

Writing Samples for Nasuni Corp. by Nicholas Iandolo

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Product Review

LG Rumor Touch Smartphone

Wow! I really love my LG Rumor Touch smartphone. This neat little device is simply awesome. Why? Well, first of all it is not as expensive as Apple's iPhone nor am I forced to sign on with only one service provider. The phone has a brightly lit touch screen that accesses a simple yet robust user interface and comes with three very useful buttons on its face (back, home, and command).

And that's just on the surface. If you're like me, you want to do a lot of texting. And since my friends find it old fashioned to email me or god forbid they actually call, texting is the only way I can stay in touch with some of them. The LG Rumor Touch certainly delivers on that feature. When you slide it open a nifty little keyboard is revealed—complete with a backlit component that allows for nighttime texting (useful in bars and nightclubs). The messaging application is easy-to-use, linked to your phone's address book, and has a lot of useful options built-in (mark as urgent, call back #, save as draft, etc.). Texting couldn't be easier.

The LG Rumor Touch also provides a host of convenient applications for today's mobile user. Social networking apps such as Facebook, Myspace, and Twitter are built right into the smartphone so you always know where your friends are eating or what they're wearing today. Also, you'll find an EZ Tip Calculator (something I've used often when dining out), a music player, and several games with downloadable options for more. Plus you get an alarm clock, calendar, notepad, document viewer, and much more right out of the box.

If it is storage you're looking for the LG Rumor Touch can hold up to 32 gigabytes of data (pictures, videos, documents, etc.) with an add-on memory card. The 2.0 megapixel camera takes great pictures and shoots long videos so you can capture those special moments without time constraints. Furthermore, it is Bluetooth enabled and has a USB data port available (via a USB to micro cable). And there are useful utilities such as an in-phone file manager and an application manager for multi-tasking.

My LG Rumor Touch does everything I could ask from a smartphone and more. It is a great value for the price and staying connected to the rest of the world is a breeze. If you're looking for an inexpensive alternative to the bigger more advanced smartphones out there the LG Rumor Touch is for you. It's a handy mobile device with a bit of iPhone and Blackberry Curve mixed in together.

Frustrating Computing Experience

IBM ThinkPad at work

Going back to the office after a long bout of freelance work has its share of challenges. Least of which for me is having to use a Windows computer again.

Yes, I am a Mac person. I love the Mac. The Mac and I were made for each other. I dream of owning an iPhone4 one day. I worship Steve Jobs and make frequent trips to the Apple Store to be with my people. All right... well maybe not to that extreme but you get the idea.

So imagine my disappointment when I have to sit down in front of an IBM ThinkPad running Windows XP the first on the job.

Office computers are notorious for absolutely not doing with you want or expect them to do. However, to be fair, Windows has come a long way in the business world (which it has most of the market share anyway) and is the ubiquitous productivity platform. What that means is that at least the workstation and server environments are pretty much 100% integrated for easier workflow. So if you're working on a Microsoft Word document and it is ready for review, you can simply send it directly from the application via your Microsoft Exchange server to your coworkers who can review it and send it on. And while you're doing this Windows can access your Microsoft-based file systems where all the company's stuff is located so you can seamlessly get what you need to keep the whole workflow going.

Great! But that doesn't mean your computer won't crash, you'll lose data, and hit all kinds of access issues because IT has everything locked down tighter than Fort Knox!

When I have to put in a request for Microsoft Visio to simply look at a flow chart because I can't just download the free viewer and install it ("You do not have sufficient privileges to install this application.") that's when I pine for my Mac.

And forget about Internet Explorer as my gateway to the rest of the online world. Aside from the expected web blocker and site filtering firewall that is an IT staple (ah, the dot-com days when the web was a free -for-all from the office), even accessing legitimate sites for business-related purposes can be a real hassle. Nothing is more frustrating than when you get a message that a site you need to get an industry report from is blocked because it is considered "adult material!"

Oh well, at least I'll appreciate my Mac more when I get home.

And by the way, my Mac does do Windows!