

Tech[nology]News:

Singing the praises of Samsung Galaxy Note phone

By Ryan Kamphuis
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When unveiling the original iPhone in 2007, Steve Jobs made the bold proclamation: that if a smartphone had either a stylus or a task manager, the manufacturer was doing something wrong. Those words were quickly heard by the mobile industry, as Palm Treos and other smartphones with styluses were collectively thrown out and touch interfaces were widely adopted.

Fast forward to 2012, and the newly released Samsung Galaxy Note is turning heads with design decisions that thoroughly ignore Job's earlier statements. Equipped with a 5.3 inch super AMOLED screen, a stylus, and an easily accessible task manager, the Galaxy Note seems to be the antithesis of Jobs' design mantra and vision for smartphones. But the Galaxy Note is perfect proof that, maybe, Jobs' vision for smartphones isn't the end all, be all.

When first handling the Galaxy Note, the device seems unwieldy. Its 5.3 inch screen makes for an enormous device that seems to be closer to a tablet than a smartphone, and makes one think that it may be too large to fit in a pocket. I certainly spent my first day with the Galaxy Note trying to decide why such a large device could ever be useful as a smartphone. I found, however, that once I started playing with the device, the screen size started feeling more manageable. In fact, with every day I used the Note, the screen size started becoming less of an oddity and more of a killer-feature. Not only is the Note's screen large, it is beautiful. The contrast and the colors of the super AMOLED screen are jaw-dropping. Between the quality and the size of the screen, the Note is unrivaled when it comes to viewing photos, watching videos and movies, and reading E books.

The major feature of the Samsung Galaxy Note is its stylus, dubbed the S Pen. While your finger is still the main controller on this device, when needed, the S Pen can easily be pulled out from the back of the phone and used to draw out notes, control the device, and help navigate web pages with small text. Samsung's implementation of the S Pen is quite good. It is easy to use and very responsive. The apps that come along with the Galaxy Note that use the stylus are all excellent, and the main note taking application works well with other apps and can easily be brought up at any time, making note taking a breeze.

The Samsung Galaxy Note runs Android 2.3.4 with Samsung's TouchWiz overlay applied. The changes to Android that Samsung made to accommodate the Note's large screen are well implemented, and the device runs slickly and smoothly. An update to Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich is going to be made available to the note in the second quarter of 2012, and this update should only boost the performance of the device. Overall, the Note meets the high hardware and software standards that were set by Samsung's Galaxy S II series of devices.

The Samsung Galaxy Note is available on the AT&T network for \$299 with the signing of a two-year contract. I found that AT&T's service around IIT and Chicago was excellent. I never dropped a call, and AT&T's 4G LTE network was sufficiently speedy, even though the Speedtest.net application said that the

