Smart phones: Current Issues, Pros/Cons, and Future Directions

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Smart phones: Current Issues, Pros/Cons, and Future Directions

Over the past several years, there has been a virtual explosion with the smartphones. A smartphone provides mobile access to phone, email, organizer, and web browsing so that we can stay connected and be effective. It is undeniably one of the best inventions that has become available to this generation. In addition to time saving applications, a smartphone is a very convenient device, as it provides more accessibility to anyone, anytime, and anything. Research on smartphones in information systems is the most challenging research topic today.

However, there are cons and concerning aspects of the smartphone; for instance, ergonomics, the possibility of cheating during class exams, and being distracted by Internet or text messages, and reliability. Smartphones are dependent on high-speed data access, which may be limited only to areas with larger population densities. For educators aiming to reach rural areas with limited data access coverage, the smartphone may not be as effective. Also, in the educational field, certain applications, such as Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint are heavily used. Numerous smartphones do not have the same set of built-in application. Affordability of the smartphones and the recurring cost associated with data plans may be another con, especially if the student group is high school and is dependent for financial support. Another non-technological aspect that may be a significant con of smartphone is the distraction it brings to the students, especially during driving or in class (i.e., text messaging).

The smartphone (i.e., BlackBerry smartphone, iPhone, Palm Pre, Samsung Omnia II, and Google HTC phone) is widely used in Asia, North and South America, Europe, and depending on other regions, people may or may not use or have access to smartphones.

There are several promising trends that are taking place for the smartphone in the mobile business. The invited panelists (from North America, South America, Europe, and Asia) will discuss the current trends, aspects that may be concerning, and pros and cons of the smartphone. The panelists will also discuss current issues, along with future directions of smartphone in Asia, Europe, and North and South America. Educational aspects will be covered.

- Target audience of the panel
  * wireless telecommunications professionals at AMCIS

- Presentation format
  * each panelist will be presenting each assigned topic via Microsoft PowerPoint slides
  * each panel will present current status and issues of smartphone usages in the presenter’s region
  * each panel will present pros/cons and concerning aspects of using smartphone
  * all panelists will discuss future directions with the smartphone
*all panelists will also discuss how to use the smartphone in Information Systems education

- **Audience participation**
  *30 minutes from the audience (for comments)

**A LIST OF INVITED PANELISTS**

**Introduction & Current Status and Issues in Smart Phones**

**J. P. Shim**, Professor of MIS at Mississippi State University
He is Larry and Tonya Favreau Notable Scholar and Professor of business information systems at Mississippi State University. He serves on Wireless Telecommunication Symposium as Program Chair and Fellow Chair. He has received various grants and distinctions, including NSF, Microsoft, Booz-Allen & Hamilton/ASE, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, and CYR International. He is a twelve-time recipient of outstanding faculty award at MSU.

**Current Issues and Pros/Cons of Smart Phones in North America**

**Sasha Dekleva**, Professor of MIS at De Paul University
He is Professor of Management Information Systems at De Paul University. He has published numerous IT papers in Communications of the ACM, MIS Quarterly, Information Systems Research, Communications of AIS, and others.

**Current Issues and Pros/Cons of Smart Phones in Asia (especially, China, Japan, Korea)**

**Byungtae Lee**, Professor of MIS at KAIST –
He is Professor of Management Information Systems at Korea Advanced Institute of Information Technology (KAIST). He has published numerous ICT papers in various IS journals.

**Current Issues and Pros/Cons of Smart Phones in Europe**

**Jan Muntermann**, Professor of MIS at Goethe-University Frankfurt
He is Professor of Management Information Systems at Goethe-University Frankfurt. He has published numerous ICT papers in various IS journals, including Decision Support Systems.

**Current Issues and Pros/Cons of Smart Phones in South America**

**TBA**, Professor of MIS in South America (especially, from Lima, Peru)