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[W890](#) | [W380](#)

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Sony Ericsson Singapore User Group

Handphones

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[Ig ku990 viewty \(prada's successor\) - iPhone killer?](#)

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not many people know of this phone
still hard to get in singapore
but those who does refer to this as 'the iPhone killer'

in many ways this is true

1. it uses touch screen like the iPhone
no, it isnt as sexy as the iPhone or as easy to use
but it is really elegant, a second generation prada
2. the screen takes a little time to get used to
but if you have used the prada before, it is quite easy to use
menus arent as nice as the iPhone by a country mile
asian phone makers still dont get it - softwarewise
3. unlike the iPhone, this is a real phone
it has a slot for a card
you can download stuff
and not work like a hard-to-use-iPhone-phone
4. sms is really nice, unlike the iPhone
forward, group sms, templates etc (mms even; absent in iPhone)
with a nice alphanumeric qwerty keyboard popping out on screen
5. phone is loud and clear
bluetooth, speaker phone etc
yes, you can choose ringing tones with the lg ku990
6. the camera is fantastic - 5mp vs iPhone's 2 mp
zoom, flash etc - the works
i especially like the hard buttons on the side
just lots of fun since my pentax optio
7. then there is the cam coder (absent on the iPhone)
120 frames? lol slow motion on the playback!
yes, you can zoom in while videoing as well

after struggling to justify myself for a reason to keep the iPhone
i gave my 8 gig iPhone to my daughter at church last night
just keeping a 4gig iPhone and iPod touch to play around

so which is my daily mobile phone of choice?
lg ku990 or nokia e90?
stay tuned - more tomorrow

btw there's even a group at facebook called
LG Viewty KU990 is the iPhone Killer
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=14500150054>

look at the facts on paper, the lg viewty is so much better than the iphone, its cheaper and has more features.

LG 'Viewty' Phone [LG-KU990] - Technical Specifications

Camera / Video

- 5 Mega Pixel camera certified by Schneider-Kreuznach for clear shots
- Manual Focus & Auto Focus
- Xenon light for shot in low light
- Mobile XD Engine
- 30fps VGA, 262K TFT LCD for clearer and sharper pictures and videos
- Video can be filmed endlessly according to memory capacity
- Ultra High speed video capture (120fps)
- Divx Playback (up to VGA 30fps)
- H.264, H.263, MPEG4
- TV out

Connectability

- HSDPA 3.6Mbps, EDGE
- WAP 2.0
- Bluetooth 1.2 (AD2P,BPP)
- USB 2.0 High Speed/ Bluetooth 1.2
- PictBridge(Printer direct connect via USB cable) &BPP (via Bluetooth)

Design

- Dimension: 103.5 x 54.4 x 14.8 mm
- 3.0" Wide LCD Touch screen, 240 x 400 pixel (WQVGA)

Music

- MP3 Player
- Multi Codec support : MP3, AAC/AAC+/AAC+Enhanced, Midi, XMF, SMAF

Others

- Battery: 1,000 mAh
- Memory: Internal Memory (100Mb), External Memory (MicroSD, up to 2GB)
- Weight: 112g
- Standby time, Max (hrs): 434hrs(GSM) , 454hrs(3G)
- Talk time (hrs): 355min(GSM), 233min(3G), 138min(VT)



as you can see from the above shot
the ku990 is smaller but thicker than the iphone
but so much lighter
(iphone will be great if reduced to ipod touch size)

it makes the ku990 easy to slip into the pants pocket
and if your shirt pocket is empty like mine
fits light and easy into it

no wonder it's now my daily mobile phone of choice

ku990 is very much like the prada
i like the black theme, kind of understated elegance
menus are very simple, easy to tweak
you feel at home with it right away

i got a free 1 gig micro sd with the phone
fill it up with 500mb of docs, mp3, videos and games
leaving half free for photos and videos i will take
using the fabulous ku990 camera

the camera is really easy to use
even better than my nokia e90
with hard buttons on the sides and the front
ku990 is actually a good camera disguised as a phone

phone features are good, but not outstanding
touch screen has improved over prada
but not as funky as the iphone

