



Reviewer and User Identified Problems with T9 and EZiText

This document collects various reports by professional phone reviewers, as well as end users which express negative reactions to AOL's T9 and Zi Corporation's EZiText predictive text entry software. This collection was made by Eaton in an effort to improve its own products. By clearly identifying usability problems in these systems, we could better insure that our products are free of those drawbacks.

The overall impression one gets from these reports is that T9 is considered fair to good by some, an improvement over multi-tap, but there is room for further improvement. This is faint praise. Many prefer multi-tap over T9, especially young people who employ a special, compact language for "texting". While there are insufficient data, the few reviews we have found suggest that T9 is better than EZiText.

The problems pointed to most frequently are:

- 1) T9 is hard to learn.
- 2) T9 can't deal with words not in its dictionary, you have to add them.
- 3) The T9 display jumps around while you are entering a word, which is disturbing.
- 4) The T9 display jumps around while you are entering a word, which makes it hard to fix a typing mistake.
- 5) punctuation is difficult in T9.
- 6) Sometimes T9 makes a wrong guess, which you have to fix.
- 7) T9 doesn't let you simultaneously write in more than one language.
- 8) Problems with maintaining the user dictionary (entering a wrong word in the dictionary).

All of these problems are due to the use of a dictionary in these systems. Eaton products do not employ a dictionary.

To facilitate scanning of this document, certain phrases have been placed in bold type.

Comments on T9 by professional reviewers

<http://www.geckobeach.com/cellular/reviews/sanyo4500.htm>

December 2002

In a review of the **Sanyo SCP4500**

Many users will likely find T9 somewhat annoying at first (I found it difficult to get used to on a Nokia 8890 when I had the chance to try it out), but don't worry as you can turn it off (switch to alphabetic) and play with it when you have some time to kill. You can also add entries to the T9 dictionary if you are using less common words.

<http://www.mouthshut.com/readreview/17566-1.html>

21 Jan 2002 Review of the **Panasonic GD35**

Another negative point is the T9 editor where in you can't type a name straight away. I am still struggling with it. Anybody who can lend me a helping hand, please do so.

http://www.epinions.com/content_78995164804

October 23, 2002

T9 Text Input is the most annoying feature I have ever come across with any cell phone. It's a default service where when you're inputting something into your address book, it tries to finish to word for you. So, if you're trying to input a number you have to turn this feature off. I've never found it to be beneficial.

www.allaboutcellphones.co.za/REVIEW_M35i.htm

SIEMENS M35i Reviewed: 20 September 2000

The M35i incorporates a thing called T9 predictive text, which means the phone anticipates what words you will type in during an SMS. **I found this a monster to operate and my results were gibberish. My colleague found it a breeze. (editor's note: judging by the emails we receive, the reviewer is not alone in being baffled by predictive text. In next week's issue we'll do our best to demistify this feature.)**

www.t9.com/Articles/WhatMobile12-99.html

To use T9 smoothly you simply add the same principle, **despite the fact that on screen sometimes the word can look like complete gibberish as you go along, because T9 tries to display a possible word as you enter each character.**

The real danger of T9 is that you get distracted from typing your message and lured into exploring T9's vocabulary. **It can actually slow you down when composing quick short text messages. With very short words, it's not always easy for T9 to second-guess you.**

For instance, if you pressed the 6 (MNO) key and then the 3 (DEF), you could equally be trying to type 'Me' or 'Of'. But the possibility of error decreases dramatically with each letter you add.

When the system doesn't recognise a new word the software flags up the alien one and lets you enter it traditionally, and then learns it. For example, typing the editor's nickname, Perdy, brings up 'Serf' when you get as far as 'Perd'.

When you add a Y, it admits defeat, and says 'Serf?', while the legend above the menu button reads: 'Spell?' Press Spell and it takes you straight to Insert Word. Thereafter, it recognises 'Perdy'.

Product Review NeoPoint 1000 cellular phone Stewart Wolpin September 13, 1999

Believe it or not, the "intuitive text entry " software supplied by Tegic T9, an alternative to Windows CE Jot and Palm's Graffiti handwriting recognition schemes, actually works most of the time. But it's still not a good inputting solution.

