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U dictionary for android

It's not always easy to choose the best of something. It's certainly never fair. But they are the breaks, for it is our job to use and experience all things, and help tell their stories. That's why we bring all the best things. The best Android phones. The best pills. The best accessories for your devices. The best smart home appliances. The best apps to play and work and do what you want to do. These are the best of the best. If you're new to Android, you may wonder exactly what we're talking about from time to time. As such, here's a glossary of terms you'll probably run. **A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z** **A** **ADB:** Android Debug Bridge. A tool used to connect and send commands to your Android phone from a desktop computer or laptop. **Alphabet:** Umbrella corporation formed in 2013 by Google CEO Larry Page, who fully owns Google, Inc. **AMOLED:** Active Matrix Organic Light Emitting Diode. Basically, a very colorful, bright screen, found on some smartphones. (See also Super AMOLED.) **Android:** Google's open source mobile operating system. It is mainly used in smartphones, but can also be found on tablets, Mobile Internet devices (MIDs) or even in kitchen appliances and car navigation. **Android Market:** The original name for the Google repository for Android apps. Renamed in March 2012 for Google Play. **Android Sideload Wonder Machine:** a simple program for Windows or Linux and Mac that allows you to easily sideload applications. **Android Pay:** Google's contactless payment system, born from the old Google Wallet. **Android TV:** Google's not-too-defined TV interface. **Andy Rubin:** Former Vice President of Engineering at Google, overseeing Android's design and development strategy. **Founder of Danger,** who created Sidekick and was later purchased by Microsoft. **AOKP****:** The Kang Open Android Project. A group that takes open source Android code and compiles it with other customizations for multiple devices. **AOSP:** The Open Source Android Project. When you hear about Android being open source, that's what we're talking about. It is a repository of code released by Google, which can be downloaded and compiled by anyone. (If you know how.) **.apk:** The file extension of an Android app. **Applications:** Short for applications. The programs you download and run on a smartphone. It can be free, or for sale. **App Inventor:** Google's web-based system by which Android apps can be made without having to know how to code. Discontinued by Google, but launched by MIT as an open source project. **Apps2SD:** An unapproved method of storing apps on the device's microSD card. An official method has been included in Android 2.2, doing this moot. **Archos:** A line of mid-level Android tablets. Not so well known, but kept in quite high regard. **ASUS:** Taiwanese manufacturer of phones and tablets. (Among many other things.) **AT&T:** One of the top four U.S. carriers. **Aws:** for Advanced Wireless Services. It is a range of frequencies used for cellular connectivity, occupying the combined frequencies of 1700MHz and 2100MHz (also known as 1700/2100MHz.) Used primarily by T-Mobile USA for the HSPA+ service and other carriers for the LTE service. Back to top **B** **bloataware:** Applications — often unwanted — that are preloaded on a device. It's a bit subjective as to what constitutes bloataware, and the other side is that these apps are what allow carriers to sell phones and tablets at subsidized prices. **Bluetooth:** A short-range radio build on smartphones that lets you connect headphones, speakers, or even computers to your smartphone. **Bootloader:** An internal mode on a phone that helps in the blink of ROMs and other behind-the-scenes actions. **Breakclusive:** No breaking news, no exclusive news. It's **QUEBRACLUSIVE!** **BSI:** Back lighting. Used to improve low-light performance on smartphone cameras. **Back to the top of Operator C:** a company that provides cellular service. **CDMA:** One of the two main standards for mobile phone communications. It is used by Sprint and Verizon in the United States, and by some nations elsewhere. It is seen largely as a dying pattern. (See also GSM) **CES:** North America's largest consumer electronics fair, held in January at the Las Vegas Convention Center. **Civil:** What we call a non-smartphone nerd. Someone who doesn't buy a phone every few months. **Clockwork:** Developer of clockworkmod custom recovery mode for Android. **Command line:** In Windows, it is a command prompt or prompt. On Linux or Mac, it's Terminal. **Craplet:** A cheap tablet, often one that doesn't even have Google apps installed. An American convention of the wireless industry. No one knows what the abbreviation means anymore. **Cupcake:** Android 1.5. (More about Android versions here.) **Cyanogen:** The online handle of a Steve Kondik, relatively famous in the hacking and modding community and the creator of