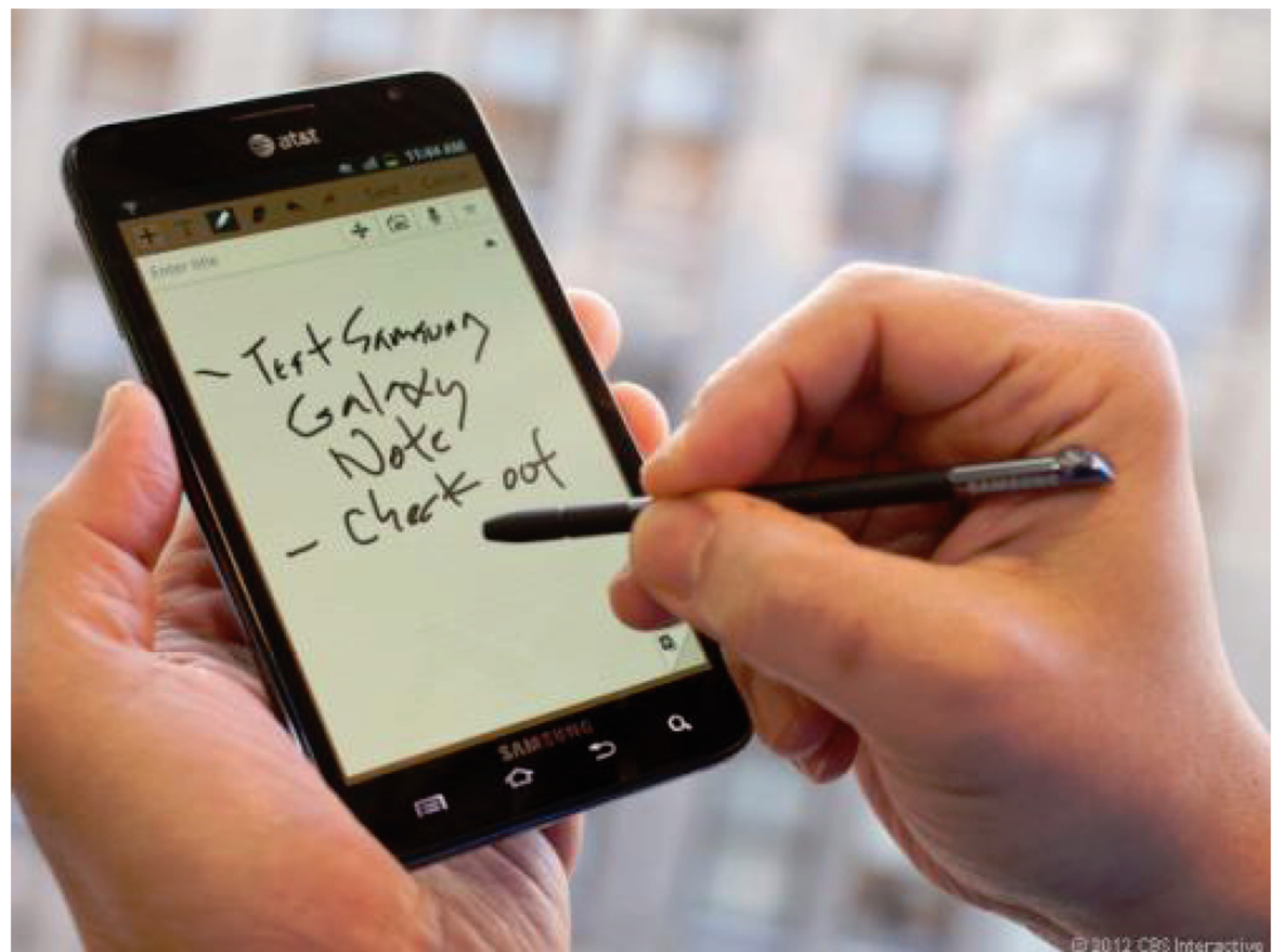


Image courtesy of cnet.com

network wasn't as fast as Verizon's 4G LTE that is available on my Samsung Galaxy Nexus.

Is the Samsung Galaxy Note for you? That depends. The Note is a niche device. While many will find the large screen and S Pen excellent and really enjoy the note taking capabilities of the device, others will never be able to accept the Galaxy Note as their smartphone of choice because of its size. Despite my initial qualms with the device, after only a week of using the Note, I was singing its praises.

The device works great and fit well

with my life. When I was in meetings, I found it really easy to use the S Pen to jot down notes; when I wanted to explain a concept to somebody, pulling out the Note and drawing the concept out worked great.

If you're interested in getting a Galaxy Note, your best plan of action is to find a friend with one. Trying one out in the store only leaves you thinking that it is too large. Actually talking to someone about it will show you that once you get used to the size, the Galaxy Note is a top notch device that deserves to be recognized and used.

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Mark Your Calendars!



Happy birthday to Mies van der Rohe! This **Tuesday, March 27, 2012**, come celebrate with Campus Life! We will have cake starting at 11:00 a.m. and Riddle Mies This trivia in the Campus Life suite.

SGA Finance Board proposals are due by **MIDNIGHT this Saturday, March 31, 2012**. Make sure to attend a workshop, meet with your finance board advisor, and submit your proposal for the Fall of 2012.



Is your organization an exceptional organization on campus? Nominations for **March Student Organization of the Month** are due no later than **MARCH 31, 2012**. Go to www.tinyurl.com/NominateOrg for more information and to complete a nomination.

Final Women's History Month Events:

- March 28—Women Alumni Panel, 1 PM, MTCC Auditorium
- March 29—Cultural Exchange, 1 PM, MTCC Welcome Ctr.
- March 29—Women Health Seminar, 6 PM, MTCC Ballroom

Tricia Berryhill, Coordinator, Organizations # - G
Ryan Miller, Director, Organizations H - M
Alex Garrett, Coordinator, Organizations N - Z



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Office of Campus Life
www.iit.edu/campus_life
Campus.life@iit.edu