

1SRC Podcast Show 211 Script

Hello everyone and welcome to the 1SRC podcast, I'm your host Alan Grassia, and this is show 211 for Saturday, May 30, 2009. Glad to have you with us today.

Ok, this is shaping up to be a really weird podcast. I've been trying to write a show for the better part of two weeks now and just when I think I've gotten everything in place a new Palm Pre rumor breaks or, in the case of this past Thursday morning, a whole truck load of official Pre and Palm webOS information is released.

So in the interest of actually getting a show out the door, I'm running with what I've got. To that end, we'll be talking about the news from the All Things Digital conference which wrapped up on Thursday morning, I'm going to run now ComputerWorld's top 5 cool features about the Pre (which predates Thursday's information), and some additional information that was, at the time, leaked regarding features of the Pre smartphone.

I do want to take care of some housekeeping before we get into the real meat of this week's show. Over the last few weeks, we've been having some trouble with the podcast feeds here on 1SRC.com and over at SmartphoneFanatics.com. I did ask Reggie to look into the feed issue here on 1SRC.com and when I checked earlier today, the feed appears to be working normally both in iTunes 8.1.1 on my MacBook and in Juice 2.2 on Windows XP Pro SP3. Now, when I say working, I mean that the latest show, in this cast 210 since I'm still recording 211, shows up in the feed and I am able to download and play the resulting file. The same test was done with the enhanced podcast feed over on SmartphoneFanatics.com and things look good over there also.

Now that we've gotten the housekeeping out of the way, let's grab a cold can of Diet Coke and let's cover this week's Palm news.

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I think that the only sane way to do this is to start with last week's news and rumors and move forward to the things that happened over the long holiday weekend and then finally with Thursday's news from the All Things Digital conference.

New Details Leak Out about the Palm Pre

<http://forums.precentral.net/showthread.php?p=1613037#post1613037>

Over the long holiday weekend, some new details about the Palm Pre for Sprint leaked out. The first was Sprint's Pre business launch guide. This 23-page document is part marketing material and part technical guide for Sprint employees. A day or so later, the Pre's webOS gestures guide was leaked, and earlier this week, SprintGurus.com posted the remaining previously leaked Pre documentation in the way of the fact sheet, getting started guide, user guide, and feature guide.

What I would like to do here is talk about some of the interesting facts that I read about in the leaked Sprint launch guide and what it might mean for us down the road a bit.

Pre Pricing

- Pre's SRP is listed as \$549.99, much better than the \$999.99 reported earlier.
- Touchstone will set you back \$70; \$32 for a vehicle charger; \$35 for a travel charger
- A plastic holster will cost \$25, while a leather slip case will be \$40
- Sprint's Everything Data 450 will be \$70/month; Everything Data 900 will be \$90/month. The Simply Everything plan is still priced at \$100/month
- SERO plans are not being offered for Pre customers
- You must subscribe to both a voice and data plan when you upgrade to a Pre.

Microsoft Exchange Support

- Exchange ActiveSync (EAS) will be used for PIM data syncing

- You won't be able to invite people to meetings with EAS and webOS
- You can use the Exchange Global Address Book look up feature
- SSL support will be available for encrypting email messages

Documents To Go

Documents To Go is an interesting item this go around. Documents To Go has been a staple of Palm OS for the better part of a decade. However, with webOS, we're likely headed back to, for all intents and purposes will be, a version 1.0 release. So while I do expect Documents To Go to ship pre-loaded on the Pre, I am not expecting that this new Palm webOS edition will have all the features of the Palm OS edition has today.

It is my guess that the webOS edition of Documents To Go will be a lot like the iPhone/iPod touch edition of Documents To Go which should be out at some point this week or next. I'll be free to talk more about the webOS and iPhone/iPod touch editions of Documents To Go once those apps are released.

