



## **Technology Corner - iPhones and other “smartphones” Broadcast date - 11 July 2023**

Hello, I'm Cam Stirling from Technology Connections. Welcome to this Technology Corner discussion regarding iPhones and smartphones. If you have any topics that you'd like me to cover in future Technology Corner segments, please phone Golden Days Radio on 9572 1466 or you can text us on 0447 096 472.

Love them or hate them, Apple iPhones and alternative “smartphones” are everywhere and they can be pretty handy. Let's take a look at what iPhones and smartphones can be used for and compare the pro's and con's of iPhones against smartphones from other manufacturers.

iPhones and smartphones allow us to make and receive phone calls and text messages, but they also allow us to take and look at photographs, record video, listen to music, watch movies (albeit on a very small screen!), read news and current affairs articles, check the weather forecast and rain radar, see flight arrival and departure times, banking, buy goods and services, check petrol prices across town and get live sport scores - basically anything that we can access from the internet is available on a pocket-sized computer. Well, perhaps an over-sized pocket.

The little pictures or “icons” that we see on smartphones are called “Apps” (short for “Applications”) and they are like “programs” on computers. There are literally millions of Apps - everything from calendars, to calculators, maps, timers and stopwatches, to booking restaurants, even public transport schedules. Most Apps are free. Some Apps include advertising and some Apps allow the advertising to be turned off upon payment of a fee, typically a few dollars.

How would I decide between buying an iPhone or one of the many competing phones from manufacturers such as Samsung, Google, Nokia, OPPO, Motorola?



Let's start with the Apple iPhone - the original and some would say "still the best". Compared to other "smartphones", iPhones are quite intuitive to use, they are reliable, the "Apps" are subject to very strict quality and security checks from Apple. Perhaps one of the biggest selling points for iPhones is camera quality - they can take really nice photographs, often even in imperfect light conditions. With all of these benefits, why would I go past the Apple iPhone? They are relatively expensive. The latest model iPhone 14 will set you back around \$1,900. There are many models available, ranging from around \$600 for older models to over \$2,000 for the latest "and greatest". It is possible to purchase "refurbished" iPhones, but I have heard of several poor experiences from people who have done this. In summary, the iPhones are very high quality, reliable smartphones with a lot of functionality, and they are on the expensive side, relative to alternatives.

Let's talk about other smartphones. Most of the alternative smartphones to Apple's iPhone run on software from Google called "Android". Google provides the Android software for free to manufacturers including Samsung, OPPO, Nokia, and others. Google make their own phones too, called Google Pixels. Android smartphones do very similar things to what Apple iPhones do, but they mostly cost a lot less than iPhones - often half the cost. Apart from some of the more expensive Samsung and Google Pixel models which are priced similarly to iPhones, most Android phones take lesser quality photos than iPhones. The Apps on Android phones are subject to less controls than that which Apple places on Apps for the iPhone, so very occasionally, little things can go wrong on some Android phones. For example, an App might mysteriously restart itself. Having said that, I moved across from iPhones to Android phones in 2015, mostly for cost reasons, and I will never move back to iPhone. My latest Nokia smartphone cost me \$400 a couple of years ago and recently I helped my Dad to buy a \$300 Android phone which meets his needs.

If you're comparing iPhones with the Android alternatives, keep your prior smartphone experience in mind - if you already have an iPhone or an Android phone, moving from an iPhone to Android or vice versa can be tricky because there are small, yet important differences in the way that they work.



Another consideration if you're weighing up your options is knowing which smartphones your family or friends use. If you're looking to get some help using your phone from family or friends, it will probably be a lot easier for them to help you if you have the same or a similar phone to that which they are using.

All smartphones, iPhone and Android, require access to the internet in order for us to make the most of them. If you're at home and you already have "wifi" set up, then you can use the wifi to connect your smartphone to the internet for no additional cost. When you're away from home and other sources of wifi, then a mobile phone plan which includes some mobile data is necessary to connect to the internet. Unless you're planning to stream Netflix, Kayo or similar video streaming services to your phone, it's unlikely that you'll need a lot of mobile data each month. Streaming video is probably better enjoyed on the larger screen of a smart TV or an iPad or tablet, but that might be a topic for a future Technology Corner segment.

I'm Cam Stirling, from Technology Connections and if you would like any help buying, installing, fixing or upgrading computers, smartphones, iPads or smart TV's, please phone me on 0414 482 542.