



The power to do more

The Daily Star
DHAKA, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2015
e-mail: bytes@thedailystar.net

INFORMATION

GADGETS

TECHNOLOGY



HANDS ON REVIEW

SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 5 THE NOTE IS BACK

Lose your phone, not your data



If you are one of those unfortunate who has gotten mugged, I sympathise. Losing your phone, especially today when we practically live on it, can be difficult. But more important and valuable than your phone is the massive amount of personal data, pictures and files that is not at the hands of someone else. While there are steps you should take the soonest your phone has been lost to you, there are a few steps before hand that gives an extra layer of security which could make all the difference.

SCREENLOCK

And by this I don't mean the swipe pattern. Put up a four-digit code, or better yet a strong passcode - something cannot be guessed just by staring at the fingerprints on your phone screen.

On top of that, add a SIM passcode as well. So when someone else turns on your phone, there are two layers of password standing between your data and them.

ENCRYPT

Most smartphones nowadays come with the option to encrypt all the data on the phone. iPhones encrypt the data as soon as you put a passcode on it - for Androids, just head over to settings. Although encryption slows down the phone a bit, it also means, without the password, the only way to access the phone is to reset the device. In addition to that, you can also use 3rd party apps to encrypt your phone.

REMOTE DELETE

This feature will not be much help if the phone is kept turned off after it is taken, but it's better to be on the safe side. Android and iOS - both offer this, through which you can remotely factory reset the phone if it is connected to the internet.

CONFIGURE APPS

Facebook, Gmail and Dropbox all offer two-step verification now. Use these. Backup data from all your apps regularly - if you do need to remotely wipe your phone, you would want to be able to get back some of it.

The above are things to do before - if your phone happens to get stolen, here's what you do. Access a computer and remotely lock out from all social media. If you use two steps verification, remember before hand to keep a backup set of codes printed for times like this when you don't have access to your regular phone number.

Next, call your network operator and block your SIM card. See if you can locate your phone through the remote services online - if not, just click on the option to remotely wipe.

Then you go to the police, hand them your IMEI number and drop down in prayer hoping that they find your phone.

It's a well known fact: the Korean giant always bets big on the Note Series. And the Galaxy Note 5 is no exception. The tech community quite understandably has been eagerly anticipating the Note 5 and now that the new flagship has arrived, it must be said that Samsung has definitely come out with a winner!

Instead of trying to pack the phone with innovations and gimmicks, Samsung went for the more logical approach of tweaking and modifying existing features to perfection so that you can enjoy a truly seamless performance. So let's go and take a look at all the things that make the Note 5 a worthy companion.

Design
With a Gorilla Glass 4 encased front and rear accentuated by Aluminum edges, the Note 5 is definitely among the best looking Samsung flagships. At first look, it seems to have a flat surface and straight, level edges that are typical in smart phones. However, only after picking it up, you can find the difference.

Samsung cleverly incorporated the frontal curves of the S6 Edge+ to the back end of the Note 5, which makes it not only comfortable to hold the device, but also adds a sensation of slimmness and slickness. However, there is a problem-the glass surfaces on both sides combined with a large size means that the phone can become quite slippery, particularly for those with butter fingers like mine.

Display
The Note 5 is already being touted by some as the phone with the best display ever and surely there is some merit to this point of view. A 5.7" screen with qHD display (2,560 x 1,440 pixels) and a pixel density of 518 ppi provides sharp texts and images and the brightness level is well adjusted so that there is no problem looking at photos and videos even under bright sunlight.

Software
As with other Samsung devices, the Note

5 also runs TouchWiz UI on top of Android 5.1.1 Lollipop- the latest Android OS till date in any Samsung device. Samsung's apps include Note regulars such as S Note and S Health, though the company has really shown control in adding in the bloatware. A quick trip through the settings menu will also show up a whole bunch of extra modes and options. There are also battery saving modes, several gestures and themes for a