the CyanogenMod series of ROMs. Also cyanogen, Inc. that provides commercial Android software for various companies such as OnePlus. **Back to the top D** **Dalvik Cache:** Recordable cache that contains the optimized bytecode of all apk files (apps) on your Android device. Having the information in its own cache makes applications load faster and perform better. **Donut:** Android 1.6. (More about Android versions here.) **DLNA:** Dynamic Living Network Alliance. A method to stream photos and videos wirelessly from your smartphone to YOUR TV. **Droid:** An extremely popular horizontal slider made by Motorola on the Verizon network. The first to run Android 2.0 (and Android 2.0.1). It is currently running Android 2.1. Also the name of a line of Verizon Android phones. **Back to the top of the Earth:** mainly **Eclair:** Android 2.0 - 2.1. (More about Android versions here.) **EOL:** It means End of Life. It means that a carrier or manufacturer is eliminating a particular product. This does not necessarily mean that the phone or tablet is bad, nor will anyone come and take take EOL'd device away from you. **ETF:** Means early termination fee. Also known as an ETF, it's what a carrier charges you to get out of your contract. They're usually prorated. **Back to the top F** **Factory restore/reset:** See the hard reset. **Fastboot:** Another mode similar to bootloader, from which you can manually flash low-level components on a phone. **FC:** Short for force close, that is, an application that crashed. **Froyo:** Android 2.2. Announced on Google IO in May 2010, first released on nexus one. (More about Android versions here.) **Back to the top G** **Galaxy:** the brand of Samsung's mobile ecosystem. **Geotagging:** Where on your phone finds your location via GPS and attaches coordinates to photos you are taking. It may be a privacy/security concern. **Gingerbread:** Android 2.3. Mostly a behind-the-scenes update, although there are some UI tweaks. First loaded on nexus S. (More about android versions here.) **Gmail:** Google's web-based email service. **Google:** Our benevolent sovereign and owner of Android. **Google Now:** An enhanced, location-aware section within the Google search app. It provides timely information such as weather updates, transit times and locations, photo points, and travel times when you're out and there. **Google Play:** Google's unique online store for movies, music, apps, games, and books. At the time of its release, on March 6, 2012, it was basically a renamed Android Market. **Google TV:** Announced at the Google IO conference in May 2010. It is a combination of hardware and Android that features a full web browser, Android apps, and combines it with video that is available online -- Youtube, television, etc. Now extinct, and lost by no one. **Google Wallet:** Google's initial attempt at an NFC-based mobile payment system. It has since been replaced by Android Pay. (Google Wallet lives as a peer-to-peer payment system.) **Gorilla Glass:** A Corning scratch-resistant glass product used on various smartphones and tablets. **GPS:** Means global positioning system. It uses a constellation of satellites in space to find its location on the ground. One of the two main standards for mobile phone communications. It is used by AT&T and T-Mobile in the United States, and by most carriers worldwide. (See also CDMA) **Back to the top H** **Hack (Hacking):** Modifying the Android system to add customization, features or restrictions to bypass operator and manufacturer. Look at the root. **Hard reset:** The act of resetting your phone to its factory state. Erases all user data, logins, and passwords. You may or may not delete what is in internal storage or microSD card, too. (See also the soft reset.) **Hiroshi Lockheimer:** Senior Vice President of Android, Chrome and Chromecast for Google, Inc. **Android 3.0:** The first version of Android designed with tablets specifically in mind. Allows applications to fragment or divide over a single screen. It is the first version of Android to fully support dual-core processors. The first tablet with Honeycomb was the Motorola Xoom. **HTC:** A Taiwanese smartphone manufacturer. And a one a good one. **Huawei:** A major Chinese manufacturer, it handles infrastructure as well as handsets and tablets. **Gold Nexus 6P:** Back to the top **I** **Ice Cream Sandwich:** Android 4.0. The android 3.0/3.1 tablet-centric tracking that brought Honeycomb-like features back to Android smartphones. First appeared on the Samsung Galaxy Nexus. **IFA:** Internationale Funkausstellung — an annual consumer electronics show held in Berlin, Germany. International, and funky - as described. **IMEI:** Means International Identity of Mobile Equipment. Basically a unique identification number assigned to each phone. **Intel:** The manufacturer of longtime processors. Entered the Android arena in 2012 with its Atom Medfield processor. At CES 2012, announced an agreement with Motorola. Four years later, he threw in the towel. **IPS:** Means switching on the plane. Gives better viewing angles and better color reproduction. First it gained popularity on Apple's displays, then it reached mobile devices. **Back to the top J** **Jelly Bean:** The name of the dessert given to Android 4.1-4.2. Includes new features like Google Now and Project Butter. **JIT:** The just-in-time compiler. Released with Android 2.2, it is a method to greatly speed up the apps on Android on the software side. **Back to the top of kernel K:** Android's basic Linux building block. It's what allows your phone to do its thing. **Keyboard:** Whether physical or on screen, depending on the phone. **Popular Kindle Amazon tablets and e-readers.