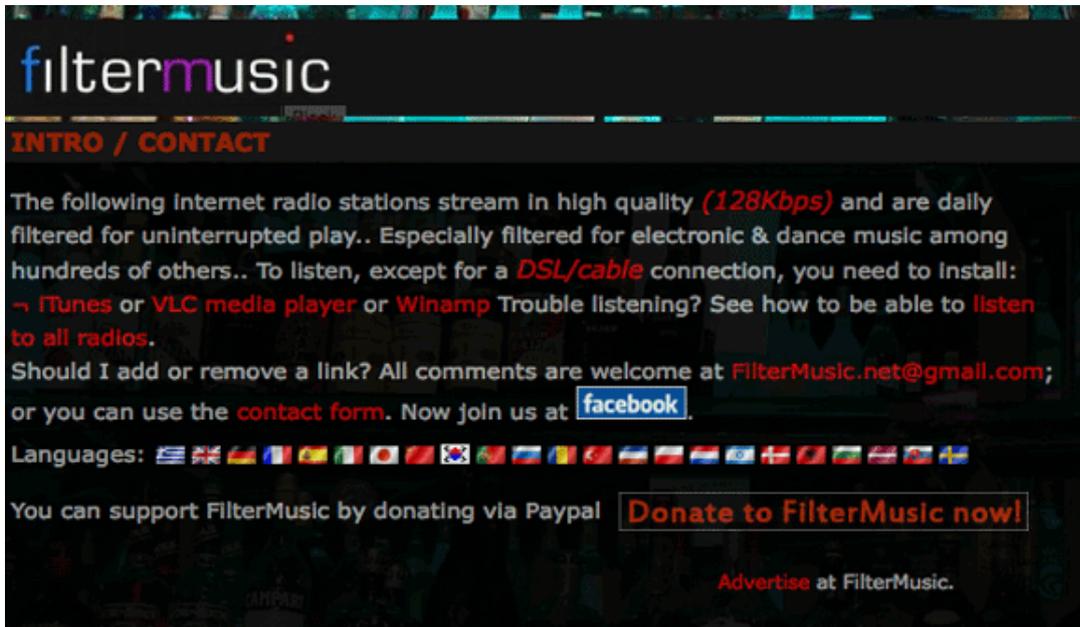


You can read more about it here [<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/myphone-backs-up-your-windows-mobile-device-to-the-internet-beta/>]

Read here about 4 other ways to backup your mobile phone to the web [<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/4-tools-to-backup-your-mobile-phone/>]

## Stream radio to your Windows Mobile Phone

“Filtermusic is a listing of Interweb radio stations that stream in high quality (128Kbps) and feature uninterrupted play.”



You can read more about it here [<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/stream-high-quality-internet-radio-stations-to-your-computer-or-mobile/>]

## Stream Audio or Video to your Windows Mobile phone

Orb is an application that can team up the TV Tuner card from your PC with your Windows Mobile, or any other device with a proper internet connection.



You can read more about it here [<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/total-media-domination-your-tv-video-and-audio-on-any-device/>]

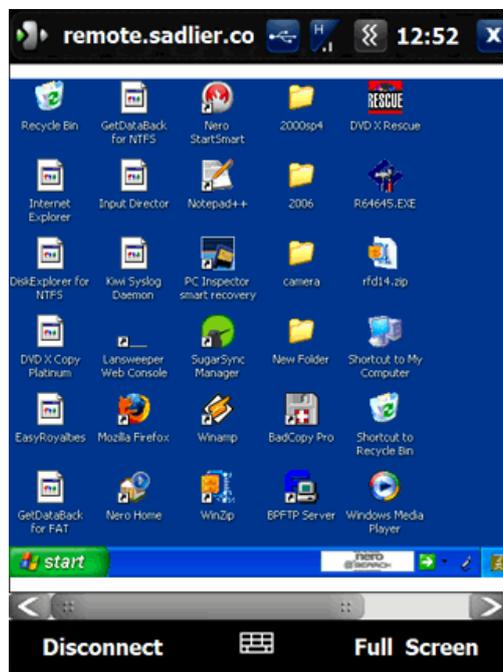
## Cool Downloads for your College Kid's Cell Phone

6 great applications for your Windows Mobile phone: Check out this post for some great tips and applications for your Windows Mobile Device. There are some applications we did not cover in this guide.

You can read more about it here [<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/cool-downloads-for-your-college-kids-cellphone/>]

## How To Control Your PC from Your Phone

Have you ever been away from your desktop and needed some information that was on it? Have you ever needed to shutdown your computer or do something underhanded while away? What did you do? Run home? You could've just used your mobile phone!