(i dont believe asians will ever give the kind of attention to detail and the creativeness and user friendliness that apple is famous for) nor will it have all the great programs and features of nokia e90

still, each phone stands on its own merits
if you want a good camera with a good phone
and touch screen and elegance is your thing
ku990 is really lots of fun
and i really liked it



when the lg ku990 viewty was announced
everyone thought that it will cost over S\$1,000
what, with 5mp camera and 120 frame video

imagine the surprise at singtel's xmas fair this past weekend
that the 4-hour long queue reap an handsome profit
of a lg viewty for just S\$320 with a 2-year plan

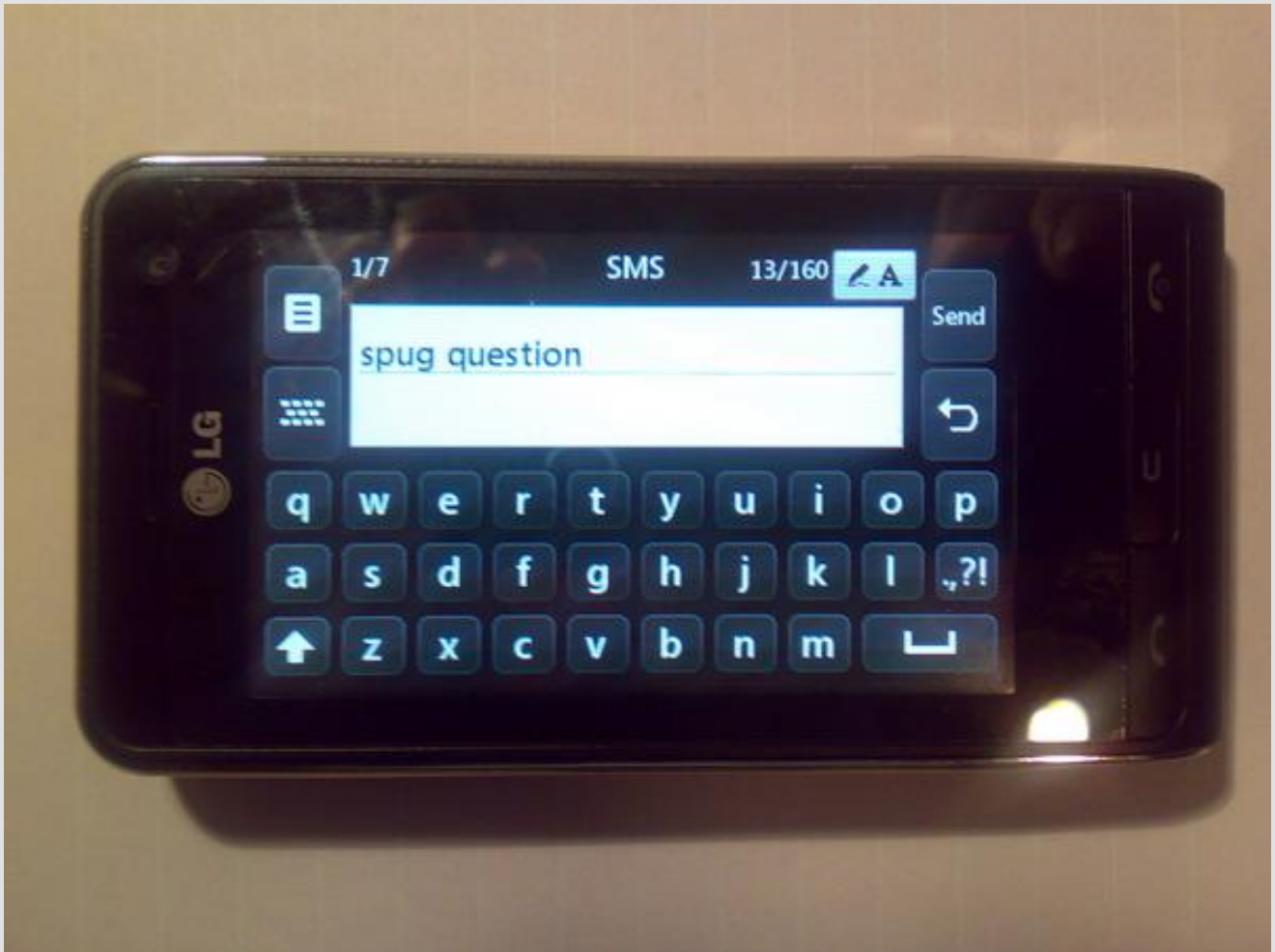
well, it isnt surprising that those who rather not queue
found themselves high and dry as singtel's stocks are wiped out