** Also an android app. **KitKat:** Android 4.4. Launched with the Nexus 5, KitKat brought a flat style and big changes to Android, along with a partnership with Hershey USA. (More about Android versions here.) **Back to the top L** **Launcher:** Collectively, the part of the Android User Interface on home screens that allows you to launch applications, make phone calls, etc. It is incorporated into Android, or can be purchased in the Android Market. **Legacy:** Codename for old. **LG:** Korean manufacturer of electronics and smartphones. **Linux:** An open source variant of Unix that is used as the underlying system on Android devices. Next year will always be the year of Linux on the desktop, but every year is the year of Linux in your pocket. **Live wallpapers:** Animated wallpapers introduced on Android 2.1. **Lollipop:** Android 5.0 - 5.1.1. Released with the Nexus 6 and Nexus 9, Lollipop brought Material Design and 64-bit support for Android. (More about Android versions here.) **LTE:** Means Long-Term Evolution. It is considered one of the true methods of 4G data (even if technically it is not). Launched by Verizon in late 2010, and then by AT&T in late 2011, and Sprint will begin using it in mid-2012. **Back to the top M** **Manufacturer:** a company that physically builds mobile phones. **Marshmallow:** Android 6.0 - 6.0.1. Released with the Nexus 5 and Nexus 6P, Marshmallow brought great features of and better battery life with twelve. (More about Android versions here.) **MetroPCS:** U.S. regional and prepaid carrier generally puts on second-tier carrier **Now** part of T-Mobile USA. **Mobile World Congress (MWC):** A European wireless industry fair held in Barcelona, Spain, in recent years. **Motorola:** Manufacturer of smartphones and other portable wireless devices. **MTP:** Represents the Media Transfer Protocol. Designed by Microsoft and used by devices that have a single, non-partisan storage structure for transferring files to and from a computer. **Back to the top N** **Nexus:** A line of smartphones created in conjunction with Google. Also known as Pure Google devices. They are usually the first to be released with major updates for Android, as well as the first to receive updates. **Gold Nexus** is the best Nexus. **NFC:** Near field communication. Short-range communication between your phone and something else - another phone, a cash register, etc. Used by some credit cards as a quick payment method. **Back to top OEM:** Represents the Original Equipment Manufacturer. Used by people in the industry to mean manufacturer. **Open GL:** An open source 3D graphic library used on many devices, including Android **Open Source:** Software that is liberally licensed to grant users the right to study, alter and improve their design through the availability of their source code. **OTA:** It Means About The Air. The act of moving data to your phone —actually downloading—without having to connect it. Most Android system updates are OTA, as are app downloads. **Back to the top P** **PenTile:** A subpixel layout scheme, patented by Samsung, that allows for greater lumiance in a lower power draw. **RGBG Pentile** uses alternating green pixels and has more definition than RGBW, which adds a white subpixel. **PIN:** Means personal identification number. Often four digits. **Pixel:** An individual point on the display. Also a way to measure the resolution of a camera (usually in millions of pixels). **Pixels** are usually made of sub pixels. The arrangement of these subcon pixels affects the way you view images and text. **PPI:** Pixels per inch. How we determine the pixel density of a display. The more pixels on a display, the better graphics and text look. **PRL:** The Preferred Roaming List, basically a way to tell your phone which towers to connect to first. **Project Butter:** Software enhancements introduced in Android 4.1 to improve the smoothing of on-screen transitions and animations. **Project Butter** uses software tricks such as vertical synchronization (vsync) and triple buffering to display a smooth and consistent frame rate throughout the UI. **Back to q** **top** asking us when your phone will be updated. **QR code:** A black and white barcode that, when scanned by your phone, can open a web link, point to an app, etc. **Back to top