Everything Else

That's all well and good. However, as I was reading through the reset of the document, I kept coming back to a little thing that I know you all have read be talking about in the past; something that I dubbed "Mobile Me Too." Late last year, Palm closed down their MyPalm portal and Palm Backup client beta programs. At the time I said don't count MyPalm out as it will make a come back in the future. I think that future is here and that some of that evidence can be found in the Sprint document. Hear me out. In the Sprint document, we learn of:

- The requirement to create a Palm profile account (think Cloud HotSync ID here)
- Said profile will be used by multiple applications/services
- Palm will provide an OTA backup solution (think Palm Backup beta here)
- Software installs will all be done OTA (MyPalm portal offered this service)

- A kill pill can be issued to a Pre from a customer's Palm profile web page

To me, those things taken together sure sound like what I was envisioning the MyPalm portal being back in July of last year. (<http://www.smartphonefanatics.com/2008/07/up-in-air.html>) I really do think that Palm is moving in the same direction that I was suggesting all those months ago, and the Pre with webOS will be the first device that will be able to leverage those new Palm web portal services. I no longer believe that Palm will build their own web portal for managing your PIM data. In my mind, the missing piece between then and now is how PIM data will be synchronized with Synergy, the HotSync Manager replacement. Will your PIM data be accessible from this portal or not? It might be. But it does sound like you will be able to manage some aspects about the Pre and webOS from a web portal application. And that my friends, is not only really cool, but a step in the right direction.

If you haven't seen the Sprint launch guide yet, I'll have a link the PreCentral forums where it was posted for your viewing enjoyment.

For the sake of time, I'm going to skim over the fact that SprintGurus.com has gotten their hands on Palm's documentation of the Pre. If you want to check it out, you can head over there. I'll just warn you that if you want to download the documents, they have been watermarked and you have to register for their forums. If you don't mind reading the files online, there are links to an online viewer.

You're listening to the 1SRC Palm-Powered Podcast.

<musical queue>

In the interest of time, I'm going to skip over the leaked information about the new Palm Eos smartphone. I'll circle back around and cover that rumor on next week's show. I'll just say that if you have not read about Eos yet, think webOS Centro replacement.

New Palm webOS Features Demonstrated

But the news that everyone will be talking about around the water cooler is what went down Thursday at the D: All Things Digital conference.

When I read on GadgetsOnTheGo Thursday morning that “the Palm guys” will be taking the stage I had flash backs to Jeff Hawkins pitching the Foleo and how bad that presentation was.

At the end of the day, I’m feeling better about Jon Rubenstein and Roger McNamee appearance at D and I’m super excited about some of the cool stuff they were showing off.

So what did Palm talk about on Thursday? Well, for starters, Palm was talking up the media sync feature. Media sync allows the Pre to appear in iTunes similar to the way an iPhone would appear and allows you to seamlessly sync DRM-free music (here is great reason to upgrade to iTunes Plus tracks) to your Pre smartphone. Media sync is also suppose to allow you to sync DRM free video content to your Pre, however, after watching some of the video footage from All Things Digital, I’m waiting to get a look at the official documentation first. The press release that was issued Thursday talks about side loading video content on the phone. Side loading is geek speak for connecting the phone to your computer like a USB hard drive and then copying the files you want over to the phone.

In addition to being able to sync music from your Mac or PC to the Pre, you will also be able to purchase music from Amazon’s online store directly on the phone. If you happen to be connected to a Wi-Fi hot spot, you can download the content directly to the Pre also.

And, as it turns out, media sync has one more trick up it's sleeve, it works with your computer's camera software to import the photos taken from your Pre into your photo management software. So I'll be looking to see if the Pre connects up with iPhoto and offers to import the pictures on the Pre. I'm also interested to see whether or not the Pre can geotag the photos it takes. That is to say, when the Pre captures an image, can you optionally record the GPS coordinates of where you are into the photo? My BlackBerry Curve 8330 can do it, so I would expect the Pre and webOS to be able to do it also. The cool thing about that, is that as software becomes more "geo-aware" let's say, applications like iPhoto '09 can link in with Google Earth or Maps to show you a push pin on a map of where you were when the photo was taken.

The second feature, the ability to search Twitter using webOS' universal search sounds cool, but I just don't tweet so it is hard for me to get excited about this one. That said, when you look at the consumer nature of the Pre, and in particular, webOS, it makes sense that this feature be in there. And if we look down the road just a bit, it makes even more sense on the other consumer oriented smartphone from Palm, the Eos which, if the rumors are true, will be hitting store shelves right around the end of calendar year 2009.

And finally, the third new feature of webOS is the App Catalog. App Catalog is Palm's answer to Apple's App Store and RIM's BlackBerry App World. The software is in beta right now, but it does look really promising. I have contacted Palm's PR agency to see if they can clarify whether or not App Catalog will ship on the Pre as beta software, or if it will be finalized when Pre ships next weekend.

