Nokia 6682

By Sascha Segan   June 27, 2005 11:35AM ESTJune 27, 2005

Editors' Rating:⬤⬤⬤⬤◯**EXCELLENT**

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PROS

Excellent voice quality. Good camera with bright flash. Symbian third-party software available.

CONS

Small keys. Battery life could be longer.

BOTTOM LINE

A powerful, flexible smartphone that never forgets it's first and foremost a phone.

A smartphone with the accent on "phone," the Nokia 6682 is a powerful, flexible device for people who want a phone that happens to do more than just make calls. The Nokia 6682 is the successor to the Nokia 6620 and the Nokia 7610, and it improves on both of them. Like the 6620 and 7610, it runs on the Symbian Series 60 operating system. Symbian Series 60, like Windows Mobile and Palm OS, has plenty of third-party software support; Symbian phones, however, typically focus more on phone functions than on messaging.

The 6682 has a better design than its predecessors. It's a serious-looking bar phone in off-white, with a standard keypad. The keys are small, but at least they're rectangular. A big sliding cover on the back exposes the 1.3-megapixel camera lens and flash. Under the hood, Nokia has bumped up the processor to 220 MHz.

There are two changes here that might dissuade 6620/7610 owners from upgrading: The 6682 runs a new version (8.0) of the Symbian OS, and it uses the new MMC Mobile memory cards. A few 6620/7610 applications won't run on the new device (almost all the apps we tried ran fine), and you'll have to get new memory cards. A 64MB card comes with the phone, supplementing its 10MB of built-in memory.

As a phone, the 6682 is excellent. Sound quality is loud and clear both on the earpiece and speakerphone, and we easily connected it with Nokia and Sony Ericsson Bluetooth headsets. You can initiate voice dialing (though VoiceSignal's far superior voice-dialing application costs $15 extra) and even play MP3s through a Bluetooth headset. We created and assigned our own MP3 ringtones easily. The 2.2-inch, 176- by 220-pixel screen is very viewable, even in sunlight.

The 1.3MP camera takes very good photos for a phone: sharper and better exposed than the 7610's, though with a slight bluish tinge and a little bit of color noise. We printed via USB directly to a PictBridge-compatible Canon ink jet printer, and the 3-by-5-inch result was good enough to frame. (You can also print via Bluetooth.) The flash is unusually bright. Measured with a light meter, it's four times as bright as the flash on the LG VX-8000, which is a bright camera-phone flash. The 6682's flash is still only one-fourth as bright as the flash on a "real" digital camera, though.

The real thrill of the 6682 is in expanding it. There are hundreds of applications available for Symbian phones. The 6682 comes with Lifeblog, Nokia's moblogging (mobile blogging) application, a mobile version of the muvee automatic video-making program, an MP3/AAC player, Microsoft Office document and PDF readers, and a mediocre Web browser, which we quickly replaced with the excellent free Opera browser.

The built-in e-mail client supports POP3/IMAP accounts with attachments. You can get Microsoft Outlook and Lotus Notes e-mail through the third-party Smartner Duality (now changing its name to Seven Always-On) program, available from Handango (www.handango.com), and the free Agile Messenger IM program is the best for any mobile platform.

The Class 10 EDGE data modem, running at 108 to 120 Kbps on our tests, is fine for Web browsing, e-mail, and streaming music through applications like Virgin Radio's free application. (For an idea of what to run on the 6682, see www.russellbeattie.com.)

The 6682's nearest Editors' Choice competitor is the Audiovox SMT-5600. Both phones are excellent, but the SMT-5600 is smaller, supports Microsoft Exchange 2003 Server corporate e-mail, and has better battery life and Java gaming benchmark-test results. On the other hand, the 6682 boots faster and has a better camera, better Bluetooth support, an externally mounted memory card slot, and much faster Internet access with EDGE. Both have excellent voice quality. We'd pick the 6682 for Web surfing and picture taking, and the SMT-5600 for syncing with Exchange 2003 servers and watching video.

The 6682 will be available from GSM carriers later this summer, selling for between $300 and $350.

Benchmark Test Results
Continuous talk time: 7 hours 28 minutes
JBenchmark 3D HQ: 178
JBenchmark 3D LQ: 278
JBenchmark 2.1.1: 152
JBenchmark 1.1.1: 5136

View the Audiovox SMT-5600, LG VX-8000, Nokia 6620, and Nokia 7610 side by side.

Nokia 6682

●●●●○ **EXCELLENT** **EDITORS' CHOICE**

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