

Technology Rage: How to Use All the New Gizmos

BY MEGAN MAJONEN

What is a...? How do you use a...?

Zune? A Zune is a Microsoft product. It's only 2x4 inches, but it plays music, videos, holds pictures, and more! The owner can communicate with anyone with a Zune within a certain radius of her/his Zune. It has almost double the pixel density resolution of a modern laptop, giving it the feeling of a mini TV. The Zune has one large button in the center that can be pushed in different ways to manipulate the menu. The button is below the screen. A Zune has many different attachments, including a Zune AC Adapter, Zune Dock, and a Zune FM tuner with AutoSeek, among other extensions that can be bought. Zune also comes with pre-loaded audio tracks, music videos, film shorts and images. Some audio tracks are "At the End of the Sky" by Darkel, "Stay" by Small Sins, and "Open Book" by The Rakes.

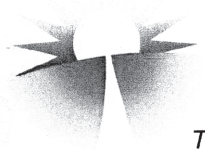
Internet search engines? A search engine is a database on the internet that allows a person to search the entire internet

for a term or phrase. An internet search engine is simple really; but first you have to find it. Some computers are set so that when the user connects to the internet the first screen they see is a search engine. That is not always the case. If it does not open straight to a search engine, here is what to do. First, determine the search engine that you want to use. If this is the first time using a search engine, try one of two well-known engines: Google or Yahoo. Next, type in google.com, yahoo.com, or any other engine names like ask.com, in the white text box at the top of the screen, called the URL location bar. Then hit ENTER on the keyboard. This should bring up a window that is the selected search engine. On Yahoo, there are many different links on the page; it is more than just a search engine. Google, on the other hand, is very straightforward; no distracting buttons or links to other sites. Type in the term that is being searched in the search box. Then click the search button next to the box and the computer will do the rest using "spiders" and "crawlers" to search through all existing websites for matches to your search, which are sorted by keyword, ranking and reputation.

PDAs? PDAs are personal digital assistants. They are electronic devices that usually can be held in your hand. Their most renowned use is as a planner, but they have many other aspects that can be helpful. Two of the most common PDAs are BlackBerries and Palm Pilots.

BlackBerry? This is a personal digital assistant that has a high-tech calendar, phone, computer, and pager, all combined in a device small enough to fit comfortably in a hand. On certain models of the BlackBerry, owners can page one another. Owners can also Instant Message (IM) a friend's computer or BlackBerry, taking advantage of the wireless Internet access that is part of the gadget's system. E-mail is part of the internet package that is in most BlackBerries. They can also be used as phones! There is a planner area so a person can post meetings, events and other important occasions so that they won't forget that they have a fancy dinner planned.

Palm Pilot? A Palm Pilot is also a personal digital assistant. It is great for recording things like dates, phone numbers, and appointments. There is a keypad of sorts where a person can push letters on a screen with a small pen-like object that comes with the device. A Palm Pilot usually has a place for a notes section where a person can put a "To Do" list if need be. Some Palm Pilots also have a function where, if the owner is in a real hurry, he/she can write with the pen on the screen and the words (or designs) will appear on the screen. There are games that come on Palm Pilots, and games can be purchased for them.



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