

iPhone 4S: What's So Different? What's So Special?

Written by Ruben Corbo

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Many iPhone lovers were disappointed when the much anticipated iPhone 5 failed to make an appearance a few weeks ago. In its place, Apple introduced the iPhone 4S. While the 4S is not a huge version upgrade, it does have some very nice new and improved features over the older device, and is an excellent addition to cell phone plans.



(Courtesy of [Yoshikazu Takada](#)) □

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More Speed

The 4S provides a speed boost with the addition of an A5 chip, the same one as used in the iPad. The A5 is a dual core processor that makes the new iPhone twice as fast as the previous one. Not only does this improve multitasking, it brings faster rendering capabilities for graphics.

Although some Android phones boast faster processors, the iPhone 4S beat them in performance and speed testing.

Better Camera

A new 8MP camera makes the 4S stand out from the pack when it comes to picture quality. With a new IR filter, Image Signal Processor and an upgraded lens, the device produces some of the clearest images of any smartphone on the market. It is also one of the fastest, allowing for an image to be taken each half second.

The camera improvements have also brought 1080p HD video recording capability.

New Operating System

iOS 5 is one of the biggest leaps taken by Apple in recent memory. It brings native messaging to iPhone4S, along with Reader and Newsstand features. iCloud wirelessly syncs files and apps between Apple devices and performs over the air updates to the phone software.

iMessage took its cue from Blackberry and allows iPhone users to chat online free of charge. People can use smileys, send video and photos to one another and are notified when the other person is typing a reply.

The handy Find My Friends feature is great for locating people using a map or for giving directions to an event.

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Siri Assistant

Siri is a voice controlled feature that allows the user to dictate emails and messages, search, use apps and much more. While voice control features can be found on other smartphones, Siri differs in that it actually understands what is being said, even if the request is rephrased and will also respond back.

Siri is not only a timesaver, it also promotes safety by allowing the user to complete tasks handsfree while driving or biking.

Two Antennas

The 4S is equipped with two antennas, which allows the user to choose the one that brings the best signal. This makes the connection to the Internet more stable and improves call quality.

Antenna redesign was a big priority on the 4S due to poor design on the iPhone 4. The older version had the antenna at the side of the device, which would often cut the signal when it was placed in a certain position. The new dual antennas eradicate this issue altogether.

Battery Life

The 4S brings much improved battery life, with six hours of Internet browsing and eight hours of talk time on 3G speed. The device is not yet capable of 4G speed.

Hardcore iPhone users may still be a bit letdown by the lack of a new version but the iPhone 4S is a worthy upgrade, all the way around. It has the most features of any iPhone to date and is the fastest, as well.

The device is available on cell phone plans from AT&T, which offers simultaneous data and voice, Verizon and newcomer to iPhone support, Sprint. Available in both black and white, the 16GB model sells for \$199, the 32GB model is offered at \$299 and the 64GB costs \$399.

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This is a guest article by Ruben Corbo, a writer for the website Cell Phone Expert where you can compare [cell phone plans](#). When Ruben is not writing he's producing or composing music for short films or other visual arts.