So I'm really encouraged about these new features that Palm started talking about. There are some other features that Palm didn't talk about in today's press release or the All Things Digital highlights video. For example, on Wednesday afternoon, Ryan over at PalmInfoCenter was reporting that webOS' email client does support the IMAP email protocol's IDLE command. That sounds boring as hell, but what it means is that Pre users who have GMail accounts will have near real-time email delivery similar to what

BlackBerry and Windows Mobile Exchange ActiveSync users are used to. Yes, that by itself is enough to make me think that I won't mind deactivating my BlackBerry for a Sprint edition Palm Pre.

Also, Verizon and AT&T executives have been quoted as saying that they do plan on picking up the Palm Pre as soon as Sprint's exclusive window closes. Look for these two US carriers to pick up the Pre by the end of the year if everything goes according to plan.

Before we leave this topic, I want to point out something. My long time listeners will recall that I challenged Palm to bring a richer media experience to their products. It was all the way back in July of 2007 that I wrote:

"Palm should be focusing on the ease of use aspects of loading and playing music on their devices. The key reason why the iPod has been so successful is because it is unbelievably easy to get content on the device. The good news for Palm and their customers is that all of the required pieces for easy media playback are software; and software is easy to add." (http://www.1src.com/scripts/show/1951-The_Un_Treo.html)

While it turned out the software at the time was all wrong for ease of use, I'm glad to see that Palm has answered the call and appears to have implemented a very consumer friendly way to get music on the Pre.

ComputerWorld Picks Palm Pre's Top 5 Cool Features

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9133063>

I want to spend a few minutes talking about an article I saw in a recent issue of ComputerWorld magazine talking about the Pre and webOS's top 5 cool features. The article is called "5 Palm Pre features that will shake up the smartphone market". I'll

have a link to the web article in this week's show notes if you want to go check it out. Just keep in mind that this top 5 list was created before this past Thursday's announcement of webOS's new features.

ComputerWorld's top five cool features of webOS and the Pre include, in no particular order:

1. Touchstone wireless charger
2. Pre's form factor, specifically, the rounded edges of the phone
3. Palm webOS' ability to multitask just like our desktop and notebook computers
4. Support for Flash - sort of - Support for Adobe Flash will be added as an update
5. An improved camera as compared to iPhone and other Palm devices

I personally like the idea of of Touchstone. Palm webOS aside, this is one of the few accessories that I can remember getting excited about. The downside is that Palm is going to be charging \$70 for this cool gadget and so I'm not such if I'll get one right away when I get my Pre. I may wait a bit and see if Palm, Sprint, Amazon, or maybe even Best Buy get a good accessories bundle going so when you pay upwards of \$70 for accessories you can get a few extra items in addition to just Touchstone.

Of course multitasking is going to be a big win for Palm if it can be pulled off correctly. And by that, I mean that applications launch quickly and that you can move between open applications quickly. A good test, and one I'm sure that many people are going to try is running the music application and see if the device skips when switching to another application. Everybody remember what happened with the Treo 700p and LifeDrive train wrecks? I know that I'll be testing for that skip. But if multitasking really works as advertised, that would be a really nice edition to the mobile tool kit.

On a similar theme, I'm also interested in seeing how well Flash support is implemented in webOS. Again, if Flash is implemented correctly on webOS, it could be a major leg up on iPhone OS which doesn't support Flash today either. Palm is working with Adobe

on implementing a mobile Flash of sorts and we'll have to wait until Flash gets baked into webOS and it starts appearing on webOS devices. But I think that ComputerWorld may have been bending the rules just a little bit when they talked about Flash support in webOS. I think we all have to agree that this is planned support for Flash in webOS.

I'd like to hear what your top features are for Palm webOS and the Pre smartphone. Let us know by stopping by the 1SRC forums and leaving us a note in the 1SRC Podcast 211 discussion thread.

Closing

All right, I think that will do it for this edition of the 1SRC podcast. I didn't get to the Windows Mobile Minute segment this week, so I'll be sure to get my final thoughts on the Treo Pro in next week's show.

From all of us here at 1SRC, I'm your host Alan Grassia, until next week, thanks for listening!