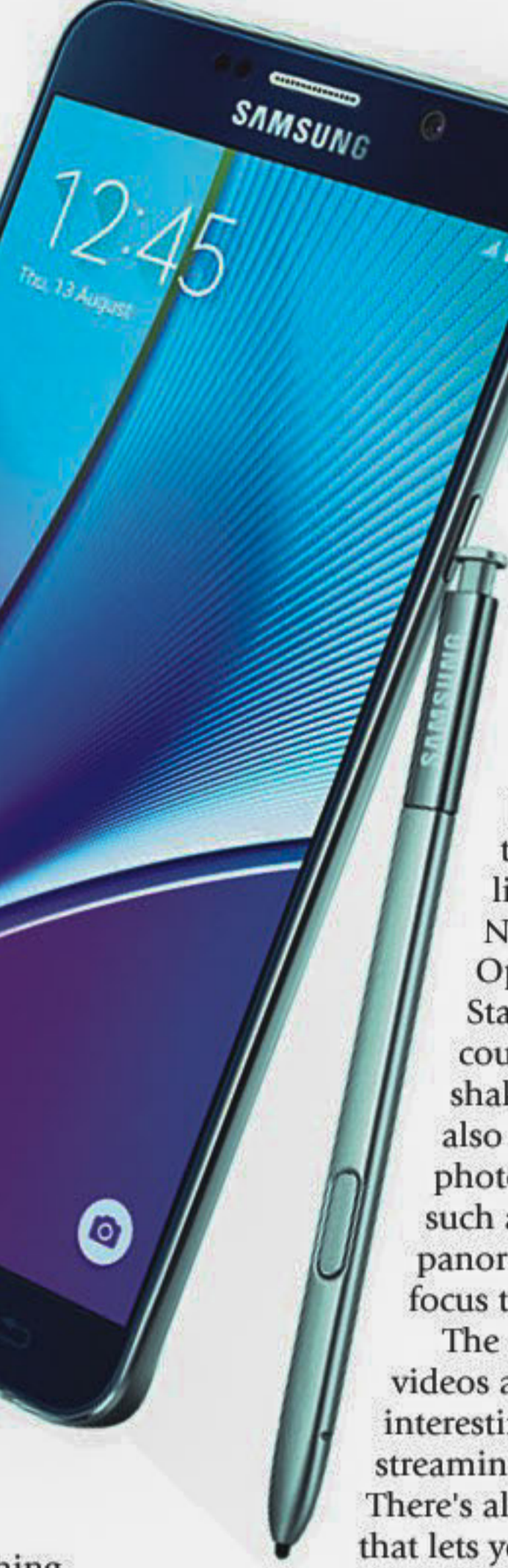


fresh appeal and also, very conveniently, a user manual!

Hardware
Hardware wise, the Note 5 is nothing short of a powerhouse. It features Samsung's very own Exynos 7 Octacore processor that boasts two chips- a 2.1GHz quad-core chip, plus a second 1.5GHz quad-core chip for lower-powered tasks. The Note 5 features 4 GB RAM- an improvement from the Note 4's 3 GBs. The additional 1 GB does help to make things nicer and smoother and even while running some of the more demanding apps, performance does not falter.

Since Samsung has opted to lose the external memory slot, it means you'll be stuck with either 32 GB or 64 GB storage depending on which variant you buy.

Camera
The Note 5 comes with a 16 MP rear



camera and a 5 MP front facing lens.

Unlike the S6 or the S6 Edge, Samsung has chosen a wider aperture (f1.9) for the Note 5. This is good news because a wider aperture means more light can enter the lens; and since more light can enter, the photos will be better, especially those taken at low light conditions. The Note 5 also has Optical Image Stabilization, which counters the effect of shaky hands. There are also a number of photography modes such as auto-HDR, panorama, and selective focus to name a few.

The Note 5 can shoot 4k videos and comes with an interesting feature- live streaming on YouTube!

There's also a built in feature that lets you make animated GIFs. Overall, the cameras

provide great, crisp images with proper color representation both in lit and low light conditions.

S Pen Stylus

The Note 5's stylus is among the best looking pens out there. However, as soon as you hold it, you'll feel a small pang of disappointment. The pen that looks so sleek with a metal finish is actually made of plastic- which is a definite letdown. Nevertheless, despite the faux metal finish, there's nothing fake about the functionality of the stylus, or S Pen, as Samsung calls it. However, whatever you do, do not put the stylus in its chute the wrong end first. As a number of users can attest, it will lead to either the S Pen

breaking or getting permanently lodged in the chute.