m1 still have stocks, but not as cheap as singtel
and for those without contract, the prepaid card bundle
is sold cheaper than the \$788 retail price

so what is this strangely named hand phone
viewty stands for VIEW Technonolgy
a second generation prada, with lots of improvements

but the selling point is the camera
that has everything and then some
including image stabiliser, zoom for videos etc
- all in a very nicely arranged package

imho it is everything the iPhone is not



yeah, it has a builtin web browser
not too shabby
i also use mini opera

also lg has a deal with google
so easy to get google maps, mail etc

currently when i checked on monday
m1 has it in stock
2 year plan - \$488 or \$588 (cant recall)
no contract - \$788 (same as lg's road show but without freebies)
special bundle with prepaid card promo - \$710

singtel sold out on 24/25 nov xmas road show
with many on waiting list for special price of \$320 with 2 yr contract
(waiting time 4 hours at the show)
they would probably sell it at m1 prices when new stocks arrive



it would be impossible for me to really compare
nokia e90 - the most powerful phone on planet earth
with the lg ku990 or any other phone

so i'll just tell you why i am now using
the lg ku990 as my daily hand phone of choice
instead of reverting to the e90
after i've dumped the apple iPhone

1. as you can see from the above shot
the lg ku990 is less bulky and lighter
- i can even place it in my shirt pocket
but the e90 is really a fat pig that you have to carry
2. i took my e90 on a 6-day cruise a few months ago
and again on a trip to a remote village last month
- i played a few games, checked emails, surfed a bit
but didnt used much of the arsenal of stuff i've got on my 2gig card

now that i'm using this funky camera phone
with a minimum of programs, mp3, videos, photos
i find up taking it out more and snapping/videoing more frequently

3. it has all the things i need or use
 - a. phone - all the bells and whistles
 - b. sms - groups, forwarding etc (stuff i missed with iPhone)
 - c. camera - imho this must be the best camera on any phone
 - d. video is great - 120 fps, zoom as you go etc
 - e. internet - google's presence makes it easy and fun
 - f. emails - with qwerty board, makes sense
 - g. calendar, alarms, to do etc - usual essentials

