

A mobile device is a small computing device, typically small enough to be handheld (and hence also commonly known as a handheld computer or simply handheld), having a display screen with touch input and/or a miniature keyboard and weighing less than 2 pounds (0.91 kg).

A handheld computing device has an operating system (OS), and can run various types of application software, known as apps. Most handheld devices can also be equipped with Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, NFC and GPS capabilities that can allow connections to the Internet and other devices, such as an automobile or a microphone headset or can be used to provide Location-based services. A camera or media player feature for video or music files can also be typically found on these devices along with a stable battery power source such as a lithium battery. Increasingly mobile devices also contain sensors like accelerometers, compasses, magnetometers, or gyroscopes, allowing detection of orientation and motion. Mobile devices may provide biometric user authentication, such as using the built-in camera for face recognition or using a fingerprint sensor for fingerprint recognition. Examples are Android's "Face Unlock" or Apple's Touch ID.

Early pocket-sized devices were joined in the late 2000s by larger but otherwise similar tablet computers. Input and output of modern mobile devices are often combined into a touch-screen interface.

Smartphones and PDAs are popular among those who wish to use some of the powers of a conventional computer in environments where carrying one would be impractical. Enterprise digital assistants can further extend the available functionality for the business user by offering integrated data capture devices like barcode, RFID and smart card readers.

Samsung, Sony, HTC, LG, Motorola Mobility and Apple are just a few examples of the many manufacturers that produce these types of devices.

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