"Typing" in T9 is disconcerting at best and laborious at worst (for a full explanation of how the T9 software works, refer to my "first impressions") piece. The software doesn't translate your numeric key taps until it has a decent idea of the word you're attempting to type. Initially, you'll get a mess of letters that resembles a vowel-impaired Eastern European name. Four or five letters into the word, T9 posits its first, often inaccurate, guess. For instance, while typing out "before," the software guessed "been" four letters into the process. **I had to recount the letters so I knew what key to tap next.**

The biggest problems with T9 are non-alpha characters -- punctuation and especially the @ symbol in every email address -- and proper names. To add a non-alpha character, you have to scroll to the "symbol" mode and choose the right one. Because T9 doesn't recognize most names, you are forced to use the multi-tap "alpha" text entry function.

Overall, the NeoPoint 1000 is pretty and solid -- a big plus. Buttons are tactile. The screen is readable. **T9 works but isn't an adequate alternative to Jot or Graffiti. In sum, the phone's ergonomic positives slightly outnumber the T9 negatives.**

5/5/1999 IGS NEOPOINT 1000: FIRST IMPRESSIONS

What's up, dock? By Stewart Wolpin

Word guessing

The software works much like how you'd "spell" out an employee name when using a phone system's directory or how you'd use MovieFone to spell out a movie title, only in reverse because those systems "know" there are only a limited number of potential words that you are attempting

to type out. Using an on-board dictionary and some AI technology, T9 figures out the word you're trying to key in. Here's how it works:

Press the numeric key that corresponds to the letter of the word you want to key in once. Each time you hit a new number to represent a new letter, the software narrows down the combination possibilities. By the third or fourth key, the probabilities have been narrowed down pretty finitely.

For instance, let's use the "C-H-O" example above. Hit the "2" key once for "C." The software knows the word you want either starts with an A, B or C, but prints an "A" as a placeholder. Now hit the "4" key for the "H." The software now figures out that the word can't start with "B-G" or "C-G," but will likely display "A-G" until it gets more information. When you add the "6" for the letter "O," the software can eliminate some other combinations and can start to suss out the word, **although it'll still look like gobbledygook (probably "A-G-M") on the screen.**

By the time you get to the fourth letter, the software will probably have a pretty good read on what you're trying to type. Once it narrows down the possibilities to one or two possibilities, the gobbledygook morphs into a real word and each numeric key you hit results in the exact letter you want.

For instance, hitting "7" could result in "CHOP," "CHOR" or "CHOS" -- all viable candidates -- and at least "C-H-O" will likely appear on the screen. But once you then hit "3," of the three possible letters, only the "E" can be correct to follow "C-H-O-7" (since a "7" can mean either "CHORE" or "CHOSE," and the software chooses the most likely to display), and that's the letter that will appear. (For an interactive example of how Nokia's 7110 "predictive text entry" works, go to its Tutorial page.)

Of course all this guessing is pretty useless for short words. The combination of "6" and "3" could be "OF" or "ME." The "2-3" combo could be "AD" or "BE," "4-6" could be "GO" or "IN," "4-6-6-3" is "GONE" or "GOOD," "2-6-6-5" could be "COOL" or "BOOK," and so on. **You will need to scroll through possibilities and choose the one you want.** Punctuation is on a completely separate screen and is cursor-chosen.

The primary problem with T9 is names, which often don't follow dictionary logic. And people's names (that is, additions to the address book) are the kind of entries I see being done most often on the NeoPoint or any T9-equipped smartphone.

While T9 pretty much has an answer for all these spelling situations (for names, you'd switch to the "alpha" mode, the multi-tap method described above), this combination of input options/solutions is not even a decent alternative to Jot or Graffiti.

www.digit-life.com/articles/mobilet9/index.html

T9 or text predicative input in mobile telephones By Amalyan Tygran

What is this? Using the T9 system we are pressing the button with the necessary letter only one time. Having typed several letters you should wait until the T9 creates a word. If this word coincides with that you wanted to type just press a space button and turn to the next word. And if not, the T9 will offer some other words made from the letters you have keyed in. In order to choose the right word press the "0" button and set it with pressing of the space button or any punctuation mark.

Unfortunately, there are some difficulties. There is a good deal of words that can't be typed without arrows. For example, the word "mainboard".

6-mno - m,
2-abc - na,
4-ghi - nag,
6-mno - main,
2-abc - maina,
6-mno - mainam,
2-abc - mainama,
7-pqrs - mainamap,
3-def - mainamard.