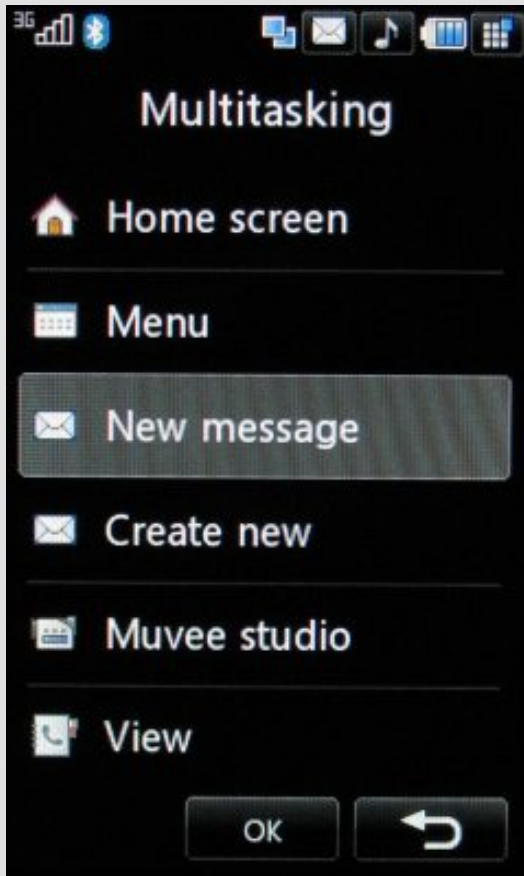
there are other stuff that i dont care for like youtube,
handwriting recognition, photo editing program, fm radio etc

cons

- a. touch screen takes a little getting used to
but if you have owned a prada before, no prob
- b. photos all show in one huge mess (unlike iPhone)
but you can go around this using the file manager
- c. some menus not flexible eg group names

pluses

- a. great camera and cam corder
- b. beautiful, elegant layout
- c. small and light



UI very much the same as prada
which is simple, elegant and really nice

as i review this phone
i will post more and more screenshots
but if you are anxious to see more
google around
there's a bunch here

http://www.gsmarena.com/lg_ku990_viewty-review-167p2.php

the best way to get the lg990 is with a plan
that varies around \$320-\$588

my colleague saw one at a shop in vivocity
next to best
going for \$888 without a plan
ouch!



www.GSMarena.com

the lg ku990 has only 3 hard buttons for the phone
green to call and go
red to end and on/off
middle c to correct

once powered,
there are 4 soft buttons on the bottom
these 4 buttons are the setting, phone, message and contact icons
on most screens
(watch out for tomorrow's screenshots)
except if you are on the settings
it is on the side as in the pic below



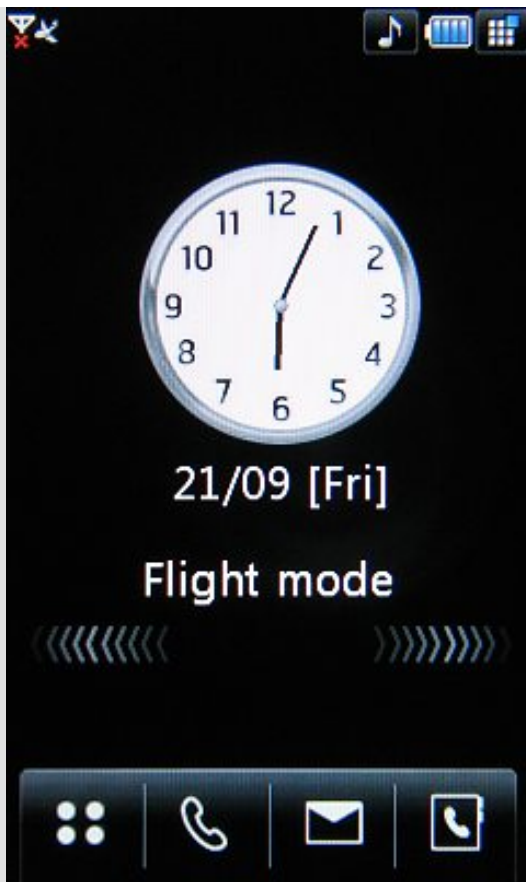
on the first level level menu
there is the setting, multi-media, programs/mystuff and phone folders
as you can see the UI is just so beautiful
everything you want to know
it is there for you to feast your eyes on

i agree that the iPhone's interface is so much more user friendly
as apple really pull out all stops to look sexy
still, for an asian phone maker, this is really a super effort
and nothing else i saw comes even close



after a week with the lg ku990, here are some random thoughts:

1. with lg's partnership with google, the above apps are all a breeze
- very easy access
2. i really like the tactile vibration feedback each time you touch the screen - very reassuring
3. battery life is good as far as i can tell
4. lots of surprises like the home page's animated arrows



touch these left/right arrows, and hey presto...



there's a nice short-cut menu available
pity, like some of the non-flexible options eg groups
no way to customize this lot

5. ku990 is an ok smart phone
that views all the office stuff like ppt, doc, xls
also comes with calendar, to do list etc
a plus that it reads native pdf
and plays swf flash stuff

6. lol it comes with a stylus
that you can hang on the phone
as ku990 also has handwriting recognition
but doesn't really need it

7. i found out by accident that the 'my memory card' option
under the mystuff folder
is actually a file manager
so i used it whenever i want to view stuff by folders
eg photos and mp3 etc
although the songs playlists, albums works pretty good

executive summary:
ku990 is really a well thought out and fun phone
real quality stuff and elegant
that stands head and shoulder above all others
but still not perfect

for people who never used a touch phone
or people who are spoiled by the iphone
- you may find it a little getting used to

if you loved the prada, you will like this even more
if you don't want to carry 2 devices ie camera and phone,
your prayers have just been answered in an overwhelming way

my cup runneth over

here's a video i took this morning at botanical gardens
lol 120 fps in slow-motion!

<http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=6166277229&oid=6514551087>

also a sample of a pic taken by the lg ku990 in my condo



anyway, just posted a short video i took at church this morning
a guy running towards me in slo mo
- can your handphone do that?

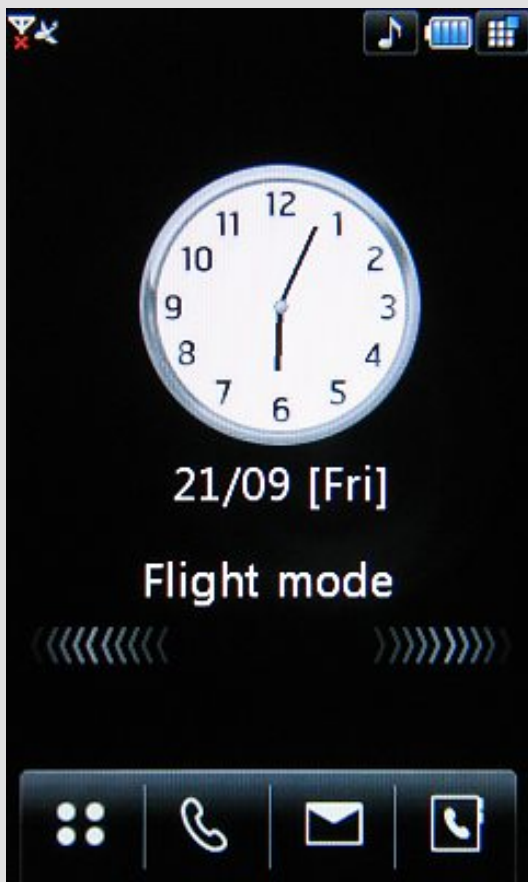
<http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=6183902229&oid=5757444013>

