AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-T. 20250701.002
Accession Date: 1-Jul-2025
Accession By: Dr.Mads Haahr
Object name: T-mobile G1 smartphone
Vintage: 2008
Synopsis: First smartphone based on Android software. Touch-screen quad-band 3G GSM mobile phone. S/N: xxxxxxx.

**Description:**
The *T-mobile G1* was the first smartphone based on the Android software, itself layered above Linux. *Android Inc.* (led by Andy Rubin) had been purchased in July 2005 and its Android operating system and prototype hardware developed by *Google* and the *Open Handset Alliance* to create a competitor to other major smartphone platforms of the time, such as the *Symbian*, *BlackBerry OS*, *iPhone OS* and *Windows Smartphone* mobile phone operating systems. Steve Jobs' lifting of the secrecy surrounding the *iPhone* in early-2007 led to a quick redesign of Android and a new prototype device codenamed *Dream* with a touch-screen and a sliding keyboard. The new Android offered a customizable graphical user interface, deep integration with Google services such as its search engine and *Gmail*, and a notification system that showed a list of recent messages pushed from apps, an MP3 player, Maps, Search, Talk, YouTube, Contacts and Calendar apps, etc, alongside the *Android Market* for downloading additional and third-party apps. Its initial operating system version was Android 1.0 (no codename for 1.0 and 1.1), but this was upgradeable online (the last version supported was Android 1.6 *Donut*). It was officially announced in November 2007. In contrast to its competitors, Google's policy was notable for being agnostic to the physical platform, openly promoting its use in third-party mobile phones. By 2008 several devices were being developed, but *HTC* in Taiwan, at the time one of the largest manufacturers of mobile phones, was on 23$^{rd}$ September 2008 the first to announce its product, the *HTC Dream*, known as the *T-mobile G1* in America and the U.K., selling for about 290 euro. Google released a special developer edition of the T-mobile G1 known as the *Android Dev Phone 1* for $^{US}$$399, which was SIM-unlocked, hardware-unlocked and pre-configured for superuser access to the internal files of the phone, allowing users to completely replace the bootloader and operating system.

Similar to the iPhone, the T-mobile G1 had a 3.2" 320x480 180ppi *Corning Gorilla Glass* capacitive touch-screen, but sliding sideways to the right to reveal a QWERTY keyboard. An angled uplift at the bottom had a central trackball and five surrounding buttons: left *Call* and *Home*, right *Back* and *End Call*, above *Menu*. Alongside 192MB RAM expandable to 16GB via SDcard, it had a Qualcomm MSM7201A SoC with an ARM11 CPU (ARMv6 instruction set, 32-bit single-core, 8-stage pipeline, out-of-order execution, dynamic branch prediction/folding) running at 528MHz, an Adreno 130 GPU, and integrated QDSP400 and QDSP500 digital signal processors, MDDI display interface, Bluetooth 1.2 and 802.11b/g Wi-Fi, and ARM9 modem supporting quad-band GSM/GPRS/EDGE, dual-band UMTS, and HSDPA/HSUPA. Also it had a 3Mpixel auto-focussing camera, an accelerometer and compass, standalone GPS, a mini-SIM, a proprietary mini-USB-compatible socket, 1150mAh Li-Ion battery, but to much disappointment not a 3.5mm headphone socket. It was compact (117 x 55.7 x 17.1 mm) and light (158g). The general response was positive, that the T-mobile G1 was far from perfect but very promising. By April 2009 over a million had been sold. Many thanks to Mads Haahr for donating this very interesting item.