I failed, but anyway, you have to press 14 times using arrows than 18 in a usual mode. Note that the ">" is pressed 6 times successively, it means that you can just press and hold the button.

arcx.com/sites/Motorola%20L7089.htm

My Impressions of the Motorola L Series

Last Updated: 07-Mar-2000

The phones also support the T9 Predictive Text Input. This means that you can spell words by pressing each key only once. For example, to spell "owl" using a standard phone, you would need to press 6,6,6,9,9,5,5,5. On the L Series phone you would enter just 6,9,5. The built-in dictionary looks up the word that fits the keys you have typed. If more than one word fits, you can scroll through the choices.

This idea works well for words in the dictionary, but it is a pain otherwise. You must first turn off the T9 option and then type the word in the "traditional" way. You must then turn T9 back on to continue.

Brad Smith – Wireless Week - December 6, 1999

When Jeff Hawkins, a founder of both Palm Computing Co. and Handspring Inc., complains about the complexity of wireless devices, people listen.

“One of the problems with the NeoPoint 1000 smart phone, he says, is that the T9 text-entering software from Tegic Communications Inc. is cumbersome and sometimes doesn't work. Entering text on a handset may always be difficult because of the limitation imposed by the numeric keypad.”

www.wirelessweek.com/news/Exclusives/excl126.htm

By Phil Harvey Redherring.com, December 03, 1999

The acquisition of Tegic by AOL did not raise many eyebrows, and no wonder. **Tegic software, which allows easy text entry on wireless phones, is boring and poorly branded.** But the acquisition means some large wireless device makers are now licensing..

www.redherring.com/insider/1999/1203/news-aol.html

By DAVID STROM - Computer World
(November 08, 1999)

Built in to the phone is software from Tegic Communications Inc. called T9. Because you have only 12 buttons to key in any text, Tegic has developed a way to predict what you're going to type and to facilitate the process. **Although it's no substitute for a QWERTY keyboard, it does a credible job.**

www.computerworld.com/cwi/story/0,1199,NAV47_STO37508,00.html

May 2000

By David Hewson - Business Life

The oddly named US outfit Tegic just might be the answer. This company's brainwave is a system for helping you type text quickly on devices that were never designed to sport keyboards. T9 works by memorizing common words and letting you tap the letters on a simple text display. The software then makes a guess at what you mean- and is amazingly accurate most of the time **It's a little hard to get used to at first, but do persist.** Once you get the hang of things, it can make scrawling e-mail on a mobile phone almost a pleasure. [...]

www.tegic.com/Articles/businesslifeMay00.htm

Christopher Elliot – The Travel Technologist , July 13, 2000

I did not like all of the typing and backspacing that's necessary in order to enter text on to this cell phone. For example, it took three minutes to type a single URL. When you enter text into the NP1000, you have to use its numeric keypad, which takes some getting used to. **I couldn't seem to get a feature called the Tegic T9, which automatically matches your key-**

strokes with words in an internal word database to predict the word you are typing, to work for me.

www.elliott.org/technology/2000/cool.htm

Walter S. Mossberg Tuesday, September 7, 1999

Entering text with the limited phone keypad is made easier because the NeoPoint uses Tegic's clever **T9 technology, which tries to guess the word you're typing. But it's still a tedious process compared with using a keyboard.**

www.expressindia.com/fe/daily/19990907/fle07071.html

cdma.edu.chinaren.com/fashion1/3210e.htm

Support for T9 technology is new and it helps to type SMS messages faster. Our handset supports English, French, Italian, [T9 in progress] Spanish, Dutch, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish. The Czech language is missing and there is only little hope for the future. **It was better to turn T9 (its called Predictive Input) off and type the regular way.** The final version could have T9 with a dictionary and a good chance to teach it those few Czech words you really need to type to SMS. English support by T9 is great - the speed made me type messages to my buddies in English. (Nokia for some reason doesn't understand four letter words:). This beta version didn't have the possibility to pick up a similar word when T9 was wrong, but you could switch to Spell mode and type in about 30 letters the old way. I have to emphasize, it is better to turn the T9 feature off for the Czech language and the same for other unsupported languages.

www.momag.co.uk/reviews/8810.html

Like the 3210, the 3310 have predictive text messaging. Is this a bane or a boon? The answer would depend on how the user uses the phone's text messaging. Initially shunned by 3210 owners as "cumbersome" it may yet prove to be a worthy feature. You see, the trouble lies within the language that the phone uses when sending messages. It simply won't recognize most Tagalog terms - so in the long run, texting while using this can be a bit tedious, and would make the user "erase" more words than in typing them. To solve this, the 3310 and some of the more recent 3210s, especially those made in Asia - now feature the Tagalog language as one of their Menu languages. So I presume, predictive texting might finally be making its comeback, and would prove to be more useful than useless. Of course, when you really think about it - when texting in Tagalog, all of your terms should be in Tagalog too. Nokia hadn't considered "taglish" as a language, he he he.

www.mobilecomputing.com/showarchives.cgi?98.

