



About me: I'm a journalism student trying to navigate my way around the world of mobiles. Look me up on Twitter: @_Nexus



The display

Protected by reinforced glass, Nokia ClearBlack Display offers great contrasts and wide viewing angles, while also remaining readable even in direct sunlight.

Symbian^3

The smartphone legacy OS is obviously past its prime, but where it lacks in style, it makes up with sheer tenacity. **Ovi Store** is where the app business is at in Symbian.

Back cover

Nokia E7 dons the smooth aluminium shell while also staying surprisingly slim, but the trade-off here is the increased weight [176 g] and non-removable battery.

Keyboard

There's ample space between each key that makes this 4-row QWERTY keyboard a clear winner.

Slide & Tilt

A massive hinge tilts the 4 inch display at a comfortable 45 degree viewing angle. The slider feels solid, but somewhat tricky to engage.

The microUSB port provides local data connectivity and charging. With an included adapter, users can also connect external flash drives to expand the built-in 16 GB memory.

Support for DivX and XviD formats combined with 720p **HDMI video output** makes the E7 a great portable entertainment centre.

>> The "Anna" update

Things to look forward to

The long overdue revamp of Symbian user interface is still in the pipeline, but a less global, yet still very sought after free update dubbed as "Anna" is imminent for Nokia E7 as well as other Symbian^3 phones. Notable changes include a new set of icons (but without Nokia's new 'Pure' font), an improved portrait virtual QWERTY keyboard, smoother scrolling between homescreens, and a fresh, modern looking interface for the built-in web browser.



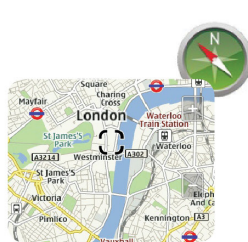
Podcatcher
Podcast feeds can be imported or manually added, and new downloads scheduled to use a wi-fi connection.
Status: £ 1.00



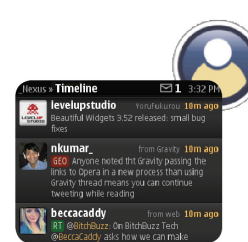
Opera Mobile
The badly outdated built-in S60 browser can, and should be replaced with this slick & fast Opera browser.
Status: Free



Sports Tracker
Great mobile app for staying in touch with your workout schedule. Possible to upload various data online.
Status: Free



Nokia Ovi Maps
Free pedestrian and car navigation makes this easy to use app essential on all GPS enabled Nokia phones.
Status: Free



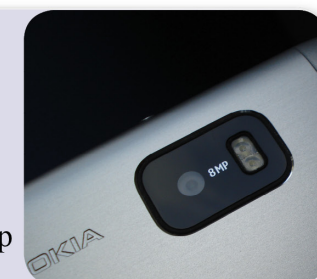
Gravity
This premier twitter client also comes with Facebook, Foursquare and even Google Reader functionality.
Status: £ 8.00

Ovi Store

>> The EDoF conundrum

Headaches for the photo-fans

The 8 Mpix Extended Depth of Field (EDoF) camera is probably the most controversial aspect of Nokia E7, offering performance that is far from consistent. While it manages a solid job at landscape photos; scanning business cards, taking close-up shots of documents or other small objects is almost out of the question. One reliable thing about the camera though - it is capable of producing decent quality 720p videos.



[VS] HTC Desire Z



The conservative styling and non-tilting touchscreen might be a disadvantage for some, but Google's mobile operating system (with HTC trademark Sense UI) means the overall user experience is butter smooth and with an ocean of quality apps available in the Android Market. High-res screen, auto-focus camera and MicroSD card slot are another strong points to consider.

>> Conclusion

With Microsoft Exchange support, unsurpassed telephony and excellent QWERTY keyboard, Nokia E7 is poised to be a great business device, but the many little potholes in Symbian user experience, low resolution screen along with a surprisingly dull camera greatly hinders its success. Nevertheless, it offers solid multimedia features boosted by an HDMI port and expansive 16GB built-in memory, all the while wrapped in a stylish, premium feel aluminium unibody.

Operating System

Symbian^3

Display

4.0 inches, 360 x 640 pixels, AMOLED

Performance

680 MHz ARM 11 processor, 256 MB of RAM

Connectivity

3G, HSDPA, Bluetooth (3.0), Wi-Fi (b/g/n), MicroUSB, mini-HDMI, 3.5 mm audio-out

Camera

8 MPix, Fixed-Focus, dual-LED flash

Storage

16 GB built-in

Battery

Li-Ion 1200 mAh, user non-replaceable