Battery

One more thing that Samsung opted to lose is the typical removable battery found in most smart phones. By embedding the 3000 mAh battery in the device, the Note 5 was able to shed off a few extra milligrams and that definitely helps with the phone's appearance. However, if you are concerned that 3000 mAh might be a little too inadequate for a behemoth as the Note 5, then think again. Even after running heavy duty apps all day, the phone showed at least 10-15% charge remaining at the end of the day, which is actually pretty impressive. And since it comes with Samsung's fast charging technology, it means the Note 5 can be geared for action in no time at all!

SPECS

Display: 5.7-inch 2560x1440 Super AMOLED (518 PPI)

OS: Android 5.1(Lollipop)

CPU: Exynos 7420 processor, 64-bit octo-core

GPU: Mali-T760MP8

RAM: 4GB

Storage: 32GB/64GB

Camera: 16 megapixel rear camera / 5 megapixel front camera

Battery: 3,000 mAh

Features: Stylus, GPS, Gyroscope, S health etc

PRICE: 69,900/-

VERDICT

The Note 5's a looker and a performer, and not even the most hardened Apple fanboys can claim otherwise. It has powerful hardware, stunning cameras, great features and it is also arguably the best device if having a stylus is a must for you. However, at a price tag starting from almost 70K, it is a very costly phone. If you are always on your mobile- working and playing and doodling stuff, then surely this price tag won't stop you from getting a Note 5.

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

MOYUKH MAHTAB

JUST IN

Symphony Brings ZV Pro

Symphony brought a new handset model ZV Pro. ZV Pro comes with a 5" HD AMOLED display with resolution of 1280 X 720 pixels. The ZV Pro sports a 13 MP rear camera and a 5 MP wide angle front-facing camera. This smartphone also equipped with an Octa Core processor clocked at 1.4 GHz and coupled with 2 GB of RAM. The OS of the phone is Android 5.1 Lollipop. This phone also has a unique feature: Emergency Rescue Feature Support.
PRICE: TK. 13,990/-



Walton TVs for Eid-ul-Azha

Walton has released some new models of LED televisions at affordable rates for the customers on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha. Anyone can buy a 19-inch LED TV at only Tk. 13,900/-, a 24-inch latest technology based LED TV at Tk. 19,900/-, One can also buy 28-inch and 32-inch LED TVs at Tk. 25,300/- and Tk. 29,900/- respectively. In addition, Walton has brought internet facility based 32-inch Smart TV at only Tk. 35,900/-

TECH HAPPENING

CHALO bags investors from Silicon Valley

An Investment agreement was signed between CHALO Technologies Ltd. and the angel investor Clyde Wu was held in the offices of CHALO Technologies Ltd., Silicon Valley on 15th September, 2015. The investment agreement reflects the commitment of funding CHALO for their development stage from 1st October, 2015 to 31st March, 2015. CHALO and Clyde Wu will also facilitate cooperative initiatives in the area of corporate brand development through joint marketing & sales campaigns; share corporate opportunities; and regional and international forums. He welcomed the importance of such On-Demand services needed to facilitate Dhaka City Transportation system also unique premium services for priority clients.



SSL Wireless Introduces SMS Banking Service for Bank Alfalah

Bank Alfalah, with technical collaboration of Software Shop Limited (SSL Wireless), a Mobile Solution Provider of the country, has launched the "SMS Alert Banking Service" for its customers. A signing ceremony was organized on the occasion at Bank Alfalah's Country Office on September 13, 2015. SMS Service has now become a common feature in the banking sector. Delivering account and transaction related information by using mobile phones is now a day-to-day affair. SSL has been the first to introduce SMS banking service for banks in Bangladesh and have been successfully providing the solution for six years to more than 30 Banks. SMS Banking Service will enhance Bank Alfalah's image and service towards the customers.

Financial Service for ICT Entrepreneurs officially launched

To solve the capital/investment problem for the ICT entrepreneurs and companies of the country, BASIS and IDLC have officially launched a complete financial service program called "IDLC Udbhabon". A number of loan facilities will be offered under this program including loans for startups, short term loan, loan to buy domestic software or IT enable services and commercial space. The program has been launched officially on Thursday by Zunaid Ahmed Palak, the State Minister of ICT Division at Lakeshore Hotel in Dhaka while Naznin Sultana, the Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank was present as Special Guest. Among others, BASIS President Shameem Ahsan, IDLC CEO and MD Selim R. F Hussain and BASIS Joint Secretary General Mostafizur Rahman Sohel spoke on the occasion.