Then there's the issue of text input. **Because predictive text programs that can help out on a phone's cramped keyboard typically guess entries based on context, they're useless when it**

comes to URLs, most numeric sequences and stock ticker symbols. Accordingly, you'll often need to press number keys more than once to enter a single character (i.e., 2 = A; 2-2-2 = C). Add in shift functions to move to the next space or enter punctuation, and finger overload can be paralyzing. For instance, entering ".com" required 10 keystrokes on the ThinPhone.

www.dispatch.com/connect/connect010402/643682.html

For the last two weeks, I've tested text-messaging services on AT&T's Nokia 5165 model and Verizon's Kyocera 2035A phone -- and have aged markedly from the effort.

I had hoped that the Kyocera and Nokia's "predictive entry" typing system would streamline and simplify the keypadding process. Predictive entry works like so: As you type your message, the phone's software guesses the word you intend and attempts to finish typing it for you.

But predictive entry can guess wrong, which has led to some really weird cellular chats with my wife.

"Call moonmm cab." (Meaning: Call me back.)

"Hiddee ugh is xyw." (Hi this is weird.)

"I an srpsf klauted." ("I am running late.")

Communication that otherwise is easy as pie here is more like calculating Pi. Many of us don't have the extra time to leave it in the oven until it comes out right.

www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/stores/detail/-/wireless/B000056NSB/

T9 text entry. This is a wonderful feature - except when you need a word not in its vocabulary. When entering calendar events, there's no way to turn off T9 and actually spell something. Suggestion: Cycling through the shift options should include the alphabetical modes. Entering names and addresses should also allow shifting from alphabetical to T9.

The phones also support the T9 Predictive Text Input. This means that you can spell words by pressing each key only once. For example, to spell "owl" using a standard phone, you would need to press 6,6,6,9,9,5,5,5. On the L Series phone you would enter just 6,9,5. The built-in dictionary looks up the word that fits the keys you have typed. If more than one word fits, you can scroll through the choices.

Sat, May 19, 2001

Is it better to send and to receive?

By Carly Suppa

Rogers AT&T Wireless recently announced two-way text messaging for its Digital PCS phones, a technology that, according to one analyst, will not satisfy customer expectations.

Knox Bricken, an analyst in the area of wireless mobile services with Framingham, Mass.-based Yankee Group, said factors such as network delays and network latency take away the instantaneous factor from instant and text messaging. **She added that complications with text input may also impede the user experience.**

"It takes so much longer to type," Bricken said. "It is like 12 or 14 clicks to say 'Hello.'"

But with some words, users won't have such an onerous task, according to David Robinson, vice-president of product management for Rogers AT&T. Some of the new Digital PCS phones such as the Nokia 5165 and 8260 come with the added feature of predictive text.

"With predictive text, if you want to type a word, you simply press the numeric key that contains the letter in the word you are typing, and the intelligence of the software figures out which word you probably meant," he said.

But the Yankee Group's Bricken said there is no way the software would be able to predict words beyond a certain level.

"It can't always predict," she said. "When it screws up, then you have to do more typing to undo it."

Though Robinson agreed predictive text periodically makes mistakes, he said it is very sophisticated software. He said there is always the ability for the user to turn the predictive text feature off, and "use the old method."

Robinson said the two groups which will immediately start using two-way text messaging are the business and youth communities, adding that the under-24 group is virtually "100 per cent Internet-connected and know all about e-mail and messaging. They are just used to it."

www.momag.co.uk/reviews/8890.html

review of a nokia phone:

b. Predictive text input: excellent for typing SMSes, especially on the dinky keypad, though you do need to understand how to use it. Those of us who rarely read manuals would do well to at least read the section on predictive text input or you'll just turn the feature off due to frustration! Once you understand that you don't enter text the same way that you used to, it is a real timesaver!

www.techtv.com/freshgear/firstlook/jump/0,23009,2566227,00.htm
(review of Nokia phone)

My first attempt at using T9 ended in failure because I wasn't using it correctly. It's not that it was hard , but that I made a false assumption about how it should work. When it didn't do what I expected it to, I was stymied. However, devices with as many features as the 8890 deserve to have their manual read. I not only discovered how T9 was used properly (it was easier than I had made it out to be), but also many other features. Since mobile phones are becoming such a nuisance, it's important that owners learn how to configure their telephones properly, so that they don't make noise when they don't need to, and so users can take full advantage of their capabilities. In short, read the manual. It's worth it.

