

## How to Choose a Handheld Device (Tips & Tricks)

Building Engines does not make specific recommendations for handheld devices and does not support the devices our clients use. However, because our application is browser-based, with email and SMS (text) capabilities, Building Engines will work on any handheld mobile device that can access the Web.

That being said, there are factors we recommend you consider and evaluate while making a device decision. They are in order of importance in our opinion and experience with other clients:

1. For your geographic area (where your staff and buildings are located), how good is the coverage quality provided by your current service provider?
  - a. We always recommend testing a few different providers and devices in different locations in and around a building to determine this.
2. Is there a current device/platform predominantly in use at your organization?
  - a. This is important to consider as you may be able to achieve some economic advantage by having everyone operate on the same device/platform. Also, significant advantages may be gained from a training perspective if everyone is familiar with the same device.
3. Which device/platform has the most likable user interface?
  - a. We work with all devices that can access the Web - This includes devices such as the Blackberry, Treo and Motorola Q. It also includes the various operating systems offered by each – Blackberry, Palm or Windows Mobile.
  - b. There are some differences between how these operating systems are used. You will want to consider the available options and decide which will suit your organization best. For example:
    - i. Treos (Palm or Windows Mobile OS) have a touch screen that allow for use of a stylus, which can make the use of drop down menus easier for some users.
    - ii. Blackberries and most Windows' Mobile OS devices (such as the Q) require a "scroll" and "click to select" methodology.
4. Does a device/platform appear to be more widely supported and adopted?
  - a. This is important to consider as it will affect what other applications you can run on the device and also what kind of manufacturer and service provider support is available.
  - b. Another factor you will want to consider is the cost of data plans.
    - i. For example: the cost for the Motorola Q data platform on the Sprint network is at least 50% of the cost of a comparable Blackberry data plan.

Overall, the choice of a mobile device comes down to personal preference. If you keep the above points in mind when making your decision, your transition to mobile Building Engines should be a smooth one.