

Phone Lessons at Verizon/Kyocera Revisited/Heavenly Shining Light

In my last article, I was drooling over the new Kyocera 6035, a wireless phone that was also a PDA. It synchronized with Outlook, so your calendar, contacts and to-do list were immediately accessible without having to enter them one by one. It had a speaker phone, voice activated dialing, and best of all, it had internet access and the ability to retrieve office email from my existing phone service. This was a big deal as other modem options for Palm devices that allowed email retrieval cost about \$40 a month, on top of your phone service. The asking price for all this was \$600. As I had a relatively new phone and a brand new Viser, this toy was going to have to wait a long time.

As usual, life happens, and it did. Two days after the article was published, my phone was stolen. I cruised down to Verizon (www.verizon.com), figuring I would simply extend my contract another year, and get another phone. Not to be. The smiling Pat Sajak look-a-like called up my account and informed me that since I had over 4 months left on my contract, I could not extend. No deals. Retail only.

“What if I just cancel?” I wondered out loud. “No problem,” said the teeth. “As long as you understand that there is a cancellation penalty in your contract.” “Of adhesive,” I answered. Yeah right. A 51 year old lawyer, too cheap to pay \$1 a month for insurance is going to garner a lot of sympathy over a clause that says what it says in plain English, even if is adhesive. I looked, but couldn’t find a “vague and ambiguous” anywhere. Suddenly, a heavenly glow shone round the office. “We might have a used phone for sale.” Redemption. 30 minutes later, Summers got his hands on a Kyocera 6035 for \$200, which is what I would have paid for the *el cheapo* model. Almost brand new. Still in warranty. Used by a customer for only a few weeks who brought it back in because it was too complicated. (Actually, the guy swore she was a little old lady, but I don’t need the mail on this issue, so she remains “customer.”)

And dear readers, it does everything it was advertised to do. For the cost of my normal phone service, plus the internet access fee of \$7 month, I can get and respond to my email from anywhere in the country. No laptops to lug around. No funky modems. Just one simple click and presto, there it is. All my office Outlook contacts, my calendar, plus every program that works with Palm. Federal Rules of Evidence, Procedure, Bankruptcy, Constitution and other documents are now on my phone, as well as the local rules of court for Shelby County. With Avantgo (www.avantgo.com), which copies web pages onto a Palm, I downloaded the rules off of www.memphisbar.org. [Www.aportisdoc.com](http://www.aportisdoc.com) allows any Word, Wordperfect or Adobe document to be converted for use on a PDA, so there are few limitations. But there is competition.

The Nokia 9290 will be here shortly. It does everything the Kyocera does and in color. Using the Symbian platform, as opposed to Palm OS, , this phone has Word, Excel and the ability to receive and view video, Powerpoint and most other images. Price unknown. Bad reviews on the Sprint based Infocomm TP3000. Don’t bother. Also check out the Trium Mondo www.trium.net. Looks cool but memory may not be sufficient, according to ZDNet review. Read all about these phones at www.zdnet.com.

New Stuff. How about a program that allows you to create an evidentiary data base in Summation from email produced during discovery? Go to www.pacificlegal.com. ABA Techshow 2002 will be held March 14-16 in Chicago. Details at www.techshow.com. I dumped my Proxim and installed a Linksys router and wireless and phone line based ethernet system at home. Works great. More details next issue. Happy New Year!

(www.happynewyear.com) Not.