Comments by end users

an 23, 2002 in a commentary on the Siemens C35i

<http://www.mouthshut.com/readreview/17627-1.html>

'9 input is there for text messaging (which can be turned off, thankfully!)

problems with entering URLs.

Tony Finch writes:

With GNS, a user need only push a number key once to choose a particular letter. Google determines the possible queries and presents the user with the Most relevant web pages.

Don't phones already have this built-in -- I mean the number-text best-match conversion, not the web search part.

Entering "slashdot.org" on my phone consists of the following steps:

- hit the 'alpha' softkey to switch to Tegic T9 "word" mode
- oops, that got me into "sym1" mode; I want "word" mode; hit the key again
- oops, that got me into "num" mode; hit it again
- ok, in word mode. type 'slashdot': 75274368.
- note that the phone says "slashten". Hit "0". The phone now says "slashdot". This step is necessary because once, several weeks ago, I typed 'slashten' by accident.
- press 1 for the period
- press the 'word' softkey four times to switch through alpha, sym1, and num modes and back into word mode; if I do not do this, the period will morph into a hyphen when I start typing letters after it
- dial 'org': 674. Display shows "slashdot.mph_". Hit 0 once to turn 'mph' into 'org'.
- hit the "OK" softkey.

This is one of the easier text-entry experiences with Tegic. Short words often require hitting '0' five or ten times to get to the right word; words not in the dictionary typically end up with a half-typed word that is different from the one I want, at which point I must backspace over the entire word, switch into "alpha" mode, and re-enter the entire word.

According to the article, GNS is like the name-search feature many voicemail systems feature: dial the name. If you dial 266, rather than trying to figure out whether you mean Ann or Con, it will simply provide you with all relevant results from either.

(This Motorola i1000plus makes TRS-80 BASIC look like an intuitive user interface. WinCE is hardly better)

<http://216.239.57.100/search?q=cache:jKZpAlX2yusC:xent.com/FoRK-archive/sept00/0981.html+t9+sucks+text&hl=en&ie=UTF-8>

<http://216.239.57.100/search?q=cache:jKZpAlX2yusC:xent.com/FoRK-archive/sept00/0981.html+t9+sucks+text&hl=en&ie=UTF-8>

http://216.239.57.100/search?q=cache:xD-acNcmEaIC:www.buynccell.com/phone_reviews/siemens/m35i/+t9+sucks+text&hl=en&ie=UTF-8

Keys are hard to press, darned T9 has to be turned off with EVERY, and i mean EVERY text message. Battery indicator tells you the wrong thing. I guess it really must be the NiMH batt. And I can't seem to get mine working with WAP.

<http://216.239.57.100/search?q=cache:GVcYU22uh6gC:www.esato.com/board/view-topic.php%3Ftopic%3D9528%26forum%3D3+t9+sucks+text&hl=en&ie=UTF-8~>

As for adaptive text (T9 Input), I don't really use it at all on any of my phones.

Re: Mobile Phones Must Die?

From: Josh White (josh@blackbrick.com)

Date: 01/27/01

Problem with predictive text input solutions including T9:

*** I feel like I'm being punished for using words outside a preset vocabulary. It adds a layer or filter between me and my writing, giving me less control (or discouraging me from straying anyway). That's bad for ease of communication!**

*** No onscreen feedback. Since all the onscreen letters change with every keypress, It's hard to tell if I pressed a button twice (when you're used to multi-tap, you do that a lot with T9).**

*** Most of my phone typing is proper names and numbers. I'm usually typing appointments ("Cyndi movie Castro 808 S.4th & Market #3"). URLs and email addresses are bad too. It is a lot faster for typing 'normal' text like this email...but I don't use my phone to write manuscripts, you know? Maybe it's great for text message users, but that's hard to imagine since they use abbreviations so much.**

I have T9 on my (USA english) phone and haven't used it more than 3 times.

