## Phone memory

Nokia 6500 Slide Phone MemoriesThese two joyful years (and 12 days) together have really swept past swiftly like a strong breeze. I remember it like it was last week, the day I got you, the day my mum and I stepped into the shop and my mum scribbled her signature onto the contract.

The date was 1st February, 2009, one day after my birthday. It was the end of the previous contract, the mark of the retirement of my previous companion, and the signature on the contract marked the obtaining of you, the soon to be new companion. Excitement gushed through every vein in my body as the box you were contained in was given to me. The moment my dad arrives at the station and drives us home, you would be freed from the cramped cardboard confinement and finally meet your new companion.

How excited I was, I could hardly wait as I stood near the train station with my mum, waiting for dad. It seemed like almost half an hour for the fiveminute wait, but when I finally arrived home I ambled confidently up the stairs, looking forward to freeing you from your box. As I stepped past the threshold and strode into my room, I could feel my fingers shuddering with anticipation. At last, with a final tug, and I managed to pull the sticky tape off the shiny cardboard surface of your box, open it up, and take you and your minions out of your box. It really seemed cramped and stuffy in there, I thought, considering that I used a fair bit of effort to get everyone out of your box, untangled, without messing things up more than it already was. Thankfully, for the sake of convenience, you and your minions were pretty much further confined within separate see-through bags, which ensured that I knew where everything was the moment I opened the box, as well as ensure that your minions do not become entangled with each other
(especially the earphones and charger). Instinctively, I knew that after finally being exposed to sunlight and fresh air and escaping from the box, you and your minions would not want to be so crowded together. Immediately, I placed your minions aside and started to check you out, my newest companion.

Wow, how your sleek metallic surface shone in the bright noon sunlight. My feeling of anticipation flowed to the maximum level. I was just a slide and a button press away from being able to browse through your features for the first time. At last, I thought, I managed to get hold on a trustworthy phone with Bluetooth and pleasing MP3 compatibilities. Swiftly, I slid your top half open so that your red power button was in plain view, held it down for a few seconds and, VOLIA, the much anticipated glow from your scratch-free rectangular screen shone in my eyes, followed by the always so familiar five notes of the classical Nokia phone startup tone, but now more clear and instrumental than the previous Nokia phone. I could still remember crystal clearly the very first request I gave you through pushes of your buttons. It was to go into the Apps folder and discover what fun games you had to offer.

Just as I expected, like most phones nowadays, you had five games to offer, along with the option of downloading more games. The first game which caught my eye almost immediately was ??? Rally 3D???, since my favourite games on mobile phones have always been racing games. As expected, this game did not disappoint me and became the game I played the most throughout the two years and a bit as I embarked on my dearest endeavour in trying to earn a gold trophy in all 12 tracks and unlock the fastest car offered in the game, appropriately named the ??? Good Oldie??? to mark the
time and effort the player put into beating the game 100\%. Unfortunately, the game eventually became too difficult for me (especially the last three or so tracks) and it got the better of me. I tried my hardest and after these two years and a bit I only managed to get nine gold trophies and 3 silver trophies.

Oh well, at least I managed to unlock the second best car in the game (for getting at least a silver trophy in all twelve tracks), also appropriately named ??? Azure Racer??? to commend the enormous effort I had put into trying to get all gold trophies (but not being able to). Deep down, I honestly thought that the last three tracks were too hard for me to win their gold trophies (I only barely won silver in the last track, so let?? ${ }^{\mathrm{TM}}$ s not mention about gold). Later on, after I got to know all of your essential features and how to access and use them, I downloaded a Pac-Man game (which cost \$7) from the website given by the link in the Games folder. It was well worth it, considering that it eventually became my second most played game in the Games folder. The other game you offered which I played quite often was ??? Highroller Casino???, in which my favourite game (and the one I almost always played) was Blackjack, since its rules were the most straightforward and because it was the easiest to win.

I ended up winning around two thousand dollars (initial amount was 5k so I ended up with 7k). Of course, throughout these two and so years, it was not just me using you. My best friend, Shi, also used you quite a lot, along with other friends such as Tim and Wilson. Most of the time when we were all together, though, we just took ??? luvos??? or recorded singing using your effective camera.

However, sometimes when Tim is with us, he or I would use you to make various funny prank calls. I will never forget the time when I tried to impersonate Helen?? ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ s ex-boyfriend, Andrew, and try to ??? convince??? her to get back together. Nor can I forget those overly funny pranks calls Tim and Shi made (using you) when they tried to copy a MadTV character (from YouTube), Darrel, who wanted to get a woman?? ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ s phone number. (In trying to do so, he said various funny quotes such as ??? Names Derel. Spelt Darrel, but pronounced Derel.

So... uh...
can I have yo number???) I had to try my hardest to stop myself from laughing at Tim?? ${ }^{T M}$ s and Shi?? ${ }^{T M}$ s convincing impersonations. I will also treasure the snappings of the Jay Chou concert which were taken with your camera. As I have said, these two and so years have passed by so quickly, it felt like only a few months.

Tomorrow I will be getting my new companion while you will end up in the retirement drawer with my previous phone. However, I will always reflect upon the good and funny times we have had. Tomorrow, as I enter the phone shop, I will once again be feeling the feeling I had on 1st February, 2009, the date that will be etched into my brain.