You can read more about it here [<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/use-your-windows-mobile-and-remote-desktop-to-control-your-pc/>]

## Share Your Location with friends and See Where They Are

The cool thing about Google Latitude is that there are really no fancy, expensive gadgets required. All you need is a mobile phone and you can build what's essentially a GPS network of friends, without the need for GPS technology.



You can read more about it here [<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/how-to-trace-a-mobile-phone-location-with-google-latitude/>]

## Windows Mobile Themes

You can find awesome Windows mobile themes at MobileMatt [<http://www.mobilematt.com>].



Change the skin of your TouchFlow 2D to something that will cut your PPC loose. Why not skin it?



Are you ready to set your TF3D free?

## Windows Today Screen Replacement

If you're looking for a Today Screen replacement instead, you should check out the thread below. There are some wonderful alternatives to be had there.



You can read more about it here [<http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?p=1601960>].

## Custom Icon Sets

Check out the thread below if you want to change the factory icon set of your Windows Mobile phone.



You can read more about it here [<http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?t=381255>].

## Simulate an iPhone with your Windows Mobile

If you want to simulate or make it look like you are using an iPhone (aka iPhone), check out this thread. [<http://www.gadget.pdamu.com/2009/05/27/iphone-skin-theme-for-windows-mobile-6-wm6-pda-phone/>]



## Download Free Ringtones

Do you want to download free ringtones for your Windows Mobile? Well, you've come to the right place.

- 10 Websites For Free Mobile Phone Ringtones  
[<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/10-websites-for-free-mobile-phone-ringtones-other-mobile-downloads/>]
- 9 Free Ringtones That Sound Like Real Phones  
[<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/free-ringtones-that-sound-like-real-phones/>]

Be sure to check out other Windows Mobile related content on MakeUseOf  
[<http://www.makeuseof.com/tags/windows-mobile/>]

# Hacks/Mods and Custom Roms

---

## 1. Thinking about a custom ROM

A custom rom is user developed software that replaces your phones operating system. There are new features unlocked and added as well as improvements over annoying features!

We have spoken briefly about and alluded to how freaking cool custom ROMS are. The guys who cook up the ROMS are called chefs. Chefs use software called a kitchen to cook or customize a ROM. They add components and their own custom touches. This is the same way ATT or T-mobile create their branded ROMs.

When working with custom ROMs it can be tricky getting everything to work but if the chef is on the same carrier as you - chances are everything has already been tested.

## 2. Choosing a custom ROM

**! All ROMs are designed for specific phone models.** Do not download a ROM that doesn't comply with your specific Windows Mobile device. In the process of doing so, you might brick your phone.

To find the correct ROM, read the forums [for your device](#), under ROM customizations; browse the popular ROMs by looking at views and posts. Search for features you want and ask questions if you can't find what you are looking for.

When I say forums I am referring to Xda-Developers.net [<http://forum.xda-developers.com/>] but you can also use any of the other forums that relate to Windows Mobile like PPCGeeks [<http://ppcgeeks.com/>].

### 2.1 Example Given – ATT Fuze / HTC Touch Pro

The following counts **only for ATT Fuze or HTC Touch Pro phones**. Do not download and use ROM files if your phone's model name isn't specifically stated in the item description.

*Two of my favorite chefs are XDA's own NATF [<http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?t=469450>] and Da\_g. NATF [<http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?t=513605>] (or Not A Treo Fan) cooks my go to stable as anything 6.1 ROMS. He cooks for ATT and seeming that ATT is my carrier it works out awesome for me.*

*Using NATF 4.6, I can use internet sharing or tether my laptop using my phones internet connection without paying for another laptop connect service or make additional modifications past upgrading to this new ROM. For those of you that don't know tethering simply means I can get internet access on my computer by connecting a usb cable to my phone. I can then use the internet on my phone to browse the web on my laptop or desktop.*

*NATF also loads up my favorite applications so I do not have much to do after flashing his ROMS.*

*The newest 6.5 rom with all the latest and greatest features is Energy Rom: Phoneix from NRG. It is simply awesome and can be grabbed from here [[http://forum.xda-](http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?t=513605)*

[developers.com/showthread.php?t=511146](http://www.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?t=511146)]. But there are some bugs and features that do not work yet. This is because this is on the fore front of what is available. The battery drain on this one is a lot more than it should be so be ware.

My go to rom for 6.5 has been Da\_g's 6.5 which you can grab here [<http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?t=513605>] I love using cutting edge beta software and using Da\_g's 6.5 I feel like I am using polished software. It is also super fast and has GREAT battery life.



Using 6.5 I now have the honey comb start menu as well as titanium for a user interface. In earlier versions of 6.5 (I have been running it for almost 4 months now) scrolling was not smooth at all and was hardly usable but, now it is awesome.