R** (hard, soft): The phone reboot. A soft reset is turning off and turning on the phone or pulling the battery. A hard reset is also referred to as a factory reset and clears your personal device information. **Resolution:** The term used to describe how many individual pixels are on a display. A common phone resolution is 720x1280, or 720 720 in the short dimension, with 1280 in the long dimension. The more pixels you have on a display, the better the pixels per inch (ppi), making text and images sharper. Literally, read only the memory. **On Android,** it's what you upload for a major software update. **Custom ROMs** are just that—developed outside the control of a manufacturer or carrier. **Recovery mode:** A separate small mode of operation in which you can boot your device, used for device administration. Two popular custom recovery modes are Amon Ra and Clockwork. **Root:** A method of unlocking the Android operating system to allow deeper programs of deeper access than is allowed out of the box. (For more information about the root, click here.) **Root (SD card):** The base folder (or top level) of the card. Often referred to as /sdcard in a file structure. **RTFM:** Read the (ahem) damn manual. **Back to the top S** **Samsung:** a Korean electronics company. **Manufacturer of the Galaxy S series of Android phones,** among others. **SD card (or microSD card):** A small plastic card that expands the storage memory available on your phone. Used by applications to store data, and you can store touches, photos, etc., on it. **SDK:** Means Software Development Kit. Generally, a set of tools used to create software for a given platform following the guidelines provided in the kit. **For Android,** the SDK provides tools for creating apps that run on Android devices. **Direction:** A custom user interface (or skin) on top of Android. Exclusive to HTC smartphones. **Services:** Sections of code that run in the background to provide content and services to applications. **Sideload:** The act of installing an app outside of Google Play. **AT&T** (tries to) ban their phones from doing this. **Sideload Wonder Machine:** A simple open source program that allows you to download applications via computer, ignoring any restrictions that a carrier may have put into practice. **SIM card:** The small card used on almost all phones connecting the phone to the network. It usually refers to a physical card, although some phones may have a virtual SIM—and some use both. **Soft reset:** The act of restarting the phone, intentionally or not. The same effect as when you remove and replace the battery. (See also hard reset.) **Sony Ericsson:** A joint wireless venture of Sony and Ericsson. Dissolved in 2012, and the mobile arm will be marketed under the name Sony. **Sprint:** One of the top four U.S. carriers. **Sundar Pichai:** Former head of Android, Chrome and Google Drive, now CEO of Google Inc. **Super AMOLED:** A generation in front of AMOLED screens. Lighter, more energy efficient and less reflective than AMOLED. (See AMOLED) **Super AMOLED** Grab an AMOLED screen. Instead of eight subpixels per pixel, there are 12. Pretty amazing, actually. **Super Phone:** Something other people call smartphones. If you see it used on Android Central, send an email to your favorite editor so the rest of us can make fun of the person in charge. **Back to the top T** **T-Mobile:** one of the top four U.S. carriers. **Hda Hda** first Android phone, the G1. **Tethering:** The act of using your smartphone data to provide Internet access to another device, such as a laptop. It can be done wirelessly, or via a USB cable. **TouchWiz:** Samsung's custom user interface, although it is no longer referred to in this way. **Back to the top U** **USB:** Means Universal Serial Bus. It is a method of connecting devices to a computer. Most smartphones now use microUSB cables to charge and sync. **UMS:** Means USB mass storage. Older devices with SD cards or partitioned internal storage support that store as UMS when connecting to a computer. The files can then be moved to and from the device. **Back to top Vanilla V:** A term used to describe the stock Android. **Verizon:** One of the four largest Carriers in the U.S. Launched the droid phone line. **Viewsonic:** A longtime electronics manufacturer that also includes some Android devices. **Back to top W** **Widget:** A slice or a certain view of an app that can be placed on one of your home screens, for quick and easy access. [YouTube Link] **Wipe:** To completely erase a device. See hard-reset. **Worldwide phone:** A phone that works on DEDMA networks as well as GSM networks outside the country of origin. **Back to the top X** **Y Z:** A Chinese manufacturer of phones, tablets, cameras and all kinds of cool handsets. **YouTube:** Google's web-based video streaming service. Accessible from an Android phone. **ZTE:** A China-based company that focuses on mid-range Android devices. **Back to top**

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