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| Accession Index | Object with Identification |
|---|---|
| TCD-SCSS-T.20250701.002 | T-mobile G1 smartphone. First smartphone based on Android software. Touch-screen quad-band 3G GSM mobile phone. S/N: xxxxxxx, 2008. |
| TCD-SCSS-T.20250620.001 | Nokia 101 analog mobile phone. Analog (1G) mobile phone, S/N: 11/37/00/03675, 1992. |
| TCD-SCSS-V.20250620.001 | Nokia 1011 User Manual. Nokia, manual for 1011 single-band 2G GSM mobile phone, 1992. |
| TCD-SCSS-T.20150608.002 | Nokia 8210 Mobile Phone. Red ladies dual-band 2G GSM mobile phone that began Nokia's rise to dominance of the early post millenium mobile market, 1999. |
| TCD-SCSS-V.20220825.007 | Nokia 8210 User's Guide. Nokia, manual for 8210 dual-band 2G GSM mobile phone. c.2000 |
| TCD-SCSS-T.20150608.001 | Motorola V3690 Mobile Phone. Clamshell dual-band 2G GSM mobile phone, one of very few early mobiles allowing firmware updates, c.2000. |
| TCD-SCSS-V.20220825.006 | Motorola V3690 User Manual. Motorola, manual for V3690 clamshell dual-band 2G GSM mobile phone. c.2000. |
| TCD-SCSS-T.20150810.002 | Motorola V66i Mobile Phone. Motorola clamshell tri-band 2G GSM mobile phone. c.2002. |
| TCD-SCSS-T.20250701.003 | Orange SPV Classic mobile phone. First mobile phone to be based on Windows Smartphone 2002 software. Tri-band 2G GSM mobile phone. S/N: HT246CK09339, 2002. |
| TCD-SCSS-T.20220825.008 | Samsung SGH-ZV10 mobile phone. Late model clamshell tri-band 3G GSM mobile phone. S/N: R9TYA47381E. 2005. |
| TCD-SCSS-T.20250701.001 | Apple first-generation iPhone smartphone. Touch-screen quad-band 2G GSM mobile phone based on iPhone OS software, considered by some to be the world's first smartphone. S/N: 7R7351QPWH8, 2007. |
| TCD-SCSS-T.20220825.007 | Samsung H1 GT-i8320 smartphone. Early touch-screen quad-band 3G GSM mobile smartphone based on Linux LiMo software. S/N: R3XSB53869M. 2009. |
| TCD-SCSS-T.20220825.006 | Samsung Galaxy S4 Zoom smartphone/camera. Superb combination of 10X optical SLR camera and Android multi-band 4G GSM mobile smartphone, model SM-C101. S/N: CN1D701B1PW. 2013. |
| | |

**References:**

1. Wikipedia, *HTC Dream*, see:
   https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTC_Dream
   Last browsed to on 1-Jul-2025.

| NETWORK | Technology | GSM / HSPA | COLLAPSE ▲ |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2G bands | GSM 850 / 900 / 1800 / 1900 | |
| | 3G bands | HSDPA 2100 | |
| | | HSDPA 1700 / 2100 - American version | |
| | Speed | HSPA 7.2/2 Mbps | |
| **LAUNCH** | Announced | 2008, September. Released 2008, October | |
| | Status | Discontinued | |
| **BODY** | Dimensions | 117 x 55.7 x 17.1 mm (4.61 x 2.19 x 0.67 in) | |
| | Weight | 158 g (5.57 oz) | |
| | Keyboard | QWERTY | |
| | SIM | Mini-SIM | |
| | | Trackball | |
| **DISPLAY** | Type | TFT, 65K colors | |
| | Size | 3.2 inches, 30.5 cm$^2$ (~46.8% screen-to-body ratio) | |
| | Resolution | 320 x 480 pixels, 3:2 ratio (~180 ppi density) | |
| | Protection | Corning Gorilla Glass | |
| **PLATFORM** | OS | Android 1.6 (Donut) | |
| | Chipset | Qualcomm MSM7201A | |
| | CPU | 528 MHz ARM 11 | |
| | GPU | Adreno 130 | |
| **MEMORY** | Card slot | microSD (dedicated slot) | |
| | Internal | 192MB RAM, 256MB | |
| **MAIN CAMERA** | Single | 3.15 MP, AF | |
| | Video | Yes | |
| **SELFIE CAMERA** | | No | |
| **SOUND** | Loudspeaker | Yes | |
| | 3.5mm jack | No | |
| **COMMS** | WLAN | Wi-Fi 802.11 b/g | |
| | Bluetooth | 2.0, A2DP (headset support only) | |
| | Positioning | GPS | |
| | Radio | No | |
| | USB | miniUSB | |
| **FEATURES** | Sensors | Accelerometer, compass | |
| | Browser | HTML | |
| | | Voice memo<br>MP3 player | |
| **BATTERY** | Type | Removable Li-Ion 1150 mAh battery | |
| | Stand-by | Up to 406 h | |
| | Talk time | Up to 5 h 20 min | |
| **MISC** | Colors | White, Black, Brown | |
| | SAR | 0.71 W/kg (head)   0.84 W/kg (body) | |
| | Price | About 290 EUR | |
| **TESTS** | Audio quality | Noise -87.2dB / Crosstalk -86.1dB | |