-JOsh

PS - I definitely respect T9's ability to get installed on phones! T9 is quickly becoming an expected feature in the US. I'm not sure if this means T9 has an awesome marketing and bizdev department, or if phone manufacturers are REALLY hungry for a software-only solution.

Nokia 8210 johnneedham's opinion

Member: John Needham

Epinions.com ID: johnneedham

Location: London, UK

Predictive text: a brilliant feature although it has a limited dictionary but for most common words it makes writing an SMS message quick and simple. Its bit annoying sometimes, but I think that if they update the system it will be great.

From: Kragen Sitaker (kragen@pobox.com)

Date: Sat Sep 30 2000 - 13:05:18 PDT

Tony Finch writes:

- > >With GNS, a user need
- > >only push a number key once to choose a particular letter. Google
- > >determines the possible queries and presents the user with the most
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word; **words not in the dictionary typically end up with a half-typed word that is different from the one I want, at which point I must backspace over the entire word, switch into "alpha" mode, and re-enter the entire word.**

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<kragen@pobox.com> Kragen Sitaker <<http://www.pobox.com/~kragen/>>
Nokia

Review - users Nokia 3210

Dislikes:

Heavier than it's look! While others like the design, but to some it appeals more like a TV remote control. *hahaa:D*

And b'cos it has a heavy head, once u drop it... wala....

The predictive text mode may be useful, but i think most of us prefer turning it off, cos we use shorthand most of the time, dun we?

This phone take a couple of seconds to retrieve the inbox.... esp if u keep alot SMS.

One thing i dun like abt the nokia SMS feature is dat, after u sent an msg, it will go bk to the msg u had typed. If u didn't keep an eye, u may think ur msg hvn't sent thru.

The symbols are all found at the "*" key... which is quite difficult to navigate.

www.zdnet.com/products/stories/reviews/0,4161,269243,00.html

When inputting data into these applications, users have two choices: either a standard graphics keyboard or the new T9 keyboard from Tegic Communications, in which each key represents three characters. **While TI claims the T9 is a unique way to enter text with no training, it is really just another hunt-and-peck means of input with a learning curve similar to that of any other means of data entry.**

bbs.lineone.net/technology/mobilephones/msg00346.html

Subject: Re: Info on Trium Mars WAP phone
Author: Paul Stacey <p.stacey@libertysurf.co.uk>
Date: 17/03/01

>

> How many ring tones does it have, and how easy is it sending text
> messages?
>

It has 20 ringer tones (although some couldn't even be considered as such).

Text messaging is relatively straight forward (if you turn off the immensely irritating Predictive Text Input) - the only difference to most phones is that to get special characters, you have to select them from a menu (which isn't well documented, but easy if you know where to find it - just hold down hash for two seconds). Not being a text whizz I couldn't say how good it is for speed, but certainly none of my mates who are that have used haven't complained.

www.winnits.com/mar2001.shtml

actually went out and exercised yesterday.. and didn't collapse - in fact, **there were four of us playing badminton (or abdoiouoo as my phone's predictive text messaging seems to think)** for an hour, we played doubles and combined so that every possible team combination was played out... and I was on the winning team every time!... I believe it was more to do

groups.yahoo.com/group/Nokia7110/message/37

From: Kim Igel <kim.igel@D...> > > On a personal note, I think Nokia will bring out something similar

> What do you all think?

> > I think, that Nokia thinks that their predictive text-input is brill, - and

> will do the job....

> > **Just my opinion... I still have predictive text-input disabled because I like the 'old' style better..**

> > **Still, - I think Nokia will continue in that line, - not developing a keyboard....**

> > **In my opinion : I don't like predictive text input... (It confuses me :-)**

> **and that might not exactly be a problem with my phone..... :-)**)

> but I would definitely hate an external keyboard/pad..... (The size of it)

>

www.the-gadgeteer.com/t9-comments.html

I have had T9 installed for a couple of weeks and I have mixed feelings about it. It is a great technology but it has its limitations. The biggest problem I found is if I misspell a word, when I am done entering the characters, I don't get a misspelled word. I get garbage and I have

to start over again. e.g., if I enter "earthquake" I get a choice between "dartstbal" and "ebrurubbk". This "feature" is enough to make the product not useful to me.