the 7 wonders of the lg ku990 viewty

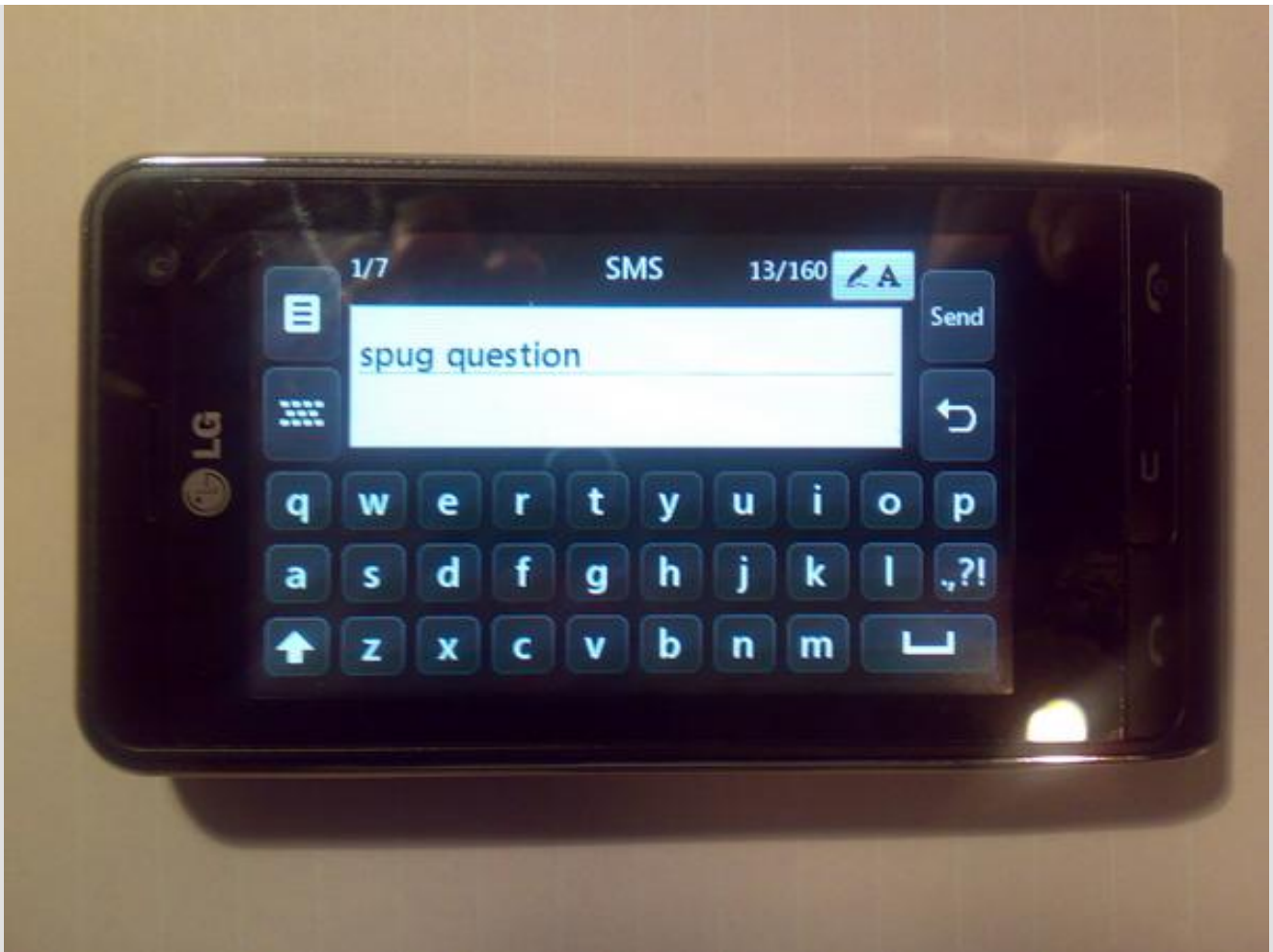
1. great camera - slim, easy to use 5mp thingy



