



Fast phones

Who makes the fastest phones right now? Our Tech Guy, Jon Mamonski found them

Phone operating systems keep getting faster thanks to thinner and more powerful chips under the hood.

ASUS, renowned electronics company, well known for introducing ultra-thin notebooks, has also been making award winning mobile phones for many years. Two new models are powered by the latest flagship Snapdragon 8+ Gen 1 Mobile Platform, making the ROG 6 (Republic of Games) and the Zenfone 9 the most powerful mobiles ever released.

ASUS ROG 6 gaming phone

Gaming phones demand high power and the 165 Hz high screen refresh rate in the ROG Phone 6 is bringing unrivalled performance and the most immersive gaming features possible including a high-end X-axis vibration motor to make the vibration and rumble effects feel even stronger. The ASUS ROG 6 has a 6.78" HDR10+ display

and a total of 6,000 mAh battery power using two 3,000 mAh batteries to keep the phone cooler and staggering sound tuned by Dirac with two front-facing speakers.



The new attachable AeroActive Cooler 6 also offers four additional physical buttons for game input, a kickstand and a fan which draws its power directly from the phone, improving your gaming experience on the go. There's lots of gaming accessories too including attachable gamepads, clip and dock. Even if you are not a gaming zealot, the sheer speed, display and sound quality of the ROG 6 phone is mightily impressive. \$1799.

Zenfone 9

The Zenfone 9 smartphone is a compact 5.9-inch 'one-hander' with high performance and exciting new features. Also powered by the latest flagship Snapdragon 8+ Gen 1 Mobile Platform, the Zenfone 9 gives a premium, sleek look and feel, with four eye-catching new colours, a tactile new high-grip texture, and IP68 certification.

The new design features a significantly upgraded dual-camera system with a 50 MP Sony IMX 766 main camera featuring a new 6-Axis Hybrid Gimbal Stabiliser, electronic image stabilisation (EIS) and ultrafast autofocus technology for sharp, shake-free photos and videos. There's also a 12 MP IMX 363 ultrawide camera and a 12 MP IMX 663 punch-hole front camera for crystal clear selfies and video chats.

As Zenfone 9 fits perfectly in one hand, the ASUS ZenUI 9 (Android 12 'UI' user interface) has been optimised for one-handed use. There's also the unique ASUS ZenTouch, a multifunction side-mounted power button incorporating a fingerprint sensor for hassle-free unlocking and support for convenient gesture controls. From \$1199.

What's new?



Dazzling OLED laptop display

The ASUS Zenbook 14X OLED series features a dazzling 14-inch 2.8K OLED HDR 16:10 display with a 4-sided NanoEdge design, featuring incredibly slim 3 mm bezels on its external borders to provide an up to 92% screen to body ratio. The display supports 3840 x 2400 resolution, for astonishing detail and is certified VESA DisplayHDR 500 True Black. You simply must see it to believe it. Nothing in laptops is this bright and colourful. The touchpad can be a screen too and its fast with the latest Intel chip options and thunderbolt ports. From \$2299.



Indulge in superior sound

Earbud design has leapt ahead in the Technics EAH-AZ60 with the unique design of the acoustic chamber, harmoniser and 8mm drivers that deliver exceptionally rich, expansive sound which you can control from your phone app. With eight individual mics and advanced wind-noise reduction, EAH-AZ60 transmits your voice clearly on each call with 'JustMyVoice' Technology isolating and amplifying words while minimising surrounding noise. With the compact charging case from \$265.

TCL – new Dolby soundbar

TCL's new TS8132 is a 3.1.2 Dolby Atmos soundbar with wireless subwoofer, delivering immersive sound from your favourite streaming services, TV and games. Experience Dolby Atmos with eight speakers offering a powerful soundstage as it will also quickly become your living room audio hub with Chromecast built-in, working with Apple AirPlay, Hey Google and Alexa connecting to all popular audio ecosystems. It also supports HDMI with eARC to connect to your TV supporting all audio formats and Dolby Vision compatible 4K pass-thru as well from \$399.





Shopping goes hi-tech

It had to happen. iPad-type screens on your supermarket trolley to ease your shopping burden. Instacart is rolling out a new model of its smart Caper shopping cart. You can sync your phone app Instacart-compatible shopping list to help find items and mark them as purchased the moment you put them in the cart. Carrot Tags light up electronic shelf labels to help you find items, while links between departments let you pick up orders from the bakery and deli without having to wait in line. Could hit our supermarkets in 2023.



LG fridge changes colours

LG's new MoodUP refrigerator from its Objet collection has colour-changing LED door panels with built-in speakers offering something completely different for your kitchen than the usual white or brushed metal. Using LG's ThinkQ app or tapping on the door, you can choose from 22 colours for the upper door panel and 19 colours for the lower one. Or you can let it choose various colour themes like 'Season', 'Place', 'Mood' and 'Pop' that represent things like the colours of nature or 'a feeling of wellbeing through the use of soft, soothing colours'. The panels will blink repeatedly if you leave the door open for too long or flash a welcome when someone approaches. The freezer door will also glow brighter at night 'to help midnight snackers find and open the door.' From \$5999.

Six best streaming channels

With dozens of streaming channels available on your smart TV, which ones provide the best value for your monthly subscriptions?

1. Compared to other streaming services, no one offers more high-quality content at a single price than Netflix with more than 6500 titles, some with 4K and HDR and new content is released every week from \$10.99 a month.

2. In recent years Amazon Prime has increased its original output with award-winning series like *The Marvelous*

Mrs. Maisel, as well as highly-regarded genre content like *The Boys*, *Bosch*, *Jack Ryan* and *The Lincoln Lawyer*. Amazon also has content that's available to watch in 4K and HDR and unlike Netflix it won't charge you extra for the privilege but do charge extra for some content. \$6.99 a month.

3. **Binge** takes advantage of the News Corp-owned company's partnership with WarnerMedia, meaning it's able to offer

an enormous selection of TV shows and films like Harry Potter and many from renowned American pay-TV network HBO including *Game of Thrones* and *House of the Dragon*. Add to this the company's ongoing partnerships with NBC Universal, FX, BBC and Sony and you have quite the impressive back catalogue of TV and movies to choose from. \$10 a month.

4. **Disney Plus Australia** is a dedicated

portal to the vast catalogue of movies and TV shows made and owned by the world's biggest international media group. This impressive service includes franchises like Marvel, Stars Wars and Pixar alongside popular TV series like *Modern Family*, *Family Guy*, *The Simpsons* and many more. \$11.99 a month.

5. **Stan**, Australia's homegrown subscription streaming service has more

Australian content than other streamers. Its ever-growing library houses roughly 2275 movies and nearly 600 TV shows which can be consumed on an array of devices – from \$10 per month.

6. **Britbox** is for lovers of British telly where there's a huge BBC and ITV library with titles like *Dr Who* and *Line of Duty* with heaps of comedy, period and crime dramas too. \$8.99 a month.