www.futurelooks.com/reviews/mobile/phones/Nokia/3390/page3_frame.htm

Predictive Text Input

The other really cool thing about this unit is the predictive text messaging feature. Instead of typing out words by going through all the key punches, you can just type in the key that corresponds to the letter that you want and it will attempt to predict the word that you want. For example, lets just say that you wanted to spell "Hello". Well, all you would have to do is press 4-3-5-5-6 in succession. So, instead of pressing 4, twice to get to "H", and then three times to get to "E", you just push the buttons once and it just predicts it. 9 times out of 10 **it works great, though it will have problems with contractions and words that aren't in its vocabulary.** That's OK because the 3390 also has the ability to learn new words. So say, for example, you start using the word "Yupa" or something like that. **If it doesn't recognize the word it will give you an option to spell it and then store it as an option so that you can select it next time. Also, if you spell a word that uses the same keystrokes as another, you can rotate through the options by pressing the "*" key.** This feature is also available on the North American GSM Nokia 7190, 8290, and 8890's.

www.jackys.com/Shop_Resource/shopping_resource.asp?cat_id=76&cat_name=Mobile%20Phones

Wireless text messaging and Web browsing mean that you may have to enter a lot of text using your phone's keypad. The standard method for text entry involves hitting a numeric key one, two, or three times to enter the first, second, or third letter on the key. **Fortunately, most phones are equipped with T9 text entry, an intelligent software system that will auto-complete common words. It can take a while to get used to it, but T9 entry is a timesaver, especially once you train your phone to recognize the terms you use the most.**

An SMS conversation concerning T9 vs. Multi-tap:

Thu Mar 1 23:24:09 GMT 2001 sms: (jph) - **I would guess that 75% of phones have predictive text, so how come 75% of people on xchat talk in that dumb shorthand crap!?!?**

Fri Mar 2 03:34:10 GMT 2001 sms: (muppet) - bcos a. not sum of us fall in2 the other 25%, **b. every1 i kno has turnd predictive txt off bcos its 2 much of a pain ! n c. all the --**

Fri Mar 2 03:36:32 GMT 2001 sms: (muppet) - -- n c. all those numbers u c on x r on payg, which means its probably fair 2 say their fones lak fancy features like p txt 2.

.Fri Mar 2 07:44:01 GMT 2001 sms: (jph) - I have to say that I'd never thought I'd hear someone call predictive text a "pain"!!! I'd never go back now I've used it. For example:>>

Fri Mar 2 07:44:35 GMT 2001 sms: (jph) - Typing the word "bcos" without T9 takes 12 presses, but typing it with predictive on takes 6 presses! I can write a full msg in 1 min!

Fri Mar 208:13:09 GMT 2001 sms: (dodgy) - predictive text a pain? What are you on? At least you can probably understand this message. Unlike the one you sent.

Fri Mar 2 08:27:07 GMT 2001 sms: (muppet) - **agreed. but predictive txt is hard 2 do without loking at the keypad. u rely on the dict, which cud choose the wrong word. but with --**

Fri Mar 2 08:28:38 GMT 2001 sms: (muppet) - -- the old way, u no xactly wat u typd. btw, i can key a whole msg, without t9 in less than that...slowcoach :)

Fri Mar 2 08:47:47 GMT 2001 sms: (muppet) - dodgy, if u red my post carefully ud c that a. my fone doesnt do t9, so if u cant understand short txt, lump it. and b. i didnt call --

Fri Mar 2 08:49:19 GMT 2001 sms: (muppet) - -- t9 a pain. i sed every1 i kno thinks its a pain. so now u kno :-p

Fri Mar 2 10:53:42 GMT 2001 sms: (andrewlane) - a minute? I can type a full message in about 30 secs. Mind you i did send 1137 messages last month so i get a lot of practice!

Sat Mar 3 08:45:02 GMT 2001 sms: (asnesu) - Is there anyway to use lcs to send sms abroad ? Ie send email via lcs that then sends sms abroad

Sat Mar 3 12:55:40 GMT 2001 sms: (jph) - Andrewlane: I believe you even less! But 1137 msgs a month?!? You're going to get RSI at that rate!

Sat Mar 3 12:56:48 GMT 2001 sms: (jph) - Genie's email->sms service is working again, and both username@sms.genie.co.uk and username@genie.co.uk now forward to your phone.

Sat Mar 3 12:58:42 GMT 2001 sms: (jph) - Sorry muppet, but I don't believe u can type whole sms in non-t9 in <1min! An average, you'd be typing at 5 keypresses a second!