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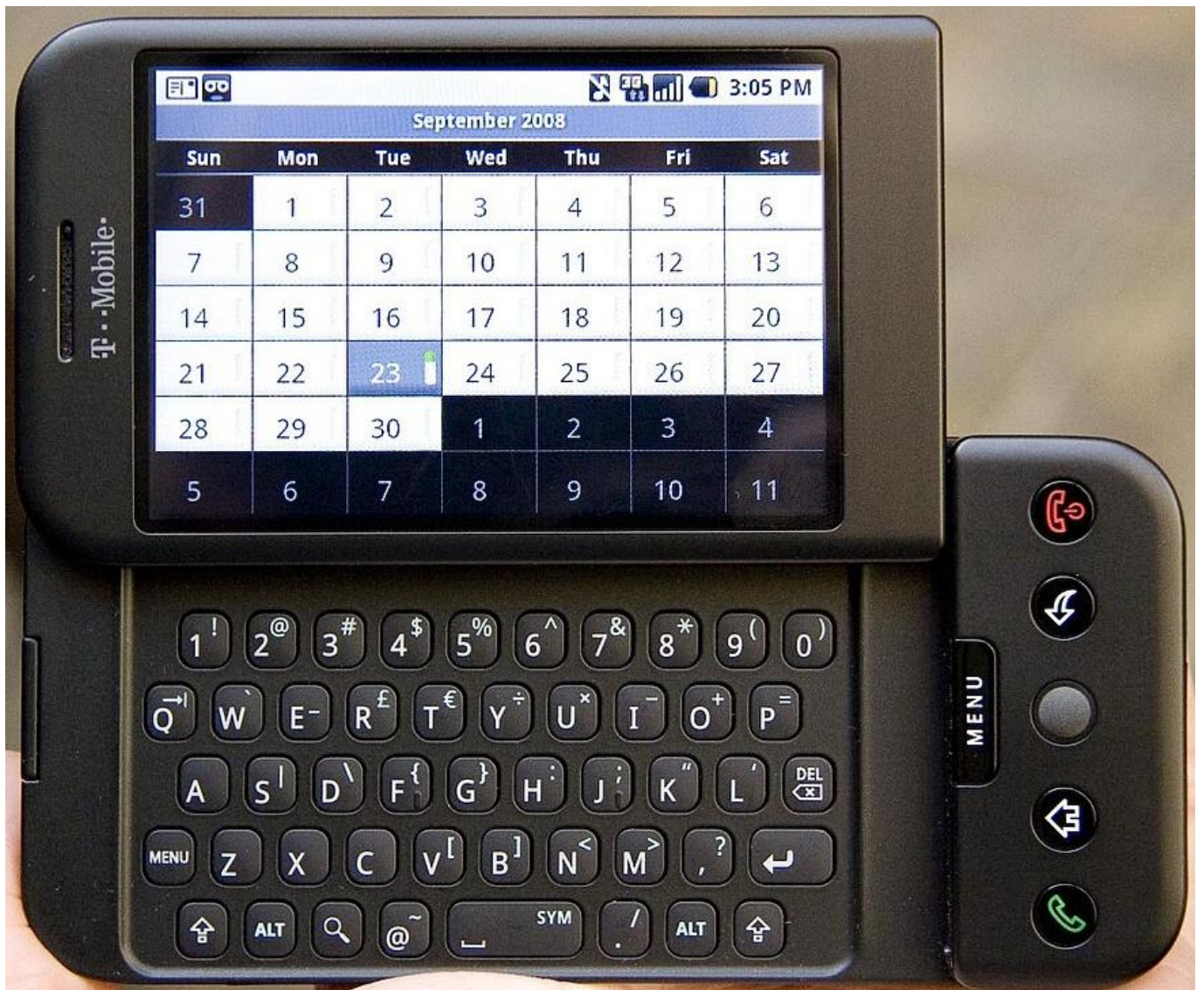
*Figure 1: T-mobile G1 specifications*

*Figure 2: T-mobile G1 front view*

*Figure 3: T-mobile G1*