



TechTalk

The One Plus 3©

by John McCarthy

Hi everyone and a very warm welcome once again to TechTalk. I imagine most of you tuned in at the moment are the proud possessors of smartphones or are perhaps considering the prospect of purchasing one in the not-too-distant future. There's certainly a bewildering array from manufacturers, and among the best-known - in no particular order – are Samsung, HTC, Sony, Microsoft, Apple, LG, Motorola, Blackberry and Lenovo. There's now a new kid on the block which has been dubbed the smartphone flagship killer: the OnePlus 3 and I've been putting it through its paces over the last week. From the outset, impressions are very favourable and it can certainly hold its own against the very best Android devices.

Of course, there have been previous OnePlus models originally dating back to 2013, but the OnePlus 3 may indeed be the first affordable mobile phone that keeps its promise to be as good as all its high-priced counterparts and has everything we expect from up-market Android phones: great camera, lightning-fast processor, eye-pleasing design, luminous display and quick charging. First, the specs: The OnePlus 3 includes 6 Gigs of RAM and 64 Gigs of storage, a Qualcomm Snapdragon 820 chip, and a five and-a-half inch Full HD resolution AMOLED screen. Its all-metal, wafer-thin, 7.3mm unibody aluminium design fits nicely in the hand (but remember, this is quite a big phone) and subjectively it feels well-built and of high-quality. The design isn't particularly original – there are similarities to an iPhone and HTC, but I suppose that could be construed as praise; imitation being the highest form of flattery and all that.

The 16 megapixel rear camera is fairly fast to launch and focus, features optical image stabilisation and the quality in both good and bad lighting is very acceptable. There's also an 8 megapixel front-facing camera with smile capture for all those of you who love taking selfies and/or contributing to Instagram. Colours are accurate, images sharp and detailed. There's a fairly prominent camera bump on the back which affects the streamlining aesthetic, but there again similar criticism can be levelled at some of its competitors.

Battery life is certainly above average at between a day to a day and a half. The OnePlus 3 has a 3000mAh battery which charges through a USB Type-C port and offers what OnePlus calls Dash Charging, meaning that it can recharge 60% of the phone's battery in half an hour. Unlike other mobiles, the charging system offloads the current regulation to the charging brick instead of managing it in the phone itself. The upside is that performance remains stable while you use the phone and charge it at the same time. The downside is that you have to use the charger and cable that come as standard equipment – other chargers will only charge the device at standard speeds.

The device features OnePlus's own Oxygen OS running on top of Google Android 6.0.1 and aside from a few choice features is mercifully free of the plethora of useless, hardly-ever-used apps – known as bloatware – that feature in many top-end models and eat away at valuable storage space.

Finally, in order to purchase earlier OnePlus models, one had to visit the Website, apply for an invite, join the queue and then wait for that invite to arrive in one's inbox. This has now been scrapped and all you have to do is go to oneplus.net/fr and click on 'buy'. Oh, and I nearly forgot the most important thing of all. Price. A very credit-card friendly €399 euros, and there really isn't anything that will compete at that price. In conclusion, the OnePlus 3 might not be the very best smartphone you can purchase, but all the aforementioned positive attributes certainly make it a highly tempting offer for anyone looking for a new smartphone or an upgrade.