Sat Mar 3 12:59:06 GMT 2001 sms: (jph) - pc sms muppet: But the dictionary harldy ever gets the wrong word, and if you get a new word it remembers it for you.

Sat Mar 3 16:20:42 GMT 2001 sms: (bruce) - RSI? That's Rampant SMS Infestation isn't it?

Sat Mar 3 16:31:08 GMT 2001 sms: (muppet) - well that means ur calling me a liar now then doesnt it ? wanna discuss that do u ? as it happens i can do several non t9 msgs --

Sat Mar 3 16:31:59 GMT 2001 sms: (muppet) - -- msgs in under a minute ! :-p

Sat .Mar 3 16:53:47 GMT 2001 sms: (muppet) - **and if u still love ur precious t9 jph, chek out what mobile - xperiencd txtrs can txt as fast or faster *without* t9 :))**

Sat Mar 3 20:49:07 GMT 2001 sms: (michael) - Jph, maths not your strong point? 160 characters divided by 60 seconds is 2.6 characters a second, not five. Sounds feasible to me!

Sat Mar 3 20:56:08 GMT 2001 sms: (michael) - muppet what is your problem with T9?? You have said you don't like it, can't you just leave it at that?

Sat Mar 3 20:57:22 GMT 2001 sms: (michael) - **I tend to find the only people who don't like T9 are people who don't understand how it works!**

Sat Mar 3 22:02:11 GMT 2001 sms: (bruce) - I'm afraid I can well believe that speed. Back in the old days when O 1st launched (Apr 1994) I was up to speed on my 2140 with dual thumb...

Sat Mar3 22:02:56 GMT 2001 sms: (bruce) - ...keyboard stabbing - I was easily up to around 2000 SMSs a month, according to the O bills towards the end of 1996 :)

Comments on EZiText

buyers.mobile-phone-guide.co.uk/nec_db4000/default.html

The mobile phone also comes with EZTXT SMS which allows you to store up to 100 words and phrases in an easy-reach dictionary or up to 1000 characters making SMS messaging a lot easier. **It does take a little time to get used to and a fairly long time to set up but it does make sending SMS quicker, easier and more personal.** **One criticism would be the Tegic T9 Predictive Text Messaging is much better than EZTXT and would have been much appreciated if included with the phone.**

Alcatel One Touch 300

CNET Review

The good: Lighter, smaller with five colors to choose from.

The bad: SMS message creation next to impossible; uses nickel hydride.

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The bottom line: Features in the menu have increased, but so has the price.

By Priscilla Wong
(8/14/2000)

At Rs 11,000 (Official) the Alcatel One Touch 300 is an updated version of the French manufacturer's older series of pear-shaped One Touch dual band phones. The One Touch 300 is nearly 50g lighter, smaller and prettier to gaze on it comes in five different candy colors. It also, for the first time, comes with predictive text input.

Major Drawback

Alcatel claims to have included predictive text input into the phone's software, but after five exhausting tries, the only thing we could predict was that SMS message creation was next to impossible! Each time a word was keyed in, the screen would show an option for the user to input the word into its dictionary. What's more, we couldn't find any option to turn off the predictive text input function! How annoying.

it.asia1.com.sg/reviews/port/por001_20000828.html

01 Mar 2001, Thur One Touch Wonder

By Val Chua

Product: Alcatel One Touch 300

29/08/2000

Tried & Tested:

Trendy phone with cool curves. Being light is its main draw. **However, predictive data entry and interface need improvement.**

Predict or restrict?

Its default keypad-lock mechanism, which you unlock by typing a few numbers, is useful as it saves you from accidentally calling out and wasting precious talk-time and money.

But I can't say the same about its predictive text entry for its SMS function. It's an annoying technology which can be useful, provided you're patient enough to test it out. We tried to send several messages on at least 10 occasions, but gave up in the end. It's a pity the screen was not put to good use as it can contain up to five lines of text.

To be fair, this function is a good idea. By pre-empting your text entry and giving you the closest possible word, your life will hopefully be easier. The system also has a built-in dictionary that will keep on building - and recognizing - new words.

Trouble is, it is hardly user-friendly. Impatient types might simply avoid sending SMS messages altogether. What's also sorely missing: an option to disable the predictive text entry.

Should you buy?

Overall, we think that Alcatel has cornered the young market pretty well with their trendy and compact phones. But there are nagging problems (for example, predictive text entry, interface) which beg improvement.