2. nice tactile feedback - almost like hard buttons



3. qwerty keyboard - just wished the prada had one when i was using it



4. great video cam - the slo mo 120fps never fails to impress



at <http://img.gsmarena.com/vv/reviewsimg/lg-ku990/>

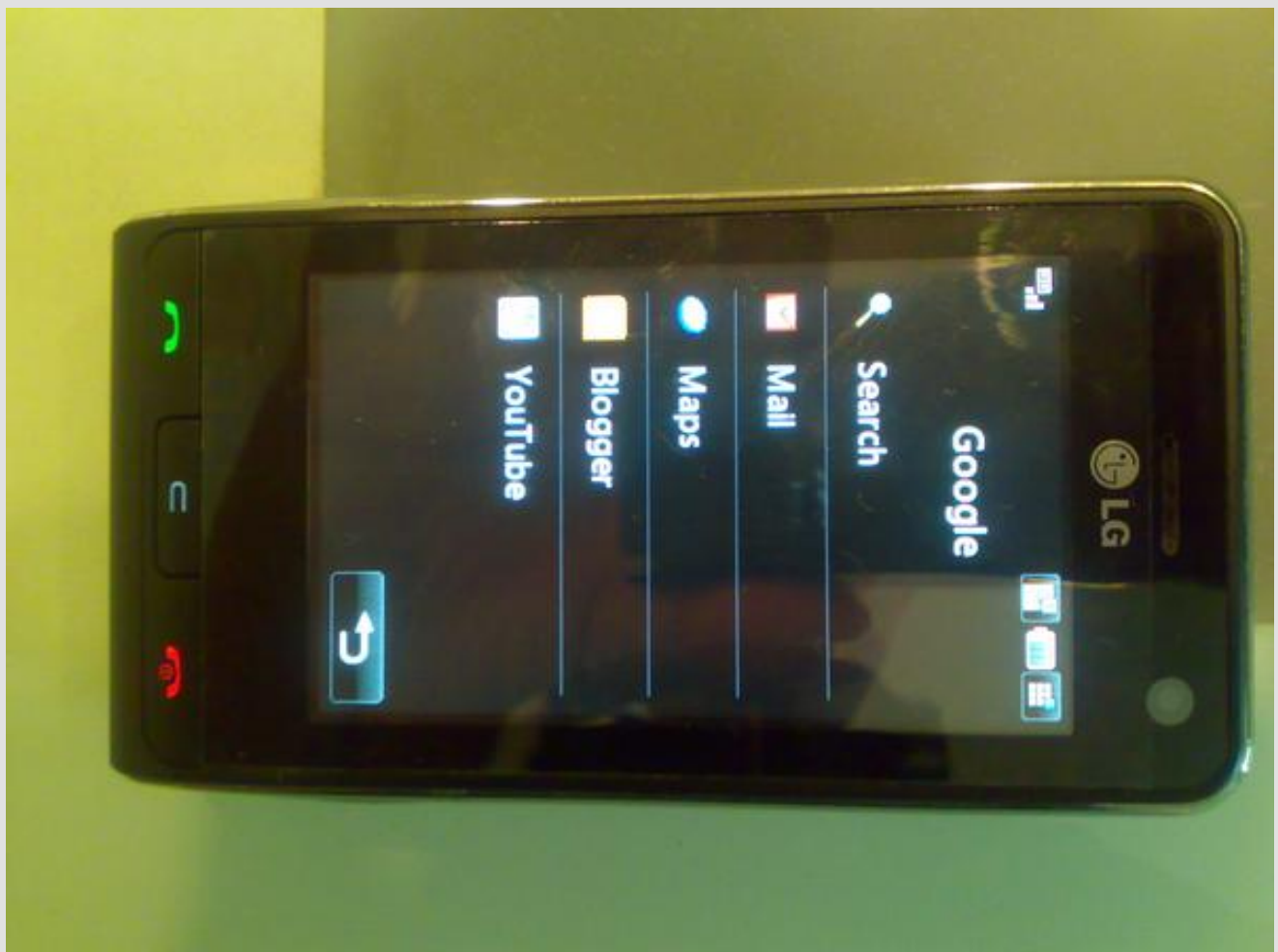
5. simply an elegant looking phone - worthy successor to the lg prada



6. elegant, simple menu - only phone i mastered overnight




7. wonderful google partnership - i like google because they try to do no evil



who says a phone had to be expensive to be as good as this?

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