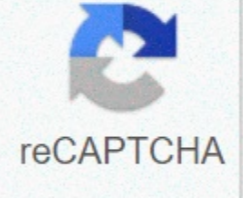




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Windows phone 8.1 app

Microsoft says the Windows Phone 7 app marketplace is booming. In a blog post that hit the chest, Microsoft revealed that WinPho7's app count is 11,500, and it's without wallpapers or dual apps in different languages. The ecosystem has 36,000 developers, 60 percent of whom haven't even published anything yet, so the potential for growth is huge. Still, some tech pundits, such as Robert Scoble, insist that a lack of apps is the only reason Windows Phone 7 hasn't been a rousing success. How can this be true if The Windows Phone Marketplace jumps with activity? First, a bit of qualifications: We don't know with absolute certainty that Windows Phones doesn't sell. Microsoft has only said how many phones it sold to retailers (1.5 million at the end of December), not the number of people who have actually purchased one. But LG has expressed disappointment with sales, and one BRITISH retailer claimed that Android phones outsell Windows phones with a 15 to 1 ratio. It's safe to say that Windows Phone 7 hasn't been a rousing success. Windows Phone 7's Real Challenges But Is A Lack of Apps To Blame? I doubt it. When I think about which phone to buy or recommend to friends, I'm quick to exclude Windows Phone 7, but not because of apps. The platform's lack of multitasking and HTML5 support are much bigger drawbacks. Same with copy and paste, at least until Microsoft finishes rolling out the NoDo software update. And until Windows Phones comes to Verizon Wireless, the number of people who can even consider the platform is limited. Windows Phone 7 hardware has also been unimpressive so far. Most handsets do not have front-facing cameras. No one has dual-core processors. Most lack expandable storage, which wouldn't be a problem if they contained more than 8GB or 16GB of onboard storage. Every time an Android phone pushes the hardware envelope, Windows Phone 7 falls further behind. If none of these issues existed, apps might linger in the back of your mind, but I doubt it. After all, Windows Phone 7 has a great gaming platform in Xbox Live. It has apps for Facebook, Twitter, Yelp, Shazam, IMDB and even Netflix, which Android still lacks. With Microsoft's new stats in mind, I simply don't buy the argument that apps are holding the platform back. If anything, they are the biggest bright spot for Windows Phone 7 to date. Follow Jared on Facebook and Twitter for even more technical news and commentary. Note: When you buy something after clicking on links in our articles we can earn a small commission. Read our affiliate link policy for more details. Just because you're using a Windows Phone-powered handset doesn't mean you shouldn't know what's going on in the world. CBS has one of the best news organizations around, The CBS News for Windows 8.1 app gives you access to this news gathering organization. With the universal app, you can install CBS News on a Windows Windows or a Windows Phone 8.1-powered device. Categories on the app include U.S. News, World, Politics, Science/Technology, Health, Entertainment, Moneywatch and Crime. You can watch videos of CBS News programming, or view full episodes of CBS Evening News, 60 Minutes, 48 Hours and Face the Nation. The app also allows you to view CBSN, a live streaming video news channel that includes an anchor, and features original CBS News content. The 4MB app is a free download from the Windows Store. CBS News can be downloaded and installed on a Windows Phone 8.1 handset source: CBSNews (Windows) via WMPoweruser SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER! We've seen pieces of what to expect from Windows Phone 8 when it's finally released in a few months. We knew about Internet Explorer 10, and other features, but we're just hearing about a much wanted new feature that can be included: dictation. Dictation is a feature that has become something of a standard for mobile platforms because more efficient text input options are one of the biggest concerns of any mobile user. Apple has turned to Nuance and its Dragon software to power not only Siri, but its text dictation; and, Google built its own voice recognition services using ex-Nuance talent. Microsoft has voice search in Windows Phone, and has planned extended voice commands in WP8, but so far we had not seen anything about dictation. Those playing with the Windows Phone 8 emulator saw that there is a new option labeled talk in the email app. It is disabled in the emulator, but is expected to be fully working when it hits phones. The only question here is how extensive the dictation options will be. Other screenshots have not shown the option in any other text fields, and we have not seen the QWERTY keyboard for WP8, only the rumored radical oblique keyboard, and even that did not have a dictation button that we could see. It is possible that this dictation is only available in the email app, or perhaps just Mail and Messages. So far, we don't know. source: Mimovindows via WMPoweruser SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER! Apps are what make your Windows PC, tablet, phone, and Xbox so useful. There are thousands of apps available that allow you to create and consume almost anything. Here you will find unique and powerful apps spanning all categories Windows Phone Central App Roundup: Photo Cabinets The other day we took a look at the Windows Phone app Pic Lock Ultimate. It's an app that lets you store photos in a safe environment, away from prying eyes. Pic Lock also goes a little further with some stylish security features to deter and even photograph those trying to sneak a top of your photos. This week's roundup will focus on four alternatives to Pic Lock Ultimate. These photo cabinets are among the higher rated apps of this kind to keep your a safe area. While these picture cabinets may lack anti-intrusion features they are not too shabby in their own right. Photo Lock Free (free): Photo Lock Free is a fairly simple photo cabinet with a healthy layer of features. You must first register an email (for password