Titanium blows touchflo3d out of the box and Mobilematts fuzeberry improves upon titanium as well.

### 3. Flashing a custom ROM

**You might be asking yourself – what is flashing?** And no it is not perverted nor does it require a rain coat. Flashing is the process of changing your rom. It is called flashing because you are writing to flash memory on your device. Below you will find the common tasks and terms you will need to know when flashing your device. You will need to Hard SPL your device to allow it to load custom software, You then Enter Bootloader Mode and flash away. It sounds a lot more complicated then it actually is!

Here is a great post on how to flash for beginners [<http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?t=448008>]

Hard spl - out of the box you can only flash approved or signed ROMs. This prevents you from loading custom ROMs and disabling your carrier's restrictions on your device. They claim it is so you don't brick your phone... But don't worry we will show you how to put it back the way you found it so you can still get warranty support if you do - do something stupid. Oilnex's hard spl is located in this thread [<http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?t=410150>]. You can undo the changes by running a special file created for warranty service. It is located here [<http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?t=410150>]

[developers.com/showthread.php?t=410150](http://developers.com/showthread.php?t=410150)]. *Hard spl* created by Oilnex unlocks your phone to ROM flashing. Installing it is easy and similar to flashing a ROM.

**Bootloader mode** - enter bootloader mode on your device to see your spl version and to flash from your micro sd card.

**Flash from micro sd** - load your ROMs nbf file on the root of your 2gb or smaller fat32 formatted memory card. Rename it raphimg.nbf and enter bootloader mode. Your device will flash away.

## 4. Troubleshooting

### Where are you stuck?

Think about what part of the boot process you get stuck at. Is it the windows logo screen, does windows boot but you can't do anything. Are you not getting past the ROM version on the first screen? All of the above could be a symptom of a corrupted ROM. Try a hard reset and if that does not help re-flash your ROM and then finally flash your original carriers ROM.

### What was the last thing you did?

Did you flash a new ROM? Try flashing back... If that helps you know it was the new ROM.

### Soft Reset

A soft reset is like rebooting your computer. You can do this by hitting the reset button with your stylus. This will not delete any settings or programs. Some phones do not have a hardware reset button here you should hold down the power button until you get the option to power off. If all else fails pull out the battery.

### Hard Reset - aka reset back to factory defaults.

This removes everything on your device and gives you a clean version of your working ROM. You can do this from within the device or using a key combo. You will have to type in some characters to confirm if you launch it from the device.

When your device reboots you will walk through the getting started wizard again, calibrating the screen and what not.

### Flashing Back

If your phone won't boot and you are at wits ends don't freak out. Remember when we told you to download a copy of your stock ROM? You can find them for your device here: <http://www.htcwiki.com/>. Well it has magic healing powers and might be able to resurrect your bricked device.

When all else fails re-flash your stock ROM. I thought I bricked my phone by flashing the wrong file. My stock ATT ROM saved me big time.

Security unlocking your device allows you to flash custom radios not approved for your device. Some devices have free software to do this and newer phones only have paid versions.

But remember this is not for newbies, you can seriously brick your phone with flashing the wrong radio.

# Best Forums & Sites for Windows Mobile

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Think that was all? Think again! There are still a ton of undiscovered forums and sites out there, and you've only begun uncovering the wonderful world that is Windows Mobile. To help you in your search, we've listed some of the best sites below. Have fun!

## Hundreds of Webapps for Windows Mobile Users

- <http://www.makeuseof.com/dir/mobileipod-tools/>

## Windows Mobile Software Directories:

- <http://www.freewarepocketpc.net>
- <http://download.cnet.com/mobile/windows-applications/>
- <http://www.mobilematt.com>

## Windows Mobile Forums:

- <http://forum.xda-developers.com>
- <http://www.howardforums.com/forumdisplay.php?f=181>
- <http://www.mobilitydigest.com/forums/index.php>
- <http://forum.ppcgeeks.com/index.php>
- <http://discuss.pocketnow.com>

## Latest Cool Tips for Windows Mobile from MakeUseOf.com

- <http://www.makeuseof.com/tags/windows-mobile/>
- <http://www.makeuseof.com/service/>



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- [www.makeuseof.com](http://www.makeuseof.com) (latest articles)
- [www.makeuseof.com/dir/](http://www.makeuseof.com/dir/) (browse cool websites by category)
- [www.makeuseof.com/most-popular/](http://www.makeuseof.com/most-popular/) (most popular articles)
- <http://feedproxy.google.com/Makeuseof> (feed)
- [http://feedburner.google.com/fb/a/mailverify?uri=Makeuseof&loc=en\\_US](http://feedburner.google.com/fb/a/mailverify?uri=Makeuseof&loc=en_US) (subscribe via email)

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