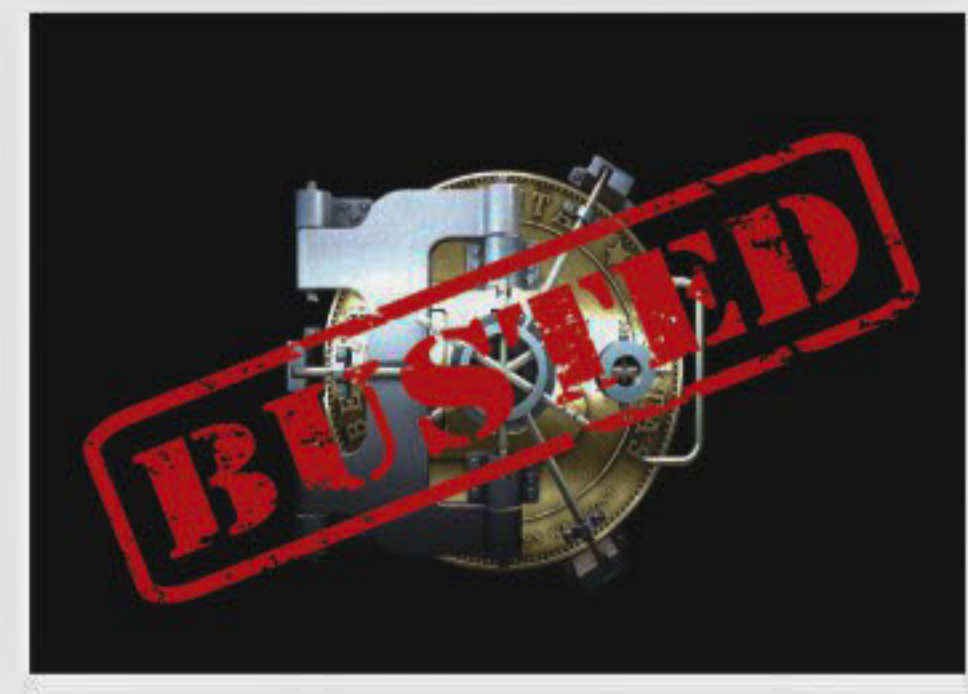
KASPERSKY SECURITY UPDATE

Criminals behind the CoinVault ransomware got busted

On Monday 14, September, the Dutch police arrested two young men, 18 and 22 years old, from Amersfoort, the Netherlands. The duo is suspected of attacking users PCs with the CoinVault ransomware. Since May 2014, the malware has targeted people in more than 20 countries, locking their devices and demanding

any mistakes, our specialists suspected the Dutch connection from the very beginning - And they were right!

In November 2014 Kaspersky Lab and Dutch police launched noransom.kaspersky.com, a tool that could be used to restore files encrypted by the CoinVault ransomware. It was the working



ransom for bringing files back to the owners. The majority of victims had been registered in the Netherlands, Germany, USA, France and the UK. Since

2014 Kaspersky Lab has tracked the evolution of CoinVault malware and collaborated with the National High Tech Crime Unit (NHTCU) of the Dutch police. The malware samples had flawless Dutch phrases throughout the binary code. As Dutch is a relatively difficult language to write without

alternative for victims who either had to pay a ransom to the criminals or lose their files forever. Later Kaspersky Lab was contacted by Panda Security,

which had found information about additional malware samples that turned to be relative to CoinVault. A thorough analysis of the newly-found ransomware samples was given to the Dutch police. Our joint collaboration ended with real criminal apprehension.



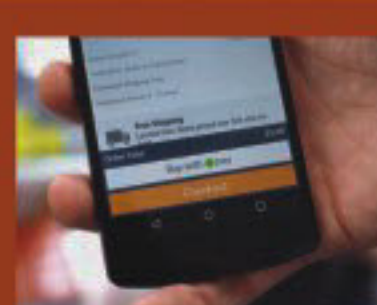
TECH BITS
Malware-ridden apps found in Apple's Chinese App Store



Google's likely Nexus/Android event is happening September 29th



Android Pay reaches Google Play, ready for all in the US



Pentagon is building a system that instantly detects security breaches



The world's fastest human-powered vehicle just topped 85 mph