reset) and then set your password. Photo Lock Free supports pattern passwords as well as the traditional alphanumeric passwords. The main pages show your secure photo albums, a favorite page, and a settings page. New albums can be created from the main page of the app and you can import photos but not videos (OS restriction) into Photo Lock Free, or you can launch the camera app from within the app to take photos and photos to be secured in the cabinet. Photo Lock Free features a photo editor powered by Aviary that lets you crop, rotate and add effects to images in your secure collection. You also have multiple account support, so if you want to give someone access to your secure photos, you can avoid sharing your password by creating the additional account. Photo Lock Free is an ad-supported app for your Windows Phone 8 or 7.x device that you can find here in the Windows Phone Store. There's a \$99, ad-free version of Photo Lock that you can pick up here in the Store. Private Photo (trial/\$.99): Private Photo has more of a sanitary feel to it than the other photo cabinets. It's not necessarily bad, but the app has a vaulting feel to it with brushed steel backgrounds. As with most photo cabinets, the first order of business is with Private Photo to set your password and provide an email address for password recovery. Private Photo only supports numeric passwords of six digits. From there you are sent to the main page of the app that will list your secure photo albums and view controls to add new albums, edit the existing ones and access the settings. Settings cover reset or change your passwords, view information, and view the Help topic. There isn't an editor with Private Photo but you can start a slideshow. There is also a decoy mode. Decoy mode allows you to set a secondary password that sends you to a private collection area. So, if you have some safe images you want to share but don't want to give away the primary password, you can use decoy mode. Private Photo will import and export photos only. You must use the Private Video developer video app (trial/\$2.99) to secure videos on your Windows Phone. There is a trial version available for Private Photo with the full version running \$.99. Private Photo is available for Windows Phone 8 and 7.x devices, and you can find it all here in the Windows Phone Store. Free Private Album (free): Private Album is a free, ad-supported photo cabinet for your Windows Phone 8 and 7.x devices. Like Private Photo, Private Photo Has More of a Generic vault appearance (again, which is not a one thing). Private Album Free supports traditional alphanumeric passwords and instead of email recovery, enter a word hint in response to one of five questions (favorite color, favorite teacher, etc.). Photos can be imported from your Pictures Hub while videos must either be created within the app or downloaded from your Skydrive account (again, OS restriction). Photos can also be exported back to your Pictures Hub or uploaded to Facebook or Skydrive. Private Album Free lacks a photo editor but will let you rotate the image. The Skydrive support helps Private Album Free stand out but I found instability issues that caused the app to crash when importing images. The crashes didn't occur every time I went to import a photo but enough to be a problem. Again, Private Album Free is a free, ad-supported app for your Windows Phone 7.x and 8 device that you can find here in the Windows Phone Store. PRIVATE Lite (free): PRIVATE Lite has a little more feel than Private Album Free or Private Photo with a pattern lock that has a wide range of lock patterns/ icons. Everything from smiley faces to Christmas trees. After you enter your password pattern, enter a PIN to help you reset your password in case you forget the pattern. Just don't lose your PIN because there are no email recovery options. As with other photo cabinets, photos can be imported from your Image Hub, but videos can't. You'll need to import videos from your Skydrive account or create new videos by starting your camera via PRIVATE Lite. You can also capture and secure images directly through PRIVATE Lite as well. PRIVATE Lite has a Fake Mode similar to the Decoy modes in Private Photography. You set up a secondary password to give others access to private albums you create but not the entire secure photo collection. As with Photo Lock Free, PRIVATE Lite has an internal photo editor. The Aviary powered editor allows you to crop, rotate, and apply filters to your images. Last but not least, PRIVATE Lite has a web browser and the ability to download images via a URL. This allows you to import photos from your Flickr, PBase, or other web albums. PRIVATE Lite is a free, ad-supported app for your Windows Phone 7.x and 8 devices that you can find here in the Windows Phone Store. To get rid of your ads, you can download PRIVATE for \$.99 here in the Store. Here are some observations on photo cabinet apps in general. None of these apps remove the imported image from the Image Hub. If you're securing an image that you don't want others to see, you'll need to manually remove it from your Image Hub. Then, as we've mentioned, none of these apps will import videos from your Image Hub. Some apps have Skydrive support for downloading videos from your Skydrive account and/or allowing you to capture video directly through the app. These apps can be useful in maintaining photos private or photos you may not want your children to stumble upon. Which one is the best? I think Pic Lock Ultimate has the edge with its anti-intrusion features but the app has some serious bugs holding it back. Of the apps in the roundup, private lite has plenty of features and enough pop with lock screen patterns to make it stand out. It's also hard to ignore the photo editor and Skydrive support feature. The beauty of it all is that these programs are either free or have a trial version so you can try them all out yourself. If your favorite photo cabinet wasn't listed, mute in the comments and feel free to make your own recommendation. Recommendation.

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